

Future Fisherman Foundation

We Can Make it Happen

Imagine a typical middle-school student. Jennifer is in the eighth grade. She is a good student, rarely missing a day of school, gets solid grades and her teachers think she is doing a fine job. Several times a week, Jennifer goes to soccer practice and gets a ride home with a friend. While waiting for her parents to arrive home from work, Jennifer spends a few hours doing homework; watching television; surfing the Internet; chatting on “My Space” or fighting dragons and wizards via video games. She often does the same thing in the evening before going to bed.

Millions of young people are in Jennifer’s shoes—spending most of her time indoors getting very little, if no, exercise. And many children are involved in activities much more detrimental to themselves and others.

An Opportunity for Change

The education and medical communities recognize the problems that this largely sedentary life has created for young people in the United States, including social, physical and psychological implications. Richard Louv’s book, *Last Child in the Woods*, that analyzes what it means for young people to be out of touch with the natural world, has touched off a nationwide groundswell.

The education community is embracing outdoor-related activities as part of the solution to these problems. The Future Fisherman Foundation recognizes the changing face of education, and is responding by offering the award-winning Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs® (HOFNOD) program as a solution.

For more than 20 years, the Future Fisherman Foundation has used the HOFNOD program as a means to teach both fishing and good conservation ethics to young



Above: HOFNOD workshop participant Terry Lester reels in his catch.

Right: Doug Darr checks out Kevin Orr’s casting skills using the Backyard Bass teaching tool that builds casting accuracy.



people as well as mentor them in life skills.

In fact, HOFNOD coordinators have trained upwards of 14,000 community-based facilitators in the last two decades. These dedicated HOFNOD volunteers believe that angling is a way to get young people outside and engaged in the natural world and to teach important life skills to young people. And thanks to the efforts of the foundation, the national education community agrees.

“In 2006, dozens of conferences held by various recreation organi-

zations put forth various options,” said Michael Bolinder, executive director of the Future Fisherman Foundation. “There is no one single solution, but through programs such as HOFNOD, we’re making sure angling is well represented as a way to get kids outside again.”



Participants learn about the HOFNOD program from Maurice Jackson, aquatic educator for Northport, Ala.



Physh Ed Accepting Applications

The Future Fisherman Foundation is accepting applications for the *Physh Ed* National Fishing and Boating Grant Initiative. Kindergarten through 12th grade physical education teachers in accredited public, private or charter schools are encouraged to apply for up to \$5,000 in grants to teach fishing and boating as part of their physical education curriculum. Applications are due on Friday, March 2, 2007, for the 2007/2008 school year.

Physh Ed provides grants to teachers to implement fishing and boating units in their classrooms. The Future Fisherman Foundation and ASA ask that members help spread the word to their local schools about this valuable program. The foundation is also working with a variety of organizations to distribute information about the grant program.

For more information, contact Grants Coordinator Jesse Graytock, (703) 519-9691, x224, or jgraytock@asafishing.org.

For more information regarding the HOFNOD program contact Anne Danielski, National Program Coordinator, (703) 519-9691 x254, or adanielski@asafishing.org. ■

Creating a new generation of anglers

HOFNOD coordinators regularly conduct workshops to train new volunteers. One such training was recently conducted by the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and Gadsden State Community College in Gadsden, Ala.

Doug Darr, aquatic education coordinator for Montgomery, Ala., and Maurice Jackson, aquatic educator for Northport, Ala., facilitated the one-day HOFNOD workshop. The training was attended by members of local

fly fishing clubs, Gadsden State Community College students, 4-H leaders, law enforcement officers and non-profit organizations from around the state.

"Here in Gadsden, there is a great desire in the community to get kids out fishing. With strong partnerships, community interest and its excellent [fishing] resources, the community of Gadsden is well poised to provide their youth with positive outdoor recreational experiences," said Darr.

Hosted by the Aquaculture Education and Development

Top left: Frank Roden, Rainbow City Fly Fishing Club, shows Julia Nolen, Pinson Valley High School PTA, how to fly cast.

Above: Doug Darr, aquatic education coordinator for Montgomery, Ala., discusses hook selection with student Stephanie McCormick. *Left:* Gadsden State Community College opened its fishing ponds to participants of the HOFNOD training.

Center at Gadsden State Community College, the workshop provided participants the opportunity to acquire the skills they need to conduct HOFNOD programs within their communities. Workshop participants learned what it takes to conduct their own HOFNOD program, teaching kids the skills they need to succeed in angling and life.

According to Bolinder, "the HOFNOD program brings these positive life skills and angling activities to youth through a nationwide network of partnerships among state aquatic educators, HOFNOD state coordinators and local volunteers. Through these partnerships HOFNOD is helping to lead the way in building future ethical anglers."