

LEARN TO FISH CLINICS

- Gary Morlock

In conjunction with Manitoba Wildlife Federation, City of Winnipeg, Cabela's/ SIR, and Manitoba Fisheries, another well attended and well run "Learn to Fish" program took place this past summer. Once again all the kids (plus the "over 40" kids) seemed to have a great time!

This program has been very well received and well used right from day one with lots of help this year from the coordinators Derek Buedderfeld and Pam Spitula from the province. Actually, Pam caught her first fish during the Learn to Fish program! I heard that during the "Fish Winnipeg Challenge" event she caught herself a beautiful 31 inch (25 lb) channel catfish and according to her fishing partners in the boat, there was a lot of "hootin' and hollerin'" going on when the fish was landed!

It is actually quite amazing and a lot of fun watching the kids (especially the real young ones) catching their first fish. Sometimes I wonder who is more excited, the kids or their parents!

The program continues to provide a quality structured angling opportunity and a chance for people to learn about the environment around them. By providing a forum that teaches the basics



Pam caught her first fish at one of the clinics.

of fishing to newcomers and those who have not fished for some time, we are instilling and rekindling a life long skill that can be passed on from generation to generation. What better way to leave a legacy!

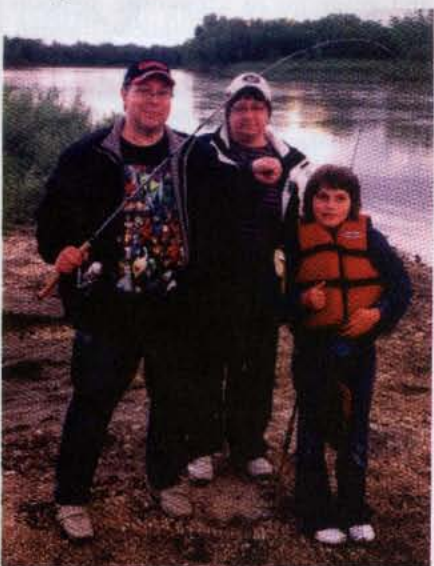
NOTE: If you would like to help with this event next year by volunteering a few hours to help a novice learn to fish, please call the Manitoba Wildlife Federation at 633-5967.



Dedicated volunteers will do almost anything to help the youngsters get hooked on fishing!



Youngsters of all ages really enjoy the program, as do the mentors.



The Learn to Fish program is suitable for the entire family.

Wahtopanah Gus Finally Landed

By Craig Madden

Just before noon on Sunday, June 1, Cody Sedgwick and Dustin Redfern, members of the Manitoba Recreational Fishing League (Fish'n Friends) and coaches Dave Falkevitch and I, were fishing between the island and Rivers campground. Cody had just put on a hook out of my tackle box that he wanted to try, made a cast and said, "I got a fish!"

Dustin thought it looked like a bad snag, but we both looked at Cody's rod and could tell he had something for sure. As he got it closer to the surface, we could actually see what he had on his line—it was Gus!

We named this pike Gus two summers ago while fishing with my youngest son, Scott. At that time, I hooked into this monster and Scott managed to get him into the net. Then Gus gave a flip and was gone. Everyone jokingly said we were making up another fish story. This time we did not have a net with us, so after landing Gus by hand, we quickly headed back to shore. Several people from the campground must have heard the ruckus while Cody was fighting Gus and were waiting when we arrived on shore. This northern pike measured 43 inches, had a girth of 16.5 inches and weighed 25 pounds. Thanks, Cody, for the day we will never forget.