



AQUARION

Water Company

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Aquarion Water Co. takes children fishing

BRIDGEPORT — Thirteen children who attend the Shehan Center's after-school program had an opportunity to experience the pleasure of peaceful surroundings and angling when Aquarion Water Co. (AWC) invited them on a fishing trip Oct. 10 at its Easton Lake reservoir.

Arranged through AWC's Environmental Management Office, the excursion was part of the company's ongoing participation in "No Child Left Inside," a state Department of Environmental Protection program that encourages children to enjoy outdoor activities instead of spending their free time in front of TV or computer screens. Last year, Aquarion CEO Charles V. Firlotte raised \$24,000 to cover transportation costs for such activities.

"Aquarion is committed to supporting this program," said Len DeJong, AWC Manager of Watershed & Environmental Management, who coordinated the trip. "Our reservoirs and the surrounding woodlands offer outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreational activities, not just for children but for their parents, too."

Fred Frillici of Fairfield, a volunteer with Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE), was at the reservoir to greet the children as they disembarked the Shehan Center's bus. Frillici, who brought poles and bait for the children to use, explained the basic methods of baiting hooks and casting the line, then led them to the water's edge to fish. He and several AWC staff walked among the children, coaching them in proper techniques for casting and reeling in their lines.

Several children caught small-mouth bass, though all but one fish had to go back in the water because they were small. Even so, as the children prepared to head home, they asked if they could return for another fishing trip. The AWC staff assured them they would be welcome.

Aquarion Water Co. has several reservoirs open to the public for fishing: Far Mill Reservoir in Shelton, West Pequonnock Reservoir in Monroe, and the Saugatuck Reservoir in Weston and Redding. The state DEP stocks fish in the Saugatuck each year, and AWC has a wheelchair-accessible anglers' dock at the southern end of the reservoir, just off Valley Forge Road in Redding.

In addition, AWC maintains trails in throughout its watershed, including one that is wheelchair-accessible. These trails were created in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Connecticut Forest & Parks Association, and also are open to the public.

For more information on AWC's fishing and hiking opportunities, call the Watershed & Environmental Management Office at (203) 452-3511.

Aquarion Water Company is a public water supply company serving nearly 600,000 people in 36 communities throughout Connecticut. It is among the 10 largest investor-owned water utility companies in the U.S., and last year it celebrated its 150th anniversary.

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