



SC REEL KIDS NEWS

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Volume 2 Number 2

The Prize Patrol

Here it comes...the prize patrol! If you have goals that you have completed (and I already have a ton!), send them in! Prizes will be mailed out at the end of September. Keep up the good work everyone! 

If you want these....



You have to send these....



These are goals from the folder you received when you signed up to be a SC Reel Kid. If you need another set of goals, let me know! nancyhar@scdnr.state.sc.us

Hey Mom!

Do you like to go fishing, too? I have just the thing for you-Becoming an Outdoors-Woman! The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop is coming up Sept. 20-22 at the Clemson University Outdoor Lab. This weekend workshop is a great way to polish up or learn outdoor skills in a hands-on, relaxed, and non-intimidating atmosphere. You can choose from classes such as Fishing 101, Fly Casting, Bass Fishing, Birdwatching, Kayaking, Backpacking, Crossbows, Nature Photography, Shotgun and Firearm Safety, and more. For a complete list, visit the [DNR web site at www.dnr.state.sc.us](http://www.dnr.state.sc.us) or contact Kendra Brunson at (803)-734-3624. 



Discount Time

We have some great new sponsors, once again! It's time to pull out your SC Reel Kids license and find some bargains. Just look for the sign below and you will get a discount on your SC Reel Kids purchase. New sponsors include **Lake World**, near the Lake Murray Dam (803)-957-6548 and **Barron's Outfitters** in downtown Columbia (803)-254-5537.  Other participating stores include Sportsman's Friend, Inc. in Greenwood, (864)-229-7061, Schillings Boathouse on Hilton Head Island, (843)-681-2628, Tackle Box in Bluffton, (843)-815-5043, and  Lowcountry Outfitters on Hilton Head Island, (843)-837-6100. If you know of a tackle shop in your area that might want to participate, let me know! You can contact me at nancyhar@scdnr.state.sc.us or (803)-737-8483. 



National Hunting and Fishing Day

It's that time again! National Hunting and Fishing Day 2001 is September 28 and will be held at the Cohen

Campbell Fisheries Center for the third year. The festivities will begin at 9:00 am and continue throughout the day until 4:00 pm. Admission is free and you and your family can participate in fishing, fly fishing, archery, bass fishing, and learn about boating safety, hunter safety, fly tying, and more! For directions or more information, call (803)-734-3886.



Our SC Reel Kids Fishing Pro

Keep an eye out for **Jim Langston**, our fishing pro on the FLW Tournament. Once again, Jim has donated prizes and his valuable time to help support the SC Reel Kids program and he is from right here in Leesville, SC! Thanks a bunch, Jim and catch the big ones!

Jims' Tackle Tips

We received a letter from Tyler that asks Jim, "How can you tell if a fish is a boy or girl" and "does live or fake bait work best"? Here's what he had to say. This is a question for no simple answer. It varies greatly with time of year and species. It is easiest to tell males from females in fishes right before spawning season, generally in the spring. During this time, the females have enlarged abdomens due to their developing eggs. If the abdomen of the fish is gently squeezed, a female may release some eggs that will appear as yellowish spheres. During the spawning season if you gently squeeze the abdomen of a male fish, he will



secrete a white fluid called milt. These obvious differences are only usually apparent for a few weeks during the spring. During their spawning season, many male Darters become brightly colored while the females are drab in color. In the groups of minnows and suckers, the males often develop little bumps on their heads called "breeding tubercles". The males of trout and salmon become brightly colored and develop a hooked lower jaw called a "kype". The rest of the year, particularly in freshwater fish, the only way to tell is to examine its internal organs. For fishes that live in saltwater, (marine species), some have clear differences between males and females. In flounders, the dorsal and pectoral fins are longer in the male. The male dolphin has a square head while the female has a rounded head. In many sharks the males will have modified pelvic fins, called claspers. To make things more complicated, there are some species, which can have both male and female parts within the same fish. This is most common in the group of sea basses. The black sea bass is a male when it is young and becomes a female

as it gets older. You ask a very good question for which there is not a single good answer!

When it comes to live bait versus "fake" or artificial bait, people have many different opinions. Live baits are things that a fish could normally find in its habitat. For example, trout might eat insects, a flounder might eat a shrimp. Some fish eat other smaller fish such as minnows. Fishing with a shrimp on your hook will obviously attract a shrimp's predator. Artificial baits can be plastic or rubber such as worms, lures, or spinner baits. When you use an artificial bait, you try to trick a fish into believing it is its real food. Other types of bait include cut bait, which is part of a larger animal the fish might eat. This would include pieces of squid or strips of bait fish. Other unusual baits can include bread balls, corn, cheese and even hot dogs! These unusual baits typically work well for carp. In my opinion, nothing is better than having live bait for fishing. But it is a rewarding experience to tie a fly and catch a trout on something that you made yourself. 



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