



SC REEL KIDS NEWS

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

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Reel Art

Draw, paint, color, or create your own work of art for the annual "Reel Art" competition. As always, the deadline is March 1st and this is one of the goals in your SC Reel Kids goal book. Check the website at www.screelkids.com to see the rules for your entry, get an entry form, and to see all of the past winners. You can win great prizes by entering your artwork in the contest. The first place winners in each category win a \$200 savings bond! The best of show winner will receive a \$500 savings bond! Prizes include fishing rods, tackle, art supplies, and more! Winners will be on display at the Southeastern Wildlife Expo and the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic. A list of fish species is available on the website as well as information for the grades 10-12 theme, "South Carolina's freshwater species of concern." Good luck!



Stephanie Potts, Fort Dorchester High School 2006 Reel Art Best of Show


* Check out www.screelkids.com for upcoming events!*



What Am I Missing?



Have you ever been out fishing and thought to yourself, "I sure wish I had that in my tackle box"? So many times we are out fishing and a situation comes up where we could use that one thing we forgot! I have come up with a list of 5 extra items that are great additions to your tackle box that will help out with these situations.

1. **Multi-Tool:** This multi-purpose compact tool is one of the biggest necessities to anyone's tackle box. This one tool incorporates several blades, scissors, screwdrivers, a can opener, and even needle-nose pliers.  The cost for these multi-tools can range from \$5 to over \$100. From my own experience, the higher priced multi-tools offer better quality, and they should last longer.
2. **Fingernail Clippers:** No, when the fish aren't biting, it isn't time to do your nails. Fingernail clippers are used to cut fishing line. Sometimes it is frustrating to fumble for your multi-tool just to cut extra line off of your lure. With your fingernail clippers on a lanyard, you will be ready for just about

any line cutting situation. Remember, don't use your teeth to cut line!

3. **Magic Bottles:** I am referring to those magic potions that keep the bugs away and keep the sun from frying you on a full day fishing trip down the Edisto River. A small bottle of bug repellent will take care of those pesky mosquitoes, gnats, ticks, and chiggers. A good waterproof sunscreen that has an SPF 30 or higher should do the trick to keep you from getting a sunburn. Don't forget to reapply!
4. **Waterproof Disposable Camera:** Don't let the big one get away. My mom and I practice catch, click, and release. So the next time you catch that monster redfish, be prepared with your waterproof camera and click away!
5. **Cell Phone:** If you find yourself in trouble, you might need to reach someone for help. A cell phone is your quickest link to civilization and the help that you might need. Use a waterproof container or at least a zip top bag to keep your phone safe and dry. I Hope this helps and don't forget these important extras for your next fishing trip. Happy Fishing.

By Dan the Fishing Man



Family Fishing Photo Fun!



Here are some photo tips that will make your family fishing trips memorable!

- You can't have "fishing" unless there is a "fisherman" there trying to catch the little boogers. So make sure the "catcher" is in the photo with the keeper!
- There aren't too many five foot fish in the local honey hole. So hold that fish up high for the picture...and get that big smile on the fisherman holding it.
- If your fisherman isn't much bigger than the fish, get down on one knee and photograph them at their eye



level. It will make the fish look bigger that way too!

- Everything looks better in early morning and late evening sunlight. Ask the fish to get caught those times for the best picture.
- Put the camera on a tripod and get a picture of the whole family with the fish. And everybody grin and look like you're the one that caught it!
- Sneaky Photo Tip! Hold the fish at arm's length away from you when the picture is made. That will make the fish look really big.

And be sure everybody has on their PFDs in your pictures...you don't want someone to think you were fishing without it!



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Youth Fishing Time

Pretty soon we will start planning our "Youth Fishing Events" around the state and we want you to be ready! So put new line on your rod and reel and get ready for some great fishing! The list of dates will be available early spring, so check the website at www.screelkids.com for the location of the event nearest you. The events usually start around the month of May. You can learn to fish, win prizes, hang out with your friends and family, and maybe even catch the big one! Don't forget to fill out your goal sheet for this to earn even more prizes!

Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic

Join us for the 22nd Annual Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic, March 23rd-25th at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia. There is a SC Reel Kids Catch and Release Fishin' Pond, kids activities, the Bass Tub (5,500 gallon aquarium with largemouth and striped bass), the Take One, Make One Outdoor Heritage Trailer, and tons more! Adults are only \$6 and children under 10 are free. Bring 5 cans of nonperishable food for Harvest Hope Food Bank and get \$1 off your adult admission and it's only \$1 to park.

- * PLUS, visit the SC Reel Kids Booth and show your SC Reel Kids license for a GREAT gift! Get ready for a wild weekend!
- * Mom and Dad, if you would like to volunteer at the Classic, contact Dan DuPre at dupred@dnr.sc.gov or 803-734-7486 for information.