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Gilchrist County Rotary Club's 11th Annual Fishing Tournament succeeds



Jackson Feather wins big trout - look at that huge fish!

Story and Photos

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DIXIE COUNTY -- The Gilchrist County Rotary Club's 11th Annual Fishing Tournament in Suwannee this past Saturday (May 4) was a huge success!



Clint Walding with his big redfish

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Scott Akins and Damon Leggett win inshore big bag



Raymond Galler wins big bass (and big bass bag!)

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Gilchrist County Rotarians at work in Suwannee!



A happy raffle winner!

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Ken Creel, Charlie Smith and Jo Buckles registering inshore anglers



Damon Leggett being silly

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THANK YOU to all of our sponsors who contributed to this event, Owen Prince of Suwannee Marina and Ginger Shealy of Salt Creek Restaurant. As always, thanks to Allen Clark for his energetic auctioning skills that really made the Calcutta event lots of fun! Thanks also to all the anglers who fished and everyone who supported this event!

Friday's Captain's Dinner and Calcutta were held at Salt Creek Restaurant and a delicious meal of fried shrimp and fish, macaroni and cheese, green beans, cheese grits, tossed salad and cornbread was enjoyed by all after we bowed our heads for a prayer of thanks and for safety. The prayer was by Gilchrist Rotary President Aaron Haynes. Anglers and participants bid on their favorite boats while we watched the sun set over the Gulf of Mexico. A fun evening was enjoyed by all!

Bass and inshore anglers left at first safe light on Saturday morning for a beautiful day of fishing. The weather was perfect - Suwannee at it's finest! Bass anglers weighed in at 3 p.m.

Raymond Galler and Ed Higgs enjoyed a really good day. They won the big bass contest with a fish weighing 6.9 pounds and the bass big bag contest with a bag of 12.87 pounds. Joey Wood won second biggest bass bag with a bag that weighed in at 10.85 pounds.

Damon Leggett and Scott Akins won the big bag award for the inshore division with 15.88 pounds of fish, including a redfish weighing in 6.18 pounds and a trout of 2.55 pounds. Clint Walding won the big redfish contest with a beautiful fish weighing 6.94 pounds. Jackson Feather won the big trout award with his fish weighing 4.4 pounds.

Participants had a great time winning raffle prizes and watching all of the fun as Donnie Feagle did a great job of announcing fish weights, and keeping the energy for the afternoon crowd fun and competitive. Thank you to Donnie Feagle and Daryl Feagle for weighing and measuring the fish. Thank you to the members of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for being there to oversee the event.

A great day was enjoyed by all!

Rotarian Tournament Chair Charlie Smith was thrilled about the success of this year's event.

"We continue to try and showcase a friendly competition between the bass and inshore anglers," he said. "We think this competition between the two groups makes the tournament more interesting and fun. This year the winner was the bass division so we'll be looking forward to see which division wins it next year!"

Charlie also gave a big thank you to Donnie Feagle with Suwannee River Breast Cancer Awareness for all of his help and support with the bass division. This is the major fundraiser for the Gilchrist Rotary Club to raise money for the youth of Gilchrist County, including the Suwannee League and other programs that support our kids!

Thanks to everyone for making our 11th Annual Fishing Tournament such a fun event and huge success!