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County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2011

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EDWARDS FISHES WITH ESSAY CONTEST GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Mayville:-- Today Chautauqua County Executive Gregory J. Edwards travelled to We Wan Chu Cottages to enjoy an afternoon of fishing with one of the two grand prize winners of the Chautauqua County Sports Fishery Advisory Board's 2011 Essay Contest.

Lauren Nelson, who is a 5th Grader at Bemus Point Elementary, won the opportunity to go fishing with Edwards after her essay was chosen from a group of nearly 400 well-written and thoughtful entries.

The day's 2-hour excursion on Chautauqua Lake was led by Chautauqua County Sports Fishing and Hunting Director Craig Robbins. Robbins has volunteered his professional guide services in the past and he was a key component in the success of this year's trip.

Also, joining them on the trip was Mike Gregory, Lauren Nelson's Grandfather, whom she wrote about in her essay as she described the fun times they have together fishing on Chautauqua Lake.

Ronnie Kepler, a 3rd Grader from Southwestern Elementary, was this year's other Grand Prize Winner, but he was unable to attend the event.

The Fishing Essay Contest gave students across Chautauqua County in grades 3 through 6 the opportunity to recall their fun fishing memories as they answered the question: "What Would Make a Great Fishing Adventure . . . With Whom and Why?"

Other winners of this year's contest were for 3rd Grade: Alexis Barber, Brianna Harrouh, and Brianna Ode, Sinclairville Elementary; and Nakedriana Brown, Dunkirk School #3. For 4th Grade: Caroline Cameron, Fredonia Elementary; and Jada Santiago, Octavia Rice, Angelica Rosario, Isabella Surma, and Isabel Vazquez, Dunkirk School #3. For 5th Grade: Kelsey Wolfe, Robert H. Jackson Elementary; Macie Baker, Tabitha Taylor Boughton, Victoria Lai, and Kaylee McCall, Bemus Point Elementary. For 6th Grade: Jonathan Camacho, Jefferson Middle School; Jon Cook, Tara Sweeney, and Francine Torres, Panama Central School; and Dylan Greene, Jonathan Michael Morreale, Aurora Treacy, CassieAnne Whippo, and Hunter Whippo, Robert H. Jackson Elementary.

"I would like to thank the Chautauqua County Sports Fishery Advisory Board, Craig Robbins, and Chautauqua County teachers for taking the time to share their love of fishing with children in our County and for making this contest possible," said Edwards.

The Sports Fishery Advisory Board hopes that the essay contest can be an interesting educational experience for students, and helpful to the teachers. It is intended to promote an awareness of Chautauqua County's ecology, the factors that affect it and the role each student plays in maintaining its quality in the future.

The contest has been held annually since 1992, with no essay being held in 2000.

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