



PO Box 217, Fremont MI 49412
Web: <http://www.recyclingfornewaygocounty.org>
Email: admin@recyclingfornewaygocounty.org

Office: 231.924.5822
Plant: 231.924.8544

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Recycling Fair and Duck Race in 2015 a success

Newaygo, MI—May 25, 2015



Race 1 winner \$150, Sara Gonzalez; runners up \$20 each, Kaitlyn Mansfield, Judy Allen, Pat Collins, Marcia Dougan, and Erica Brown.

Race 2 winner \$150, Carol Buikema; runners up \$20 each, Luke Pfeiffer, Elizabeth Gowell, Kathy Morrison, Kayleen Sebo, and John Cooper.

A superhero, tin can drummers, and 12 lucky ducks descended on Fremont Lake Park and Daisy Brook Creek during Recycling for Newaygo County's "Recycling Fair and Duck Race" May 24.

The first six ducks to float beyond the finish line in each of two races shared \$500 in prize money awarded by Recycling for Newaygo County (RNC) as follows:

The creek was slow and lazy, making a leisurely stroll for the ducks, but when volunteers handed out a few dozen tin cans and sticks, the kids set right to work ushering the ducks to the finish line in full celebratory style. While the two duck races were the day's highlights, the event also featured recycling education, and assorted games and crafts, with all equipment and crafting materials prepared from recycled items.



Recycle Man (alter ego Matt Emerick), the latest superhero to emerge and tickle RRR fancies and imaginations of youths, made his debut, entertaining the kids with a juggling act (recycled materials of course) while teaching and inspiring them to recycle.

Volunteers taught participants how to make jump ropes from plastic grocery bags, flowers from plastic water bottles, beads and other interesting crafting materials out of old magazine pages, and other fun crafting projects.



Volunteers also manned various games of home-made equipment, which equally inspired participants to go home and make their own similar activities, games, and challenges.



"This is an exciting new initiative that RNC looks forward to expanding on in future years," said Executive Director Linda Ritz White.

"Besides bringing in a few of the needed dollars to fund recycling, we wanted to develop an annual event to bring attention to the importance of recycling, starting with reducing and reusing of course.



"We wanted to make it fun and appealing to youths as well as adults, a day they look forward to every year. We wanted to inspire creativity and give participants a taste of how great it feels to make instead of buy something of practical or ornamental use, and to reuse existing materials instead of waste



them. The duck race is a great feature and draw, of course, but the fair and the messages conveyed through the fair are the real meat of the matter. ”

Although this year’s net proceeds after expenses were only \$1,337 of a possible \$3,300 had all 1,000 ducks sold, Ritz White deems the event a great success. Just breaking even this year would be considered a success, she said, placing a high value on the public relations and educational value of the fair, and of course, learning from experience how to make it more successful next year.

“Of course, next year’s costs will also be minimal since we’ll have recycled ducks.”

Recycling for Newaygo County

Contact: Linda Margaret Ritz White, Executive Director

Office Phone: 231.924.5822

Cell Phone: 231.828.5030

Mailing Address: PO Box 217, Fremont MI 49457

The Recycling Center: 490 Quarterline St., Newaygo MI 49337

Email: lindaritzwhite@recyclingfornewaygocounty.org

Web: <http://www.recyclingfornewaygocounty.org>

END

###

553 words