



For FLORIDA TODAY

It takes two hands. Capt. Blair Wiggins of Cocoa, who will be on hand at the Expo, shows off a tournament-winning redfish.

Wiggins to speak at Expo

Coastal Angler show fun for kids

BY RODNEY SMITH
FOR FLORIDA TODAY

The third annual Coastal Angler Boat Show and Fishing Expo is being held at the Melbourne Auditorium on Friday through Sunday. The show centers on boating, fishing, and conservation education.

Capt. Blair Wiggins, the 2006 FLW Redfish Tournament Champion, host of the national television show "Addictive Fishing" and founder of Blair Wiggins' Professional Fishing Academy, will be one of the keynote speakers, addressing attendees at 2 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Another special attraction is the third annual Hook Kids on Fishing program which will be held around the Melbourne Auditorium lake from 8:45 to 11 a.m. Saturday.

The free program is divided into classes focusing on conservation and safety, tackle and rigging, species recognition and casting techniques and of course, fishing. Each of the first 100 young anglers who pre-register will receive a rod and reel plus a small tackle

box. To register, contact the Melbourne Leisure Services office at 255-4608.

Volunteers are needed to assist the children between the ages of 6 and 16.

"If you want to have a blast helping these kids learn more about catching fish contact me," said Pete Alvarez of Tightlines Kayaking, who donates his time coordinating the program. "We could use your help." Alvarez can be reached at 255-0894 or e-mailing palvey83@cfl.rr.com.

Also on the agenda is the Melbourne Seafood Fest, with local dishes prepared by Melbourne's Shells Seafood Restaurant, Denver Kline of Melbourne and Orlando's Fish on Fire, the Marine Resources Council's Lagoon Day and the boat show featuring craft from 10 to more than 30 feet.

Also, a wide array of vendors will be on hand.

Admission is \$7 for those over 12 years of age. Friday admission is free to all, and there are \$2 discount coupons available online at www.CoastalAnglerMagazine.com. ■



2006 file photo for FLORIDA TODAY

Nice catch. Mike Fee, then 6, of Melbourne, holds the bass he caught two years ago out of the Melbourne Auditorium Lake during one of the Hook Kids on Fishing programs. Rodney Smith, front, and Capt. Gary Giles admire the fish.

It's show time at the Expo

Show hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at Melbourne Auditorium.

For more information, visit www.camirl.com/

Guest speakers: Stages 1 and 2
Stage 1 location: South side stage inside auditorium.
Stage 2 location: East wing inside auditorium.

Friday

- Noon Stage 1:** Capt. Keiland Smith: Nighttime Snook Fishing
- Noon Stage 2:** Banana River Sail and Power Sq.: Safety on Open Ocean
- 1 p.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Mark Nichols: TBA
- 1 p.m. Stage 2:** Capt. Kevin Mulligan: Smokin' Reels, Get the Big Kings
- 2 p.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Gary Giles: Tarpon Specialist
- 2 p.m. Stage 2:** Rob Branagh: Maintaining Your Outboard (Aqua Tech)
- 3 p.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Hank Erving: Inshore West Coast
- 3 p.m. Stage 2:** Capt. James Jackalone: Tripletail

Saturday

- 11 a.m. Stage 1:** Capt. John Kumiski: Redfish on the Fly
- 11 a.m. Stage 2:** Edward Leonard: Fish Identification and Handling
- Noon Stage 1:** Capt. Chris Myers: Sight Fishing the Flats
- Noon Stage 2:** Capt. Budd Nevaizer: Offshore for Dolphin and Wahoo
- 1 p.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Mark Nichols: TBA
- 1 p.m. Stage 2:** Capt. John Conlon: Offshore Sebastian Swordfish
- 2 p.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Blair Wiggins: Addictive Fishing
- 2 p.m. Stage 2:** Capt. DuBer Winters: Fly Fishing on the Big Water
- 3 p.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Rodney Smith: Catching Made Easy, surf fishing
- 3 p.m. Stage 2:** Capt. Mark Wright: Filleting Your Catch
- 4 p.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Tom Van Horn: No Motor Zone
- 4 p.m. Stage 2:** Capt. Keith Kabfleisch: Nearshore for Kings, Tarpon, Cobia

Sunday

- 11 a.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Brian Clancy: N. Mosq. Lagoo's Redfish and Trout
- 11 a.m. Stage 2:** Capts. Jim Ross and Russ Rivers: Tarpon Invasion
- Noon Stage 1:** Capt. Troy Perez: Fishing The East Coast
- Noon Stage 2:** Capt. John Adair: Kingfishing
- 1 p.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Mark Nichols: TBA
- 1 p.m. Stage 2:** Capt. Jeff Brown: Rigging Offshore Baits
- 2 p.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Blair Wiggins: Addictive Fishing
- 2 p.m. Stage 2:** Capt. Ron Neff: Offshore Ponce Professional Techniques
- 3 p.m. Stage 1:** Capt. Terry Lamielle: Snook Around Sebastian
- 3 p.m. Stage 2:** Jules Rutstein: Marine Technology Made Easy
- 4 p.m. Stage 2:** Dale Fraza: River Fishing in Kayaks

Boat safety starts with ladders

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

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Contact Mari
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