



classicrock

Summer shows at the outdoor amphitheater continue with a performance by **Chicago** and the **Doobie Brothers** at Northwell Health at **Jones Beach Theater**. The two classic rock and pop bands perform Friday at 7:30 p.m. **ADMISSION** \$30-\$256 **INFO** 866-558-8468, ticketmaster.com



JESSICA EARNSHAW

farout

Though tie-dyed shirts are not required, the public is welcome to join **Manorville's** Long Island Game Farm Wildlife Park and Children's Zoo to celebrate 1970, the year it opened. For one day only — 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday — admission to the park will be the authentic **1970 price**. That includes most shows and attractions. Additional fees for carousel and other rides. **ADMISSION** \$3.90 (\$1.95 ages 3-12) **INFO** 631-878-6644, longislandgamefarm.com



LINDA ROSER

now online

See our top picks for events happening this week: newsday.com/thingstodo

Two fishermen pose with their largemouth bass at Forge Pond in Riverhead. **For fishing tips, go to newsday.com/waterside and see today's Kidsday.**



TOM SCHLICHTER

it's catching on

Fall hook, line and sinker for family-friendly fishing fun

BY TOM SCHLICHTER
Special to Newsday

It's summertime, and the fishing is fine. From summer flounder (fluke) and striped bass to that lightweight favorite of anglers young and old — snappers — there's a bite just waiting for your next cast.

There also are plenty of fishing tournaments where you can test your skills against others, garnering bragging rights or winning a little extra cash.

"There is something special about participating in fishing contests," says Stan Burghardt, 74, of Ronkonkoma. "I've been fishing for 64 years, and I still get excited with every tournament I enter. A lot of people go fishing each day, but only one will catch the biggest fish. I'd like to be that guy."

Ed Walsh, who runs a series of fishing derbies out of Jones Beach Fishing Station, loves the fun and camaraderie at the shop's events. "Most of our contests center on fishing from the shore or Jones Beach Piers," he explains. "That means everyone has

access to the same fishing areas, even if they don't have a boat. We all have a ton of fun, especially the youngsters."

RANGE OF TOURNAMENTS

Most fishing contents offer prizes including raffles and drawings, "so you might not even have to catch the biggest fish to win something," says Ray Bartlett, 69, of Brightwaters. Some tournaments are more serious than others. Expect to pay an entry fee.

The Aug. 12-20 Hamptons Offshore Invitational has more than \$20,000 in total prize money as big boats race up to 100 miles offshore in search of tuna, shark, mahi and bluefish while raising money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island.

Less intense is Sunday's Fluke Rodeo Special Olympics Fundraiser, offering roughly \$1,000 (cash and fishing accessories) for the biggest summer flatie hauled in between Jones and Shinnecock inlets.

Then there's the Sept. 2 Shelter Island Snapper Derby with trophies for lucky winners who catch the diminutive but tasty baby blues. The



MICHAEL ROTONDO

Walter Morales, left, Capt. Stephen Roland, Matt Wade, Steve Gutleber, Michael Rotondo and Frank Rotondo: The 780-pound mako just missed last year's Star Island Shark Tournament deadline.

UPCOMING FISHING TOURNAMENTS

Fishing tournaments large and small are scheduled across Long Island spanning the rest of the summer and well into fall, but some require you to register. Many contests double as charitable fundraisers.

Moriches Anglers Fluke Tournament

6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, weigh-in 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Union Avenue Dock
Fee \$50
Info 631-878-9280

19th Annual Marine Max Fluke Rodeo

Special Olympics fundraiser
 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, from Jones Inlet to Shinnecock Inlet
Fee \$20 (includes barbecue, goody bag and T-shirt)
Info 631-580-1018

Star Island Mako, Thresher and Tuna Tournament

Aug. 4-5 at Star Island Yacht Club, Montauk
Fee \$800 per boat
Info 631-668-5052

17th Annual Hamptons Offshore Invitational

— benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island
 5 a.m. to noon Aug. 12-20 at Oakland's Marina, Hampton Bays
Fee From \$650
Info 516-731-7880, ext. 214

Captree Snapper and Crab Derby

(ages 16 and younger)
 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 12-13 at Captree State Park, Babylon
Fee \$15
Info 631-587-3430

Babylon Tuna Club Snapper Derby

(ages 12 and younger)
 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 26 at Babylon Village Dock
Fee Free. Bait provided, loaner rods available, includes hot dogs, ice cream and soda.
Info 516-819-9596

WICC Greatest Bluefish on Earth Contest

Midnight Aug. 26 to 5 p.m. Aug. 27, coastal waters between Long Island and Connecticut
Fee \$49
Info 203-366-2583

Shelter Island Snapper Derby

(ages 14 and younger) — benefits Shelter Island Lions Club
 Sunrise to 5 p.m. Sept. 2 on Shelter Island with weigh-in at the American Legion Hall
Fee Free (includes barbecue and awards ceremony)
Info 631-749-2110

first-place fish in this contest generally weighs a little less than a pound, and chefs from the Lions Club will cook your catch before the awards ceremony.

Most contests also have several divisions — kids, adults, boats and catch-and-release (for those who don't want to take their prize home for dinner). The Aug. 12-13 Captree Snapper and Crab Derby even has a category for blue claws.

KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

Even for expert anglers, fishing contests provide more pride and satisfaction than payouts and awards.

"No matter the prize, you need to keep things in perspective — and you have to keep it fun," says Stephen Roland, captain of the Montauk charterboat Professional Crier. Roland has finished in the money in several major offshore tournaments. Beyond general equipment prep and smart bait choices, he says, "you really need some luck because no one knows for sure if a big fish is going to bite."

While fishing in the annual Star Island Shark Tournament in Montauk in June, Roland and crew

hooked into a mako that tipped the scales at a whopping 780 pounds. But the boat couldn't make it back to the dock in time for the weigh-in, missing the deadline by 20 minutes.

"That would have been a cool \$50,000 or more," Roland says. "But we were all still thrilled in the end because that was the biggest shark any of us had ever seen."



LESLIE CZELADKO

Young anglers try for the winning catch in last year's Shelter Island Snapper Derby.

ON THE COVER

Jim Clontz of Stony Brook took this photo of his 8-year-old daughter, Emma, holding her "almost-keeper" on a fishing boat out of Port Jefferson.

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