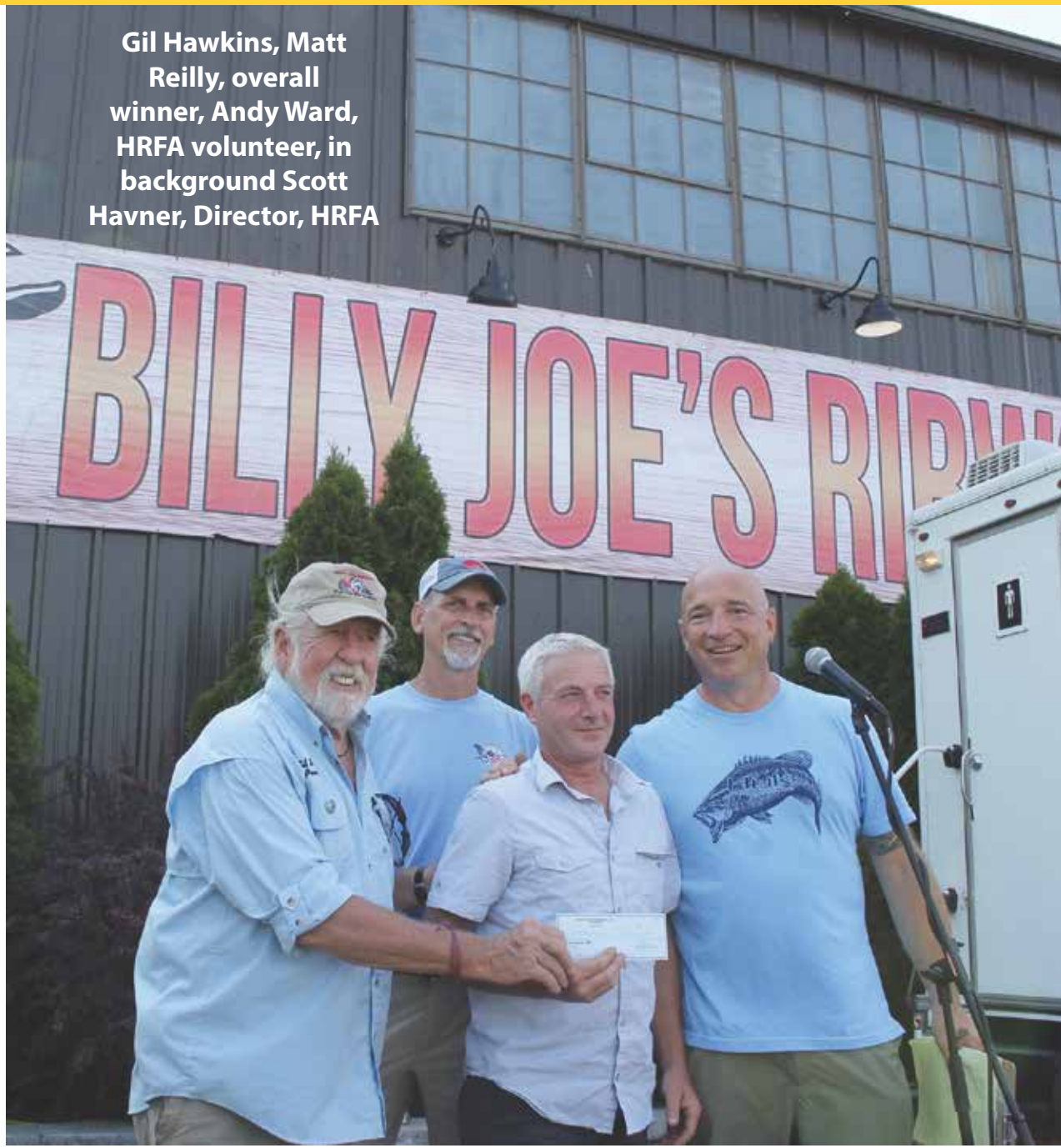


THE FIRST ANNUAL

Gil Hawkins, Matt Reilly, overall winner, Andy Ward, HRFA volunteer, in background Scott Havner, Director, HRFA



CATFISH CHAOS CONTEST

by John H. Vargo, Publisher

On a beautiful day in August, the first annual Catfish Chaos Contest for the largest catfish by weight was held. The overall winner was Matt Reilly, of Verplanck, NY with a 10 lb 5 oz White

The HRFA volunteers and the winners of the First Annual Catfish Chaos Contest 2017

Back Row L-R Pete Musse, Wayne Geider, Mona Ruk, Jason Harty JR, Jason Harty, Dan Harrison, Matt Reilly, Scott Havner, Gil Hawkins, Ron Sawyer. Front Row L-R Joe Albanese, Chris Vargo, Jase, Samantha Ryan, Bridegette Dacunto, Robert Havner, Alyshea Sawyer, Anna Sawyer.





Gil Hawkins, Scott Havner, Robert Havner, (second place winner, Youth Contest) and Andy Ward.



Gil Hawkins, Trent Wager, winner, and Scott Havner, Director of the event in back row Andy Ward, HRFA volunteer on right.

Catfish, (which unofficially tied the NYS record), caught in Haverstraw Bay. (All fish weighed in were released alive after weighing in).

With two weigh stations one at Haverstraw Marina and the other at Billy Joe's Ribworks in Newburgh, NY the convenience of bringing the winners in was made much easier, assuring that the catfish caught would be released to be caught again in next year's contest.

The top prize of 1000 dollars went to Matt Reilly with second being taken by his cousin Chris Vargo, both fishing out of the same boat in Haverstraw Bay.

While the main contest covering the entire Hudson River was taking place a second contest was held on the huge deck of Billy Joe's Rib Works for children. The efficient volunteer crew from the Hudson River Fisherman's Association was on hand with free use of rods, reels and bait. Prizes and trophies were awarded to many children who visited. Every child received something so that it would be a day they would never forget.

Plans are already being made to make the HRFA Catfish Chaos Contest for 2018 more effective with additional weigh stations upriver and very special prizes.



Samatha Ryan, ("Sam") with a rare fresh water Drum.