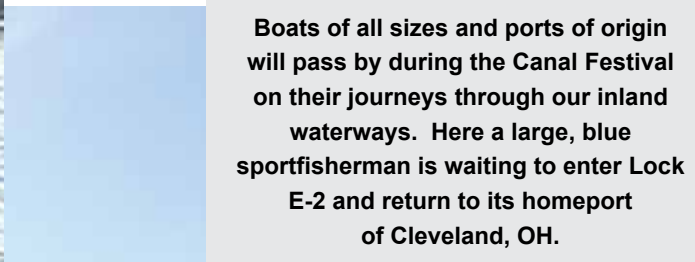




Boats will be on display above Lock 2, such as these fishing and wakeboard boats sold by Andersen Boat of Burnt Hills, NY.



A unique sport will be on display as Extreme Hydroflight showcases their skills at this year's Canal Festival.



Boats of all sizes and ports of origin will pass by during the Canal Festival on their journeys through our inland waterways. Here a large, blue sportfisherman is waiting to enter Lock E-2 and return to its homeport of Cleveland, OH.



Sunhats.



Must Haves For A Fun Day On The Water

- Fishing license and rulebook: www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6091.html
- Cell phone and camera or video back-up
- Food bars or fruit
- Gatorade for hot days
- Thermos of hot chocolate for cold days
- Tape measure
- Fishing net
- Hand pump of gel disinfectant hand cleaner
- Sunblock, hats and sunglasses
- First aid kit accompanying the group
- Rain gear

Grandpa Carl's

Kid's Column

by Carl Bruger



Fishing license.

This month we'll try to focus on the additional "stuff" that the adults should bring along to make those first forays out on the sweet water or brine memories that make the child want to repeat the enjoyed experience. Treat this article like a checklist of what makes for a successful trip because forgetting just one of these "essentials" might turn smiles to tears.

The last article (Feb/March), covered the basic fishing gear itself, but more is vital to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip for everybody involved. Let's start with a fishing



Bring lots to drink.

license and rulebook for the involved adults so they know exactly what they can and can't do in the state they are angling in. Buy the year long choice because it's the best bang for your buck and supports the state hatchery programs and other worthy aspects of the stocking programs. Bring along both your cell phone and camera or video back-up for unforgettable irreplaceable mementoes of your child's first catch, a screaming face holding a squirming worm, or a deep grateful hug from the happiest kid in the world!

More basic essentials include a lunch or bunch of preferred snacks (food bars or fruit) depending on the duration of the trip, plus plenty of liquids that the child likes. In the hot summer a Gator Aid electrolyte replacing type drink is great, while in cold weather a thermos of hot chocolate might be the perfect choice. It's vital that little kids be hydrated; especially when they are excited and distracted with energizing angling activities that make them perspire and burn up so much energy.



Kids want snacks.



You'll need a net to get the fish into the boat.



Hot chocolate for chilly days.

Someone's going to get hooked.



Pack away a tape measure even if you just size up a six inch sunny and be sure to have a net at the ready for not only fish but maybe the extra joy of frog and turtle bonus "catches" that can salvage a fishless day into a treasure of alternative biological wonders. If you use a light, long handled net with very tight mesh, the kids can also catch butterflies or moths, snag crickets and grasshoppers for bait and turn this part of the day into one of the most enjoyable activities they are actively doing themselves



Always take your phone in case of an emergency.

Expect all of the above activities to get the children dirty so a hand pump of gel disinfectant hand cleaner is a perfect portable item to carry. A batch of fish rags or towels also goes with this listing as wipes do too. There will be needs from pre lunch hand cleaning to post falling in the mud washing off and some delightful fish slime in the middle of it all!

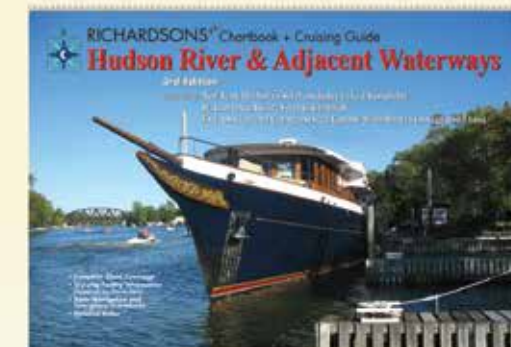
We all pray for safety but it also means we take preventative measures ahead of time. Hats and/or scarves to protect from the burning rays of the noon day sun protect us all. High numbered anti sun burn ointments that coat exposed young skin and don't wash off protect for the future against insidious skin cancers. Sun glasses protect the eyes and also enable the youthful angler to spot more fish under the glare reduced water. Even new clothing, especially fishing shirts and pants has been designed that protect the wearer against the harmful rays of the sun

No trip anywhere should be taken without a basic first aid kit accompanying the group. Band aids of several sizes, duct tape, peroxide, burn ointment, cortisone crême, antihistamine tablets, aspirin tablets, Bacteen anti infection spray, tweezers, scissors, gauze pads, sterile eye dressing, and ace bandage wraps are in the small kit I always lug in a waterproof tackle box

If you plan ahead and are blessed with great weather then the following is just dead weight. However, I can't list the number of days in my life we were rained on when it was not forecast and this scribe usually was fully prepared with a set of foul weather gear. Please do the same and bring at least those dollar store ponchos for everyone in your angling party so if there is a cloudburst you might even keep catching catfish and remain relatively dry and have fun too! I carry quality gear that will last because I fish triple digit days every year and weather nastiness wins

many times. Quality wrist cuffs wind/rain proof zipper lines and sealed hoods all matter when sleet hits you at forty miles an hour. The more you face the outdoors the better the gear you will want to use against what Mother Nature throws at you and your children. Try to let the TV weatherman be your best ally in your first forays into fishing with little ones. Pick a bluebird morning that is almost guaranteed to be a perfect sunny day so no weather variable ruins the joy you anticipate providing for your child. Next month I'll share some beginning fishing "psychology" with kids.

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