

It was a Day for Catchin'!

By Susie Taffoni, local resident



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On August 10, 2023, members of Chapin Women in Service volunteered at the Troop Appreciation Foundation's annual fishing derby on Lake Murray. The derby, held since 2012, chose the Lake Murray Sail Club as this year's event venue.

Fifty-nine wounded warriors from all military branches were joined by 20 boat captains who volunteered their boats and their time to take these men and women on a day of guided striped bass fishing. Participating soldiers came from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. We were honored to have 100-year-old WWII Veteran John (doc) Holliday as a guest. Mr. Holliday, an army veteran, was on the founding board of the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission, established in 1969.

When the boats returned with their catch, there was a station which weighed and recorded the fish and another for cleaning, bagging and refrigerating the fish until the veteran was ready to leave. Volunteers also set up tables to serve food and drinks to these amazing men and women once their fishing was complete. One fisherman was quoted as saying, "We didn't come for fishin'; we came for catchin'." Last year 225 fish were caught, and this year's total came to 281. So it was indeed a day of catchin'!

Mr. Mike Glover, Mr. Bill Strong, Mrs. Tammy Hicks, and Mr. Joby Wetsell organized the event. Mr. Keller Kissam of Dominion Energy and Mr. Mike Glover entertained the group and made introductions of the top five winners. This year's big fish was 8 lbs. 7 Oz., caught by an army veteran from South Carolina. Every veteran went home with one of the fantastic prizes donated by the many individual donors/sponsors and organizations/company sponsors.

It is an honor to have participated as a volunteer and for Chapin Women in Service to have donated to this worthwhile event. Chapin Women in Service is an IRS and state-recognized charity.



We are dedicated to giving our time and creating resources to support meaningful local projects. To learn more about CWIS, please email chapinwomeninservice@gmail.com.

We would love to include more stories of organizations and residents who help to support our Chapin community. Submit your information to aprilrobinson@bestversionmedia.com



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