Written by Janet Rohde
Tuesday, January 15, 2013 4:51 PM -

Last year, the Jig It Ice Fishing Tournament attracted 100 participants with hundreds of fish caught. (Wood photo)

IRON MOUNTAIN—The second annual Jig It Ice Fishing Tournament in Dickinson County will take place on Saturday, Jan. 19, on Lake Antoine.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Dickinson-Iron Medical Care Access Coalition, which helps uninsured residents of the area with health care and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay area. Delta County will also host its annual tournament on Bay de Noc the following weekend, Jan. 26. __PUBLIC__

Headquarters in Iron Mountain will be at Lake Antoine County Park. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the contest running from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“The great thing about Jig It is that anyone who can drop a line in the water can participate and come up a winner,” said Jig It organizer, Benji Wood.

All holes will be pre-drilled and registered anglers will be inspected before entering the tournament area. Choice of holes, in the designated area, will be available to participants as they register. Maximum size of live bait is three inches. No fishing will be allowed in the tournament area between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., but underwater cameras and flashers can be used.

Top prize for the largest fish is $2,500 in ice cold cash, along with a number of other great prizes that include power ice augers, portable shelters, fishing equipment and fishing packages.

According to Wood, “The annual ice fishing tournament on Lake Antoine drew hundreds of people in years past and we’re hoping to recreate that through Jig It. We had a great inaugural event last year with hundreds of fish caught and about 100 participants. We hope to expand on that success and support two great causes along with local businesses.”

Registration and detailed information is available online at bbbsbayarea.org or by calling 866-676-2227. Cost was $25 per hole if paid by Jan. 13 and $30 after. Each angler is allowed to purchase up to two holes. There will be a special ice fishing area set up for kids with prizes for participants, which runs from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All fishing equipment and bait are supplied in the ‘Kid’s Koop’ and the cost is $5 per child. Registration brochures are available at Northwoods Wilderness Outfitters and Whispering Pines bait shops in Iron Mountain.

The event is sponsored by the Dickinson County Healthcare System, Results Broadcasting, Range Bank, Champion, Inc. and the Dickinson County Tourism Association.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event, particularly for pre-drilling holes on Friday, Jan. 18. Those who have a power auger and are willing to help can meet on the Jan. 20 at Lake Antoine Park at 3 p.m. Questions about volunteering or the event itself can be directed to Benji Wood at (906) 282-3205.