



Press Release:

The Matlacha Hookers are proud to host the 23rd Annual Pine Island Fishing Tournament & Derby at the Olde Fish House in Matlacha on Sunday, November 6, 2022.

We are now celebrating 24 years in existence; In 1998 twenty-one women came together with the unified goal to “Make a Positive Difference in Our Community.” Nearly 200 active members are striving to achieve this goal by exceeding last year’s effort to benefit the students and teachers at Pine Island Elementary School.

From previous tournaments, over \$220,00.00 in monies has been donated to fund numerous needs for the students and teachers at the school including most recently funding the first STEM/STEAM Lab, along with funding scholarships to high school seniors and adults who are seeking higher learning either in college or trade schools. The principal: Dr. Thomas Millins, stated that the Matlacha Hookers have been able to provide the school, teachers and children with countless opportunities that otherwise would not have been possible.

During our event there are two types of fishing. The Derby is for elementary aged children, last year we had 100 children participate, who fish by land with help from parents and volunteers. Each child is provided with a brand-new rod and reel (to keep!) and all the bait they need to catch “the big one.” Trophies are given to the place winners of each division. The Catch Photo Release (C.P.R) tournament by boat or kayak begins at 6am with final fish entries at 2pm. The anglers are fishing for cash prizes awarded to the longest in length for each snook, redfish and trout and longest combined length of all three species for the slam.

It’s not just fishing though! We have something for the whole family. Live music from local musicians, silent auctions, Hook-A-Basket and 50/50 raffles, Booze Wagon raffle, BBQ Lunch, adult and kid beverages and more fun than you should be able to have for free! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 9am -4pm.

Applications & Event Registration can be found online at www.Eventful.com or www.eventbrite.com – key word Pine Island Elementary and on Facebook event page – 23rd Annual Pine Island Elementary Fishing Tournament & Derby or by simply going to our website at www.matlachahookers.org.

Anglers can get registered on the IAngler Website or APP scan the code to register.

For further information or questions please call or email Julia Gaylor 239-298-1113; 12thmadam.julia@gmail.com, Monica Kochel 239-470-0073; kochelmonica@gmail.com, or Deb Syring 612-817-8972; deb_jordo@yahoo.com.

If you are interested in donating an item for one of our auctions or to sponsor a child to fish in the event, please check out our website at www.matlachahookers.org.

All of this wouldn’t be possible without the help of everyone in our community, residents, businesses, anglers and patrons of this annual event. We thank you in advance for your generosity and look forward to seeing you there.