



By Claudia Miller

THE 2008 KEN LANDON FAMILY LAKE ERIE FISHING CLASSIC JUNE 12-13 WAS BLESSED WITH PERFECT WEATHER, TEMPERATURES AROUND 80 DEGREES AND A BEAUTIFUL CALM LAKE, SHIMMERING IN THE BRIGHT SUMMER SUN.

Debbie Benevento, a member of the executive committee, described the event as uplifting and hopeful.

"It's a wonderful way to spend a day, doing two things that we love at the same time—being on Lake Erie fishing and raising funds for cystic fibrosis research," she said.

She has been involved with the event for several years, first on the gala committee and then on the executive committee. She has a very personal connection to cystic fibrosis.

"Growing up, we had a family friend with cystic fibrosis, who did not live past his teen years, and when my children were growing up, they went to school with a girl with cystic fibrosis, who also died just after her teen years," she said. "The high school in Bay Village still honors her every year with 'Laurie Wilder Days' to raise funds for the cause."

At the Sunset Celebration, a bagpiper played "Amazing Grace," which was very moving to all in attendance, and the blessing of the fleet with the Coast Guard Honor Guard before the boats left the docks was impressive as usual.

The fishing was excellent with Brent Wilhemy winning the Grand Champion Angler prize, catching the most fish at 12, and the largest walleye was caught by Bob Marini measuring 28.5".

The ladies had an impressive presence this year. There was only one ladies' boat last year, and this year there were four. The Lady Grand Champion Angler was Karen Taylor with a top catch of seven, and the largest walleye caught by one of the ladies was 28"—a mere half inch shy of the winning fish by a man—by Susan Landon.

"This year the ladies managed to beat a lot of the guy's boats," Benevento said. "We even beat our husbands, and we



Susan Landon and Captain Chuck in the rain with a walleye during the 2008 tournament.



Susan Landon with her 2008 winning walleye.



Bagpiper: James Beaton

remind them of that too! The anglers and the guides are all friends and all competitive. It is fun to listen to all the 'fish stories' on the radio and later at the awards ceremonies."

Kenneth and Susan Landon served as founding chairs of the event, and overall it was a huge success, raising a net of over \$74,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. **B**

2008 Ken Landon Family Lake Erie Classic Tournament Results

GRAND CHAMPION ANGLER: BRENT WILHEMY

LADY GRAND CHAMPION ANGLER: KAREN TAYLOR

CHARTER DIVISION TEAM GRAND CHAMPIONS:

TIM RAMELLA, AL LAYTON, BOB WILHELMY, BRENT WILHELMY, TOM RAMELLA

GUIDE: CAPT. RAY LEACH

AMATEUR DIVISION TEAM GRAND CHAMPIONS:

JIM STEFANO, GARY TAYLOR, KAREN TAYLOR, MARK SAUVEY, JOHN AMBROZY

LARGEST WALLEYE: BOB MARINI

LARGEST WALLEYE (LADIES): SUSAN LANDON