

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kayak Anglers Score Big at 2016 Columbia Sportswear Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic

JACKSONVILLE, FL - MAY 14, 2016 – Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville and the North Florida Heroes on the Water Chapter won big at the 2016 Columbia Sportswear Kayak Fishing Classic as 360 kayak anglers raised \$39,000 for the charities' programs. Kayak anglers enjoyed beautiful weather throughout the morning, with a strong wind picking up for the afternoon. Anglers checked in 19 Slams, 45 Redfish, 40 Flounder, and 36 Trout.

The 2016 Classic was led again by the title sponsorships of Columbia Sportswear and Costa Del Mar, whose focus on products that allow people to enjoy the outdoors longer and more comfortably is a perfect match for kayak fishing. Columbia and Costa Del Mar were joined by other industry leaders such as Native Watercraft, Diablo Paddlesports, Wilderness Systems, Solo Skiff, Old Town, Malibu Kayaks, Pelican Kayaks, Hobie Kayaks, Vibe, Tsunami, Power-Pole, Dick's Sporting Goods, Polar Bear Coolers, and KayakFishingSupplies.Com.

These national companies were also joined by such great local sponsors as Strike Zone, Black Creek Outfitters, Cajun Custom Rods, All Wet Sports, Black Fly Outfitters, St Augustine Paddle Sports, and many others.

Matt Chipperfield of Jacksonville, FL and purveyor of North Guana Outpost set a record Redfish-Trout-Flounder slam with a total aggregate of 81.35". The winner of a Native Watercraft Slayer Propel 13, Matt brought in a monster trout at 32.10". This fish of a lifetime was followed by a 34" Redfish and a 15.25" Flounder. Chipperfield follows previous slam winners Kevin Kappel at 74.7", Eddie Cabler at 74", Rory Gregg at 73.95", Todd Derringer at 69.4", and former champ Ryan Conner at 67.5"

The 2016 Classic ramped up its Fly Division, thanks to fly fishing sponsors who wished to see the sport grow in the NE Florida area. Diablo Paddlesports donated an Amigo kayak for the first place winner as well as Black Fly Outfitters donating a Sage rod and Reddington reel. Jason Schall of Charleston, SC brought in an aggregate slam of 65.0" on Fly, consisting of a 25.5" Redfish, 22.4" Trout, and a 17.10" Flounder.

Matt Embree of Jacksonville, FL won the redfish division with a 44.10" bull red, earning him the Wilderness Systems Advanced Tactical Angling Kayak (ATAK). Former Flounder winner, Tim Weil of Hilliard brought in the top Trout this year with 26.75", scoring him the Wilderness Systems Thresher 140. Jakes Bates of Gainesville, FL brought in a doormat of a Flounder at 22.60" to win the Old Town Predator 13.

The FishingNosara.com Family Cup was won with a combined total of 76.75" by the reigning champions, the Gregg Family. The Family Cup is an award that recognizes the best fishing performance by two or more members of a family, and earns them a one week fishing vacation in Costa Rica.

John Godwin won the Dick's Sporting Goods Junior Angler division with a combined 64.75", earning him a Field & Stream Kayak and paddle. The All Wet Sports Lady Angler award went to Cindy Flowers with a combined Redfish/Flounder total of 38.75". William Cesery, a first time Classic fisherman, took home the Senior Angler award with an aggregate slam totaling 57.00".

For more results and information about next year's Classic visit Jacksonville's kayak fishing community at www.JacksonvilleKayakFishingClassic.com. A media and press image preview package is available online.

Special thanks go out to the volunteers and over 100 sponsors who supported the Classic including: Columbia Sportswear, Strike Zone Fishing, BlackCreek Outfitters, Dick's Sporting Goods, Accent Paddles, Costa Del Mar, Wilderness Systems Kayaks, Diablo Paddlesports, Polar Bear Coolers, Advanced Elements, Solo Skiff, Old Town Canoes & Kayaks, Native Watercraft, Hobie Kayaks, Malibu Kayaks, FishingNosara.Com, Black Fly Outfitter, Cajun Custom Rods, All Wet Sports, Skinny Water Culture, Swivel Stick, Pure Fishing, Orion Coolers, Rat-L-Trap, DOA Lures, Calcutta, Unfair Lures, Power-Pole, MTI, Malone Auto Racks, KayakFishingSupplies.Com, Kayak Amelia, Yak-Gear.Com, B&M Bait&Tackle, RAM Mounts, Polar Bear Coolers, YakAttack.Us, Scotty Rod Holders, Daiichi Hooks, Slayer Lures, Stohlquist, AT Paddles, Brown's Creek Fish Camp, Extrasport, Carlisle, 321Fish.Com, TTI-Blakemore Fishing Group, Wang Anchors, Skwoosh, Florida Sportfishing Magazine, St. Croix Rods, Tailin Toads, SureSet Jigs, NuCanoe, FlyFishingJax.Com, Qualia Fishing, IFA Kayak Fishing Tour, Emmrod, Qualia, Ego Nets, Stohlquist, SeaDek, Bending Branches, U-Haul, ChicopitBay.Com, ActionKayakAdventures.Com.

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Event Photo Preview Pack (High-Res Available on Request)

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