

VIP Fishing Tournament and National Fish-Off

Imagine four days of fun, fellowship, and fishing with 400 sight-impaired fishermen and 250 Lions volunteers! Such was the adventure on October 19 - 23, 2014, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The North Carolina Lions have been having a VIP (Visually-Impaired Person) Fishing Tournament for more than 30 years. About 12 years ago, the MD31 event was expanded by a day to include a National Fish-Off. PCC Phil Marett (32A) has acted as the MD32 VIP Fishing Chairperson. There were three fishing tournaments in South Carolina this year--Lake Keowee (32A), Blue Hole Recreation Center (32D), and Lake Santee (32C). Three prize-winning South Carolina fishermen were invited to participate in the National Fish-Off. The only winner to go from 32D was Johnny Wardlaw of Greenwood. Activities included a tour of the Elizabethan Gardens, interactive exploration of the Manteo Waterfront, two dances, and (of course) two days of fishing. Eleven MD32 Lions



were present to accompany our fishermen and to volunteer for the Tournament--including CC Joe Pitts, DG Rick Pressly, and 1VDG David Dority. Everyone who participated in the National Fish-Off was awarded a medal; twelve states were represented--there were even two fishermen from Canada. PCC Phil Marett was honored with a Lacy and Esther Presnell VIP Ambassador Award.

