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**It's Countdown to Trout Season:**

**Riedman Foundation All-Ages Opening Day Derby Set for April 1**

Calling all anglers! It's time to cast your cares aside and your lines into the water. In less than three weeks—on Saturday, April 1—Powder Mills Park will mark the opening day of trout season with pride and tradition during the annual Riedman Foundation Opening Day Trout Derby taking place in the park from 7 a.m. until noon. Hundreds of participants—novices and experts, children and adults—will vie for fantastic prizes while demonstrating their support for the Fish Hatchery at Powder Mills Park.

Now in its 14th year, the Riedman Foundation Opening Day Trout Derby is a well-known, multi-generational rite of spring. It is not unusual for three or four generations within a family to participate in the derby. For many, it's a family tradition.

The derby awards prizes in three age categories, including age eight and younger, and features the Bank of America Angler Award, a \$500 cash prize for the contestant reeling in the biggest brown trout. The derby is open to the public for a \$5 fee. Derby applications can be found at <http://www.fishpowdermill.org/>. Event proceeds benefit the Fish Hatchery at Powder Mills Park.

Fishing will take place in designated areas of Irondequoit Creek within the boundaries of Powder Mills Park. Powder Horn Lodge serves as the official derby headquarters and weigh station. Prizes for largest catch will be awarded just after noon. Event sponsors include Bank of America, Monroe County, Ontario Fly Outfitters, Hat Trick Charters, Suspicious Lines, South Bay Boat and Tackle, Streamwalker Nets, New York State Conservation Officers Association, Orvis, L.L. Bean, Cabelas, The Dolomite Group, Manitou Concrete, Shadow Lake Grill & Tap Room, The Salty Dog Shop Inc., BE Fishing Tackle, S & R Bait and Tackle, The Outdoor Store, Rochester Business Journal, Fox Rochester, 13 WHAM, the CW Rochester, KidsOutandAbout.com, Eric Kukla, and Josi Etter.

The derby's title sponsor, the Riedman Foundation, provides year-round funding for staff, maintenance, and operational support, as well as makes capital improvements to the Fish Hatchery at Powder Mills Park. The Riedman Foundation Opening Day Trout Derby is a celebration of the hatchery's operations and illuminates the important role it plays in strengthening the area's environmental ecosystem. (The Foundation has been operating the hatchery since 2003 when it established a partnership with Monroe County to re-open the now 84-year-old hatchery. The County had closed the operation in mid-December 2002 due to budget cuts.)

The Riedman Foundation Opening Day Trout Derby will be conducted in accordance with New York State Law. Participants 16 years of age and older must have a valid fishing permit and must abide by State Fish and Game laws.

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