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PaddleFEST 2006 had rain, sun and wind, but paddlers had fun anyway

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PaddleFEST, a kayak demo day with a festival wrapped around it, took place Sunday at Mauch Chunk Lake Park, Jim Thorpe.

Carleen Ladden of Jim Thorpe was the coordinator who organized the event to raise funds for Dream Come True, Blue Ridge Chapter.

Members of the Lehigh Valley Canoe Club and staff from Northeast Pennsylvania Kayak School assisted at the event to provide safety for the participants as they took to the water.

“We raised some money, but most of all we had fun,” said Ladden. “The weather was against us, but there were plenty of different kayaks for people to try out.”

Pocono Whitewater, Adventure Expeditions of White Haven and Nestors of Quakertown brought a selection of whitewater, recreational and ocean kayaks for people to paddle.

“Everyone who came had plenty of opportunity to learn to paddle safely,” said Ladden.

Kayak school staff surrounded the participants on the water for safety and also provided mini paddling lessons.

Entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon by Jim Cimms of Jim Thorpe; Pat McGeehan of White Bear; Tim Perry of Lehigh; Maury Rutch of Coaldale and Joe Urban of Jim Thorpe.