

# The Blues Brothers, Safari Style

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**U**nited Special Sportsman's Alliance (USSA) understands the universality of the attraction to the outdoors. The desire to go on safari cuts across all gender, race and economic barriers. At USSA, we specialize in bringing that same opportunity to seriously ill, disabled and challenged Americans, with the help of sportsman's groups like Safari Club International. I would like to share with you an amazing USSA event held this summer, sponsored in part by a caring SCI Wisconsin.

Last July, 105 ill and disabled youth accompanied another 315 parents and family members on a safari to a 900-acre piece of property in central Wisconsin for the third annual USSA "Summer Bash." Three different lakes provided a wide variety of fishing opportunities. Two lakes had two-to six-pound largemouth bass waiting to be caught by eager youngsters. To help ensure a successful event, professional bass tournament anglers from Alabama made the 1,000-mile journey to help as guides and mentors. Another lake featured channel catfish and rod-busting flathead catfish up to 45 pounds, which were stocked a couple years ago.

There were other fulfilling outdoor adventures awaiting the eager young sportsmen as well. Certified hunting safety instructors supervised a fun and informative daylong shooting seminar, in which fledgling sportsmen could sharpen their eyes on a rifle range designed by custom rifle maker, Kenny Jarrett of Jarrett Rifles, Inc. Those wishing to try their hand at the fine art of bowhunting found Matthews Genesis bows waiting for them and Illinois Bowhunting Society (IBS) members eager to properly instruct them.

Horseback rides in adjacent forest trails gave riders an undisturbed look at native flora and fauna. For those enjoying lakeside activities, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from Genoa, Wisconsin brought up a huge portable fish tank, full of many native and endangered fish species. The federal official gave an interesting and infor-



Blues Brothers or deja vu all over again?

mative presentation to the crowd, leaving them with a new appreciation of our natural resources.

In addition, a Wisconsin DNR warden had an interesting exhibit, highlighting the native furbearers of Wisconsin. Habitat preservation was stressed as a prerequisite for a thriving population of these valuable natural resources.

For those looking for water sports fun, jet-ski and tube rides were an exciting outlet for all. In addition, a hydraulic excavator stationed by the lake provided young and old alike an opportunity to swing into the lake in a style reminiscent of "the ol' swimming hole" from years past.

As a couple of pigs roasted in the smoker for supper later that day, a black and white police car rambled into the yard, with speakers blaring music familiar to many of the astonished bystanders. To the tune of "Soul Man," it appeared that Elwood and Jake Blues, the Blues Brothers, popped out the car and partied with surprised

bystanders. Everyone was truly amazed how young the Blues Brothers looked since their movie antics in the 1980s. While the beach party continued on, a rumor circulated through the crowd that just how much Jake Blues (John Belushi) looked just like SCI Georgia President and USSA board member James Lakeman!

Opportunities like this day gives participants, young and old, a chance to forget their daily cares and be carefree kids again. Providing quality outdoor experiences like this to those less fortunate is a valuable public service.

For their support, USSA and its staff would like to thank SCI Wisconsin for their encouragement and financial support. USSA would like to extend a special thanks to the Green Bay Packer QB Brett Farve and the Brett Farve Forward Foundation for their year-long support of USSA and its mission.

For more information about the United Special Sportsman Alliance, visit [www.childswish.com](http://www.childswish.com). 