activity for terminal and disabled children

Brigid O'Donoghue, President and founder of United Special Sports Alliance, was touching the lives of about 30 children and their families on Saturday, July 31 at an outdoor fishing activity at the Saddle Mound Cranberry site. They have a pond stocked with catfish which offered the children an opportunity to do some fishing with professional help and guidance.

There were several professional catfish association members present from Illinois and Nebraska. Tim Scott one of the members of the association said they received a call from Brigid and thought it would be an excellent opportunity to do some charity work. Most of the members of the association conduct seminars and guide people interested in catfish fishing. They also have a catfish magazine geared from beginners to professionals. It can be accessed on the net at pro.cats.com.

Besides the catfish professionals Brigid engaged the help of area guides and neighborhood friends to help with the children.

The children taking part in the days fishing activity received fishing rods and hats.

Ms. O'Donoghue proudly stated that her organization is now #1 in the nation for Hunting Wishes to terminally ill and disabled children nationwide. She said since 2000 her organization has granted over 650 hunting wishes. This year they are aiming for granting over 1,000 children their hunting and fishing wishes.

It was a beautiful sunny day for the activity and it was a delight to walk around the area seeing all the smiling faces of children and their families as they enjoyed the day.

Saddle Mound Cranberry is owned by Norma Normington and her two children, Peter Normington and Patty Normington Zieher. Peter is also vice president of USSA.

Brittany Zuelke, age 14, of Stevens Point is getting catfish fishing advice from Tim Scott of Illinois, left, and John Elliott of Omaha, Nebraska. The are members of the Professional Catfish Association. Even with their help Brittany didn't have any luck catching a fish!

Ali Schneckberg, age 9, was all smiles as she was sporting the hat that had been given to her by the catch and release Petenwell Muskie Challenge group. Lisa, from Stevens Point, was also trying her luck at catching a catfish in the pond at Saddle Mound Cranberry in the Pray, Wisconsin area where the event took place. Lisa was at the event with her parents and older sister. Lisa suffers from scoliosis. She learned about this fishing opportunity at the 4th of July fireworks in Wisconsin Rapids when Brigid O'Donoghue presented Lisa with one of her business cards and told her parents about the upcoming event.