Conrad Richer, a member of the Wisconsin River Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association assists Alex Gunn, nine, Marshfield, in attempting to shoot a pheasant during the “Dream Hunt” on Saturday. The pheasant emerged from the field and flew behind the hunters.

‘Dream Hunt’ provides countless memories

By Dan Wackershauser

The sky was blue and the temperature was perfect. Adding to the pristine conditions, a group of 11 hunters and their families had an experience of a lifetime on Saturday at the Tanglewood Ranch and Hunt Club located near Mineral Point, Belmont and Darlington.

The Wisconsin River Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) hosted a “Dream Hunt” on Saturday, allowing seriously ill children the opportunity to hunt game birds over pointing dogs. This special hunt was held in conjunction with the United Special Sportsman Alliance (USSA), a non-profit organization, which grants outdoor wishes to terminally ill children and adults.

Additional activities offered to the group for the day included fishing in Tanglewood’s pond, trap shooting, a hunting safety refresher course, as well as skits and entertainment put on by members of NAVHDA.

“I’m having a good time,” said Caleb Heisz, 13, Montfort, during Saturday’s activities.

Special sponsors and hosts for the hunt were Kurt and Tammy Wedig, owners of Tanglewood Ranch and Hunt Club. Tanglewood Ranch is a game preserve located on over 750 acres of land in southwest Wisconsin.

Brigid O’Donoghue, founder of the United Special Sportsman Alliance interviews Conrad Richer, a member of the Wisconsin River Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association and Alex Gunn, nine, Marshfield, during the “Dream Hunt.” A DVD from the day’s events will be distributed to all of the hunters that participated and may be included on various outdoor television programming throughout the country.

The Wedigs donated the exclusive use of all the fields as well as the lodge for lunch and activities. “We’re happy to be a part of such wonderful experience and help in any way possible,” said Kurt Wedig. His wife and co-owner, Tammy, added, “We have three children of our own so we know how important it is to spend fun, quality time with your children”.

Brothers Alex, nine and Byron Gunn, eight, Marshfield, had the opportunity to hunt and fish with their uncle. The brothers enjoy hunting and fishing and the opportunity to do so together.

Saucier, the brothers’ great-uncle, who accompanied them on the trip, along with his wife Kathleen, said the children enjoy getting outdoors to hunt and fish and this was a great experience for them. “This is great for the kids,” he said.

In addition to this hunt, the brothers have gone deer hunting in the past, as well as fishing on Lake Michigan.

Each of the brothers suffers from a variety of medical problems.

A group of hunters prepares for an exciting day during Saturday’s “Dream Hunt.” Front row (L-R) Kurt Wedig, owner of the Tanglewood Ranch and Hunt Club and Zach Heisz, 13, Montfort. Back row: Donna Cochenet, Madison and Caleb Heisz, 13, Montfort.

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