By Jo Dee Brooke

United Special Sportsmen Alliance (U.S.S.A.) hosted a very special day of fishing for disabled and terminally ill children and their families July 31.

The event was held at Saddlemound Cranberries located about 15 miles east of Black River Falls.

The children, who joined several professional fishermen from around the Midwest for a day of fishing, have illnesses ranging from blindness, epilepsy, cancer, leukemia, cerebral palsy, ADHD, mentally challenging disabilities, Down syndrome and cystic fibrosis.

According to Brigid O’Donoghue, president and founder of U.S.S.A., this may have been the last vacation some of these children will take.

U.S.S.A. is a non-profit organization working very hard to grant terminally ill and disabled sportsmen and women an outdoors adventure, one he or she may have dreamed about for along time.

It also provides and protects the rights of all Americans so they can enjoy the outdoor heritage.

There were families who came to share the day with these children having lost a child of their own to terminal illness.

As noted by one guest, “It was a time where professional fishermen could share their talent with a child who had never fished before.”

“As I reflect back on the special children fishing event, a lot of wonderful memories are enriched in my heart. I witnessed so much joy in these kids that I wish I had more time to spend with each one. It was so wonderful to see so many volunteers step up to the plate.”

“The Monday morning that followed the event, I ran past the catfish pond and I had a sinking feeling not seeing all the children and their families.”

“I think everyone who attended would agree that these special children are God’s gift to us and we should be thankful he lets them come into our lives.”

A thank you goes to Danmark Plumbing, Inc., for donating the tent and bathroom facilities.

What an adventure for these youngsters to spend some living. This particular fisherman took a minute and put the camera. Several news stations came to cover the children.

Sam Warrichaet went fishing a couple of weeks ago and it was a big day for him. Sam was one of about 30 children with terminal illnesses who ventured out to U.S.S.A.’s fishing outing held the end of July for the youngsters and their families.