USSA’s 3rd annual summer event

On Saturday, July 29, United Special Sportsman Alliance held its 3rd annual summer event. The event is held each year for kids with serious illnesses, chronic illness and/or life-threatening illnesses. We were blessed with over 100 kids at this year’s event. Including these special kids and their family members, there were over 300 people on the grounds at this year’s retreat. There was plenty to do for everyone. There was fishing, jet skiing, shooting, archery, a dunk tank, a fishing seminar by the National Fish and Wildlife Service, horseback riding, boating, camping, water volleyball and the thrill seeking favorite, the “Super Man” ride on a rope handle behind an excavator. An area favorite, “The Blues Brothers” also brought their special brand of entertainment to the kids during the lunch hours as they came roaring in with music booming from the speakers on top of the original Blues Brothers car.

The fishing was excellent and groups of kids were catching 100+ bass a day. They also caught as many bream, perch and catfish as they could handle. It was absolutely awesome to watch these kids hook and land countless bass from one to five pounds. Many kids were introduced to fishing and to fishing with artificial lures for the first time in their lives. The smiles on their faces say it all. As always the event left us with unforgettable memories and eternal inspiration. Professional fisherman Troy Jens, Yancy Winham and Simon Morrow made the long trip from Alabama to help out at the event and stated that every smile made the 1,000 mile trip just 1,000 reasons to go up there again next year.

According to Alabama guide, Troy Jens, “This special Childswish.com event provides an atmosphere where ages, illnesses and disabilities don’t matter. The laughter from the ‘pull’ at the other end of the line covers up the countless scars from surgeries and long hospital stays.” Jens further explained, “It’s never a question of ‘having time’ to share hope with such special kids, it’s making the time that makes the difference. As do many others, I feel blessed to be entrusted with the opportunity to spend some time with such special folks, and I remain thankful to God for every moment that I get to enjoy fishing the way it was meant to be.”

A huge event like this always takes a lot of dedicated people to help make it successful, and we would like to take a moment to mention some of the local support we received: Our appreciation is extended to the Brett Favre Forward Foundation for their strong financial support. The Pittsville Lions Club helped make the day even though they had a softball tournament to run the same day! Tom Gardner and Hay Creek Express provided a refrigerated unit to keep food and beverages cool and Verlene and Lee McDonald did another fine job roasting the hog. The Pittsville American Legion (women and men) continued their backing of the USSA and its events. Mr. & Mrs. Jim Kinzer and Outdoor Adventures Ministries for taking pictures. We also want to give special thanks to the Blues Brothers who made lunch time a real treat! Special thanks also from all of us to Saddle Mound Cranberry for hosting our event for the third year and for their continued support of the USSA and USSA events. Thank you all, and may God bless you all.

United Special Sportsman Alliance

The United Special Sportsman Alliance is an all volunteer, 501(C)(3) charity headquartered at 7864 Shotwell Road, Pittsville, WI 54466. For more information, call (800)518-8019 or log onto (www.ChildsWish.com).

Brigid O’Donoghue, President and founder with USSA special child.

I don’t think you can get much happier than this!

This nice catch brought a big smile to this young girl’s face.