United Special Sportsmen Alliance grants wishes to terminally ill children

United Special Sportsmen Alliance (USSA) volunteers accompanied a group of dying and disabled children and their families to Leavellwood Lodge in West Greene, Alabama for a fishing tournament. Pam and Trent Montgomery, owners, provided accommodations and organized the 2nd annual event which included trophies, awards, and plaques for the junior anglers.

The children traveled from Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee to have their wishes for outdoor fun and fishing granted while learning from some of the best anglers in the country. They caught and released over 300 crappie, bream, and bass with the help of professional bass fishermen such as Randy Howell, Dalton Bobo, Jeff Hip and Clay Dyer, who volunteered their time for the event. After an afternoon of fishing on Friday, one of the pros entertained the children with guitar music and sing-a-long.

Trophies for the largest fish, the most fish, and most improved angler over the two days were given. Each participant received an award and gift package including hats, t-shirts, fishing equipment and cash. Awards donated by local residents and sponsors. "I was overwhelmed at the community's outpouring of generosity to the children," said James Lakeman, board member of USSA. "Some local residents even donated the use of their homes to accommodate the children and their families for the event," he added.

United Special Sportsman's Alliance (USSA) is an organization founded by Brigid O'Donoghue to grant wishes to terminally ill and disabled children. They organize outdoor adventures for children all over the country to enjoy hunting, fishing, or just observing wildlife. For more information visit www.childswish.com.

David Elder, professional bass fisherman, guides D.J. from Alabama who is battling cancer.