

# Summer fest at USSA

**By Andrea Kyser**

Summer Fest was held Saturday, July 23 at Saddle Mound Cranberry. The United Special Sportsman Alliance, Inc. (USSA) is a dream-wish granting charity that focuses on sending challenged youth and vets on an outdoor adventure of their dreams.

USSA gives something to look forward to, and to help sustain the individual during their time of need.

The program provides different adventure opportunities, such as elk, bear, deer, boar, exotic, pheasant, quail, duck and raccoon hunting; fresh water and deep sea fishing; golfing, camping, canoeing, horseback riding, water sports and more.

USSA is a 100 percent volunteer program. Those volunteers are bonded together by common love for one another and appreciation of natural resources.

By working together with donors, as well as individual and corporate sponsors, USSA has made a significant impact on the lives of thou-

sands of children and their families.

This year, Saddle Mound Cranberry donated their property to hold the event. In addition to their donated property, they provided tours of the cranberry marsh.

In addition to the marsh, Black River Correctional Center (BRCC) donated their time in preparing the grounds for use. Preparation included landscaping, maintenance of the piers, exhibit set-up, fishing rods and life jackets. They also made sure that the playground, beach and tree fort were safe for the children.

This year, USSA had several new volunteers participate in the summer fest. Volunteers were special education teachers and local firefighters from City Point. These volunteers were hands-on and dedicated to ensuring that everyone had a safe and fun-filled event.

"These fests are filled with donors/sponsors that make sure everything is taken care of," shared Brigid O'Donoghue, event coordinator. This year, Spencer

Sportsman Club and Random Lake Rod & Gun Club covered all the meals, drinks, supplies, tent, table and chair rental in addition to Ada Klute, a longtime volunteer, who donated gas cards for the families.

This year, the program jump-started in a smaller, manageable size to ensure the smooth transition into a larger attendance in the upcoming years. One of their goals for 2023, is doubling the number of families and to hold the fest for two days.

Summer Fest will take place on July 21 and 22 of 2023. Families can sign up for either day.

The program also sent 35 families that took 34 boats deep sea fishing in Southport, NC, in August.

They will be also starting their bear hunt in Wisconsin in September, which will run through mid-October with deer hunts to follow in October through December.

More information can be found at <https://childswish.org/about/>.



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