

My Fishing Pond holds first events

June 8, 2007

by Josie Clarey



Ted Hofer helps out a guest from Salem Mennonite Home for the Aged show off his great catch on June 16.



Cooks donned special My Fishing Pond chef hats and aprons to cook and serve the delicious meal on June 8.

There's nothing like an afternoon of fishing to relax on a nice summer day. And that's just exactly what residents from Prairie Villa Assisted Living, Golden Living Center, and Corsica Good Samaritan did. The very first event of the summer began midmorning on June 8, 2007. With only a few clouds in sight, it was a perfect day to fish, socialize, and just have fun.

The morning kicked off with doughnuts and juice for the first few hours. A combination of doughnuts, juice, and fishing certainly cannot go wrong. Finally, it was time for a break to have a lunch consisting of burgers on the grill, chips, salads, and cookies. Eventually, it was time to pack up and head home.

Visitors to My Fishing Pond included residents from Prairie Villa Assisted Living in Armour. They included Goldie Kolecka, Cliff Buhler, Charlie Fryda, and Elmer Bultje. There were also volunteers along to help out and have a good time. Lanetta Van Zeo, Heath Broquer, Dahlayro Mulienberg, Nathan Mulienberg, and Kenny Dilts.

One of the residents commented, "It is such a wonderful place. John does a great job. We always feel so welcome when we come out. Thanks for all the improvements."

Also along for the trip were Joe Gilbert, Paula Brown, Alice Schlesinger, Letna Kramer, Lonnie Lee, and Joe Jaeger from the Golden Living Center in Armour. Dennis Sanders and Nicole Olawsky were there to pitch in a hand when needed.

Traveling from the Corsica Good Samaritan center were Dorothy Olston, Cora Teunissen, Dee Veurink, Gradus Veurink, Chet Zomer, and Tex Hollander. Along with them were Myron Moore, Administrator, Arla Crago, Activity Director,

and CNAs Brenda Anthony, Aron Anthony, and Randi Hollander.

Donnelle Hoffman, a physical therapist for these facilities said, "It's nice to be one of John's volunteers. When I found out about My Fishing Pond and started working with senior citizens, I decided that it would be really nice to have a great recreational activity for these residents. It's so nice to come out here."

For this event, a little contest took place. For any fisher who caught a big mouth bass, a prize would be given. Nathan Muilenburg and Alice Schlesinger both won hats to take home with them for the ride. When all was said and done, it was definitely a great day of fishing.

The second event was held on Saturday, June 16, 2007. My Fishing Pond received visitors from Salem Mennonite Home for the Aged in Freeman. The guests included Silas and Verlyn Waltner, Marlene Mehlhaf, Eunice Graber, Walter Boese, Dianne Koster, Roland Ewert and Mabel Waltner. Staff members were Denise Peterson, Carol Tschetter, and Ron Tschetter. Also along for the day were Christa Peterson and Sarah Miller.

The day started at around 9:00 when Randy Ehrismann and Joe Sisco were found preparing a few odds and ends for the day. Both have been with My Fishing Pond for about five years.

"We just stick around here to make sure everything's in line and organized for the event," said Ehrismann.

At 10:00, Ted Hofer and his wife came to prepare the food for the afternoon. Both worked tirelessly to buy, cook, and serve the food for the event. Their hard work is much appreciated. Ted also donated a brand-new grill for the shelter.

Finally, at 10:30, the guests arrived, ready and willing to fish. It wasn't long before fish were caught, conversations begun, and the water passed around. It was definitely hot out in the sun, but was perfect for a day of fishing. Before long, it was time to come in and taste the brats that were cookin' and smellin' great. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic meal before heading for home.

"It's my first year here and I just love it. It's a great spot out here in the country; just beautiful," said Dianne Kost.