

## Good weather, good friends, good fishing

June 18 & 22, 2007

by Josie Clarey



When there's a mixture of good weather, good friends, and good fishing, nothing can ever seem to go wrong. On June 18 and 22, that's exactly what proved to be true at My Fishing Pond.

On Monday, June 18, 2007, residents and staff members from the Avera Sr. James Care Center in Yankton paid a visit to My Fishing Pond. It was their first year attending, and they all had a blast. The guests to the pond include Bill Voracek, Roman Drotzman, Clayton Steckarvberg, Gary Hochstein, Gwynn Styles, and Bob Endicott. Along with them were staff members to have some fun and help out. They were Terra Bender, Deb Dant, Kim Slempe, and Jack Mansfield.

The day started out around 10:00 and by 10:30, Roman Drotzman had caught the first fish. By the end of the day, every single guest had caught their own fish. With pictures taken, conversations ended, and fish caught, it was time to go home after a nice dinner of hot dogs and hamburgers.

Kim Slempe commented, "It was our first year coming here, and I think it's fantastic. It's just beautiful out here."

The following Friday saw the FirstPartners group from Salem and Parkston arriving in the morning to fish and have a great time. The group is a customer appreciation club from the First Dakota National Bank. The group normally caters to customers age fifty or above, but they have been rearranging to form a new group called First Dakota Travel Partners, which would begin to include anyone who would like to join.

With twelve locations from Chamberlain to Sioux Falls, the group's goal is to give back to the customers. There are planned events throughout the year. Events include trips, tours, annual picnics, movies, holiday parties, and other events throughout the year. This time, the FirstPartners came out to My Fishing Pond, along with a little friend or grandchild to catch some fish.

The workers and bank staff included Sherry Gerlach, Janine Vanemmerik, and Jane Pugh. The other guests to My Fishing Pond included Brady Moke, Clarence Moke, Chris cap, Sencer Neughebauer, Andrew Neugehbauer, Mayean Moke, Ralph McGregor, Elain Neughebauer, Martin Erickson, Linda Roberts, Kay and Ken Aisenbry, Spencer and Payton Albrecht, Ashlyn Lee, Bonna McGregor, Olivia Wermers, and Jim Lischenil.

Winners of the day were Brady Moke, chris Cap, and Ralph McGregor. After a few hours of morning fishing, lunch included hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, and a special treat of s'mores.

"It was really nice day to come out here. I think everyone had a good time. We couldn't have had a nicer day," said Sherry Gerlach, manager at the Parkston Branch.