

Ramcats fishing tournament to be hosted by Irene Country Lodge

African Pride Irene Country Lodge will for the second year running host the Ramcats Men in Wheelchairs fishing tournament on 15 September 2012.

Ramcats, an organisation launched in 2002, is involved in various events regarding the disabled, focusing people in wheelchairs. Derived from the Afrikaans word Ramkats, which means an adventurous, brave and sometimes naughty boy, Ramcats assists wheelchair bound men, enjoy the outdoors in a safe wheelchair friendly environment.

"The celebration of fishing is more than just a sport; it is a wonderful playground where people with differences meet with the resultant effect of feeling good and making a difference. Our members want to be included in society and desire an active outdoor lifestyle," says Ramcats organiser Gerard Smal.

Various fish species

The inland dam at the lodge is teeming with fish and due to their excellent habitat has outgrown their numbers. The dam has various fish species which include Carp, Lowveld Large-scale Yellow fish, Brandeish Tilapia, Redbreast Tilapia, and Mozambique Tilapia. The lodge, adjacent to the dairy working farm, is a natural wonder that boasts a 250 species of birdlife.

"This is a great initiative and we are proud to be associated with this tournament which provides these men with an opportunity to share in this wonderful sport while also enjoying the beauty of nature at this magnificent and serene lodge," says sales and marketing executive for African Pride Hotels Robyn Ward.

Last year the tournament attracted 40 participants and this year 50 fishermen are expected. Participants are from across Gauteng, Northwest and Limpopo. "This activity brings people together and introduces new beginnings as a therapy to recover and rekindle feelings of wellness," concludes Smal.