

Women's Hunting and Sporting Association

May 2006 Newsletter

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Jill Levy 414-351-1469
Cathy Knickelbine 262-628-2201

Website: <http://www.wiwhsa.org>



President's Corner:

This is a great time to be an Outdoor Woman!
Here are some events just for ladies!

- ❖ Bass Pro Shops in Gurnee Illinois is holding an Outdoor World Outdoors Woman Day Saturday, May 13th. Patricia Strutz will be presenting a seminar, teaching bait casting techniques, presenting different lures in the aquarium, and discussing fishing gear. They have lots of fun stuff lined up...including: Brenda Valentine will be there to speak on the hunting side and women in the outdoors. There will be bluegills and crappies in the outdoor pond so ladies can practice catch and release. They will have different clubs from the area that are designed for women, so you can meet fellow minded outdoorswomen! The National Wild Turkey Federation, Women in the Outdoors will have their laser shot targeting system set-up so women can try shooting simulations. What a great event to go to for Mothers Day. Take you daughters too!
- ❖ NRA Women's Luncheon on May 19th. Tickets are \$35.00. Information can be found on the NRA Website.
- ❖ The second annual women's charity shoot is on July 15th in Saukville. There is a full page flyer in the newsletter. You can be a beginner, or like me just not good, or an expert. Everyone will be placed in a division. There was several club members who voiced wanting to attend so if you are interested please contact me. They have also agreed to allow the club to pass out info, so if you do not want to shoot you can still attend and help the club out with advertising. It is a great opportunity to network with other women.

Club Events

- ❖ June 25th Fishing at Lower Springs! Get your team together for this annual tradition of WHSA! I will be in Canada for our June meeting so please let me know ASAP if you plan on attending so I can find you a team mate, equipment, etc if you need it. Details and a registration sheet are included in this newsletter.
- ❖ July 22nd River rafting. Details to follow – Event coordinator Jill L.

Congratulations to Rachel on her two Turkeys! Good luck to the rest of the members who have later season permits! I am hoping to hear from you all soon!

Sarah Ingle-Gazdecki
President

Member Activities:

Michigan Turkey Hunt By Rachel Dumke

My husband, Justin, won a guided Michigan turkey hunt from a Safari Club International banquet that for various reasons (missing the application deadline, the birth of our child, etc.) he has been rolling over and looking forward to for the past 3 years. For some reason, Justin decided to give me the opportunity to apply for my tag and hunt, while he video taped it. I like to think of it as a belated "thank you for giving birth to our first-born son" gift.

The evening of April 27th we packed the truck and headed north to Powers, Michigan to meet our guide Dean Hulce at "camp". "Camp" turned out to be an old farmhouse that Dean and his father had completely gutted and renovated themselves and was near completion. As any camp would, it was not lacking in impressive mounts. Not exactly "roughing-it" like I had imagined we'd be...which I, a 3-month pregnant woman that frequently had to use the bathroom, was secretly thrilled about. Soon after our late arrival and brief personal introductions we agreed to head out the door at 4:30 am and went to bed.

My only experience turkey hunting has been in Wautoma, WI, "working" 300 acres. On most days the birds always seem to be around the property we hunt and not on the property we hunt. Dean on the other hand, has over 11,000 acres that he leases/owns so this was a far superior experience. We sat in the morning where he thought the birds had roosted but things were relatively quiet; much of the remainder of the day was spent driving from land to land to look for Longbeards and plan out a strategy to sneak ahead of them and get them to answer and come to "The Call". Speaking of "the call", Dean was an excellent caller and had actually competed in quite a few turkey calling competitions. The magazines say you don't have to be a great caller to kill a turkey but I think hunting with them sure does help. You can hunt until dusk in Michigan and we did. We hunted from 4:30 in the morning until 8:00 at night. Unfortunately, though we literally saw at least 100 turkeys that day, the only thing interested in answering our call was a coyote. Dean said it was one of the worst days he had all season. None-the-less, it was exciting.

Day two proved to be quite different. Our first stop in the morning, 3 gobblers answered Dean's owl hoot. He only used his voice...amazing. As we quietly hiked in we found our spots and my heart started pounding when the gobblers answered what seemed to be non-stop from their roosts. Unfortunately, I wasn't the only thing looking to get a turkey and I had my second experience with a coyote, which ran right where the turkeys were roosting. A hen got upset, and as a result they stayed in their roost for much longer than they normally would. I heard them fly down and the gobbling suddenly seemed to stop. Out of nowhere a hen appeared who was soon followed by a strutting Tom. Finally I had my opportunity. I had a clear view of his head and neck and could see enough to tell he was a Tom, but I kept craning my neck to see his beard. I never was able to see it. Suddenly, they began to angle away and I knew I had a short window then to take a shot. I did...and I am sorry to say, I missed. Since it is on camera I can't deny that it never happened. Dean said when he saw me shoot, I didn't have my head on the stock and I shot right over him. I felt sick...and embarrassed. All I kept hearing was..."That was a big tom; that was a nice one; I can't believe you missed; don't worry, it happens to everyone." It isn't supposed to happen to a girl though. As a female hunter there is added stress in trying to prove yourself a worthy hunter to the male critics, and an event like that doesn't make for a good first impression. Fortunately, later that morning as we were driving, we saw 3 jakes in a field. Dean asked me if I was ok with a Jake. After the episode earlier, how could I say no? So we back tracked, parked along another road, hiked up a hill and through some pines that sat above a plowed field overlooking a beautiful river. I sat and Justin turned on the camera. Dean went to sit further up the hill and was startled to see 5 Jakes down the other side. Justin started to call and not longer than two minutes later the 3 Jakes we saw earlier were running across a plowed field up the hill in our direction. Dean couldn't see the jakes coming in our way but knew something was up by the way Justin was calling. Justin let out a couple more "yelps" and the jakes ran right into me. I was unable to shoot the Jake I wanted because they kept clustering together. So, with my cheek pressed tightly against the stock this time, I pulled the trigger and dropped my first Michigan turkey. I must have redeemed myself because we were invited back for deer season bow hunting. That jake won't be a trophy mount, but it made for a good meal and a great memory.

If you would like to share an activity you have done, please email Sharon (Sharon@hillsidecottage.com) and she will put in the newsletter. (Or mail to Sharon Yunk, S31W38655 School Section Lake Rd, Dousman, WI 53118)

Bag Raffle:

Sue Krueger wins the bag raffle this month. She won a pewter picture holder with a fishing vest as the base. Join our meetings every 1st Tuesday of the month at Wern Valley and you could be the next bag raffle winner!

Upcoming & Future WHSA Events:

June 25th-Fishing Outing (please note date change)

Event Coordinators: Sarah

Place: tba

July 22nd-Canoe or Rafting Trip (please note date change)

Event Coordinators: Jill

Place: tba

Sept 8th-10th-ATV and Fishing outing

Event Coordinators: Sharon

Place: Sharon's cabin-Tomahawk (1-2 nights)

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting is June 6, 2006 at 7:00 pm at Wern Valley. Please join us for a night out to talk about your activities and get a chance at our bag raffle.

Newsletter:

Any ideas/changes in the newsletter you would like to see? Please contact any of the club members with your ideas to be reviewed at our next meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting, May 2, 2006

(by Sue Krueger)

Meeting called to order 7:15 p.m.

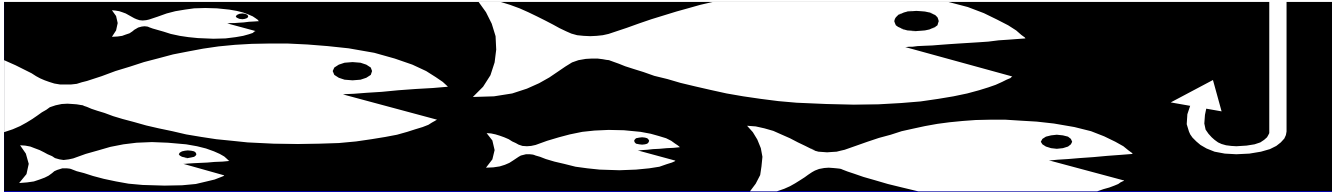
Minutes from April taken as written for Secretary's report.

Treasurer's report: Our balance is \$2921.69. Rent is paid to Wern Valley through Oct 2006.

Kid's Fishing Clinic had 59 children go through at Minooka Park. The weather was not great, but we still had fun. Only 2 fish were caught—but remember, the DNR did not stock this park. Next year's Kid's Fishing Clinic is April 14, 2007. Please mark your calendars.

WHSA's June and July's activities are listed in the "President's Article".

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.



Fishing Registration Form:

Return to Sarah

Date: July 25th

Time: 8am to dinner

Location: Lower Springs Lake in Palmyra

This is an annual event where we catch panfish or game fish. We weigh it and the winners receive the traveling trophy! After a day of fishing we clean the fish, and have a shore supper together!

Name

I will be fishing with: _____

I need a partner: (Non-club member ladies welcome!)

I will need the following equipment: (circle needed items)

I need a partner Boat Life jackets Rods and equipment

Fish basket Fillet knife

I know nothing about fishing, have nothing for fishing, but want to come anyway! Please find me a partner that will help!

**Sarah will bring the oil, breading, spices and all the equipment to fry the fish!
Please sign up for a dish to pass.**

I will bring _____ to the potluck!