

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN PHEASANT HUNT

NOVEMBER 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH

If I had to use one word to sum up my weekend spent at Hastings Island Hunting Preserve it would have to be extraordinary. Everything from the sunset to the people to the food was more than I ever thought it could be.



Once arriving at Hastings Island Hunting Preserve on Friday, all of the ladies involved in Becoming An Outdoors-Woman (BOW), met in the club house to meet one another, and to find out what the weekend had in store for us. Saturday morning we went to the club house for breakfast, and the food was wonderful, the Biscuits and Gravy was the best I have ever had. We then moved on to watch the dog demonstration. Being able to see the dogs work up close is something that I will never forget; the way that they move, and the relationship they have with their handler is something that you cannot describe. After all of us ladies got a chance to shoot a round of trap and get familiar with our guns, we were able to just enjoy the scenery and meet some of the other guests at the club. To have the members stop and asks what was going on, and why there were so many women here, then being excited to see that women were getting into the sport was something that I was not expecting. It gave me a sense of pride and encouragement that this was something that is going to be a life changing weekend.

And to be in a place that everyone, weather you knew them or not, supported and welcomed you into the family of hunters. For dinner Saturday night we were surprised with the most amazing dinner. Salad, pheasant, asparagus, wild rice, vegetables, dessert; the food just kept coming. Being able to try the pheasant before hunting was something that I was very excited about. This way I knew that what I was hunting was something that I was going to enjoy eating.

Trying to sleep Saturday night, knowing that I was about to go hunting the next morning, was like trying to sleep the night before you leave for Disneyland. You know you need your rest, but your excitement, nerves, and mind just won't let you fall asleep. Before I knew it morning was here and it was time to see what hunting was all about. All the BOW ladies were broken up into hunting groups of 3 ladies, 1 handler, and hunting dog. As we started out in the field my personal goal was to have the best time possible, learn how to hunt and make memories, and if I were to get a pheasant then that was the icing on the cake. Right out the gate our dog, Star, found us a pheasant. Gary, our Guide, walked us though everything. I could not have asked for a better Guide, he was so patient with us, and explained everything in a way that we could understand; he made it safe and fun. All three of us girls in the group were able to flush out and shoot a pheasant. The feeling of excitement and adrenalin that I felt as I saw Star find and point out a pheasant, walking up to it and flushing it out, waiting for it to fly up, aiming and firing, watching Star bring the pheasant back, was something that I will never forget. I knew after the first one I was hooked, I wanted more. After the hunt was over I could not wait to cook the pheasant and be able to share my story with my family what I was able to do. And to my excitement my husband now wants to go with me to Hastings Island and become a member there.



Kelly Ford, BOW Member



BOW participants with Hastings Island Hunting Preserve rental dog, Star

Danielle and her staff would like to say a very special thank you to the members who gave up their weekend to help out with our First Annual Becoming An Outdoors Woman Hunt.

Rob Lawson and Shannon Hodges helped prepare the wonderful pheasant dinner.

Steve & Michele Artis, Gordon Strohmeier, Gary Bonini, Harold Swanson, Mike Scaduto and Tab Stiles. We thank you and your wonderful dogs for the great hunts

We could not have done it with out all of you.