The Lady who Hunts

When I was asked if I’d write an article for "Shooting for Women" magazine, I jumped at the opportunity! A magazine dedicated to the promotion of shooting sports to an "under-recruited" segment of society, namely women, sounds like a great concept to me!

The history of women in shooting sports has had its share of participants who also gave generously of their time to society's disadvantage. A lady was born a number of years back to a financially poor family. This lady, named Phoebe Ann, grew up on a poverty-stricken farm. Out of necessity Phoebe learned how to trap, hunt and fish to provide food for her family.

As Phoebe Ann Moses grew up her skills sharpened each year. It wasn’t long afterwards that Moses Moses met a man who was a well-known marksman, "Mr. Frank Butler." Phoebe and Frank married and the Butlers began their life in the public view.

As Frank and Phoebe became famous, Phoebe never forgot her humble origins and always found time and money for widows and orphans and offered shooting lessons to women. Phoebe Ann was truly qualified to give shooting lessons to ladies, since Phoebe Ann Moses Butler was really, "Little Sure Shot," as Chief Sitting Bull called her and known by most as "Annie Oakley."
U.S.S.A is trying to get articles into the mainstream media and radio television broadcast explaining the fine public service these hunts provide. Non-hunters everywhere need to know that sportsmen do truly do care about the well being of these special children. The world is full of big talkers who seem to define the words, “caring for,” to mean “indoctrination.” As these children have made their own decisions, it’s up to the rest of us to say NO to “indoctrination” and yes to the freedom to hunt and fish! — Brigid O’Donoghue

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart. —Helen Keller

with Terminally Ill Children

By Brigid O’Donoghue

As a 39-year-old, single mother of two children, my career in the great outdoors didn’t get off to a great start. I was born in the northwest side of Milwaukee, WI, the oldest daughter of nine children. Available resources within the family were used for the essentials of life with little for anything else. In addition, a high fever as a child left scar tissue on the left temporal lobe of my brain, which in turn caused a full-blown case of epilepsy and the related seizure disorders.

After high school, this naïve girl was swept off her feet by a middle-aged guy who promised me the world. As the years rolled by, the “promises” disappeared into thin air, and were replaced with constant abuse! In spite of my health, the Lord blessed us with two beautiful children, yet their father would claim no responsibility or support for either of them. The children and I needed a change, the handwriting on the wall could not have been clearer. The scar tissue and seizures had to be dealt with so we could live independently and hopefully break the “cycle of abuse.”

At the age of twenty I had the scar tissue removed at Mayo Clinic, Rochester Minnesota and began the long road out of the fire of abuse and thanks to the Lord’s will my children and I survived. After meeting a kind, respectful man, he introduced my kids and me to hunting about five years ago. I was quite skeptical at first, but I was soon in for the shock of my adult life.

After founding a deer food company for antler development and reproductive fitness, I became very attracted to the character, the moral standards, the sophistication, and intelligence of the people in the outdoor world. Male and female pathologists such as Dr. Terry Spraker of Colorado State University Diagnostic Laboratory and Dr. Katherine O’Rourke of Animal Disease Research Unit in Washington exemplify the scientific excellence needed to define and defeat the Chronic Wasting Disease, which is affecting our deer and elk population as well as the psyche of hunters nation wide. The scientific breeder community enthusiastic types with an extreme respect for the animals they raise.

As time went on, The Daney Schuman family of Back Achers Ranch in Wild Rose, WI asked me if I could find them a disabled hunter who would like to experience a dream-wish hunt. After a successful hunt and a formation of lifelong friendships, I was forever hooked on working towards granting dream wishes for the terminally ill, disabled and mentally challenged throughout the country. The teamwork involved and the sense of group happiness and belonging was truly indescribable.

A trip to South Carolina to attend a deer hunt for a sweet young lady, “Elizabeth” with Duchene Muscular Dystrophy was truly a sight to behold. Four grown men helped this young lady get her wheelchair into the blind and the love I witnessed between her and her father was heaven sent indeed!

After 200 nationwide hunting and fishing trips later over a two year span, I’m never tired of working for the disadvantaged in our society. Our outdoor heritage is for all Americans to enjoy regardless of their health! Politically correct activist groups are a constant threat to our rights and privileges as an American outdoor enthusiast and have successfully stopped most mainstream with granting organizations from offering hunts and fishing trips to these special Americans. U.S.S.A. Accepts no contributions from these radical activists, and as such is not subject to their vendettas and propaganda.

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