

Women in the Outdoors Report
Leslie Smith
NWTF PA Women in the Outdoor Coordinator
June 2012

Women are Pennsylvania's fastest growing group of hunters. With the beneficial partnership between the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), we will help provide more outdoor opportunities to women in this state. Continuing to get Women involved with outdoor activities will lead to more families enjoying the outdoors together. There are currently 15 events that are scheduled across Pennsylvania and more events are being worked on.

On March 9, 2012, the Blue Mountain Chapter hosted the Cabela's Women in the Outdoors event. The event attracted 41 participants. Two individuals from the PGC were our guests, Coren Jagnow and Samantha Pedder. These two individuals are in the education department of the PGC and work closely with the NWTF on the Women in Outdoors Program. Thank you to the Blue Mountain Chapter for being the host chapter for this event.

On April 14, 2012, the Nittany Valley Longbeards hosted the event at Marrara's Mountain Lodge. This event attracted 29 participants. New activities were introduced at this event. The activities appealed to the venturesome frontier spirit that still lives in the hearts of today's modern woman. Many women reported the reason they attended was to experience something new; their goal was to step out, to push the envelope, to experience something unfamiliar. Others attended in order to bond as mother/ daughter, and some to have a day away from the kids with friends. No matter the reason for attending, all were satisfied and seemed to come away rejuvenated, bonded, and happy for trying something new, full of the confidence that comes concomitant with success. Thank you to the Nittany Valley Longbeards Chapter for being the host chapter for this event.

Both of these events gained new Women members, as well as regular members. There were individuals who volunteered for the events and then joined the NWTF. Those volunteers were excited about the Women in the Outdoors and about NWTF and the mission!

We have added 2 more events to the schedule. The Lykens Valley/Michaux Yellow Breeches/Shippensburg Strutters/Sun Area Chapters will be the hosting Chapters for the event on June 30th at Martz's Game Farm in Dalmatia and the Northwest Thunderin Toms will be the host chapter for the

September 22nd event at Scattergun Reserve in Conneautville. There currently are two events that will be overnight events. Our next

event is the Allegheny Valley Chapter event at Bull Creek Rod & Gun Club. Also, Kinzua Allegheny Longbeards will be holding their event on June 2nd at Chapman State Park. There are four other events that are scheduled for June. The month of July has 2 events scheduled, August currently has 2 events and September currently has 2 events scheduled.

Women in the Outdoors partnered with the PGC on March 8th to participate in the NASP event that was held at Penn State University in State College. Outreach Coordinator, Teresa Carroll and Marketing, Shannon Rikard, joined us for that event. Bob Schwalm was there to represent the PA State Chapter and Regional Director, Walt Bingaman was there. Over 200 children of all ages participated in the Jakes Take Aim that was on site. They got to shoot the BB guns while inside the inflatable range. The Jakes Take Aim program was well received both by the children and the adults that joined them.

The support from the Chapters for the Women in the Outdoors is increasing. We will always strive to get the word out. The more women we can reach the stronger the NWTF becomes and the more we can continue to support the conservation of our wild turkey and other wildlife. If you or anyone you know would like to be part of the Women in the Outdoors, please contact me at 484-634-0069 or lsmith@nwtf.net.