

january 2014

women's outdoor news year in review

what we
reviewed

where we
went

what we
learned

shooting
hunting
fishing
adventure



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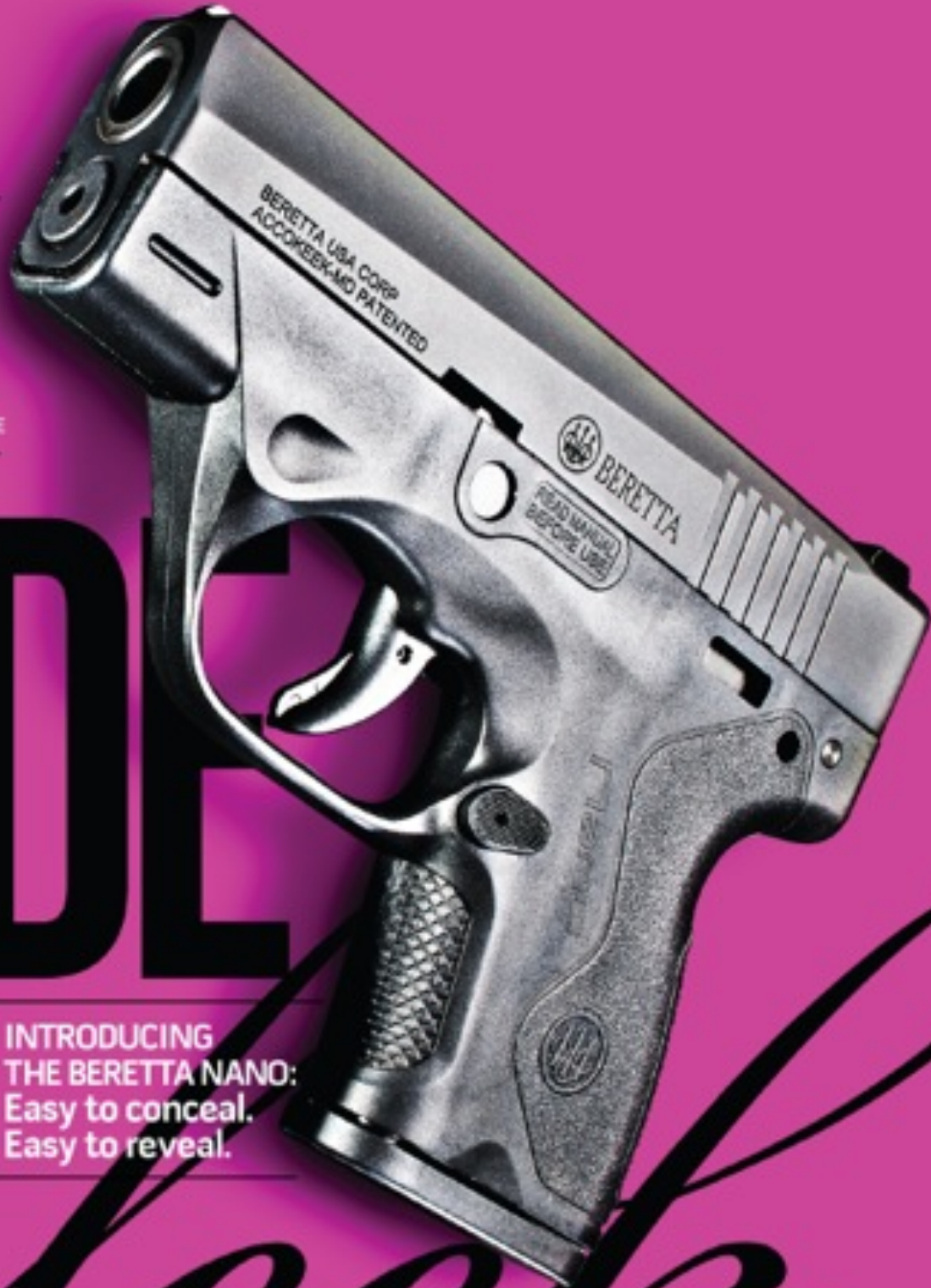
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Meet TeamWON

You'll find members' bios from TeamWON sprinkled throughout the entire publication, starting with our fearless leader, Barbara Baird, and The WON's managing editor, Britney Starr

Get cooking!

From Writing Huntress's goose popper recipe (Yes, there's bacon!) to other WONderful fare from our columnists, have a look at these yummy recipes

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13 in 2013

It was hard to narrow this list down to just 13, but check out the variety of posts from our columnists

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did you know?

From 2006 to 2011, female participation in hunting increased by 25 percent

FLYINGNEWS4YOU

WOMEN'S OUTDOORS NEWS January 2014

Photo courtesy of Jason Baird



Barbara Baird, publisher of The WON and aka "[Babbs in the Woods](#)", is a freelance writer in outdoor and travel markets. A contributing editor to *SHOT Business* magazine, as well as columnist at *Turkey Country* and *Shooting Sports USA*, Barbara keeps her finger on the pulse of the hunting and shooting industries. She also gets to blog about outdoor news at [Realtree.com](#).

She lives on a ghost cattle ranch in the heart of the Ozarks with her husband, Dr. Bomb, an explosives expert. She is a mom to 4 children and a "granny" (who wears combat boots and camo) to 5. She loves to read self-help books, hike, shoot, fly fish and, of course, hunt with firearms and bows.

Dear Readers,

Thank you for your support during the past 6 years. I suspect some of you remember the old wire look we first sported, back in the early days of blog format. We have moved away from the linear look of a wire service with this new theme that debuts on January 1, called "Flying News." We will continue to offer the latest press releases regarding women in the hunting, shooting, fishing and adventure industries. You'll also get to see our reviews and our stories.

Throughout the years, we've put together a team of women who not only are experts in their fields of writing, but who also are not afraid to try something new. For example, this coming year you'll see several of us step outside our comfort zones and try activities and sports in the adventure world, such as rock climbing and geocaching.

Also, thanks to the generous underwriters of The WON, especially from the hunting and shooting industries, who have underwritten the costs of this publication and who continue to give our team support in so many ways – from sending us products to inviting us to media events.

A special thank you goes to our friend Julie Golob, who has contributed her talents and exceptional skills to the design of this publication, as well as to the branding and marketing of the new website.

When you read a review or a story at The WON, you can be assured that it is not tailored to sell something that we do not believe in. We do not want to let down our sisterhood of outdoor women in any way, and we value our reputation for integrity within the outdoor industry.

We want to hear from you, learn more about you and cater to your outdoor needs.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Baird".

Britney Starr

A southpaw from the "North Woods," Britney Starr is a freelance writer and editor in the outdoor and shooting markets. She received a Bachelor's degree in journalism in 2008 from Western Michigan University. The managing editor at Women's Outdoor News, Britney is a native of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Along with editorial copy at The WON, she also pens the column "[ShootingStarr](#)," manages social media updates and works with advertisers.



She is part owner, client services representative and social media manager of [Starr & Bodill African Safaris](#), and enjoys working side-by-side with her father and licensed Professional Hunter Dwaine Starr, to provide their clients with a worry-free safari. Britney is on the field-staff for Próis Hunting & Field Apparel.

Along with big game hunting in Africa, Britney also hunts turkey, whitetail, waterfowl and upland birds. In the fall, you will most likely find her in an aspen cutting with her German Shorthair Pointer, Wesson, hunting ruffed grouse and woodcock. Britney also is involved with 2 local shooting clubs and enjoys shooting sporting clays, trap and skeet. She would prefer a beautiful over-and-under shotgun to jewelry, any day.

Britney truly has an affinity for all things outdoors and strives to connect with and empower other women who share her love of hunting or are interested in becoming more involved in the outdoors. Britney is the founder of the Women's Outdoor & Shooting Industry Dinner, held annually during SHOT Show in Las Vegas, Nev.

Tammy Ballew

Tammy Ballew grew up hunting and fishing smack dab in the middle of a bunch of brothers in the Ozarks of Missouri. Let's just say, there weren't any companions for playing Barbies in her house. This avid outdoorswoman has penned the column "[Camo Mom](#)" for several years, but now, pops in for an occasional review. We know that when Tammy likes a product, you'll probably like it, too!

When she's not working as a full-time court reporter in southwest Missouri, you'll probably find her out hunting for whatever is in season. And, in her next life, she wants to come back as a professional bass angler. We think she likes the combination of big fish and fast boats. Who wouldn't?



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did you
know?

Based on a survey in 2012, the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation reported that female anglers comprise the largest group of new anglers.

WHEREWON

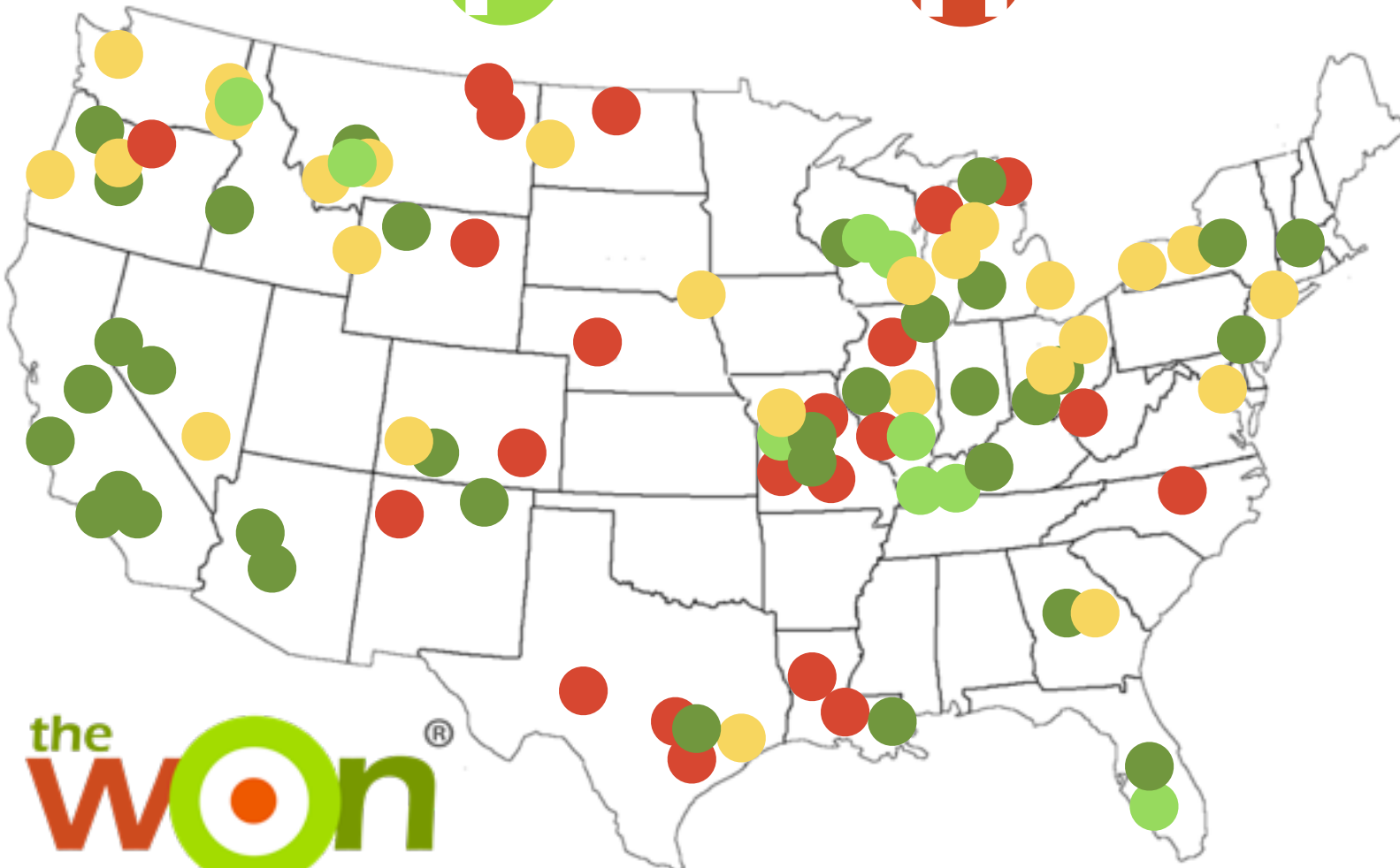
TeamWON spent time all around the country and in Canada and Mexico this past year at shooting events and also hunting, fishing and participating in outdoor adventures (you know, kayaking, rock climbing, geocaching). In 2014, we're going even farther – with 2 of us traveling to Africa for a safari. Check out where we've been this past year.

SHOOTING

ADVENTURE

FISHING

HUNTING





“She loved the low recoil of the 10/22 and says that, after shooting it at Gunsite, she now wants one of her own.”

Photos courtesy of Tom McHale (Top), Celia Crane (Bottom Left) & Britney Starr (Bottom Right)



SHOOTING

ShootingStarr: LaserMax 25th anniversary event

By Britney Starr

I recently had the distinct pleasure of attending a [LaserMax](#) 25th anniversary event, held at Gunsite Academy. Eleven other industry professionals attended this inaugural event, as well as 3 LaserMax employees. Celia Crane, LaserMax’s public relations manager, planned the outing, and, thanks to her, the event provided a wealth of knowledge to all in attendance.

Day 1

Day one of the LaserMax media event centered on gear. Ken Jorgensen, director of media relations for Sturm Ruger & Co., instructed Callie Davis, assistant editor for *Ring of Freedom* magazine. Callie shot the Ruger 10/22 with LaserMax laser. She loved the low recoil of the 10/22 and says that, after shooting it at Gunsite, she now

wants one of her own. Retail value: \$399 for the rifle and laser package.

Shari LeGate, special projects manager for FMG Publications, tried her hand at the Ruger LC9 with LaserMax Centerfire laser. This snappy little handgun “packed a punch.” The LC9’s slim design makes it a popular concealed-carry firearm. Retail value: \$529 for the handgun and laser package.

I really liked the [Colt](#) Mustang .380. In fact, since I first met this little number at the NRA show back in 2012 in St. Louis, I’ve been impressed with its looks, its feel, its beautiful balance, its accuracy. I love how this pocket pistol delivered manageable recoil. It’s a classic handgun that, again, many firearms’ users choose for concealed carry. Retail value: \$649 for the Colt Mustang .380 and \$139 for the LaserMax Centerfire laser for Colt Mustang.

The gun-writers shot Colt's Sporting Rifle CSR-1516 during the night shoot portion of the event. In fact, LaserMax offers 2 lasers for this firearm: UNI-Max or Genesis. Retail value: \$990 for the rifle, \$259 for the Genesis laser and \$349 for the UNI-Max laser.

Putting theory into real-life scenarios – After becoming acquainted with the guns, we moved to one of the Gunsite “fun houses” for a lifelike scenario simulation. After pushing the front door open, we acquired and eliminated 3 threats with the Ruger LC9 (drawn from a concealed VersaCarry holster).

The shady restaurant – Glow sticks light the way during day 1's night shoot. This stage offered opportunities for us to work through dangerous scenarios while in the dark. One such scene simulated being attacked while in a restaurant, another scene simulated being attacked while walking to a vehicle. These experiences showed that using lasers on firearms greatly increased the ability to stay on target while shooting in the dark.

Day 2

Day 2 held more fun activities, including my first opportunity to witness ballistic gel testing with ammunition. Mike McNett, president and CEO of Double Tap Ammunition, assisted the group with this activity and provided multiple Double Tap loads, like the 125 grain, 10mm load using the Barnes TAC-XP bullet pictured above. This load penetrated the gel to exactly 14 inches.

Members of the group shot 90 grain .380 ACP, 165 grain 9m+P Equalizer, 155 grain Bonded Defense .40 S&W, 110 grain .38 Special +P, 160 grain .45 ACP and, last but not least, the big guy — a 275 grain .500 S&W. Gunsite range master Ed Head sent the .500 S&W downrange. It hit the ballistic gel with such force that the gel lifted off the table a few inches, vertically. Measurements show that the round penetrated a total of 20 inches into the gel.

Home invasion – Near and dear to everyone's heart, the home-invasion scenario placed us in harm's way as we learned how to clear a house filled with threats by using simunition GLOCKS. Simunition guns shoot projectiles that look like paint splatters, instead of live ammo. The Gunsite range masters instructed each participant individually and offered the best technique for clearing each room. In the photo above, I “pied” in the doorway, exposing only a minimal amount of my body while searching for the threat. I learn that turning on the laser only when I saw the threat prevented the possibility of giving away my position.



Photo courtesy of Britney Starr

The duel – In true Gunsite fashion, the last activity of the 2-day event featured a duel, of sorts. The attendees went head-to-head, shooting GLOCK 19 handguns, in a “round-robin” style competition. Here, Tom McHale of *My Gun Culture* and Shari LeGate competed. As much as I hate to admit it, Tom beat all of the other competitors.

Visit LaserMax.com to learn more about its excellent lineup of lasers.

Vera Koo

Vera Koo is a 67-year-old, first-generation American Chinese woman and an 8-time National Action Pistol Woman Champion who holds 2 World individual titles. Her most recent win was a Gold for Team Women (2-persons team) at the NRA World Action Pistol Championship in Germany in September 2012.

Vera is proud to have been part of the United States Action Pistol Shooting Team since 1999.

She is passionate about sharing her love of the shooting sport and the pressures of being a competitive athlete while challenging cultural expectations. Writing her column "Vera Koo" at The WON is both a feat and an exciting adventure for Vera. She is looking forward to learning a new craft and will be looking for feedback from her readers. Learn more about [Vera at The WON](#).



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HUNTING

Julie G: Wyoming Women's Antelope Hunt recap

By Julie Golob

On December 10, 1869, Wyoming became the first state in the Union to grant women the right to vote. Continuing with the pioneering tradition, 2 Wyoming women — Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kite and her sister-in-law Karey Stebner — dreamed the concept of the 1st Annual Wyoming Women's Antelope Hunt. Just as Wyoming led the way in the women's suffrage movement more than a century ago, the hunt organizers and founders hoped to do the same for women and hunting in the Equality State.

For 70 years Wyoming men have held their own "One Shot Antelope Hunt," but instead of bragging rights and a team race to shoot the most antelope with a single round in the shortest time, the inaugural women's event had an entirely different goal. The sisters not only wanted a way for women to enjoy the experience of hunting pronghorn in Wyoming, but they also wanted to make an impact on the women in their state by raising funds for the Wyoming Women's Foundation (WYWF).

According to its website, the WYWF invests in the economic self-sufficiency of women and the future of girls throughout the state. Its goals include "improving access to education, jobs and asset growth for women and girls, in turn reducing teen pregnancy, increasing the number of women and girls who complete their education, supporting positive early job experiences and strengthening sustainable economic self-sufficiency."

"For 70 years Wyoming men have held their own "One Shot Antelope Hunt," but instead of bragging rights and a team race to shoot the most antelope with a single round in the shortest time, the inaugural women's event had an entirely different goal."

Teaming with Richelle Keinath, Rebekah Smith, Kathryn Boswell, Beth Worthen and many others of the WYWF and Wyoming Game & Fish, more than 30 women hunters from all walks of life made their ways, despite the threat of impending blizzard conditions, to The Ranch at Ucross. The Ranch's Vickie Abbott and Eric Wilhelm worked tirelessly with generous landowners, guides and meat processing vendors to make the experience one the women would never forget.

When it snows ... it snows!

Lush greens from a wet summer and the bright golden hues of cottonwood trees greeted us as we arrived at Ucross. At registration, each hunter received a set of beads to wear proudly — blue for those with experience and red for those new to hunting. Next, Wyoming Game & Fish gave a safety presentation along with important information on proper tagging procedures in Wyoming. Women also had the

A blizzard couldn't keep the women from hunting. Photos courtesy of the Wyoming Women's Foundation.



opportunity to sight in rifles.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious welcome barbecue in the huge tent that would serve as the meeting place for dinners, the Saturday night auction and special events throughout the weekend. At the dinner we had the chance to meet one another and learn more about our hunting partners. We also met our guides and discussed the game plan for the next day, although no one imagined what a day Friday would turn out to be.

The following day, at 5:30 a.m., the power went out and a quick look outside showed almost whiteout conditions. Authorities shut down Interstates and closed schools as we trudged to the main house for a breakfast by candlelight. Braving the horrible road conditions, the guides (all men) made their ways to the ranch, most thinking we would spend a day inside near a fire, sipping hot tea and telling stories. Instead, they found our hunting packs scattered around the floor and women bundling themselves in their warmest camo. We came to hunt!

Danielle Sanville, of [Smith & Wesson](#), shot the first buck, at 49.5 yards. At the end of the weekend her shot earned her the Super Stalker Award, a beautiful bronze antelope bust trophy. Despite blizzard conditions, more women returned with their pronghorns tagged throughout the day, sharing their stories and smiles.

The contagiousness of the day's excitement carried through to the auction. First Lady Carol Mead, Representative Cynthia Lummis, and other prominent Wyoming citizens had been scheduled to attend, but weather and political duties kept 2/3rds of the guests away. Those who could make it joined us as we participated in raffles, and enjoyed a silent and live auction with donations from generous sponsors. The mission resonated with many of the new hunters, like Wyoming resident Lynn Green, a combat veteran whose experience at the hunt is one she will never forget. After taking her first shot on an animal, she now looks forward to sharing hunting



Photo courtesy of Julie Golob

with her young son. The WYWF recognized her and 7 other women as first-time hunters. They each received the Diana Award.

California vegetarian Kristy Scott will no doubt remember this hunt, too. Kristy served as an example of the women whom the WYWF hopes to reach. A mom who wanted to learn a way to provide healthy, organic food for her children, Kristy received the Boone & Crockett-sponsored Roosevelt Award. The Roosevelt Award celebrates an adventurous spirit, determination, self-reliance and the need to give back more than that taken.

Brilliant blue replaced snow-filled skies on day 2 of the hunt, as the remaining hunters, with the help of their experienced guides, spotted, stalked and low-crawled to fill their tags. Thirty-two of the 34 women earned another set of beads representing their successes. Those who took multiple shots on their game received pearls. For the 28 hunters who took their pronghorn with a single shot, they received gold and also Annie Oakley awards. The women participated in other activities while there. They had the chance get artistic with paints, bust clays with shotguns and learn how to process meat from their pronghorns.

One of the hunters and professional taxidermist Charlotte Wilsey-Catlin of The Wildlife Gallery gave an impromptu demonstration on how to cape and I offered a Field to Fork cooking demonstration, making Venison Pho.

After a final breakfast, Sunday morning we all packed up our guns and gear, and made our ways home. It was hard to believe it was over, but to all, the hunt represented incredible success. The avid hunters shared their knowledge and passion for hunting. For others, the WYWF planted a seed to make hunting forever a part of their lives. No doubt though, the first Wyoming Women's Antelope Hunt represented a celebration of women coming together, mentoring and creating relationships that will last lifetimes.

To read more about the hunt, check out these articles and visit WyomingWomensAntelopeHunt.org.

- [Women Tough Out Snow and Cold for Antelope Hunt](#)
- [Women's Outdoor News After Action Report](#)
- [Women's Antelope Hunt Success Despite Snow](#)



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FISHING

What a catch! The 7 Deadly Sins, or how not to guide an angler

By Kathryn Maroun

I'm sure that you have made offers in life that you never expected the person to actually take you up on.

"Here take it, you should have the last piece of cake. I insist."

Then you are in shock and upset when the person takes you up on your hollow offer. The delight of a great fishing run is a lot like cake – always leaves you wanting more. Nothing will upset an angler more than having someone else mess with his water, even if they seemingly have had their fill.

I politely offer guides a pass at the pool, but I never expect them to take me up on my offers. Sometimes they do. And this prompts me to ask this question: Should a guide get a chance to fish his sports' water? Whether guides can fish depends on many variables: river rules, licensing rules, and lodge rules. But if all of those are OK, then it depends on your relationship with the guide.

Richard Adams — a good guide!

A lot of fishermen become guides because they love to fish. In my opinion, and with experience from both sides of that equation, I think that it muddies the waters and can turn an otherwise successful fishing day on its ear when guides fish their sports' water.

It's a case of you can't have your cake and eat it, too. Fishing is fishing and guiding is guiding. Pick one!

I love guiding and I love fishing, but never the two shall mix. Personally, I think that it is better not to be the person poling the boat. But if you are the guide and not the sport, you



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Maroun

"It's a case of you can't have your cake and eat it, too. Fishing is fishing and guiding is guiding. Pick one!"

should try not to commit any of the 7 Deadly Sins that can lead to the demise of a guiding career.

Lust

Lust is an intense desire for money, food, fame, or power.

I remember shooting the pilot for my series, *What A Catch!*, in the Highlands of Cape Breton on a storied Atlantic salmon river. Fishing was tough (as usual) all week, and I hadn't landed a fish. My husband told me not to come home until I got a fish on camera. Desperate and out of time, the guide and I split up to double the chances of getting the footage.

The local guides know the hot spots. That's why we hire them. I knew that the guide had been holding out on me all week. He was waiting for his chance to catch a fish on camera.

I took one of my cameramen aside and asked him to go with the guide and shoot him catching a fish, as I expected he would do. Sure enough, the cameraman reported back to me that the guide had a fish on after a half-dozen casts. What the guide

didn't know is that I'd asked my cameraman to quietly mark his outing with the guide on our GPS. With confidence, the next morning my crew and I retraced the route and – just as they had done with the guide the day before – filmed me landing a fish of note after a handful of casts. I wish I could have seen the look on the guide's face when the series aired featuring me with the big fish that he lusted after. I would never hire that guide again.

On the other hand, I've had great experiences fishing with well-intentioned guides who put me in the hot spot on day one. With a fish on camera, the pressure is off, and everything else after that becomes gravy. It's a win-win situation.

Gluttony

Gluttony is overindulgence and overconsumption to the point of waste.

To offer your guide a rod can also cause problems when the fish are plentiful. Case in point: I was fishing for trophy pike, the wolf of the north. We were above the Arctic Circle, where the fish were not educated to

A good guide would never try to make someone else feel small. A good guide would take his ego out of the equation and not be quick to pass judgement.

a fly. My guide was very knowledgeable and good company – a recipe for a wonderful week of fishing. I wanted him to enjoy his day, so I offered him the rod.

We were drifting nicely at the hourglass of a lake where the flow was funneling lots of food for the bold pike. My guide started picking off lunkers one after the other. He landed four fish, bang, bang, bang, and bang. Twenty minutes had passed and I wasn't fishing.

I started to get frustrated because he wasn't giving me a chance to fish. I asked him to give me a chance to put the camera down and cast my fly. The words were still afloat in the thin northern air when he hooked up again. I had to pull out my own guide card and tell him to stop fishing. A quiet unease fell over the boat. It wasn't much fun catching fish after that.

Successful guides don't feel a need to hog the water. Their sole focus is to ensure that their client has the best, safest, and fishiest experience possible. I love fishing with guides who get as much pleasure from watching me catch a quality fish as they do from catching it themselves.

Pride

Pride is a desire to be more important or attractive than others, failing to acknowledge the good work of others, and excessive love of self.

I have had the great pleasure of spending time with successful guides, and these are guides who are proud of their local natural resources and want to show them off. What better way to do that than to make sure that their client fishes every inch of promising water during their limited time in the area?

Wrath

Wrath, also known as "rage" in its purest form, presents with self-destructiveness, violence, and hate that may provoke feuds that can go on for centuries. Wrath may persist long after the person who did another a grievous wrong is dead. Feelings of anger can manifest in different ways, including impatience, revenge, and vigilantism.

We have all heard the stories of the guide who pulls out a trophy fish from under his client's nose with the excuse of, "I was only showing him how to work the fly when all of a sudden the fish hit. It was just luck." The truth is that he didn't have respect for the sport and he wanted

to one-up his client the only way he could: flexing his fishing muscle.

A good guide would never try to make someone else feel small. A good guide would take his ego out of the equation and not be quick to pass judgment.

Envy

Envy is characterized by an insatiable desire to possess someone else's traits, status, abilities, or rewards. The also desire the entity and covet what others have. Envy is also forbidden in the Ten Commandments: "Neither shall you desire anything that belongs to your neighbor." Dante defined envy as "a desire to deprive other men of theirs."

One of the funniest experiences I've had with a guide getting caught with his hand in the cookie jar happened a few years ago, but not so long ago that the experience has lost its edge. I was working with one of my regular shooters. It is a running joke between us to see how long it takes for the guide to try on his "funny stuff." Oftentimes they feel a need to ensure that they catch the biggest fish on camera. Apparently a number of guys still find it unpalatable for a woman to catch the biggest fish. Yawn.

But this was a new record. The guide set the anchor and said, "The fish are there. Start short and work your way out until you reach your maximum cast, and then we will drop down."

"Great," I said. "Go ahead, you first." He looked shocked. He didn't expect that I would let him have the first cast of the day. He started to pull up the anchor rather than pull line off his reel. He explained that the larger fish were in a different location and that he needed to motor to a new spot. I said to him, "Do I understand this correctly? You put me over frog water?"

Sob. It was a long week.

Great guides whom I have had the pleasure of fishing with are people who would never play games at my expense. It is a shared success.

"I love fishing with guides who get as much pleasure from watching me catch a quality fish as they do from catching it themselves."

Sloth

Sloth can entail different vices. While sloth is sometimes defined as physical laziness, spiritual laziness is emphasized. Failing to develop spiritually is key to becoming slothful. Sloth has also been defined as a failure to do things that one should do. By this definition, evil exists when good men fail to act.

Sometimes it's not entirely the guide's fault. Sometimes the sport [angler] asks the guide to cast for him. The guide gladly steps up to cast the fly, and he knows where to place it to make it count. Not surprisingly he places it on the nose where the fish habitually lie. The water explodes, the guide sets the hook, then hands the armchair angler the rod. The guide found the fish, picked the correct fly and tied it on, spent the time to build enough skill to cast to the fish, lost enough fish to know how to set a hook properly . . . What's left to do? Nothing, really.

He hands the rod off to the client so he will get a big tip and the sport can reel in a trophy, along with the bragging rights. The big white hunter returns to camp at the end of the day and signs the logbook. The guide and the sport cheapen the experience for everyone in camp when this is allowed to go on. And it does go on ... on and on and on.

Great guides, whom we love to see in the industry, take the time to pass along skills and knowledge to the folks they guide.

Greed

Greed, also known as avarice or covetousness, is, like lust and gluttony, a sin of excess. However, greed (as seen by the church) is applied to a very excessive or rapacious desire and pursuit of material possessions.

I'm happy to report that, when given the opportunity, most guides do the right things for the right reasons. Perhaps I should cut some of the bad apples some slack and excuse away bad behavior by saying that perhaps that the TV cameras bring out the worst in people.

When given the choice to deprive me of the magic fly, or do the right thing and share with me what was working that week to elicit a strike, this great guide gave me the fly.

[Visit *What A Catch!*](#)



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Maroun

Kathryn Maroun

Kathryn is one of a few Canadian women to be certified as a Federation of Fly Fishers' casting instructor. She is the award-winning executive producer of *What A Catch!* Productions. And that's not all. She is the president and founder of Casting for Recovery Canada, past director of Trout Unlimited Canada and past member of the Canadian World Fly Fishing team.

Along with creating a line of clothing for women at work in the outdoors, Kathryn has fished around the world and has earned a number of world-record fishes to her name. Today she dedicates her time to writing about her adventures from her home in Bermuda, as she recovers from Stage 3 Lyme disease, and advocates for more education about this killer disease. She also enjoys telling her stories through keynote speaking opportunities. Read Kathryn's writing at her column, "[What A Catch](#)" at The WON.



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