



**Check out
the story of
this ladies
only hunt on
page two!**

Costa Rica Tarpon Fishing (Anthony Reiss - OK)

I would like to take a moment to comment on our trip this past month at a resort in Costa Rica. Outdoor Connection and Fish & Hunt The World did an excellent job of booking our trip. We arrived in San Jose at approximately 2:00 pm and hired a tour guide to show us the town. The next morning we flew to a small village where we were awaited by the resort staff. We boarded a pontoon boat and up the river we went to the lodge.

The lodge is built on the edge of the Rio Colorado in the middle of the rain forest. What an incredible place in the middle of the jungle. The staff, food and service were extremely good. The rooms were very roomy and most definitely comfortable. The morning we arrived we dropped off our gear, ate some breakfast and then headed out for tarpon. We boarded the boat and went about ten minutes down river to where the Rio Colorado and the Caribbean Sea meet. Once we were past the mouth of the river my eyes almost fell out of my head when I noticed hundreds of adult tarpon rolling everywhere. I immediately grabbed my fly rod and started whirling a fly towards the tarpon all around the boat. Within less than one minute a giant tarpon smashed my fly. The guide, Cliff started yelling " big tarpon " I set the hook on this monster and he immediately took off and snapped my rod in half. The 12 wt Sage rod was brand new and broken. The fish was still on the line and all I had was a stub of a rod and my Abel reel. You can probably guess the rest of the story. However; there were still hundreds of tarpon all around us. Two minutes later my brother, Chris Reiss hooked into and landed



(continued on page 2. Want to learn more about fishing in Costa Rica, contact your Outdoor Connection agent)

Inside

PAGE 2

COSTA RICA CONT.
OKLAHOMA HOG HUNT

PAGE 3

OK HOG HUNT CONT.
SOUTH DAKOTA TURKEY

PAGE 4

SD TURKEY CONT.
LOOK WHO'S SHOPPING



(from page 1)

about an 80lb tarpon.

I eventually landed a 130 lb tarpon along with countless others that were above the 100lb mark. My son and father were fishing together and between the two of them they landed over 2,000 lbs of tarpon in 4 days. The largest being 180lbs on conventional tackle.



The trip did not leave us disappointed or with any additional energy. We appreciate you helping us select such a wonderful spot to chase such a fascinating sport fish.

For more information on fishing for tarpon in Costa Rica (CRF1) contact your local Outdoor Connection agent.

Becoming a Huntress (Katie Shackelford - TX)

If someone had told me a year ago I would ever find myself sitting in a blind, giddily anticipating hunting a wild hog in Oklahoma, I probably would have said they were crazy. Yet this is what I did a few weekends ago with several experienced huntresses. And it was FUN.

My adventure started when the fabulous Tracey Splechter from Outdoor Connection contacted me with interest in learning more about GG2G (Girls Guide to Guns) and to tell us about her company. She thought, rightly so, that rather than simply having phone conversations, an actual hunting experience would be best. Lucky for me I would be going with five other women - honestly, other than going with my dad or brother, this was the best way for me to jump in! What kind of hunt would I be going on? A wild hog hunt.

It was going to be a weekend experience in Oklahoma at the Gray Ranch - just a few short hours from my home state of Texas. And I was nervous. Not about the hunting part, but more about the going hunting with five experienced women part. Yes, it was like making friends in grade-school all over again - Would I look too much like a city girl? Would my gear work for the job? Would they like me? Would I be the only one who didn't take a hog?

What I found were five incredible women who I now call friends and with whom I absolutely hope to hunt again. And it was a lot like summer camp - just with guns and hunting and some beer and wine thrown in for good measure (after the firearms were safely put away, of course)! Two are from Prois Hunting Apparel - Kirstie Pike, the founder and Katherine Browne, her awesome colleague. They kindly provided me with some Prois gear for the weekend and let me tell you - it was fantastic (I'll have a review soon). Ladies, if you need camo that's made for women by women, definitely keep Prois on your shopping list. Another fabulous female huntress who was with us - Mia Anstine - runs an outfitting company with her husband as well as keeps her fans informed with her personal blog, My Many Outdoor Adventures. Oh, and she's hilarious. Hearing her stories of her pet turkey, Tom, kept us laughing at all hours. And finally Tracey - the woman who put it all together - and her twin sister. OK, I did learn that her sister was somewhat of a newbie like me, but still, she had done this at least one more time than I!

Fortunately, despite my anxiety about hunting, Tracey kindly accompanied me to our stand on the first night and after sharing stories

(continued on page 3)



MONTANA ANTELOPE (MTH2)

3 DAY HUNT - \$1,400 FULLY OUTFITTED
MUST APPLY FOR ANTELOPE LICENSE BY JUNE 1ST
INCLUDES: MEALS, ACCOMMODATIONS, AND GUIDE

FLORIDA BOWFISHING (FLF8)

FULL DAY (8 HOURS) \$400 - 2 ANGLERS
INCLUDES: LICENSE AND ALL EQUIPMENT
FISH FOR MULLET, STING RAYS, GAR OR COBIA



(from page 2)

and giggling for a couple hours, she actually spotted a group of hogs coming our way!

Since it was my first hunt, Tracey also let me take the first shot. OK, actually she had to walk me through it a little bit so I wouldn't freak out. Here's the thing: I don't take this "killing a living creature" thing lightly and I wanted to ensure that I had a humane kill. I also wanted to get one that would provide me with good meat to eat. I only support hunting for sustenance and fortunately the majority of hunters are the same way.

In any case, I lined up my shot, took a deep breath, and after I had let all the air out squeezed the trigger and BAM...I got one! Although I was shaking from all the adrenaline and freaked out because the hog I got ran for about five seconds before toppling over, I was also happy to have gotten one! My first hunt ever and I got a hog on the first night!

When the guides came by to pick us up just after nightfall, we brought the hog (which turned out to be a boar) back with us and the guys weighed it and field dressed it. And they also soon told me it was, in fact, a humane kill. Whew!

Although I realize that field dressing is something I'll eventually have to learn, I left it to the experts this time.

The rest of the weekend was, in a word, fabulous. I immediately felt like "one of the huntresses" with my very own hunting success story and despite the 4:30am alarm clock looming above us the next morning, we happily ate, drank and told stories late into the night. The next day Katherine, who I've decided is my sister from another mister *and* one of the first women I will call when the zombie apocalypse happen, and I got to do a little horseback riding with the guides. We were riding in search for hogs, but we only saw traces of them. Oh well, we both had a blast and looked awesome while doing it.

Although only Kirstie also ended up getting a hog, I think we were all happy by the time Sunday afternoon hit and we were all packing up.

So ladies, if you're interested in trying out hunting for the first time - definitely consider an all female hunt. And check out Outdoor Connection - they can pretty much arrange for the hunting or fishing trip of your dreams, as they have trips literally all over the world. And since one of the top folks there is a woman, you know you'll be getting something that's female arranged and approved on many levels.

For more information on hunting hogs in Oklahoma (OKH2) contact your local Outdoor Connection agent.



Grand Slam Hunt (KaCee Nelson - MN)

I finally got my GRAND SLAM! I had a super short, but awesome hunt out in the Black Hills of South Dakota. We arrived at noon and went out for an evening hunt with our guide, Tom. We were just driving around looking and listening for turkeys and we saw a big gobbler with a hen down on some flat ground. We kept driving, pulled over and got out. We walked up a steep hill and Tom was stopping and calling along the way and the tom would not answer. Tom, my dad, and I climbed up the hill and found a good spot to sit down. I didn't have a chance to sit down and settle in so I was in an uncomfortable position. I was adjusting myself and Tom was sitting right behind me and quietly whispering, "DON'T MOVE!" and I was thinking there was no way I could sit in this position. I slowly tried to adjust myself and Tom whispered a little bit louder, "DON'T MOVE!!!!" I finally stopped moving and I looked to my right and saw a super red head peak up above the hill. He was walking pretty quickly so I didn't have much time. Tom was whispering "Take him,



(continued on page 4)

NEW ZEALAND STAG (NZH2)

4 DAY HUNT - \$6,500 PER PERSON

INCLUDES: GUIDING, LICENSES, MEDAL FEES, TROPHY FEES, SMALL GAME HUNTING, ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS

MANITOBA FISHING (MBF6)

7 DAY TRIP - \$4,295 PER PERSON

INCLUDES: FIVE STAR LODGING AND MEALS, GUIDED FISHING WITH BOATS AND MOTORS, WI-FI AND MAID SERVICE



(continued from page 3)

take him!" I had to wait until he walked in front of the bush and then I shot him with one shot. I didn't even have enough time to think or even have a chance for my heart to beat. It all happened within about five minutes! My merriam had a 1 1/4 inch spurs and weighed 20 pounds. At first we could see the beard was large and thick but I was shooting uphill. My shot was a little low and I shot the beard off. Ron Schara shot a turkey two days later and donated his beard off of his turkey so I could use it to mount mine. There was a great group of people in camp. It was a lot of fun sharing all the turkey hunting stories in the evenings over a great dinner each night. I would like to thank Keaton in Kansas for the eastern turkey, Rance in Texas for the rio grande turkey, Pat in Florida for the osceola turkey, and Tom in South Dakota for the merriam turkey! I would like to give a BIG than you to Outdoor Connection for setting me up with all these awesome hunts!



For more information on hunting in South Dakota (SDH7), contact your local Outdoor Connection agent.

Look Who's Shopping...



Trace Adkins stopped by the OC booth at the Dixon May Fair.

Outdoor Connection®

The Worldwide Hunting and Fishing Authority™

This complimentary issue of Tracks is provided by your local Outdoor Connection agent. For more information on any of the adventures in this issue or other expeditions worldwide, contact the agent below:

Steve Ellen!on (MN) at 763-464-0690
midnight@outdoor-connection.com
www.HuntAndFishWorldwide.com/frank-steve.php

Frank Cal!a (MN) at 612-817-0365
frank@outdoor-connection.com
www.HuntAndFishWorldwide.com/frank-steve.php

Jeff & J. Smith (MN) at 612-889-0847
jeffsmith@outdoor-connection.com
www.HuntAndFishWorldwide.com/jeffsmithoutdoors.php

Ra& Ha ba#gh (MS) at 888-OC-TROPHY (888-628-7674)
octrophy@outdoor-connection.com
www.HuntAndFishWorldwide.com/octrophy.php

Scott A. Nedrow (PA) at 908-415-0270
nedrowoutdoors@outdoor-connection.com
www.HuntAndFishWorldwide.com/nedrowoutdoors.php

Mike McElrath (TN) at 423-TFC@CTWA
mcelrath@outdoor-connection.com
www.HuntAndFishWorldwide.com/mcelrath.php

Dorismalone (IA) at 515-249-1605
dorism@theoutdoorconnection.com
www.theoutdoorconnection.com

Tracks is composed by
Outdoor Connection, Inc
424 Neosho
Burlington, KS 66839

Tracey Splechter, Editor
Marc Glades, President

Questions or feedback?
Contact: tracks@outdoor-connection.com
http://www.outdoor-connection.com

© 2004-2011 Outdoor Connection, Inc. All rights reserved.

Tracks™

Tracks is published monthly free of charge by Outdoor Connection, Inc. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of Outdoor Connection. Readers may forward issues of Tracks freely, so long as the publication is not altered in any way. The information in this issue, including pricing and availability, is subject to change without notice.