



Tracks™

February 2011

See story below about this deer hunt in Nebraska!

All-Ladies Muzzleloader Hunt Brings Fun and Friendship (Brenda Valentine - TN)

December 15th I travelled to central Nebraska for a long-awaited all ladies muzzleloader hunt. The hunt was planned early last spring with Mark Elpers who is a sales representative for Outdoor Connection. Mark helps hunters book with the right outfitter, book travel, get licensing, etc. for whatever their dream hunt may be.

Mark's right hand, Patty Fairchild, actually did most of the detail work. After much discussion, it was agreed that one of their destinations in Nebraska would be a great place to invite a group of women wanting a quality hunting experience. Although it was a typically cold part of the season and we would be hunting with front-stuffin' firearms, we could shoot either a whitetail or a mule deer. Nebraska hunting licenses are sold over the counter at a reasonable price which is a big plus these days.

Our hosts, Jim Kuhn and Scott and LaCaylla Fink, were fantastic for our group. The lodge was sparkling clean with plenty of room for all the gear required for cold weather hunting. LaCaylla served up some of the finest meals I've ever enjoyed in a hunting camp.

Although every lady came from different walks of life, each contributed a valuable element to the group. It was a good mix of age and experience. A couple of things

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KANSAS EASTERN TURKEY



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we all shared was a to-the-core enthusiasm for hunting and a genuine southern accent. Everyone hailed from southeastern states. Thanks to Mark Elpers for bringing ladies together who departed as friends.

As can easily be seen, this was a super successful hunt. Friendships were formed, memories were made, trophies were taken and confidence was gained. This is what hunting is all about!

The high raked 9 point whitetail buck I took as prime and fat. Scott and LaCaylla made him into jerky for their spring turkey hunters to enjoy. The cameraman and I used rolls of hay in an open pasture for cover. The deer never noticed us there.

Lauren Der held steadfast in her quest for a nice mule deer and was certainly rewarded the last day for her diligence. This was Lauren's first muzzleloader buck and her first mule deer. She was our tiny trooper gal who traveled from Florida on her Christmas break to do one of the things she enjoys most, hunting!

Kristin Booth set the bar high for the rest of us with her monster whitetail. She and guide, Scott Fink, spotted this old buck early the first morning in the sand hills. They ran, crawled and stalked several hours before Kristin could get a shot. The 19 point sports seven inch brow tines so everyone calls him old No. 7. I predict that Kristin's smile has become permanent, it sure was all week while we were in Nebraska. "From the start of planning, it was a dream hunt! Patty with Outdoor Connection knew how to plan the perfect hunt and pair up a great group of southern women. I was extremely thrilled to go home with a trophy 19 point whitetail. Thanks Outdoor Connection for putting an amazing ladies hunt together!", said Kristin.

Pat Lucas got a very old buck with a unique rack that she fondly nicknamed Harley because of his handle bar right beam. She made a fantastic almost 200 yard shot. Pat is a tough hunter that also handles a tough job in the corporate world.

For more information on hunting deer in Nebraska (NEH4) contact your local Outdoor Connection agent.



This huge 19-point non-typical whitetail was taken by Kristin Booth from Alabama on the first morning of the hunt. It was Kristin's first muzzleloader kill.

Hog Hunting in Texas (Greg Ray - OK)

Here is a quick update from an Outdoor Connection client who just returned from hunting wild boars in Texas with his bow. If you have never tried this hunt, it is an absolute blast, especially if you try spot and stalk with your bow. It's quite a challenge, plus there is no season so you can hunt them anytime. This particular hunt is at a great destination...no roughing it here.

Greg, Just got back from the hog hunt in Texas. We had a blast. Those guys really did it up for us. The food and accommodations were five star. Ron lined up a dog hunt one night and I will just say if you haven't done that you need to! Two of the guys had not bagged a hog by Saturday night and they insisted we stay Sunday until everyone at least had a good opportunity. Sunday was a blast even in the rain. Really a neat experience. - Jack Corr, (SD)

For more information on hunting hogs in Texas (TXH13) contact your local Outdoor Connection agent.



MONTANA ELK (MTH5)

REGULAR - \$3,200 **SPECIAL PRICE - \$2,800**
INCLUDES 7 DAYS OF HUNTING ON PRIVATE LAND,
GUIDES, MEALS AND TRANSPORTATION DURING HUNT.

COLORADO ANTELOPE (COH1)

THESE ARCHERY HUNTS TAKE PLACE IN THE EASTERN
PLAINS OF COLORADO. \$1,250 PER PERSON
INCLUDES: GUIDE, LODGING AND MEALS.



Pura Vida (Larry Boll - WI)

Pura Vida is a phrase used by Costa Ricans to describe their lifestyle and it means "The Good Life". We certainly live that every time we visit there on a fishing adventure. I am from Wisconsin and going from 10 degrees above zero with 12 inches of snow to 80 degrees and a smooth sandy beach gets me to the good life in a hurry.

Our group travelled to San Jose, overnighed in a great hotel and then flew into a small village on the Pacific coast the next morning. A twenty minute boat ride brought us to our destination and we were in paradise. The small, personal lodge had everything we needed and then some. The rooms were comfortable, very clean and included daily maid service. What I really like about a small lodge is that when you walk out of your door everything is right there. The pool, the bar/restaurant, beach and boat dock are all a short walk. No elevators, shuttles, or signs to follow.

A knock on the door at 5 AM woke us up for the first full day of our adventure in paradise. Fresh coffee was at the door just the way we ordered it. Throw on a fishing shirt, some shorts and a little SPF 30 and on our way to breakfast. You got it; eggs, bacon, Costa Rican coffee and oh yeah VERY fresh fruit.

After a short walk to the boats we met our captain and we were on our way. They have a couple of large catamarans for groups but for the most part they keep it very personal and use 28' center consoles

powered by twin Suzuki four stroke engines. Quiet, fast and smooth. The boats have all the latest electronics, fishing gear and are very mobile. We headed across the bay to catch some live bait and then out to the sailfish grounds, about a 45 minute ride. In a matter of minutes the captain had 5 lines in the water and we were fishing. It wasn't long and he spotted our first sail. This is when the fun begins. As the sail is attracted towards the flashy baits and attractors in the water the captain will have us toss out one of the live baits attached to a level wind rod and reel. The sail may take the artificial but that live bait is the "coup des gras" and very hard to resist. This is very hands on fishing compared to the charter fishing I have experienced in other locations. You are very involved from start to finish. Once the fish

takes that bait all heck breaks loose and there is a lot of action with the fish usually clearing the water a number of times. The most common word you will hear the next 30 minutes is "Reel, Reel, Reel" as the captain gets excited and doesn't want you to lose the fish because of slack line. It is a great group experience and one that happens many times at a location like this.

What I really like about the lodge is the proximity to great fishing. All the boats had action and caught sailfish, marlin, dorado, tuna, wahoo, roosters, jacks and others. There is both offshore and inshore depending on your preference and all within easy reach with these boats. If you want even more hands on then we will set you up to catch fish with flies. This lodge has over 60 IGFA world records.

Okay, so you don't want to fish all the time or you want to bring your wife and she doesn't fish. No problemo, there are lots of things to do. You can zip line, kayak, horseback on the beach, wildlife sanctuary, botanical gardens, surf, and more. Great family destination as well. Kids love the hands on fishing, the beautiful beach, pool, games, and just being somewhere cool with mom and dad.



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NEW BRUNSWICK BEAR (NBH1)

FALL ARCHERY BEAR HUNT REDUCED TO \$1,000 PER PERSON
SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2011
INCLUDES LODGING, MEALS, TAG AND TROPHY PREP.

PANAMA FISHING (PMF2)

PAY FOR A FOUR DAY TRIP AND GET THE FIFTH DAY
FREE! INCLUDES OVERNIGHT IN PANAMA CITY, TRANS-
FERS, LODGING, MEALS, AND GUIDED FISHING.



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You really don't have to do anything and you can still enjoy yourself in this jungle paradise. Sitting at the pool with your favorite drink enjoying the sunset over the ocean is hard to beat for this Wisconsin native. Oh yeah, then we have to get up and walk 45 steps to sit down and enjoy a chef prepared meal with the fish we caught that day. Pura Vida.



For more information on fishing in Costa Rica (CRF2), contact your local Outdoor Connection agent.

KANSAS TURKEY HUNTS

(KSH1)

3 DAY - \$1,100
PER PERSON

OPENING
WEEKEND IS
STILL AVAILABLE!

INCLUDES: 2 BIRDS, GUIDE,
LODGING AND MEALS



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