

WITO at MeyerStation



June 12, 2010

On June 12th, 2010, the Central Maryland Chapter (CMC) of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) held their Women in the Outdoors (WITO) event. The morning dawned bright and promised a beautiful day as 42 participants registered for the event at MeyerStation in Odenton, MD. Attendees were greeted with nametags, doughnuts, pastries, coffee, and smiles. This event was coordinated for the first time by the CMC Vice President, Jane Whitcomb. Jane wanted to make this the best and most interesting event MeyerStation had ever seen, so she set out to make a schedule packed full of fun and educational activities. As an added incentive, the club also gave free memberships to the first 25 ladies who signed up to attend.

The event began precisely at 9:00 a.m. with Jane giving the welcome and introductions. Declaring herself the "Schedule Enforcer" out of necessity. Having such a full schedule, everything needed to run on time. With her trusted deputies, Sandy Stewart and Jenny Miller, and the other CMC members volunteering to help, the day was off to a running start.

The fly fishing demonstration was held inside the pavilion and helped to educate and invigorate the ladies and get them ready to compete in the fishing contest. Cane poles were rigged in advance and passed out to participants. CMC gentlemen were standing by, ready to bait the hooks. Many fish were caught, and only one casualty landed in the mud. Later, trophies were awarded for the biggest, smallest, and most fish caught.

On the walk back from the fishing hole, the ladies were greeted by two of our fellow CMC members who are also members of the local fire department. They had brought a pumper truck and proceeded to explain all about how it worked and what it takes to don a fire suit and fight fires. They even showed how the fire hose worked and everyone had an opportunity to try it!



The temperature was creeping up to the triple digit mark, so it was a nice break to sit down in the woods while the boy scouts taught the mechanics of campfire building and how to cook simple meals over the fire. Everyone had an opportunity to sample the delicacies as an appetizer right before lunch.

Volunteers brought rotisserie chickens donated by Sam's Club and our wonderful cook, Cookie, quartered them and served them up alongside a plethora of other home cooked foods and salads. During the meal, the local police gave a personal safety lecture and presented a display that identified common street drugs and paraphernalia.

Near the conclusion of the meal, raffles were offered for items donated and purchased from National. It was decided that if \$300 was raised in raffle sales for the donated firearm, no outside tickets would be sold. The goal was met and the gun was awarded to one of the day's participants.

The pace really picked up after lunch.

Archery and shot gunning were taught by CMC resident experts and some natural talent was

discovered amongst the ladies! Those new to the sport were thrilled to learn and more experienced participants were given the opportunity to hone their skills, receiving pointers.

The turkey calling session was a real hoot! Mouth calls were purchased for each of the ladies and you never heard such a racket! Some CMC members wished this session was video taped. Laughter was the second most recognizable noise.

After everybody finally calmed down, the ladies grabbed another bottle of water and headed out to the trap field where the Anne Arundel County Police Department had set up for a K-9 demonstration. When the dog was lead out of the car, a collective "Awwwww" was sighed by the ladies, which made the officer chuckle. The officer then proceeded to show the audience just what this dog was capable of and everyone was very impressed.



Finally, the day wore down and as the WITO event was still on schedule, there was time to go back to the pavilion for last call for the raffles and offer acknowledgements. All the raffles and prizes were awarded, evaluations filled out, and new friends exchanged contact info. A good time was had by all, and victory was declared.

Some new members showed up the following Tuesday for trap shooting and brought their counterparts. The new members were bringing in new members!

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and effort to this very successful event and for promoting the NWTF mission and introducing women to outdoor activities.

