



December 2020, Issue 1

# THE WILD TIMES



## 2020: A Passion to Pursue

*Written by Jess Rice, President & Director of Media Relations*

There are so many ways to commemorate the passing of another year. And with 2020 being the dumpster fire of epic proportions that it was, many of us are anything but sad to see her in the rearview. But here at wildHERness, we have a rather different view of 2020. This year brought us together based on a simple concept: passion for all things outdoors. That passion connected the founders of wildHERness, or The Core Four, as we often refer to ourselves. We want to share with you some of our favorite parts of 2020, so please enjoy the first edition of our quarterly newsletter, *The Wild Times*.



### **SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S INSIDE:**

- *Holiday Cooking*
- *Winter Fun*
- *Outreach Summary*
- *Supporter Shout Out*

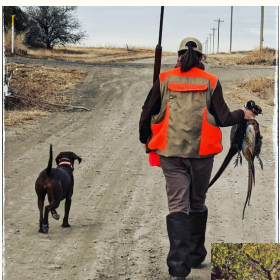






# Exploring Your Wild

Established in May 2020, the overall goal of wildHERness began simply: to involve women and girls in the outdoors. As we have evolved, we realized that we aren't going to stop there; we aim to create competent, authentic outdoorswomen. Women who can navigate public lands & waters, bait their own hook, load a kayak, field dress harvests, change a tire, set decoys, back a trailer -- without depending on the help of anyone else. Accomplishing our mission is achieved through skills-based events and community service. In such a short time and even in the face of a global pandemic, our organization has reached more people than we dreamed possible!



## 2020 Event Recap

- ➔ JUL 25 Wildlife Identification
- ➔ AUG 22 Basic Handguns
- ➔ AUG 28 Boating Education
- ➔ SEPT 4/6 Cast & Blast
- ➔ SEPT 26 Sister Shape Up
- ➔ OCT 10 Archery 101
- ➔ OCT 31 Waterfowl Hunt
- ➔ NOV/DEC Game Calling Series
- ➔ DEC 4/6 Furharvesting





# 2020 Christmas Bird Count

DECEMBER 14 - JANUARY 5



Get the family out of the house and participate in the nation's longest running community science project! For over a century, thousands of Americans have joined together to assist the Audubon Society in counting birds for the Christmas Bird Count. This early-winter count is a fantastic way to spend time together, because bird watching is ultra-rewarding during this time of year. Trees are void of leaves making birds easier to both hear and view. Visit the website below to participate in a count in your area.



Audubon

[AUDUBON.ORG](http://AUDUBON.ORG)



Beginner's  
Guide to  
Birdwatching  
Jess Rice

*Click Here!*

## Trail Bound

FIRST DAY HIKE 2021

Celebrate the new year by hitting the trail & join in on First Day Hikes! This nationwide initiative, from America's State Parks, encourages people to get active in the outdoors. There are organized events in all 50 states (see link below), and with more than 8,500 state parks in the US, there is bound to be an event near you. Or, feel free to organize your own hike--just get out there! See you down the trail, friends.



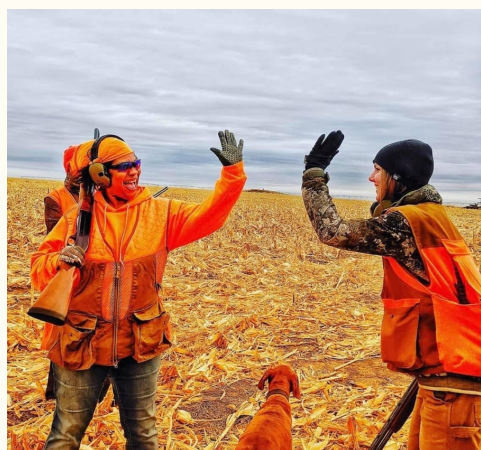
[STATEPARKS.ORG](http://STATEPARKS.ORG)



by Sharenda Birts,  
Secretary & Director of Community Affairs

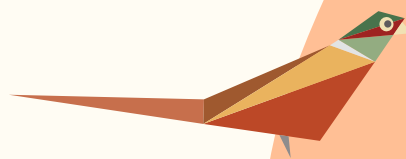
## Women in Conservation

It's hard to choose just one, but a highlight of our year was being invited to the Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic. This fundraising event is held annually in Colby, KS with monies raised benefitting the NW KS Conservation Foundation. Celebrating the 10th anniversary, the theme of the 2020 event was Women in Conservation. We were asked to help plan the women's social on Friday evening, Chix In the Stix. Wine slushies & wild game appetizers were served while we networked with several female up-and-comers in the industry.



Saturday at The Ringneck Classic provided us an opportunity to hunt wild pheasants in some of the best upland habitat in Kansas! A goal for event organizer Jim Millensifer was to have 20% of hunters at the event be women. This was the first year that goal was met, with 19 female hunters! The entire experience was a dream, and we are so thankful to have been included as examples of Women In Conservation.

One of the guest speakers was the current Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Aurelia Skipwith. Not only did we have the pleasure of hearing her speak, we were also delighted to dine with her. After the banquet, we spent personal time with Aurelia sharing thoughts and views on conservation concerns, the increase of female influence in conservation and shooting sports. Having a candid discussion with a woman involved in conservation at such a high level was a rare opportunity that, naturally, we jumped at!



COMING IN

2021

HUNTER EDUCATION  
CONCEALED CARRY  
FLY FISHING  
ORIENTEERING

Stay  
Tuned!

We have big plans for the upcoming year! Make sure you are following us on social so you don't miss out on opportunities to explore *your* wild!



"One touch of nature makes  
the whole world kin."  
- William Shakespeare





## Ingredients

- 1 venison backstrap, cut in half
- 2 TBSP butter, divided or as needed
- 2-4 fresh mushrooms, finely chopped
- 1 medium onion, finely diced
- 2 garlic cloves, diced
- 1/2 TBSP Worcestershire sauce
- 1 TBSP ground thyme
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1 lb bacon
- 1 17.5 oz package thawed puff pastry
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 TBSP water

4. Unfold 1 puff pastry, place half of backstrap into the center. Bring the sides of the pastry together & pinch to seal. Repeat with other half of venison. Place both halves into ungreased baking dish.

5. Mix egg yolk & water in a small bowl. Brush tops of dough with mixture.

6. Bake for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 425F, continue to bake until top is golden brown, 10-15 min more.

## Venison Wellington

Prep: 30 mins

Cook: 30 mins

Total: 1 hr

Servings: 10

## Directions

Preheat the oven to 450F.

1. Melt 1 TBSP butter in a hot pan over medium-high heat. Brown venison on all sides in the hot butter, about 2 min per side. Set meat aside.

2. Melt remaining butter in the pan over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms, onion, garlic and Worcestershire sauce. Saute until mushrooms are soft, 5-7 min. Set aside & let cool.

3. Spread thyme, salt & pepper onto a cutting board. Roll backstrap halves on top to form a coating of herbs. Wrap each piece of backstrap in enough bacon to cover it.



# looking back

As one of the craziest years in recent memory finally draws to an end, it's hard not to sit back and review the ups and downs. In a world full of so much change and uncertainty, the only thing that has kept most people grounded is their ability to get outdoors and away from the chaos of the real world. As a team, the women of wildHERness live and breathe the outdoors. Having the opportunity to spread and share that passion over the last 6 months has been the most amazing gift. To simplify our mission: we really just want women to get out and explore their own wild; to do something they have never done; to take back some of their time; gain confidence; connect with nature and refocus on self-care. This year, we have succeeded in reaching those goals. Thinking about the successes from our past events, witnessing the new passions and joy we have sparked in our attendees only fuels our passion to do more.

# Wild FIRE

NOTES FROM  
JESS BANES, VP



# looking forward

wildHERness is a team of four founders, an army of amazing sponsors and family of participants and supporters that keep us doing what we love. And we are going to keep doing what we love... 2021 is filling up fast with outdoor learning opportunities, events, mentorships and more. Stay tuned in to our newsletters for updates on upcoming events and more *Wild Times*.

# 'tis the season

## TO BE GRATEFUL

Much of our success in 2020 would not have been possible were it not for so many companies and organizations supporting our mission. We are honored to have these partnerships and are excited for future collaborations.

**CLICK ON A LOGO FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR 2020 PARTNERS!**

