

By Howard Vincent, President & CEO

NATIONAL VIEW

Women, Wine & Wild Game

Pheasants Forever tries new concept in North Dakota

THE FLYER READS: "Calling all huntresses and conservation-minded women! Please join us in kickstarting North Dakota's first women-only PF chapter..."

This unique, free event, on April 4 (and after this issue was printed), was organized by Rachel Bush, North Dakota state coordinator; Cayla Bendel, Women In Conservation coordinator; Renee McKeehen, our regional representative in ND; and Melissa Shockman, Precision Agriculture and Conservation specialist. In recent years, more women are joining the ranks of hunting than men. Our North Dakota experiment is an opportunity to engage this new, important trend at a time when hunting license sales in this



North Dakota's new women's team is working to recruit more women into hunting and conservation. Top from left is Renee McKeehen and Rachel Bush; bottom from left, Cayla Bendel and Melissa Shockman.

country have declined by 74.5 percent since 1970 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

The purpose of the Women, Wine and Wild Game event was to serve as a kickstart event for a new women's PF chapter in the Bismarck area, the state's capitol.

"Our all-women's team believes in passing on our passion for hunting and the outdoors to other women," Bush said. "So, we decided to host a series of events in 2018 focusing on that."

The team has a Women's Wingshooting Clinic scheduled for June 7 at Capitol City Sporting Clays near Bismarck that will provide an introduction to shotguns and wingshooting. Then they plan to follow that up

with another wingshooting clinic later in summer and top off the year's events with a women's dove or pheasant hunt.

Bush and her team hope that by outlining the specific goals of the women's chapter and recruiting committee members with similar interest and goals, the chapter can take over sponsorship and planning of women-centered or family learning events in the future. The chapter won't duplicate the existing Bismarck chapter's efforts, rather will compliment them.

If you're interested in starting your own Pheasants Forever chapter (women's or otherwise), contact your regional representative, listed on page 4 of this issue. ■

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