THE RISE OF THE HUNTRESS

Friday, 19 September, 2014

Photo of Brittany Boddington by Petersen's HUNTING's John Hauser Pixel.
# Table of Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue 12 Cover</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1 – The Rise of the Huntress</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2 – Interview with the Huntress</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3 – The Huntress Through History</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallery – A Prowl of Leopards</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributors</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A COMMENTARY ON THE RISING POPULARITY OF HUNTING AMONG WOMEN

by

Janine Maré

19 September, 2014
While working at Africa Geographic I have been privy to every side of the hunting debate. Though no-one in the office hunts, and many of us have moral and evidence-based objections to trophy hunting in particular, there are times when we can understand the merits of some forms of hunting.

Leading conservationists have shown how hunting, if managed correctly, can indeed benefit communities and wildlife populations in areas where tourism does not appear to be a viable option. And I can understand why people hunt – the thrill of the chase, a sense of accomplishment, satisfying a primal urge that exists in us all, or to harvest a natural food source. In a Hollywood-esque moment I can even picture myself clad in tight camo, weaving my way through the forest undergrowth, bow and arrow poised while my hair blows in the wind. But that is where my fantasy ends, because looking into the eyes of a magnificent creature, and then killing it, doesn’t fit into my movie.

But in an effort to understand women hunters I decided to explore their history and rationale. From women who hunt for food, to those who hunt for the thrill and the trophy, each is truly different; each forms part of the history of the huntress and lends insight into who she is today.
The idea of the huntress is nothing new. In classical times, the goddess of the hunt (Diana to the Romans and Artemis to the Greeks) was not only lauded for her prowess with a bow, but also for her beauty, fertility and vulnerability. Throughout history prominent women have stood alongside male hunters, equipped with bows or high powered rifles. Elizabeth I of
England was a keen hunter in the 1500’s, as were the ladies of Louis XIV’s court and Queen Anne of Denmark in the 1600’s; George Washington’s wife, Martha, in the 1700’s, and so on right up to Sarah Palin, who proudly demonstrates her hunting skills to – perhaps – bolster her image in the rough world of American politics.

To some it may seem that these women fall into affluent societal groups where animal life seems to hold less value, and hunting is an entertaining sport. But many of the women involved in hunting throughout history are seen as bold, brave figures who stood for freedom in an oppressive age, fended for otherwise forsaken families, and lent gravitas to feminist movements and women’s rights – and did so with grace and aplomb.
Some women rose to prominence by hunting for necessity. Take Annie Oakley for example. Among many others of her time, she started hunting as a young girl to provide for her family during tough times. And this holds true in the USA even today. Surveys show that the number of women hunting has risen from roughly 1.2 million between 1996 and 2006 to 1.5 million in 2011. Richard Aiken, Natural Resource Economist at US Fish and Wildlife states, ‘We are not sure why there was such an increase, but our educated guess is it had to do with the low ebb in the economy. Unemployed and underemployed people had more time to hunt.’ And, on the other side of the world, women of the Australia’s Aboriginal Martu tribes hunt extensively – mostly, smaller animals that are shared with children and other women to maintain cooperative relationships.

If there ever was a lull in women’s hunting it was when men were hunting one another. In her book, Heart Shots, Women Write about Hunting, Dr. Mary Zeiss Stange writes that American women were often featured in hunting publications like Forest and Stream before World War II, but during the war they assumed more traditional roles, nurturing roles.

*Read more below the advertisement*
But the sexuality of the Diana/Artemis hunting goddess is a familiar archetype in popular culture. Examples include the 1947 release of the sexy DC Comic, The Huntress, followed by the self-sacrificing, rebellious bow hunter Katniss Everdeen in The Hunger Games, and the new-style Disney princesses. Unlike the sweet, subservient Cinderella and other traditional damsels in distress, these strong, taciturn women, like Princess Merida in Brave, have more time for a bow and arrow than a man.

Whether it’s the influence these characters have had on real life, or that real life trends have inspired these characters, it is true that hunting, and particularly archery, have become increasingly popular with the fairer sex. In 2013, Jay McAninch, president and CEO of the US-based Archery Trade Association, stated that one third of all archery participants were women.
The US Fish and Wildlife Service reported a 25% increase in the number of women that hunted between 2006 and 2011, making up 11% of the total US hunting population, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission found a 20% increase in the number of female hunters between 2009 and 2012. Roberta Owens, the membership manager for the Dallas Safari Club, told me that 25% of their members are female. And it’s not just the US that’s seen an increase in women hunting. Enter Japan’s new hunting buzzword, kari-gaaru, which means ‘hunting girls’. According to Japan’s Environment Ministry the number of women in the hunting industry grew significantly during the first decade of the 21st Century, despite the overall number of hunters decreasing over these years.

But this trend is nothing new. In his 1877 book Fox-hound, forest, and prairie, Captain Pennell Elmhirst wrote, ‘It will, I think, be admitted by everyone that the number of ladies who hunt now is at least tenfold as compared with a dozen years ago.’

The increase in women who hunt has led to the establishment of a number of organisations, such as the US-
based Women in the Outdoors, which had over 10 000 members little more than a year after opening in 1998. A 2012 report from this organisation stated that, ‘women have become the fastest-growing segment of the hunting and shooting community.’

A number of companies now offer women-only hunting classes and trips. One such is Charmaine van Vuuren’s Woman Hunt SA, which began operating in 2013. Van Vuuren says that her company is ‘also involved in transformation, training of black professional hunters. In the intake for this year [2014] there were three black ladies who had undergone training and were successful in graduating as professional hunters, a first for the industry.’
hunters, a first for the industry.’

Pink arrows, bow strings and camouflage are firm favourites

Ladies’ hunting gear is now widely available with pink arrows, bow strings and camouflage coming out as firm favourites. Just look at the website Women Hunt Too, where you can buy a camo tee that boldly states, I don’t wear bows... I shoot them! One statement I found from a former Mississippi State University student sums it up, ‘I love my bow. It’s camouflage and has all sorts of pink accessories on it. There are all sorts of colors. You can definitely make bow hunting girly.’ A quick Google search will give a girl insights on how to make beer-basted rabbit or springbok pie, while articles like 10 ways to decorate with antlers lie within the same blog as bridal shower ideas and wedding details.

As the above blogs and recipes demonstrate, it’s not all rough and tumble in the world of the huntress. There is something about a girl who can take care of herself that is undeniably appealing, but an air of femininity and vulnerability still underscores the huntress.
As per the hunting goddesses and Annie Oakleys of this world, and the Martu women who focus their hunts around community and children, fertility and family still seems to play a big role, particularly with subsistence hunters. And this filters down to mainstream movies like The Hunger Games, in which Katniss hunts to provide for her family, but still has respect for the natural world and an empathetic side with which girls all over the world identify.
Interestingly, a 2007 poll by Field and Stream showed that 25% of women hunters had hunted while pregnant. One particular writer on the site Muley Madness went as far as to comment that ‘the cutest thing’ he had ever seen was his ‘wife, seven and a half months pregnant, strolling up a hill packing her Remington .308 with a big ol’ smile on her face.’

Author of ‘Call to the Mild: Learning to Hunt My Own Dinner’, Lily Raff McCaulou, mentions family as integral part of the hunt, “To hunt and butcher an animal is to recognize that meat is not some abstract form of protein that springs into existence tightly wrapped in cellophane and styrofoam. Meat is life. So I seek out recipes that make the most of it. I cook it with care. I share with friends and family. I make sure eat every bite gets enjoyed.”

Marilyn Kite, Wyoming’s first female state Supreme Court justice, and an instrumental player in the Wyoming’s inaugural Women’s Antelope Hunt says it’s a sense of fellowship that has women dreaming of the hunt, ‘We’ve found it to be just great recreation, lots of fun, and the camaraderie of it is why you do it, really.’

Tiffany Lakosky of the hunting/outdoor travel TV show, Crush with Lee and Tiffany, echoes these statements in a National Geographic article, ‘Women are realising how much fun hunting is and how close it can actually bring them in their relationships with their families.’
Social media and American TV channels are plastered with women like Tiffany leading hunting shows with titles like Dressed to Kill, Whitetail Freaks and Winchester’s Deadly Passion, while Sarah Palin’s Alaska sees “the first lady of the outdoors” enjoying some mother-daughter bonding over a spot of hunting and fishing.

For some huntresses, any publicity is good publicity

A sense of bonding and affinity for family don’t seem to be the only draw card with trophy hunting becoming a new realm of the huntress. Some outspoken female hunters, such as Kendall Jones and Melissa Bachman, who bare perfect dentition as they pose smiling with fresh lion carcasses on
social media sites, have become household names, but also the whipping girls of anti-hunting lobbyists. Jones stated in a recent interview with First for Hunters, ‘I find it odd that only women have been targeted by these organisations. Why would these huge, powerful organisations go after me, a woman, a minority in the hunting community and attack me with their anti-hunting rhetoric? I am not the first to go on African safaris yet these groups attack me nonetheless.’

On the other hand, for women like Kendall, it seems any publicity is good publicity. Despite having to remove some of her hunting images from her Facebook fan page as requested by the social media giant itself, she has shot to fame garnering over 685,000 likes on her page since she launched it in February this year.

![Eva Shockey as a little girl, and as a teen at target practice. Image courtesy Eva Shockey and Jim Shockey's Hunting Adventures](image-url)
On the rise of powerful huntresses in the media, Larysa Switlyk, host of Larysa Unleashed on the Sportsman Channel and Destination America, says, ‘It is a great thing because it is breaking the stereotypes on woman and showing the world we can hunt just as good or even sometimes better than men! Also, it is making it more acceptable to the general population that doesn’t understand hunting.’

With movie hits like Hunger Games, shooting a bow now becomes cool and sparks an interest in girls to try hunting. Switlyk herself only started hunting at age 22 and, unlike many other female hunters, was not introduced to hunting by male family members despite having three older brothers. In fact no-one else in her family hunts and they were the first to criticise her when she took up hunting.

‘Katniss is a good representation of female hunters. We’re not what you expect.’

Brenda Valentine, spokesperson for the National Wild Turkey Federation in the United States put it all into perspective in a National Geographic article, ‘Across the board, women are more independent than they’ve ever been, and they realise they are capable of hunting.’

And Mikayla Lewis, a 15 year-old huntress from Oregon, told CNN why it is that young girls look up to media-born hunting characters as role models, ‘Katniss is a good representation of
female hunters. We’re not what you expect. We can be pretty just like any other girl, even if we’re not afraid to get dirty.’

Perhaps we have come full circle to the goddess we worshipped in ancient times, a sensuous, strong woman who flirted and manipulated her way into our lives. It seems today’s huntresses still hold the same appeal, no matter if they hunt for food or for fun. Love her for the woman she represents and the ideals she fights for, or hate her for the same reason. Either way, it seems the huntress is here to stay.

CLICK BELOW FOR CHAPTERS
We ask a pair of huntresses why they hunt, what their thoughts are on woman in hunting and what conservation value they see in hunting an endangered species.
EVA SHOCKEY (ES) is the daughter of Jim Shockey – hunter, writer, photographer and guide who owns his own hunting adventure company. Eva is the co-host of Jim Shockey’s Hunting Adventures and a representative of the Outdoor Channel.

BRITTANY BODDINGTON (BB) is the daughter of hunter and journalist Craig Boddington. Brittany herself is a writer, hunter and was the first woman to ever appear on the cover of Petersons Hunting Magazine. She is also a frequent guest host on Petersen’s Hunting Adventures, previous host on The American Huntress TV show and is currently collaborating with her father for The Boddington Experience for 2015.
**ES:** I have gone out hunting, camping and hiking with my dad my entire life but I never actually shot an animal until I was 20. My mom was a professional ballet-jazz dancer and my dad was the hunter of the family. It took me awhile to realize that I could still be a lady like my mom and also love to hunt.

**BB:** My dad started hunting (in) Africa when he was very young ... I was excited to see the magical place that he had always told me stories about but I was not interested in hunting. .. My graduation present was a trip to Africa. In the weeks leading up to the trip I started to research Africa. I eventually started looking into the hunting side of African tourism and I fell in love. I loved the idea of being out in the bush in the middle of nowhere, the excitement of sneaking through the brush with animals all around. I asked my dad to teach me how to shoot. He was shocked! I had always been against hunting, I never wanted to talk with him about it and I carefully avoided telling my friends that my dad was a hunter. The sudden turn around caught him off guard... That safari was unforgettable and since then I have been back over a dozen times.

**Africa Geographic (AG): Why and when did you start hunting?**
**AG: Why do you hunt?**

**ES:** I am motivated by the healthy, organic wild game meat I get out of a hunt. I grew up eating moose and deer meat and now I have a hard time buying beef from the grocery store.

My favourite hunt to go on is a moose hunt up in the Yukon with my dad ... We are in the middle of the wild lands in the most beautiful place on earth with some of the most magnificent animals, and to top it off, I get to share it with my dad! Heaven!

**BB:** I love to hunt because I feel that it connects me with nature and I get very primal enjoyment of harvesting my own food. I love to hunt in Africa, that is where I started hunting and it will always hold a special place in my heart.
**AG:** What are your thoughts on women in hunting?

**ES:** I love hunting with other women! It brings such a different element to a hunt and I still get caught off-guard when I am surrounded by other girls who have the same passion and love for hunting as I do – it makes me so happy! I went on an all-girls hunt in Alaska for reindeer a few years ago and it was one of the most enjoyable hunts I’ve ever been on.

The increase in female hunters over the last few years is HUGE! When I used to attend hunting shows when I was young, my mom and I would often be two of the only females in the entire place. Now when I go to hunting events, it’s
nearly split 50-50 between men and women. My favourite part of my job is meeting female hunters and encouraging them to keep hunting!

The industry is adapting and is making room for female hunters. There are products specifically made for women now, like bows and guns... There are hunting TV shows hosted by women and hunting products endorsed by women and mainstream celebrity females announcing to the world that they are proud hunters... It’s a good way to get kids involved with hunting, it’s fun to spend time with wives/girlfriends/sisters/mothers out in the woods – the hunting demographic has changed for the better and the industry is continuing to adapt to these changes.

I am very active on Facebook and that's mostly because I know there are women who keep up with my page and go from non-hunters to “well if she can hunt, then I can hunt” and sooner or later, they go on their first hunt. I hear this often and it makes me so happy and proud that these women believe in themselves and have changed their mind about how they thought of hunting in the past. The more accessible women hunters are, the better for the growth of women hunters.

**BB:** I love to hunt with other women. I live in Los Angeles which is not a hunting friendly area and yet several of my friends from LA have become avid huntresses.

There has been a major boom in the number of women hunting in the last decade. I think women are doing a lot of sports that were previously male dominated. The world has changed and women are just as capable and sometimes even
better hunters than men... Hunting is a wonderful activity for families and it teaches strength, patience, respect and responsibility.

I’m very proud of the way women have risen in modern media. There are several notable huntresses that have made themselves known and are striving to educate the public on hunting and conservation. It is unfortunate that they get attacked in the media. The anti-hunting media has focused its attacks on female hunters... I can only assume that they see us as weak targets because we are female. They obviously don’t know any female hunters because weak is not a term I could ever associate with any of the ladies I know.

Huntresses bonding over their kills. Images courtesy Eva Shockey and Jim Shockey’s Hunting Adventures (left) and Brittany Boddington (right).
AG: Many conservationists question the conservation value of the hunting of wild free roaming animals in Africa. Focusing on lions, the species is under threat (wild population 23,000-39,000 from 76,000 in 1980), the meat is not sought after by local communities, there are excellent predator/human conflict strategies in place in many areas and only 3-5% of hunting revenue actually does trickle down to the relevant communities (source: Economists at Large: The $200m Question). What then is the value to lion conservation of the trophy hunting of free roaming wild lions?

ES: I will refrain from commenting on the question.

BB: Having never hunted a lion and being unfamiliar with the statistics you mentioned I would prefer to stay out of that conversation. AG
Quality, Performance, and Price.

Your first choice has just become extremely clear.

Click here for more information.
THE HUNTRESS THROUGH HISTORY

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE AGES
FROM ARTEMIS TO KATNISS

by

GEORGINA LOCKWOOD

19 September, 2014
Like the African lioness, the Egyptian huntresses had a strong feline identity. Sekhmet was depicted as a lioness and regarded as one of the most fearless hunters in the realm, and the female Pharaoh Hatshepsut was often alluded to as a powerful huntress.

It is from ancient Greece that the bow gets its feminine touch: Artemis, known as Diana in Roman mythology, is the virgin goddess of childbirth and hunting. She is a true child of the forest.

Atalanta was a mortal heroin in Greek mythology. Her strong physical prowess meant she could wrestle and run better than any man. She was deadly with a bow and arrow, until Zeus turned her into a lion.
The upper class women of the middle ages had ample time to hunt as they had many servants to attend to their chores and children. Wolves, deer and boar were the sought-after quarry. Weapons of war such as cudgels were often used for hunting. Much like men, women also relied on dogs, hawks, falcons and horses for hunting.

If a women’s place is next to her husband, then that applied to hunting in Europe. Affluent European women, such as the ladies of King Louis XIV’s court, often hunted alongside their men.

European women were required to ride side-saddle. Catherine de Medici, married to King Henry of France, was instrumental in side-saddle improvements allowing women to hunt with less risk of injury and the freedom to focus on the hunt itself.
It was not until the crowning of Queen Elizabeth 1st that hunting became a classy pastime in Britain. A passionate rider and hunter, it is recorded that Elizabeth cut the throats of the deer she shot. Hunting was far more leisurely and time intensive in the Golden Age and was a way for royals to keep in touch with the land and the people. In the 1600s, Queen Anne of Denmark hunted alongside her husband King James of England.

The couple revived an interest in fox hunting which carried all the way through to the saddle-sore women in Jilly Cooper novels.

Women of nobility can be seen leading the hunt in the tapestries of the 18th century. Even Marie-Antoinette had time to hunt when she was not eating cake.

George Washington’s wife, Martha (1731-1802), hunted with both of her husbands in the US. In fact she started hunting from a young age and it appears the Wild West left a lot of room for Calamity Janes. Annie Oakley (1860-1926) was a child of poverty who started hunting to feed her family. Her dead aim got her a role in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show. Her most famous tricks included splitting playing cards using a .22 caliber rifle.
Women on the wild frontier of the United States played an essential role in the beginnings of women’s rights movements.

In 1947 DC Comics published The Huntress, a popular comic series about a leather-strapped gal whose weapon was a crossbow. DC comics continued to print The Huntress in various shapes and forms, changing the character from villain to superhero. The story evolved in the 1960s when it was revealed that The Huntress is the daughter of Batman and Cat Woman.

In 1998 the National Wild Turkey Federations confirmed that women aren’t only stuffing Thanks-Giving turkeys, but hunting and killing them too. In 1999, just over a year after establishing the Women in the Outdoors organisation, the number of their female hunting members exceeded 10 000.

Today, gender roles are changing as far north as the
permafrost lines. Inuit women are spending more hours hunting caribou and seals, and fishing in kayaks. They have even admitted to killing ‘prized’ polar bears.

In 2007 Kate Middleton was caught donning camo with her pearl earings on a deer hunting trip with Prince William.

In 2010 Sarah Palin, politician turned reality TV star, features alongside her family in her own show Sarah Palin’s Alaska which proves to be a little wilder, and colder, than the Kardashians. Episodes are filled with hunting, fishing and camping in which Palin and her daughters take part.

In 2012 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation reported that the women hunters numbered 1.5 million, a 25% increase in 5 years.

Hollywood hit the bulls-eye when it featured a string of Diana–inspired bow hunting women such as Guinevere in King Arthur (2004) played by Keira Knightly; the half-naked blue alien in Avatar (2009); the assasin Hanna in 2011; the virginal Katniss Everdin in the Hunger Games (2012) and the fiery Princess Merida in Brave (2012).

There has also been a surge in reality TV shows on the Outdoor Channel and the Sportsman Channel with huntresses in Archer’s Choice (2001), Triple MAG (2010), Whitetail Freaks (2010) and Dressed to Kill (2012).

Most recently, Melissa Bachman and Kendall Jones upset the status quo when images of them posing with their lion kills spread across social media garnering scathing commentary and negative publicity from an animal-loving world. Similar negative publicity meant Belgium teenager Axelle Despiegelaere was dismissed from a L’Oreal modelling
contract in 2014 when her hunting images surfaced online.

No matter how many women have hunted throughout history, or how much momentum the feminist movement has gained, it seems the huntress will be a controversial figure of fascination for a long time to come.
A PHOTOGRAPHIC CELEBRATION OF LEOPARDS

by

JOHN DE JAGER
Arguably the most mysterious and beautiful of Africa’s cats, leopards have will forever capture our imagination. A sighting of spotted fur on safari eclipses all else, and time stands still while watching this sphinxlike creature at rest, or on the prowl.

Photographer John de Jager has spent more time with leopards than most of us will ever dream of. View this gallery to get a glimpse of his experiences, or click below to join him on a photographic tour of Timbavati, one of South Africa’s prime leopard spots.

Photo Safari with John de Jager
WALKING
Chief’s Island
Okavango Delta, Botswana

Escape the city rush and join our exclusive 6 day walking safari for an exploration of the game rich Chief’s Island in the heart of the Okavango Delta. Whether on foot, or slithering down its meandering waterways in mokoro - be prepared to be dazzled!

Check our new 2015 dates!

CHRISTIAN BOIX
YOUR OWN GAME RESERVE IN BOTSWANA.
IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK.

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE
Contributors

‘THE RISE OF THE HUNTRESS’
and
‘THE PROWL’

Issue 12, 19
SEPTEMBER, 2014

JANINE MARÉ is the first to confess that she has been bitten by the travel bug... badly. She is a lover of all things travel from basic tenting with creepy crawlies to lazing in luxury lodges; she will give it all a go. Janine is passionate
about wildlife and conservation and comes from a long line of biologists, researchers and botanists. Janine heads up marketing at Africa Geographic when she is not out exploring Africa. In an effort to understand why women hunt, Janine interviewed prominent huntresses and researched as far back as 3000BC to write **THE RISE OF THE HUNTRESS**.

**GEORGINA LOCKWOOD** grew up escaping Johannesburg city to go horse-back riding in the Magaliesberg mountains or Land Rovering in the Madikwe sand veld. Accustomed to the sun on her face and the wind in her hair, Georgina embarked as a trainee sailor on a three-masted barque to travel the world beyond her beloved Southern Africa. Ship life steered her to remote destinations and ecological treasure houses like the Galapagos, Pitcairn Island and Polynesia. Once grounded, her love of the outdoors developed into a deep respect for the environment and a desire to preserve it. Georgina is newly graduated from the University of Cape Town with a degree in Environmental Science. She tracked the huntress back through the ages to find out why women are compelled to hunt in **THE HUNTRESS THROUGH HISTORY**.
JOHN DE JAGER is a South African photographer and lead trails guide with 8 years of experience in conservation. He aims to express his passion for conservation and wildlife through his photography and bring the natural world to as many people as possible. John’s company OnePhotography Photo Safaris provides clients with some of the best photographic opportunities in Southern Africa, with his personal experience and knowledge enhancing their journey through the natural world. John’s photographs of that most enigmatic of Africa cats, the leopard, can be found in THE PROWL gallery.