



Annie Oakley Range Day CMP/Shooting Committee

By Bob Edwards

On Saturday, June 15, 2019 at the Fern Creek Sportsman's Club, the Kentuckiana Safari Chapter International Chapter CMP/Shooting Committee participated in the eleventh annual Annie Oakley Range Day. KYSCI has provided use of equipment and instructors for this event since its beginning.

This purposely-coordinated ladies' day event, founded by Chapter Member Rachel Crume, Executive Director, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is designed to introduce women who have never used a firearm to the shooting sports. Ladies of all ages spent a beautiful early summer day learning the basics of firearms safety, function, use and range conduct in a subdued friendly setting with no pressure, and the ladies seemed to really enjoy the experience. These women are, or will be, the mothers of the next generation of hunters and shooters if there is to be a next generation. Our chapter believes that providing a safe, well



instructed opportunity to experience the shooting sports on their own merits, as well as the opportunity to interact with area sportsmen, is vital to the future of hunting and the shooting sports. This year, for the first time, participants were invited to use the event to obtain a Kentucky Hunter Safety Card!

The event is and has always been entirely funded and staffed by area sportsmen. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation donated cash, The Fern Creek Sportsman's Club donated the use of their entire facility along with some ammo and all the clay birds and several of the Club's members donated use of their own personal firearms. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation donated cash. KYSCI provided use of the Chapter's three outstanding CZ training rifles, two Benelli compact 20-gauge shotguns, shooting safety equipment, spinning bottle targets, the Chapter archery station including bows and targets, crossbow and target, trailer including Chapter tables, pop up canopies, and other field event equipment.

In addition to equipment, KYSCI also provided sev-

eral of the Chapter's highly trained shooting coaches. KYSCI programs such as this, NASP and our youth event are an extension of our ongoing work to introduce as many new participants as possible to the shooting and hunting sports. To supplement the hands-on training at this event, we conducted a general safety course in the Club's building. Then, with eye and ear protection provided, we sent the ladies out to different shooting stations where they received more instruction before the hands-on training. Fern Creek Sportsman's Club members Roger LaPointe, who is a certified instructor in every NRA shooting discipline and Alan Gates with Megan Merriman conducted the rifle segment using the KYSCI Chapter training rifles. Participants also fired AR-15 style .22 LR rifles.



KYSCI CMP/Shooting Committee Members Mike Ohlmann (a Civilian Marksmanship Program accredited coach, National Rifle Association three position small-bore accredited coach, National Shooting Sports Foundation [Olympics] three position small-bore accredited coach, Kentucky Justice Cabinet Instructor, and KDFWR Hunter Safety Instructor) and Bob Edwards (a Civilian Marksmanship Program accredited coach, National Rifle Association three position small-bore accredited coach, National Shooting Sports Foundation [Olympics] three position small-bore accredited coach, Kentucky Justice Cabinet Instructor, KDFWR hunter safety instructor, and Archery in Schools instructor) conducted the handgun segment of the day's instruction.

Additionally, John Kline, an experienced range officer,



Chapter Member Tom Hebert conducted archery instruction and



Melinda Heavrin, with Today's Well Armed Woman, an area women's shooting group, and several other dedicated area sportsmen assisted in a fun, safe event. The ladies fired about 2000 rounds of .22 in a variety of single action revolvers, double action revolvers, and an assortment of semi-autos. They left this class well able to handle about any handgun they might encounter. The participants were encouraged to bring their own firearms as well, and for those who did, personal one on one instruction was provided for them after the initial instruction.

Chapter Members Mike Maddox and Louie Manion conducted the shotgun segment with area sportsmen including Jack Dahl from 3rd District League of Kentucky Sportsmen assisting. Using 20 gauge shotguns, participants fired at both stationary and aerial targets.

Chapter Member Tom Hebert conducted archery instruction and



crossbow instruction, with Jason Scannell, a Fern Creek Sportsman's Club Member and event volunteer who helps annually. Chapter members Sherry Maddox, Alice Monarch, Cheri Miller, Charlie Miller, and Kris Miller assisted with the program. Olivia Dangler and Rachel Young with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources joined us this year to assist and observe our commitment to introducing new participants to the hunting and shooting sports.