

30 Years of Maryland Becoming an Outdoors-Woman



The Beginning....

“Breaking Down Barriers to Participation of Women in Angling and Hunting ”

1990 - UWSP- College of Natural Resources , Dr. Christine Thomas and The Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources



Barriers Identified

- Viewed as a mans sport
- Lack of female role models or information
- Raised in a non-hunting family
- Image of sport as portrayed by the anti hunting movement
- Expense of availability of suitable equipment for women



Strategies

- Educational opportunities for women
- Promote outdoor activities for all.
- Encourage clothing and equipment manufacturers to develop lines for women
- Promote activities through the media



Results

- The first *Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW)* workshop – 1991 in Wisconsin
- Today over 40 states and several Canadian provinces offer BOW workshops
- Maryland began hosting BOW workshops in 1995



Planning Committee

- Wildlife and Heritage Service
- Fishing and Boating Services
- Park Service
- Forest Service
- Natural Resources Police
- Chesapeake and Coastal Services
- “Friends of” Maryland BOW & Volunteers



The Workshops

- Variety of activities balanced between hunting/shooting, fishing, non-consumptive sports
- 100 participants
- Four classes throughout weekend (~40 classes)
- Classes designed to be hands-on



Beyond BOW Workshops

- One or two day events on specific topics
- Limited participants



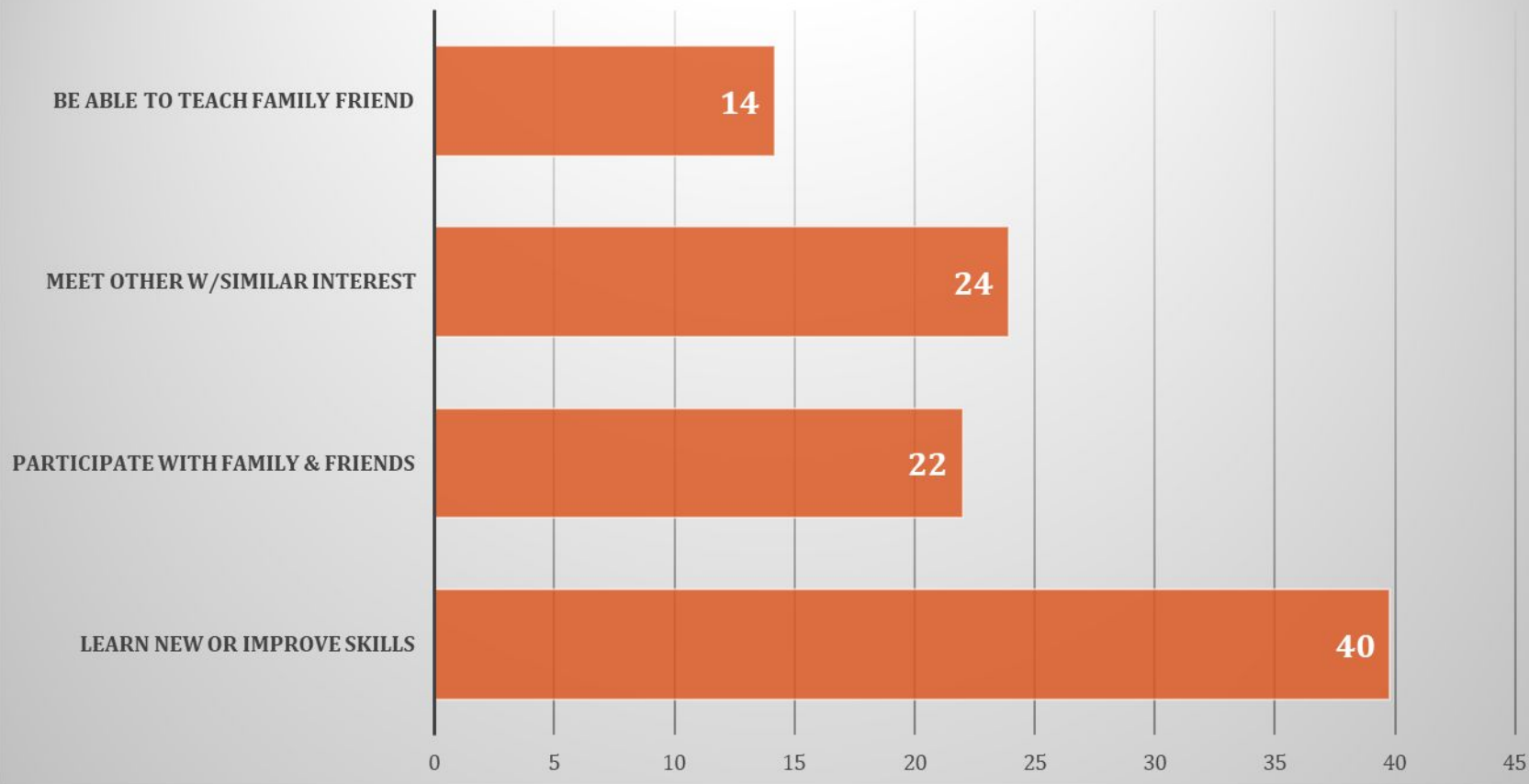
Barrier identified in Maryland

- Family obligation/small children
- No one to go with
- Not comfortable in the outdoor
- Equipment (*lack of or cost*)
- Physical ability
- Not confident enough
- Intimidation/fear
- Motivation

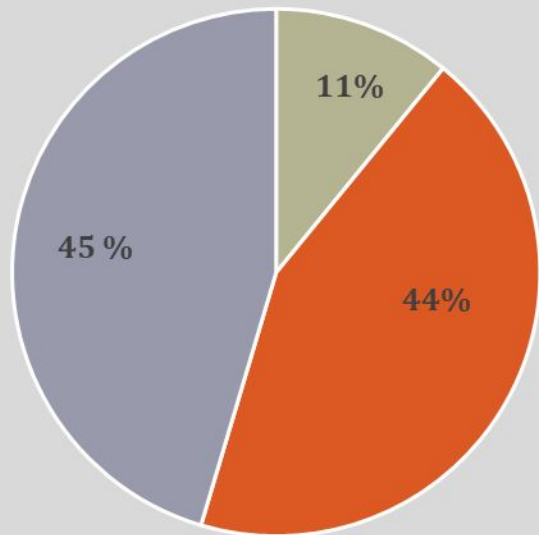
What we learned over the 30 Years of BOW

- 100% of participants would recommend
- Positive attitude toward hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities
- Confidence builder
- More likely to hunt or fish in the future
- Increase in license sales

Reason for Participating

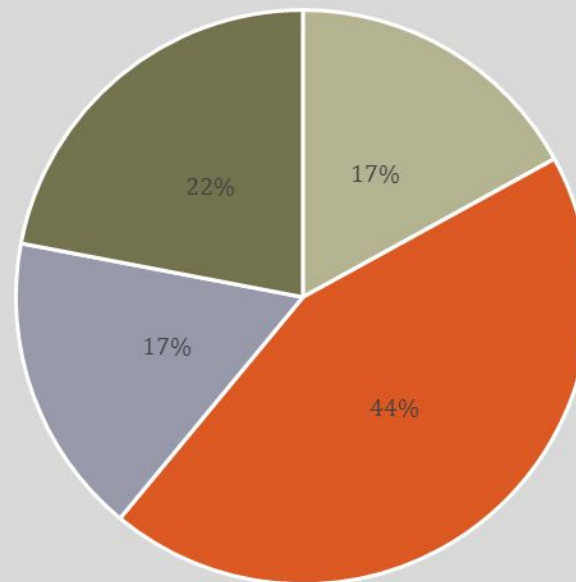


Age



■ 18-29 ■ 30-49 ■ 50-79

Where Participants Live



■ Big City/Metro ■ Suburban Area
 ■ Small City/town ■ Rural Area

Warm Accepting Educational
Inspired Content Powerful Fun Adventurous Grateful Free!
Empowerment I feel seen Confident Acknowledged Capable Home
Supported Amazing Rejuvenated Invigorated Challenging
Joyous Proud Legit!
Opportunities Excited Self-sufficient Knowledge
Confident Friendship Shooting Stars
Encouraged Empowered
Enlightened Fabulous Knowledgeable Strong Nature
Respected Included Independent Inspirational Community
Sisterhood Energizing Empowering Extraordinary
WooHoo! Fortunate An amazing blessing! Fulfilled Engaging

“You’ve created a BOW participant
for life”

“This was so much fun. I’m going to try some classes
outside my comfort zone if I get in next year”!

“I love wearing my BOW Swag”!

“The chainsaw class was excellent. I have already used my new skill”!

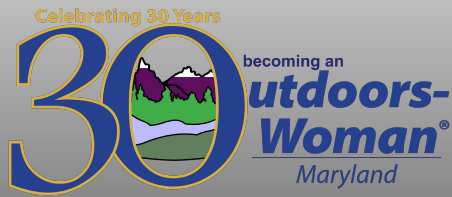
“It was the right gift at the right time and was just
marvelous for me and so my thanks is very deep”.

“This was the first step of a new journey”

*“Thank you so much for a wonderful
experience”!*

“Your team should be commended for making the
weekend inclusive, friendly, and welcoming”.

“I love BOW
Maryland”



For more information

Letha Grimes
BOW Co-coordinator
MD DNR – Fishing and Boating Services
301-791-4736
Letha.Grimes@Maryland.gov

