

Louisiana outdoors writer harvests first hog



RENE HATTEN
STORIES FROM
THE OUTDOORS

My friend Vicki Holmes has been the executive director for several years at the Louisiana Outdoors Writers Association. She has had to endure the in and out of countless hunting and fishing stories and yarns being told over the years by the writers. Her husband, Chris Holmes, has been a LOWA member, serving as a writer and photographer for the Louisiana Sportsman Magazine.

After 50 years of not wanting to hunt anything, Vicki finally decided that she really wanted to get a hog. So, Chris bought a stand and they set it up on a lease that Chris has in Violet about a half hour from their house.

For two years, she would go out during the evenings on weekends to try to get a hog and in those two years, she only saw one. For Christmas, Chris gave Vicki a guided hog hunt at Tiger Island Outfitters in Cedar Key Florida. They were already going that way to swim with the manatee at Crystal River (Geez, what a lucky girl).

Instead of driving home after the swim, they drove



VICKI HOLMES, of Chalmette, with her first hog weighing in at 154 lbs.

about an hour north and stayed overnight in Cedar Key (which is a beautiful and

quaint little town). They woke up the next day to 37-degree weather and they were glad that they had packed warm clothes! Vicki and her guide sat in a ground blind and watched about 30 hogs lounge in the sun. She never could get a shot due to trees.

The hogs all wandered off and so they took off on foot, but being a novice, she could not get set up fast enough before the hogs would run away. The guides put them in a tree stand, some hogs came walking by, and she shot and missed.

She doesn't know who was more shocked, her or the

hog. The guide called them out of the stand and they walked up on about eight hogs that were bedded down. At first, the guide did not want her to shoot, because they were all piled up and he did not want her to wound one while trying to shoot one in front.

Then the hogs all got up to leave and the one she had her eye on stood up.

They showed her how to use a tree to brace up the heavy rifle. She got him in her sights and took the shot. The hog took a couple of steps and then dropped.

Her shot hit in front of the



Photo by Sam Hatten
RENE'S BAR Hog taken in Jackson Parish, weighing over 350 lbs.

shoulder and almost came out behind his other shoulder. It was a nice boar weighing 154 lbs. Vicki will always remember her first hunt and just how special it was for her and Chris.

I remember my first hog I killed; I thought at first it was a bear grunting through the woods. I could see his back up over the bushes and had my scope on it to see better, when it stepped out on the lane and I saw it was a hog.

One shot from my trusted Browning 270 and it dropped in the spot. My bar hog weight over 350 lbs. the scale would only go to 350 so I really do not know how much it weight but it was so exciting.

Ladies, I know you are saying I would love to do that but I just would not know where to start and I understand that 100 percent, I do. That is why I encourage hunters to take someone with

them. You know someone that hunts; they would probably love an opportunity to take you out and show you their love for the outdoors, the heritage that they have been taught and the values of the stewardship of the nature.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has a program coming up in April called Becoming an Outdoor Woman, I love it and try to go to them all but they fill up fast.

Next Workshop: April 4-6. Registration begins Feb. 3. Cost: \$200. They only take 125 participants, and it is help at Camp Grant Walker in Pollack.

Registration forms will be accepted by mail only (overnight will be accepted) and must be accompanied by a check or money order. Go to the wlf.Louisiana.gov site and click on the education tab for more information and the form.

CROSSWORD

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THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

- "Love Me Tender" performer
- "And She ____" by Talking Heads
- "For Whom the ____ Tolls"
- Wall coat
- B&B, e.g.
- "He fell in love with a face "that launched a thousand ships"
- February "People," e.g.
- Parental involvement org.
- Trojan War story
- "He fell in love with Little Red-Haired Girl
- ____'s fee
- Old age, archaic
- Display displeasure
- "Bride and groom say their "I ____"
- Choir voice
- Part of Yugoslavia
- Iris holder
- Paleozoic and Mesozoic
- The fourth prime number
- Rigid necklace
- Of the kidneys
- Baseball points
- Was attached
- Jittery
- It should be opened when starting a fire
- Winslow ____ and ____ Simpson
- Back talk
- "C' ____ la vie!"
- EU currency
- "Just an ____-fashioned love song"
- "Cyrano de Bergerac's love interest
- "Popular Valentine's delivery
- Disturbances
- Get it wrong
- Spur on
- Strong adhesive
- By means of
- Fragrant resin
- "I, Claudius" role
- Bird-to-be
- "What Snow White did before Prince Charming's kiss

DOWN

- Larger-than-life
- Alfred "____" LaRue
- Americans need one to enter Australia
- Accustom
- Sister to Blanche DuBois
- Clean the blackboard, e.g.
- Symbol of industriousness
- Mix-up
- Like white-headed eagle
- Albany-Buffalo canal
- His pants are on fire?
- Hallucinogen
- Slang for communist sympathizers
- Lazybones
- Breed
- What's-his-name
- "Even-Steven kind of date
- Convex molding
- Red Cross supply
- Arborist's concern
- Lord's worker
- Egg cell
- "Aphrodite's Roman counterpart
- Early stage of sickness, e.g.
- High school breakout
- "The Twilight ____," romantic film series
- Popular disinfectant
- Like Danny Zuko's hair
- "Your Love is Like the Morning ____"
- Skiers' turfs
- "His character fell in love with Lois Lane
- Be situated within
- Tug-of-War equipment
- Emanation
- Kisses and hugs
- Hand grenade
- "All for one, one for all" sword
- Beef cut
- Rotisserie skewer
- "Dudley Moore/Bo Derek romantic comedy
- 18-wheeler

See Answers on Page 2A

Life is Too Short... Not to Hear!

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Union Parish sweeps Neville

By Jimmy Touchet
The Citizen

The Neville Tigers and Lady Tigers stepped out of District 2-4A play for a road trip to Union Parish, but the

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