

Wingshooting Clinics

Women and children benefit from instruction supported by the ICF.

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Your husband hunts, your father hunts, maybe even your children hunt, but you're still in the house? Now is your opportunity to get out there, with a jump start on understanding the sport through introductory wingshooting clinics hosted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and underwritten by an Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) grant.

Fifteen clinics are held throughout the year at various state sites in Illinois. Sessions are free—all you have to do is show up. On Saturdays, the clinics pertain to youth, with the emphasis shifting to women on Sunday. Instruction includes gun safety and shotgun shooting skills and techniques. Clinics are led by DNR staff and volunteers certified as wingshooting instructors.

Gary Nelson, a volunteer wingshooting instructor from McLeansboro, coaches a young participant on how to properly mount a gun.



DNR wingshooting instructor Terry Musser watches over the shoulder of a clinic participant to determine where the shot cloud placed on the target.


"The clinics are a great opportunity for women," commented Dave Cassens, DNR wingshooting clinic coordinator. "A lot of women live or work with hunters and have developed a general interest in the sport, but haven't had the opportunity to try it out."

There are many reasons why women should try this growing sport, personal interest of course being one, but also in the interest of their children.

"Many women tell us that the reason they are taking the class is because they have children that have a keen interest in shooting," reported Cassens. "This is a way for them to become secure that what their children are getting involved in is safe."

"With only a commitment of a few hours, clinic participants develop safe

shooting skills and a greater comfort for handling a shotgun," Jess Hansen, ICF executive director remarked. "The dedicated, experienced instructors and one-on-one coaching are what makes this program a success."

The Illinois Conservation Foundation, an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, has raised more than \$20 million to support the programs of the Department of Natural Resources. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. For more information, including details on the grant program, contact Executive Director Jess Hansen, Illinois Conservation Foundation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702, phone (217) 785-2003 or visit www.ilcf.org. 

For more information on DNR wingshooting clinics, visit www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/programs/wingshooting/wingshootinghome.htm.