



Long Tall Sally

by Lori-Ann Murphy

A sportswoman by definition is, "a woman who takes part in sports,

especially professionally." What I know about living as a "sportswoman" is about an acquired lifestyle that becomes the journey.

On our way back from a big prairie walk looking for Hungarian Partridge or even the hope for a Sharptail Grouse point with our bird dogs- we had the big Montana sky to echo our observation of nature on an early fall blue bird day last week.

Dogs running with tracking collars, looking at my hand held to tell me how far my dog Panga was out...or on point, I took a deep breath as I looked at my sporting companion remembering years working our dogs in Montana and south in Tucson - snow and sun. And I smiled knowing our dear buddy LHP was looking down at us and reminding us to keep walking.

In my early years as a fly fishing guide one thing lead to another. First, I fell in love with fly fishing. My first fish on fly was a steelhead from the Deschute's River. That fish changed my life.

It wasn't long after that pivotal release, I attended the Orvis Guide School in Emigrant, Montana to become the first woman to be an Orvis Endorsed Guide in 1989. And with that leap of faith - I leaned about the sporting life.

LHP - Leigh Perkins. He made Orvis what it is today by sharing his family sporting life with all of us. He was my first client at the Orvis Endorsed Guide School - and then became one of my best friends.

Leigh taught me how to shoot a shotgun when I turned 40. And then gave me my birthday present which is my shotgun - the only one I have - a 20 gauge Beretta shotgun. I love it. "Most women don't like bringing the gun up to their face - but you have to do this if you want to shoot well." I almost fractured my zygomatic bone - and was left with my right side of my face black and blue.

Scheduling our annual bird hunts and spring creek fishing was something we did right up to a few years before he died at 93.

Beeper is off! Dogs on point. I go running to see my English Setter with her tail pointed high and her nose straight ahead. My heart was in my throat - I was reminding myself to breathe. Three Huns flushed before I got there. Panga knew we tried but the birds were nervous with the weather changing and took off. I was left feeling alive and grounded by the soil I was walking on.

Seeing my dog Panga on point in Montana - where she is from, is an all time gift. Everything at that one moment makes perfect sense.

Fly fishing does the same thing. Trial and tribulations later, when you release a fish - a wild fish, back to its water - life makes sense.

We think about its habitat and figure out the puzzle to maybe connect. We are by ourselves or we are with dear friends. Or maybe new friends!

Our Women's Yellowstone Trip was such a blast. We had some real weather that came in - but our "Reel Women" kept fishing. Our outfitter, Angler's West - said, "Great crew of gals with awesome attitudes!" Everyone up and down the river knew "Reel Women" were there - and these women fished all day, each day, regardless of the weather.

They also became friends. Some knew each other prior and they embraced the women who ventured out to join their first Reel Women Fly Fishing Adventures trip. They left as a happy pack - a team. And some dandy wild trout were released with beaming smiles from their anglers.

Together we embrace the "sporting life" and share what it is to be a "sportswoman." We learn from each other, share our stories, find our gumption to keep going - and then yes, feel alive! Feel incredible!

Finding common ground on land or from the rivers and seas - this is us, living our lives as sportswomen.

I love sharing my sporting life with you.

Next cast,

L-A

Are you ready to cast your worries away and reel in some unforgettable memories on the water? Look no further than Reel Women Fly Fishing Adventures, where we specialize in creating a safe and supportive environment for women to explore the joy of fly fishing. Our experienced and passionate team is dedicated to helping you improve your skills and experience the thrill of the catch. Whether you're a seasoned angler or just starting out, we welcome you to join us on and adventure with us and discover the incredible world of fly fly fishing. So great your great and let's hit the water together!



"Cast to your dreams!"

Join our World Famous RWFFA Schools Today!

[Space available for our world class
Back to Basics!](#)

**Ennis, Montana.
July 20-23, 2024
\$1795**

All inclusive for 3 nights single occupancy lodging in cabins, all meals, 2 Day RWFFA School program, all fly fishing equipment and course material, lunch and snacks and certificate of completion.

[Space available for our world class Women's Guide School!](#)

Ennis, Montana

August 24-30

\$3995

All inclusive for 6 nights single occupancy lodging in cabins, all meals, 5 day intensive fly fishing course, fishing fees and use of any needed fly fishing equipment. Certificate of completion - that is earned and valued by our community.

Sign up for one of our Ennis, Montana Fly Fishing Schools!

Reel Belize Bonefish School



Our Bonefish Schools have sold out! So we added a new one...

February 10-17, 2024

Fish the flats of Ambergris Caye - know what it's like to reel in a bonefish on fly! Or maybe a permit or tarpon!

[Request more information here!](#)



Reel Women Fly Fishing Adventures

presents...

Fly fishing the flats of Ambergris Caye, Belize

We have had a great time organizing amazing fly fishing packages for private groups. Special lodging packages are available in San Pedro, Belize and the [Reel Belize](#) guides are ready to take you to the fish! This new season = great opportunity!

Some of the RWFFA Trip Availability line up:

[Permit Quest 24!](#) Feb 17-24, 2024

[Tarpon Quest 24!](#) June 1-8, 2024

Tell me more about fishing the flats of Ambergris Caye!

RWFFA

LEARN | SCHOOLS



2024 Schools

Women's Fly Fishing School: Back To Basics

Limited to 12 women

July 20-23

July 20-24*

*Add an extra day of guided fly fishing down the Madison River

Women's Guide School

Limited to eight women

August 24-30

A safe time to learn to row a drift boat - and why not jump in on the famous Madison River with veteran Madison River guide, the great...

Anni Shores!

Sign me up for a RWFFA School!

RWFFA

TRAVEL | TRIPS

2024 Belize Trips

2024 US Trips

Women's Permit Quest!
Our 9th Annual!
Just keeps getting better every year.

February 24- March 2
4 spaces open

Women's Tarpon Quest!
Our 5th Annual!
Can you put Tarpon on your list?
It's amazing!

June 1-8
4 spaces open

THESE TRIPS ARE FILLING UP. MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN THERE!

Women's Madison River Trip
#1 July 13-19
#2 July 27-August 2

Women's Yellowstone River Trip
September 14-18
(2 spaces available)

[Request Trip Details](#)



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