

sport on to children

for hours. You really have to love it, she said. It's a big part of who she is.

"I think hunting is a great sport," she said. "More women need to be involved in it. I know a few, but not a whole lot. It really teaches you a lot."

Christie Anderson of Beaver City said she began hunting about 10 years ago, but for the first six years, she only went out occasionally. She started hunting seriously about four years ago.

"Hunting is something I can enjoy doing with my husband and friends," she said. "The challenge and camaraderie, as well as being outside in nature, all make hunting something I really enjoy doing."

Mrs. Anderson said she started off with occasional dove hunting. Now, she hunts deer, turkey, doves, grouse, ducks, geese and pheasants.

She hunts with both shotgun and rifle, but hopes to get involved with archery hunting. Right now, she puts a lot of time into the local National Wildlife Turkey Federation chapter.

She said hunting turkey is her favorite.

"I like the challenge of calling them in while staying still," she said. "If you see or hear them coming, you can't move. Period. You can't wear anything shiny either. Turkeys have such good eyesight, they'll see you, even if you just blink."

Next in line is deer hunting, which, she said, is a favorite for a lot of the same reasons — the challenge of it being the biggest.

The challenge, she said, is what makes hunting, any kind of hunting, worthwhile. She also likes being outside and spending time with friends and family. A lot of her friends hunt, she said.

"I'm still learning about hunting," she said. "I learn something new every time we go out."

She gives all of the credit for everything she's learned about hunting to her husband and friends.

"They've really taught me a lot," she said, "and, I'm always excited to learn more."

Mrs. Anderson said she would like to see more women and children involved with hunting. She would also like to see more people who are experienced with hunting and other outdoor activities helping those who have never hunted to learn and get involved.

"People learn a lot about themselves and nature when they are out there," she said. "You really learn about how the cycle of life works."

For women who don't have friends and family who hunt, several programs are available, including the international Becoming an Outdoors Woman program, which features workshops that focus on learning outdoor skills, things usually associated with hunting and fishing.

For information on Becoming an Outdoors Woman, and other mentoring programs, check the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks website www.kdwp.state.ks.us.



Christie Anderson proudly displayed her 24-pound turkey. This was her second turkey, but it was her biggest.

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