



Dear Datus,

23 October

Received your letter today and am looking forward to speaking with you.

For some unforgiving reason I am in the throes of selling my home, closing date 29 Oct., at the height of the bird season. Never Again. May I call you the first week of November? If this is inconvenient or too late please leave a message at (503) 383-9007. This is a permanent message phone for me. Chukars are nearly nonexistent in SE OR. this year. Limits of dove earlier in the season. Duck numbers are good. Didn't get my first deer tag but I went

Jean-Baptiste Chardin, French, 1699-1779

Dog and Game, 1730

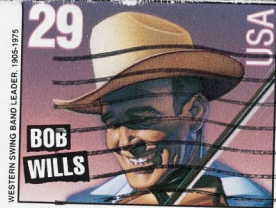
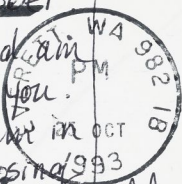
Oil on canvas, 75 3/4 x 54 3/4"

The Norton Simon Foundation

© Norton Simon Museum

along with the guys

anyway. 2 bagged. Elk are plentiful. Many sage grouse seen. Until November, Wendy P. Schweizer.



Mr. Datus Proper  
Field & Stream  
1085 Hamilton Rd.  
Belgrade, MT.

59714



Datus ~ Cal Slaton

2 November 1993.

After our conversation yesterday, it occurred to me that you would be a fine sounding board for a series/column proposal I've been working on. I am particularly interested in feedback concerning content, viability, and the logistics involved in presenting such a proposal to one or more of the sporting publications. I would appreciate your confidentiality, if indeed you see any merit in my ideas, until I am prepared to market the proposal myself.

Very roughly:

I want to write a "women's column", a series of articles with a non-sexist, non-threatening title that focus on women who participate in outdoor sports. I am not interested in alienating men, nor presenting a staunch, women's-lib point of view. Rather, I wish to create an informative and educational series of articles that are of interest to both sexes. (Men won't read a women's column?)

Topics I have been researching include: (For brevity's sake I use the ♀ symbol here to denote "women".)

- ♀ fish & game guides
- ♀ fish & game enthusiasts - present day.
- ♀ fish & game enthusiasts - historical profiles
- ♀ gunsmiths
- ♀ decoy carvers/fly-tyers
- ♀ dog trainers/breeders/field trial competitors

- ♀ NRA/Ducks Unlimited affiliates
- ♀ game chefs
- ♀ outdoor artists (i.e. Nancy Howe)
- ♀ outdoor writers (i.e. F. Hammerstrom, E.A. Proulx)
- ♀ falconers
- ♀ Boone & Crockett members

In addition, I have conducted an interview with WA. state's only female game warden - an interesting encounter which produced another fascinating story lead involving N. Dakota's first female game warden - she apparently met Calvin Coolidge at the dedication of a national park and kept up a correspondence with him thereafter, exchanging information and ideas concerning game management practices as theories developed in the early days of our nation's game management history.

I have received positive feedback on this idea from many readers of the more prominent sporting journals. What is your general impression? Has the idea been attempted previously? How does one go about presenting such an idea without relinquishing the rights to write it? Any comments/suggestions you might have will be greatly appreciated Datus. I am a big fan of your work and gobble up every word I come across.



Thank you for your time and consideration - as well as for your invitation to a MT. hunt. I enjoyed speaking with you yesterday and will send along some slides ASAP. If you wish, you might add that I am also a benefishing fanatic - having Ashed Deep Water Cay in the Bahamas and the flats off Placencia, Belize. I am hoping to finance a trip to Christmas Island this spring as well.

My new address is: Wendy P. Schweizer  
1293 N.W. Wall St. #1395  
Bend, OR 97701

Phone messages taken at: (503) 383-9007.

Please excuse the handwritten approach, my computer is in storage indefinitely...

Be Well,  
Wendy.



September 1992.

Dear Datus Proper,

Answered 10/22/92

Steve Bodio recently made a gift of your work, Pheasants of the Mind. Though I am presently on the road and not carrying the copy with me, its spirit lingers on in the meditations of my days and produces occasional, involuntary rushes of saliva without warning.

I wish to communicate 3 messages your book contributed to my hunting/writing persona:

1. As one who has hunted birds for a mere 5-6 years, I learned tremendously from your words, both anecdotal story-form and pure "how to." You both educated and entertained me, an unusual outcome for this genre of literature.

2. Thank you for approaching the subject matter without degrading women who do not hunt or do not know what it means to hunt or who do not know the secrets of preparing wild game in an edible manner. I so tire of that nonsense. It is akin to pronouncing Aldo Leopold a sexist because he rarely, if ever, wrote about women. Your work emphasized the beauty of what hunting is, not all that it isn't or should be. Thank you.

3. As one who invested in her first pointer, a ♀ Braque, 2 years ago I gained a renewed respect for the instincts of both my dog myself. Anytime I am with Cisco in the field now I find myself watching your narratives in action. Though she isn't as apt to hold chukar on point, both Cisco and I prefer this game and spend a hefty portion of each Fall walking from sunup to sundown in this pursuit. Your words helped me relax about "training" my first pointer. This lesson was invaluable.

We spent opening week this year shooting dove in the vicinity of the Columbia and Okanogan rivers of eastern WA. Fresh dove flame-broiled in a Dutch oven nestled in bacon and onion, sometimes pear/fresh ginger/apple + onion for each of 5 nights was a glorious beginning to yet another festive Fall. Chukar/deer in early October in SE Oregon, opening duck season in Klamath Marsh, OR., chukar + quail during waterfowl closures, late season salt ducks in the Skagit and Nisqually delta's of western WA. Though I have no local pheasant haunts, Cisco presented me with her first firmly held point on wild game while hunting coosters in N. Dakota last Fall. The memory is enough to sustain me a long while.

I look forward to reading more of your work in the future Mr. Proper. Please let me know if you are ever in the Pacific Northwest, or get an urge to shoot some ducks.

Bravo, Wendy P. Schweizer.

2325 King St., Bellingham, WA 98225



Main text about 450 words

Datus Proper  
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### Wendy Schweizer

This woman/dog team is serious about birds.

Birds matter, to a 29-year-old biologist named Wendy Schweizer. She studies them all year, hunts them while the Oregon season lasts, and cooks them with care. Wendy's best friend is a pointing dog named Cisco, and both of them make time for the important things in life by avoiding television and malls. When I asked Wendy where she shops, she mentioned bookstores and a place in Maine that sells vintage shotguns.

I wondered how Wendy broke the mold before it squeezed her into turn-of-the-century pop culture. She mentioned the influence of Dr. Steven Herman at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. He earned her respect as a professor of ornithology, so when she learned that he was a hunter, she started thinking.



Wendy had been a vegetarian for ten years, but she dined on the first duck she shot. Today she also eats venison, beef from rancher friends, trout, and the birds that Cisco points. Those taste best of all.

Wendy has been hunting for six years now. She has acquired a vintage Parker double with chokes that are a little too tight, a Belgian double that fits her well, and a Browning pump gun that she got from her father for ducks. There has not been as much waterfowl hunting, however, since Cisco teamed up with Wendy. The pup likes Chukar partridges better.

Cisco is a small female of a breed called the braque d'Auvergne, from the province of Auvergne in central France. Looks like a German shorthaired pointer with the color pattern of a Dalmatian. That happens to be the perfect coat for a pointing dog -- easy to see under all conditions, cool, and short enough to shed burrs.

Wendy intended to give Cisco more training but, well, the pup just got into wild birds and figured out what to do. If you think pointing dogs are lazy about retrieving, you ought to see Cisco scamper for chukars that fall far down the mountain. In minutes, the dog does what would take a human all afternoon. And last fall, when two Labradors gave out in the heat, Cisco fetched all the birds for a party of dove hunters. Loved every minute of it. Wendy loves every minute of Cisco, I think.

Something about Wendy reminded me of an old photograph, but the image did not come into focus till later. The subject was a



woman holding a double-barreled shotgun and a duck. She was my favorite grandmother, hard to recognize because she was young and dressed in riding breeches, which must have been daring at the time. The picture would have been taken during the nineteenth century. Wendy Schweizer makes me feel better about prospects for the twenty-first.

Additional Information

1. Wendy has no idea what she spends on hunting and fishing but says that it's almost nil, except for gasoline. She has no local shop but bought a gun at New England Arms, Box 278, Kittery Point, Maine 03905. (207-439-0593)

2. Photographs: Wendy's are all in storage. She'll try to get someone to take a good Fujichrome and send it. She would also have no objection if we were to send a photographer.)

3. To reach Wendy, leave a message at 503-383-9007. I have met her only over the telephone.