

Mother-Daughter Team Guide Women to Security

**By Peggy Tartaro,
Executive Editor**

Like a lot of women, Catherine “Cat” Potgeter has experienced crime first hand. In 2009, she was robbed.

Also like a lot of women, Cat decided to do something about feeling unbalanced and afraid after the incident.

But, what started as a journey of self-discovery and empowerment has turned into a job as a guide for others, particularly women.

After her home was robbed, Cat began her personal protection studies. She became a



Cat and Whitney go over the finer points of a handgun prior to teaching a course.

concealed pistol license holder (CPL) in her home state of Michigan and for the next three years continued her training, taking more advanced classes.

In the summer of 2011, Cat sought, and received, certification as a Certified Home Firearms Safety, Certified Pistol and Personal Protection in the Home instructor. Later that year she added a Refuse to be a Victim

instructor certification to her resume.

Cat did much of her training with Mark Jacobson, and the two were soon teaching others under the banner Applied Firearms Defensive Skills (AFDS).

The bulk of AFDS’ classes are



Whitney and Cat Potgeter are a mother-daughter firearms instructor team in Michigan. (All photos courtesy Jenine Creations LLC Photography)

held at Kent County Conservation Club (KCCC) in Ada, MI, although classes have been held elsewhere as well.

As Cat began her journey, first taking classes for herself and later for teaching certification, her daughters Whitney and Abbey often came along.

When she turned 21 last year, Whitney also sought and received her Michigan CPL and began to actively pursue additional training and received her certification in Home Firearm Safety, Certified Pistol, Personal Protection in the Home. Cat and Whitney took the Refuse to be a Victim instructor course together.

Although Cat is the lead instructor for the classes she and Whitney teach together. Cat says, “Whitney is a integral part

of each class, her relatability with the younger students and her maturity and skills are a real asset.”

Cat is Director of Operations for a company in Grand Rapids and Whitney is an Administrative Assistant as well as working

for a security firm, also in Grand Rapids.

“My goal is to help women feel more comfortable around guns and confident in their ability to protect

themselves,” Whitney says.

Younger daughter Abbey



Youngest daughter Abbey, right, helps her mom (center) and sister (left) by acting as a photographer and maintaining their Facebook page.

keeps her hand in as well, shooting alongside her mom and sister recreationally. Although she is still too young to pursue a CPL, she helps out by maintaining their Facebook page and taking pictures for it.

In March, the KCCC sponsored a Refuse to Be a Victim

seminar at no cost to all those who attended, taught by Cat and Whitney. Club manager Tim Wiley and his family, along with an exceptional Board of Directors, do an excellent job of offering a plethora of opportunities to both members and non-members.

This club was founded in 1930.

“KCCC’s commitment to the safety and enjoyment of each member, in addition to their positive outreach in the community is simply unmatched by any other club I have been affiliated with to date,” says Cat.

AFDS offers a variety of classes, including Basic Pistol, Advanced CPL, Refuse to Be a Victim and twice yearly a course called The Submachine Gun Experience, which allows hands-on use of a variety of submachine guns, drills with the firearms and accessories like suppressors as well as other activities. Women-only courses are offer in many cases. Course details are outlined on their website, myafds.com.

Civilian Arms Rights Advocates

Meet in Russia

*By Joseph P. Tartaro,
President,
Second Amendment Foundation*

Americans are not alone in having a fundamental desire for a right to keep and bear firearms for self-defense. While the right to arms continues to be an important

political, legal and media struggle in the United States, representatives of dozens of countries from around the world gathered in Moscow to press their case for greater access to personal arms.

Representatives of gun rights associations from 56 Russian provinces were in attendance and speaking as well as Russian political leaders and firearms manufacturers. They were joined by representatives from countries in eastern and western Europe and Asia, including India, Israel, Italy and the USA.

The event was the 2nd Annual Meeting of international gun rights organizations hosted by the Moscow-based Right to Bear

the conference.

In all, over 200 people participated in six-languages, with participants listening through headphones with UN-style multiple immediate translations.

Alan Gottlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, was the leadoff speaker. Gottlieb is also the founder and a director of the International Association for the Protection of Civilian Arms Rights (IAPCAR), of which the Russian Right to Bear Arms association is a long-time member.

Gottlieb told TGM that he believed there was considerable



Julianne Versnel Gottlieb, SAF Director of Operations and publisher of *Women & Guns*, spoke to a group of gun rights activist in Russia last fall.

Arms organization, and the UN Arms Trade Treaty was as much a key topic as the arms rights debate in all of the nations involved in

support in the Russian parliament for more relaxed firearms rights legislation, but it was unclear whether there was yet enough for