Girls and the Club

Ames Forestry Club

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester

Part of the Forest Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester/vol60/iss1/17

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ames Forester by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Girls and the Club

In this time when women's rights seem to be a focal point we decided to poll our female members and see how they felt being in a predominantly male field and organization.

What its like to be a woman in a male dominated organization? It's fun!—when the men finally accepted us and realized that ignoring us wouldn't make us go away.

Maybe we should back-up a little and explain what it was like before we broke some of the barriers. The first few meetings we were treated as guests— as someone special who wouldn't take part in activities or really add anything to the club. The guys soon realized that we were sincere in our interest in Outdoor Recreation and Forestry and that we joined the club for the club's sake and not for the purpose of finding a man as many people assume.

When they finally realized that we joined for the same reasons they did, the major barrier was broken. We began to feel like one of the guys. Their behavior in our presence reverted back to typical Forester's behavior and we were included in their typical after-club activities to Shakeys and other local establishments. Although we are generally accepted as equals, we're the first ones they think of (volunteers) when there is cooking or poster making to be done.

The guys give us encouragement and try to involve us in their activities rather than assuming that we are incapable. Now they know that we can carry a 20 ft. white pine over 50 yards, spit tobacco, brave icy water for birling and actually saw through the 12 inch bucking log (even if it did take a little longer.)

Forestry Outdoor Recreation Club has done a lot for us. Now entering a room of 50 guys is no longer a traumatic experience, we can chug with the best of them, and make fools of ourselves without feeling so foolish.

Our advice was we'd have to be tough if we wanted to stay. We think we're tough enough.

Thanks guys.

Pat Rutz
Lynn Stevens
Linda Wrage
April McDonald
We'll let them think they're going to win until just the last second!

I've got you now!

It's not stuck, you just have to pull on it harder.