

W L D E R N E S S

— m a g a z i n e —

IN THIS ISSUE

- PREDATOR HUNTING BY THE NUMBERS
- RETURN TO CANADA
- START, STOP AND KEEP



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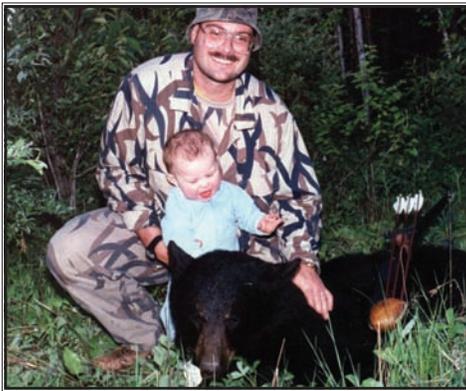
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WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE



PAGE 8



PAGE 12



PAGE 26

FEATURES

PREDATOR HUNTING

08 PREDATOR HUNTING by the NUMBERS

Mike Roux offers tips and tactics for calling in predators during the off-season.

BOWHUNTING

12 RETURN TO CANADA

Michael Schirer describes how bear hunting in Canada solidifies relationships in his life.

PHOTO ESSAY

19 FROZEN BEAUTY

Barry Raugust captures the incredible beauty found in the icy grip of winter.

BOWHUNTING

26 START, STOP and KEEP

Shawn Harding describes his routines to maintain his gear during the sounds of winter.

DEPARTMENTS

OUTDOOR MINISTRY

06 FIRST AID FOR THE SOUL

A comparison of personal first aid kits and our personal relationship with God.

WILD GAME COOKING

23 DUCK PARTY DIP

Spread this rich and hearty dip on a cracker and serve to your party guests.

WILDLIFE & STEWARDSHIP

24 EASTERN FOX SQUIRREL

A description of this common resident of the woods, popular with hunters everywhere.

Cover Shot: *The Rubbing Tree*, by Derek Pletcher

EDITORIAL

A BRAND NEW YEAR

It's a new year... a new beginning. As we sit snug in our homes waiting out the winter months, it's a good time to start things off on a good note. For many of us that means chasing our willpower in vain attempts to fulfill New Year's resolutions, and while shedding a few pounds or completing that marathon run (or whatever) may carry some significance, this is also a good time to renew something far more important... and that's your relationship with God.

The Bible contains several mentions of the word "renewal" and a few that particularly stand out to me are listed here for consideration.

Matthew 19:28 [NIV] *Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

Isaiah 57:10 [NIV] *You wearied yourself by such going about, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.' You found renewal of your strength, and so you did not faint.*

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Colossians 3:11 [NAS] *In this renewal there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

What all of these verses say is that renewal is within us, for us, and in many ways required of us in order to succeed in the mission of life that He has laid before us. At the renewal of all things, we will reap the rewards of our faith. With renewed strength through our faith, we will overcome great obstacles. By renewing our mindset, we can focus on what is truly important. And by His will and renewal of the world, we are all set up as God's children upon the earth.

So as you don your running shoes in the morning, and head out the door to conquer another mile or rid yourself of another pound or two, say a bit of thanks for that renewed vigor. As the saying goes, our God is fond of second chances... and thirds... and so on. No matter how many times we fall short of the mark, God is willing to extend us his grace, build us back up, and grant us another chance to renew our hearts and minds to those things that He has shown to be good and worth pursuing.

Our Father, who has set a restlessness in our hearts and made us all seekers after that which we can never fully find, forbid us to be satisfied with what we make of life. Draw us from base content and set our eyes on far-off goals. Keep us at tasks too hard for us that we may be driven to thee for strength. Eleanor Roosevelt

STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

MANAGING EDITOR/DESIGN
Derek Pletcher

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Mike Roux
Shawn Harding
Michael Schirer
Kory & Chelsea Cribb
Aaron Glenn

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Barry Raugust
Matt White/Rockhouse Media
Susan Dunnaway

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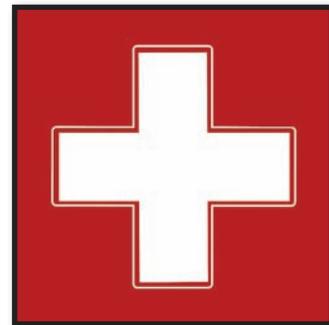
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SHAMAN CAMOUFLAGE STAFF
Derek Pletcher - President
Doug Pletcher - V.P. / Legal
Sarah Pletcher - Treasurer

Contact: Derek Pletcher
dpletcher1@shamancamo.com

FIRST AID FOR THE SOUL



A lot of discussion among outdoors-types seems to center around the personal FAK, or First Aid Kit. There seem to be as many ways to put one of these together as there are seeds in a pine cone, but in the end the one thing everyone seems to agree on is that it should indeed be personal... and tailored to what you may need should things go awry in the woods. However, in the pursuit of personalization, one must temper their efforts in the interest of others who may be in the party and be less prepared than you are to face injury or ailment away from the easy reach of medical assistance.

A well-stocked FAK should first and foremost be considered part of a larger kit meant to sustain an outdoorsman headed out for an extended stay in the wilderness. When packed, it should be within easy reach of the person carrying it, or if they are the incapacitated person then it must be easy to locate by someone else in the group. This means placing the FAK in an outside pocket of something like an ALICE Pack, which is very popular and easy to obtain from surplus outlets for decent prices. Typi-



cally speaking, the FAK will be stashed in the center pocket on the outside of the pack, and can therefore be yanked out in a hurry without bloodying the rest of the contents. The point here is having easy access to the gear in a hurry should the need arise.

The same thing can be said of our time spent with God's word. As with putting together a personal kit that can stop the bleeding of a wound, we need a personal relationship with the Lord that can put an end to the hemorrhaging of our hearts and souls. And it does need to be personal, but again like the FAK it must also have the interests of others consid-

ered. We are all called as Christians to not only adhere to the word of God but to share it, and in that way render aid to others in need of comfort.

My own pack is full of items that can provide fire, shelter, clean water, and even food if necessary. As mentioned, in the front pocket of the pack you'll find a pretty decent FAK should the need arise for a bandage or an aspirin. You would also find in my kit, one of my Bibles... which I now consider to be as essential a piece of gear as my knife, gun, or bow. As such I'm always prepared with a first aid kit for physical emergencies, and another for spiritual ones. God Bless.

In the front pocket of an ALICE pack just like this one, I carry a well-stocked FAK for physical injury and illnesses that might arise. Inside the pack itself I carry a Bible, for dealing with the ailments that cannot be healed by bandages.

A WELL-STOCKED FAK CONTAINS...

Adhesive Bandages

Include adhesive bandages of various sizes and shapes to treat small cuts and scrapes.

Antiseptic or Antibiotic Lotions

These are used for treatment of cuts, scrapes and burns to prevent infections.

Iodine and/or Alcohol Wipes

Used to clean wounds as well as disinfect area around wounds.

Butterfly Bandages

If deep cuts occur, butterfly bandages hold wounds together better than others.

Sterile Gauze Pads

Keep several sizes in your first aid kit for cleaning and covering wounds.

Medical Tape

To help cover wounds with gauze pads or offer relief to sprains.

Pain Killers

Keep Aspirin and/or Ibuprofen on hand for pain and swelling.

Scissors

For cutting tape or clothing, scissors are indispensable items.

Elastic (ACE) Bandages

For supporting sprains and making slings.

Antihistamines

Benadryl is preferred for allergies and as a sleep aid.

Anti-Diarrheal

Immodium is preferred for intestinal distress.

Safety Pins

Used to hold slings and bandages.

Duct Tape

It can be used in place of medical tape and it has many other uses in camp.

Lip Balm

For easing the effects of chapped lips.

Tweezers/Hemostats

For removing splinters, ticks and debris particles from wounds.

Miscellaneous Lotions

Hand cleaning gels not only clean your skin, they make excellent fire extenders as they are alcohol-based.



RED RIVER PREDATOR CALLS

Red River Bandit call: Produces a loud rabbit in distress that ranges from a high pitch to a medium pitch. Also produces a young male coyote howl.

Razzy Rabbit call: Produces a raspy medium-high pitch rabbit distress for close in calling. Also produces a female coyote howl.

Yella-Fella call: Produces a low raspy rabbit distress and also a medium pitch rabbit distress. Also produces an adult coyote howl.

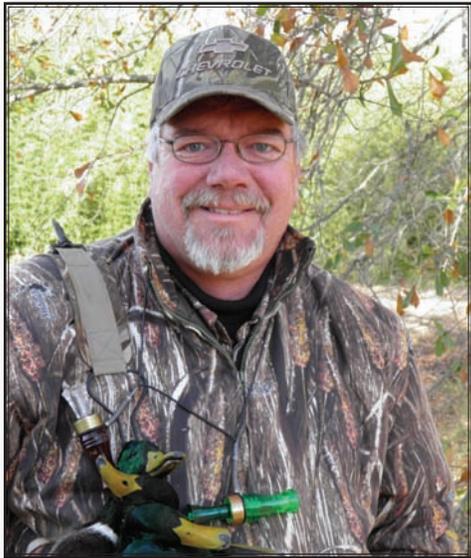
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Mike Roux's
OUTDOOR NOTEBOOK

PREDATOR HUNTING

BY THE

NUMBERS

Calling and shooting predators is one of the things that help hunters get from the end of the fall seasons to when the turkeys start gobbling. Severe winter weather is almost essential for a good predator hunt, but many other things add-up to make shooting coyotes, foxes and bobcats lost of fun in the new year. I think we should take just a few minutes to look at some of these factors.

Some people frown on predator hunting as a waste and needless killing. That could not be further from the truth. In fact these people are the actual cause of predator overpopulation. Misguided tree huggers succeeded in destroying the fur industry and subsequently the sport of trapping. No trapping means that some predator populations, specifically coyotes, are out of control in some places. The Good Lord gave us the responsibility of stewardship and hunting is

a great tool to help us accomplish that task.

#1 THE LAW

State regulations on predator hunting vary. Always check the regs to make sure of season dates and bag limits. Also check to see if the predators you are hunting fall under special "fur bearer" classifications. Find out what weapons are legal and what legal shooting hours are in your area. Above all, take the time to read the rules and then obey them, including the use of electronic calling devices.

#2 THE SHOT

As a teenager I hunted coyotes with a high-powered rifle. The ability to reach out and touch a dog at 200-yards was very appealing. My .25-06 has put holes in a bunch of coyotes. I have taken a couple of coyotes and a red fox with my bow, but lately I have enjoyed hunting predators with my THOMPSON/CENTER

.50-caliber Pro Hunter muzzleloader.

The optics you choose for a predator rifle are very important. I demand clarity and expect durability. I have tested dozens of scopes from as many manufacturers. The best scope I have found currently sits upon my Pro Hunter. It is as Apex 3x9 from ALPEN OPTICS. ALPEN makes a full line of premium sporting optics.

Regardless of your weapon of choice, you must practice enough to know your maximum lethal range and then never take a shot beyond that range. Safety must always come first.

#3 THE CAMO

Concealment for hunting wintertime predators is very important. The absolute absence of foliage makes hiding from sharp eyes very difficult. Most often it is not possible to hunt predators from a blind because it takes too much time and is too cumbersome. You must

FISHING NORTH AMERICA

with Mike Roux

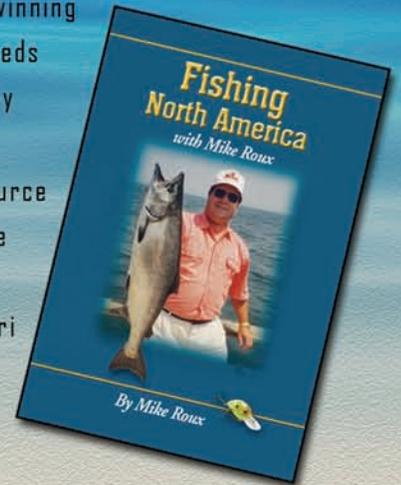


Mike Roux is proud of his new book titled, *Fishing North America*. This award winning outdoor writer has spent over 35 years on the water and has published hundreds of articles on the topic of chasing lunkers. This book is a collection of his very best works and is sure to please both novice and veteran anglers, alike.



Mike is a Regional Editor for *Outdoor Guide Magazine*, your source for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation in the Midwest. He writes hundreds of articles each year and is a member of the *Outdoor Writers Association of America* as well as the *Missouri Outdoor Communicators*.

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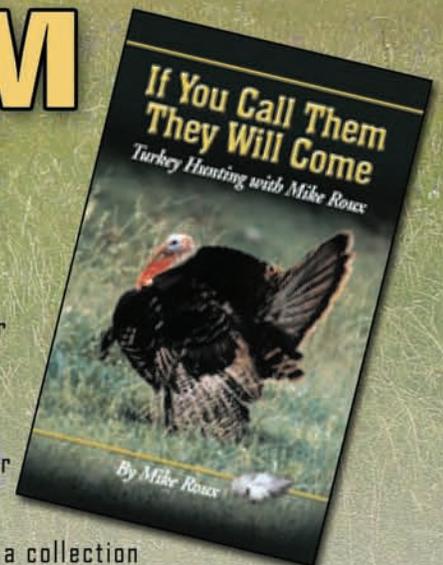
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IF YOU CALL THEM THEY WILL COME

Turkey Hunting with Mike Roux

Mike is a Regional Editor for *Heartland Sportsman's Authority*, your source for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation in the Midwest. As a book author, Roux is proud of his turkey-hunting book called, *If You Call Them...They Will Come*. This award winning outdoor writer has spent over 35-years in the turkey woods and has published hundreds of articles on the topic of chasing gobblers. This book is a collection of his very best works and is sure to please hunters of all experience levels.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

PREDATOR HUNTING

choose a camo pattern that cannot be seen at close range and is invisible at a distance.

I prefer the "Dead Fall" pattern from SHAMAN CAMOUFLAGE COMPANY. (www.shamancamo.com) This pattern has the perfect look for midwinter hunting. I am sure there are many more great applications for this pattern, but its ability to blend-in to the dead, lifeless look of the winter timber is excellent. This pattern also works great in snowy conditions.

#4 THE CALL

There are as many predator calls on the market as there are predators on which to use them. Traditionally, mouth-blown calls have lead the way to coaxing coyotes and foxes into range. These calls vary from reed-type to diaphragm calls just like the ones used by turkey hunters. These calls are effective, but imitating a wounded rabbit or coyote pup is not as easy as it may seem.

I like the new electronic calls that are now available. As previously mentioned, make sure you can legally use electronic calls in your area. Just like the pneumatic calls, there are a variety of battery operated predator calls on the market today. My personal favorite are the small calls made by CASS CREEK CALLS. (www.casscreek.com)

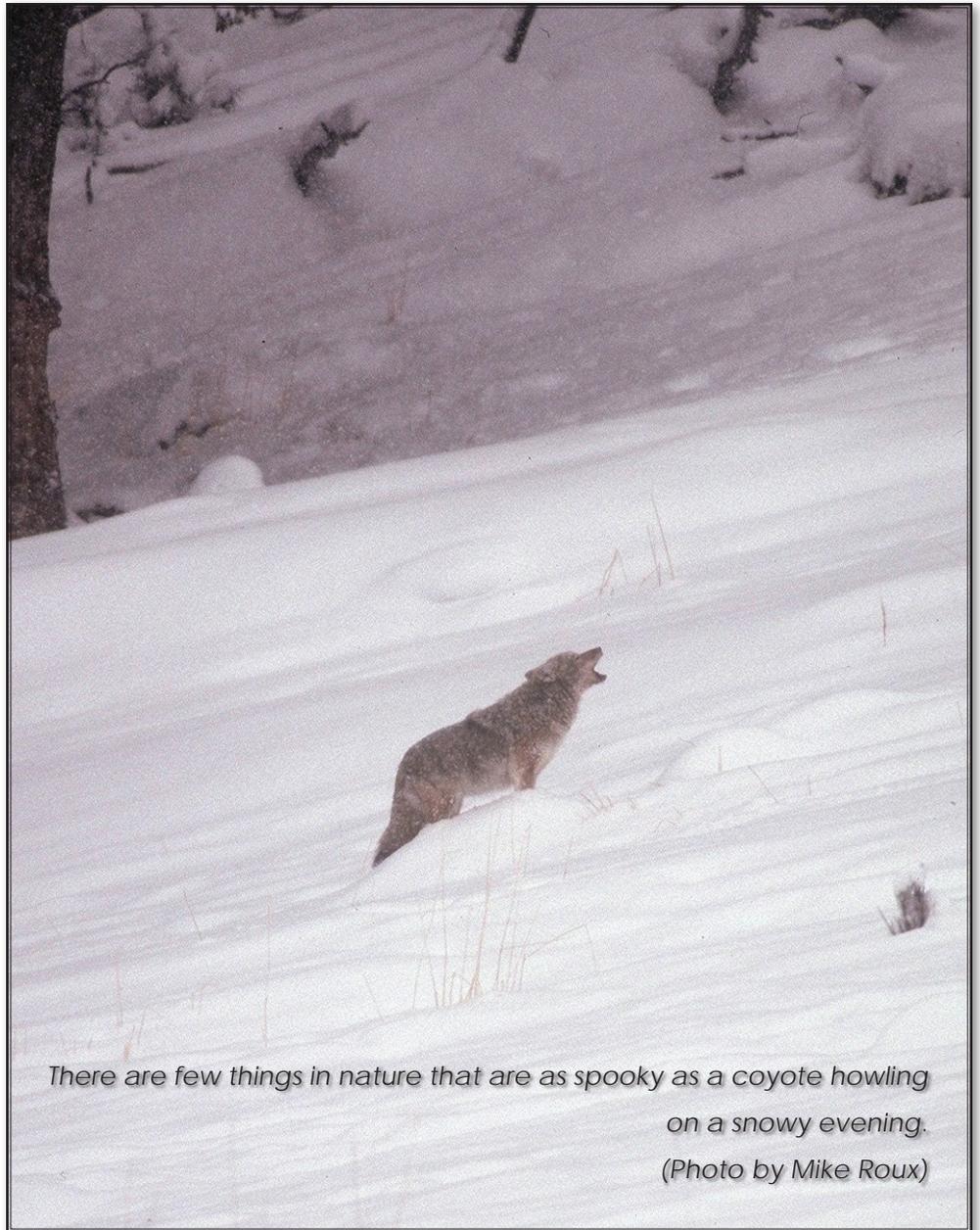
The CASS CREEK calls are small, durable and produce lots of volume when needed. They are self-contained, using no tapes or discs. There are no external

speakers with wires to tangle or loose. These handy little calls make predator hunting a breeze.

#5 THE ANIMALS

As we look at hunting predators by the numbers, this is the last one. Knowing what might come to your set-up when calling predators allows you to be prepared for the unexpected. Most com-

Regardless of your weapon of choice, you must practice enough to know your maximum lethal range and then never take a shot beyond that range. Safety must always come first.



*There are few things in nature that are as spooky as a coyote howling on a snowy evening.
(Photo by Mike Roux)*

monly, coyotes will respond first to your calls. If a coyote is coming, it will not take long. Often coyotes appear in the first minute or two of calling.

Bobcats and foxes will come to the sound of a free meal, as well. The red fox is a bit more wary than his gray cousin, but both will come.

Other critters that may respond to your predator calls are hawks, owls, crows, raccoons and even curious deer. Do not take shots at movement. Be very sure of your target before you shoot. The neighbor's dog may come looking for the free meal, too. This is no time for a careless mistake.

If you add up all the numbers, you can see why wintertime predator hunting is a growing sport. To beat the cabin fever this year, get out there and try this fun and exciting way to expand your hunting season.

Mike Roux's combination of his .50-caliber T/C Pro Hunter scoped with an ALPEN Apex helped take this big coyote.

(Photo by Bob Cowman)



RETURN TO CANADA



Michael Schirer

When my son, Jacob, was one, we made a trip to Canada to try to shoot a bear. I managed to connect, and one of my favorite success photos is of Jacob, me, and that bear. Jacob is eighteen now and we finally made it back to chase bears again. This time though, Jacob and I both had tags in our pockets.

Jacob has shot a bow off and on all his life. When he was small, he shot a longbow, and we'd have a grand time launching arrows, because there's just something about shooting an arrow into the sky and watching its flight. Later, Jacob graduated to a compound bow, but throughout all this time Jacob never expressed an interest in hunting. In fact he often commented that he really didn't want to shoot an animal.

During the summer after Jacob's junior year in high school, he began showing interest in archery again, so we went through the process of acquiring new equipment that would fit him. It had

been a while, and his old bow needed to be upgraded. We found a used Matthews Q2XL via the internet, that really wasn't used that much at all. When it arrived, it still had the original string and not a scratch on the bow... this thing looked brand new. We added some top quality accessories, such as the Spot Hogg sight, a Carter 2 shot release aid, and of course Easton arrows. When the package was completed, I must admit that I was a little envious. This is a sweet package. If not for the fact that it was a left-handed set up, I'd have been tempted to shoot it myself. Jacob shoots lefty not because he is left-handed... for he is not... but rather because he is left eye-dominant. Actually, he does things very well with either hand, like shooting shot-guns. I'm always amazed how he can hit the blue rock shooting with either hand. I'd be even more impressed if he'd try to do it with both hands at the same time.

After shooting his bow for the summer, Jacob said he might be interested in try-

ing to hunt. You think maybe I jumped at that opportunity? I started looking for a hunt that would provide a quantity of animals at close range with a high potential for a shooting opportunity. I had a high level of confidence I could put him in a whitetail stand where he'd have an opportunity to shoot a deer, but that would be problematic with his school schedule. We live in New Mexico, and my whitetail hot-spot is in Kansas. Missing two weeks during November just wouldn't work, so I started thinking about spring and summer hunts; finally narrowing things down to a bear or antelope. A good friend provided me a contact in Canada that would be a good bear hunt, but discussions showed an antelope hunt would also work. I left it to Jacob to decide, and he expressed an interest in the bear hunt. Yeehaw... that's what I was thinking!

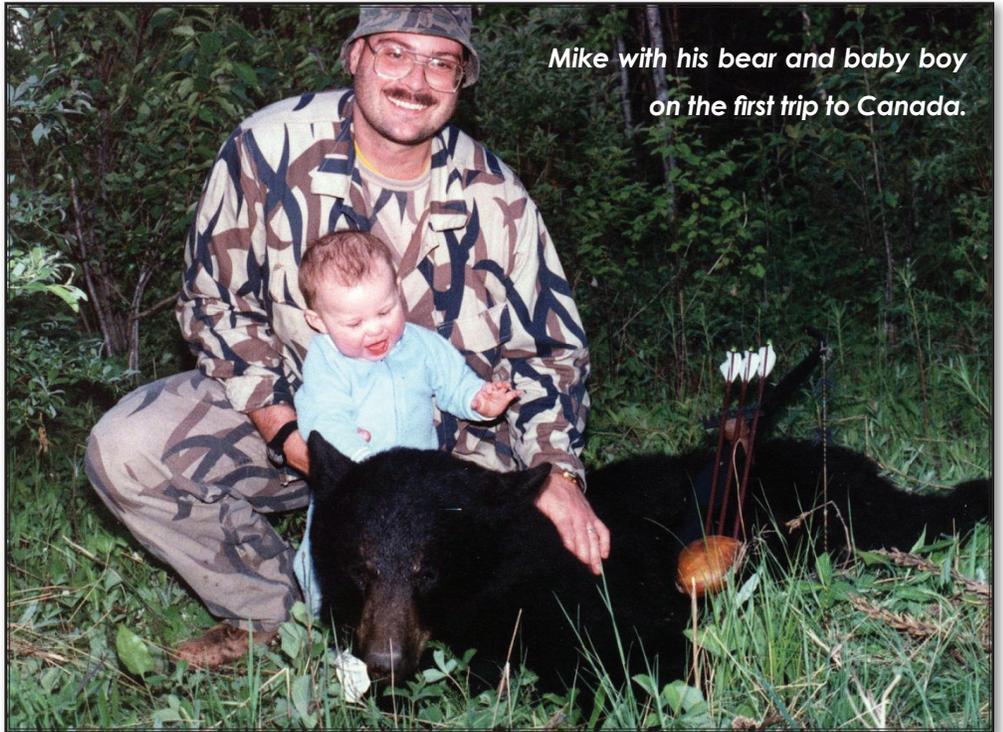
I called the outfitter that had been recommended, and soon discovered he had four tags available for the last week

of the spring 2011 season. I had already been talking to some friends about their interest in being included, so by the time I talked to the outfitter two of my friends had made a firm commitment. When the outfitter confirmed all four tags, I told him we'd have a deposit in the mail within the week. The other two hunters on board were Jeff Teague from Wichita, Kansas, and Gerry (Gary) Johnson from Farmington, New Mexico.

It's a long drive from Farmington to Manitoba, Canada... but well worth it. If there was any concern about this hunt before it started, it was the short duration of being only five days. What we found though, is that for most people it's not a five day hunt... but rather a hunt that is over in one or two days. It's a one-shot affair as well... wound or kill, once you draw blood the hunt is over.

I filled the outfitter in on our situation, telling him that this was Jacob's first hunt and that I was planning to film the adventure. I also spoke to Jeff and Gerry, and they both committed to filling the role of cameraman once they had their bears down. The outfitter expressed concern because he knew it was a short hunt, and he said as much. We worked it out by deciding that I was to take my bow along while Jacob was hunting, and then try to bag a double if Jacob shot a bear.

The first day of the hunt was slow start, most likely because we made entirely too much noise getting things set up. Those



Mike with his bear and baby boy on the first trip to Canada.

After shooting his bow for the summer, Jacob said he might be interested in trying to hunt. You think maybe I jumped at that opportunity?



Mike poses with Jeff and the deer that started it all.

FEATURE ARTICLE

BOWHUNTING



AT LEFT: Jeff Teague and his trophy chocolate phase black bear.

of you who have filmed hunts know how much extra work is involved with getting the cameraman set up, and will understand what I'm talking about. And while a bear did come in, it wasn't one Jacob wanted to shoot. Jeff and Gerry didn't have it so slow, however. They both had color phase bears make appearances, and they took their opportunities. Jeff's shot was true, and he harvested a beautiful chocolate bear. Gerry's shot took

his bear high in the shoulder, and with only three inches of penetration evident on the arrow we knew the bear would survive the encounter. But the "wound rule" applied, therefore Gerry's hunt was over. Interestingly enough, later in the week another hunter shot the bear that Gerry hit. The earlier wound had scabbed over, with no obvious effect to the bear... no limp or other handicap... proving just how tough these animals

are. Gerry had commented that he'd rather fish, so for the rest of the week he was busy pulling giant northern pike out of the lake, keeping the smaller legal fish for our lunches. Jeff graciously took over the cameraman duties, and on Tuesday Jacob and Jeff had a number of bears visit their bait. One was a huge bruin that wouldn't give Jacob the kind of shot he was looking for. Jacob and I had reviewed the shot placement guide put out by IBEP, and Jacob was patiently waiting on a broadside shot with the front leg forward. Watching the video of the big bear, it looked like there had been several short windows of opportunity, but it was understandable why Jacob held off and I was proud of his willingness to wait for an ethical shot. When he spoke the evening's hunt I could tell that he really wanted to get a shot at the big bear. My evening had been a slow event, and listening to the howling of wolves on my long hike out from the stand in the dark was an uncomfortable but exciting highlight.

On Wednesday I moved to a different site. Another hunter in camp had been successful there the previous night, but had seen a bigger bear in the area that didn't present a shot. Within a half hour of my arrival, a small bear showed up, and then another. As I watched them mill around below, I wondered if one of

these two might be the bear that the previous night's hunter had with him in the stand. He told how the small bear actually climbed the ladder to get a better look at him, and he managed to get it all on video using his cell phone. When one of the small bears began staring intently up at me, I was beginning to wonder what his intentions might be. Then his attention riveted on something behind me, and I slowly turned my head in time to see a huge black bear making his way in my direction. He stopped and eventually moved off into the thick bush, leaving me to wonder if my scent had caused him to change course.

The two smaller bears continued to harass each other, taking turns at being king of the hill. It had been about a half-hour since I had seen the big bear, and figured he wasn't going to make a return appearance... but then I saw him in the bush about 40 yards away. When he finally walked into the bait sight it was with arrogance... he owned that bait. The smaller bears knew it, and as he closed the distance they quickly evacuated the area.

On my trip from camp to the bait site that evening I quizzed the guide on how to judge a bear. I had read articles, and figured I knew what to look for but there's

never too much info when it comes to hunting. The guide kept it simple, and said if the bear was as tall as the 55 gallon barrel, then it was a good bear. The bear in front of me now had that stature... and then some. As I watched the big bear, my mind drifted to thoughts of a large blonde bear another hunter had seen a week earlier and I was tempted to pass on this one. When he gave me the first good shot, I actually did pass on the chance. He was still there ten minutes later, however, and I finally decided that I'd take him on the next good opportunity. When one of the small bears came back, the big boar got up to chase it off.



The author poses with his massive Canadian black bear trophy.

FEATURE ARTICLE

BOWHUNTING

That put him at thirteen yards, broadside with his front leg forward. My shot was perfect, and achieved a complete pass through. He made a quick dash away from the bait, and I heard him die in the bush.

I turned my walkie talkie on and radioed the guide. It was only 7 pm, with three and a half hours of light still left. Even though I figured the bear was dead, we still waited. When we finally started to trail the bear, the blood trail was sparse... something I attributed to the speed at which he exited the bait after being shot. We were looking for blood near the spot the arrow had hit the bear when the guide glimpsed a large black lump off in the bush. As we walked up on the dead bear, I realized he was a lot bigger than he had looked at thirteen yards. In fact, he was absolutely huge.

We got him to the truck using a nifty plastic sled the guide carried with him, and after snapping a few pictures, we struggled to get him loaded. Then we waited for another one of the hunters to finish his hunt for the evening. When we picked him up, he commented on the bear in the back of the truck. Turns out he'd had an encounter with the same bear on Monday, but didn't take a shot. At a distance he thought it looked like a sow with cubs he had seen earlier in the day, so he didn't shoot. That decision turned fortune in my favor.

On our way back to camp, I was won-

Jacob and the beautiful chocolate phase black bear taken on the trip to Canada with his dad.



dering how Jacob's evening went and silently hoping we'd both shoot our bears on the same evening. When we pulled into camp, there was a bear on the back of the four-wheeler, and I stopped

and that was a direct result of reviewing the shot placement guide. He knew he needed a broadside shot, with the leg forward. He eventually got his opportunity, and made a perfect shot. The bear

he shot a nice doe that evening. About midway through my hunt I heard a loud yelling coming from Jeff's direction. I got out of my tree and ventured back to where I had left him, and there he was...

gutting the doe with his broadhead because he had apparently forgotten his knife. According to his story he fell out of the tree soon after the shot, and that was when he yelled. Thankfully he was no worse for wear after the fall. That was Jeff's first bow kill, so when he was able to be there at Jacob's first bow kill; the hunt had come full circle. It was a blessing to have Jeff share that experience with my son, just as I had shared it with Jeff many years ago.

Jacob and I each took a bear on this trip and while the one I shot will make the record book, it is Jacob's bear that holds the highest honor.

He had been intent on shooting the big bear he had seen the night before, and thought he watched a number of bears come to the bait, it was the chocolate bear that caught his eye.

to think about how many hunters there were in camp, and who else may have shot a bear. Jacob was the only one it could have been. The smile on Jacob's face when he walked out the door told the rest of the story.

While the other hunters in camp were looking over the bear I brought in, I was admiring the bear that Jacob had taken. It was a beautiful bear, with hints of cinnamon on its back, darkening to a chocolate color on the head and legs. Jacob told me the story.

He had been intent on shooting the big bear he had seen the night before, and thought he watched a number of bears come to the bait, it was the chocolate bear that caught his eye. A larger black bear came in with it, but Jacob told Jeff to keep the video on the chocolate bear. It was the one he wanted, and Jacob told me that when he saw the chocolate bear, any thoughts of any other left his mind. While watching the video, I noticed that Jacob took his time,

ran off, and toppled over sixty yards away. All of the action was captured on video.

This hunt was special for a couple of reasons. That it was Jacobs's first big game success story makes this an extremely special occasion, but there's a story about Jeff that needs to be told as well.

I went to school with Jeff at Kansas State in the early eighties, and a common interest between us was hunting. One afternoon Jeff and I went out to a place where I had been having some luck with local deer passing my stand. You could just about set your clock by them. I was interested in a buck and these were antlerless, but Jeff was willing to shoot one so I took him to the place I had been waiting in ambush. Jeff climbed up in a tree with a large horizontal branch about ten feet up that could be used as a perch. With him all set, I went on up the canyon. For Jeff, the deer did exactly what they were supposed to and

THE MANY SHADES OF BLACK BEARS...

Black bears come in more colors than any other mammal in North America. They can be black, brown (chocolate), cinnamon, blonde, or white. While the causes are not perfectly clear, evidence suggests colors vary as a means of camouflage or from climate and habitat. Bears in more densely forested regions tend to be black, while bears in the West, where conditions are drier and vegetation is sparser, tend to be brown or cinnamon. There is evidence to suggest that melanin... the pigment responsible for the black coat color... is more resistant to abrasion, making it more advantageous to those bears living in heavily forested regions.

Mountain Screamer

game calls



SUPER SCREAMER

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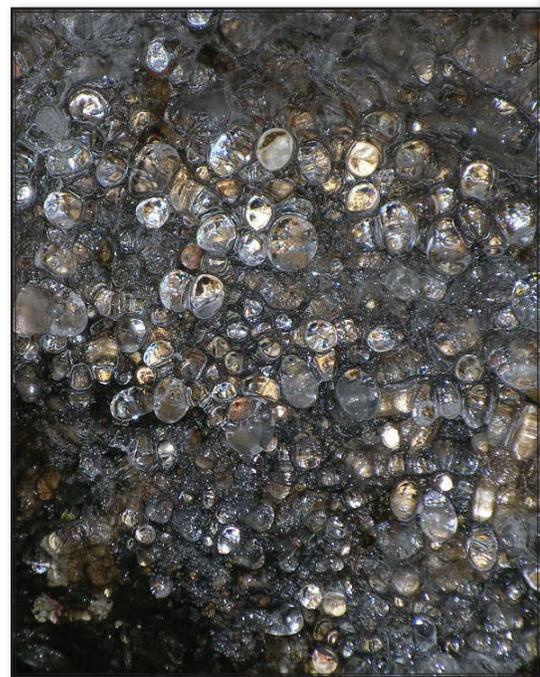
FROZEN BEAUTY

Photos by Barry Raugust





From the breath of God ice is made, And the expanse of the waters is frozen.
Job 37:10 [NASB].









DUCK PARTY DIP

Duck Breasts	4 to 6
Garlic	2 spoons crushed
Mayonaise	your choice
Coarse Mustard	3 to 4 ounces
Relish	2 to 3 ounces
Cajun Seasoning	to taste
Onion	1/2 chopped

- Season duck and cook overnight in crockpot
- Put duck in a food processor and grind until fine and smooth
- Put ground duck in a mixing bowl and add crushed garlic, chopped onion, and relish
- Mix in mustard and mayonnaise until it is thick enough to spread (like oatmeal)
- Season with Cajun spice to your taste
- Form on a dish and sprinkle with parsley

Serve with crackers at your next party!



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EASTERN FOX SQUIRREL

BUSHYTAILS

The fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger rufiventer*) is the most common of the Kansas squirrels and can be found in most cities or towns as well as in open woodlots, hedge rows and shelter belts. They are the largest squirrels in the state, averaging 18 to 27 inches from their noses to the tips of their tails and weighing from 1 3/4 to 2 1/4 pounds. Older female fox squirrels may produce two litters of young annually, but young females will

produce only one litter.

Squirrels thrive on foods rich in protein, carbohydrates, and fats. In temperate regions, early spring is the hardest time of year for squirrels, because buried nuts begin to sprout and are no longer available for the squirrel to eat, and new food sources have not become available yet. During these times, squirrels rely heavily on the buds of trees. Squirrels' diets consist primarily of a wide variety of plants,

including nuts, seeds, conifer cones, fruits, fungi, and green vegetation.

Many of us cut our hunting teeth on these little rodents, prowling the woods with shotguns or 22's and doing a lot of looking up. The skills necessary to gather a sack-full of bushytails were... and are... in many ways hard-earned, and serve young hunters well as they graduate to larger game like deer and turkeys. Stealth and careful approaches to the



woods cannot be ignored, as one mis-step will alert these wary... and noisy... critters. And once that's done, they set off an alarm that can last for hours.

While they do not share the same spotlight as other game animals, these small creatures still present a challenging alternative when venturing afield. When the deer refuse to cooperate, there's a good chance that the squirrels might. And there are a lot of recipes for turning a squirrel into excellent camp fare.

DUTCH OVEN SQUIRREL STEW...

- ~ 3-5 large squirrels
- ~ 1 cup yellow corn
- ~ Several strips of bacon, diced
- ~ 2 pounds diced potatoes
- ~ 1 can Rotel tomatoes
- ~ Chopped yellow onion
- ~ Healthy dash of Worcestershire sauce
- ~ salt & pepper to taste
- ~ Flour for thickener

Put the quartered squirrels in a Dutch Oven and cover half way with water. Bring to a boil.

Cover and simmer until the squirrels are tender, then remove them and bone out the meat.

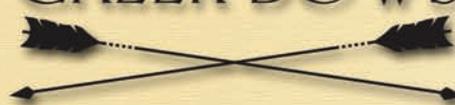
Return the meat to the stock and add the corn, bacon, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, salt & pepper, and Worcestershire sauce.

Cook at a simmer for 2 hours, stirring the stew occasionally.

To thicken the stew add a small amount of flour mixed with water. Simmer 20 - 30 minutes longer and serve with biscuits.



WILD HORSE CREEK BOWS



VISION LONGBOW – Tradition at its best. The long, narrow limbs, with a slight reflex-deflex shape, make this bow smooth shooting and accurate. Its 17" riser blends gently into the "D" shaped limbs. Available in 64" and 66" lengths.

QUEST LONGBOW – Similar to the Vision, but on a smaller frame. Its 15" riser, 62" length, and narrow limb profile make the Quest a joy to carry in the woods. This "D" style longbow's reflex-deflex design minimizes hand shock and limb stacking.

HAWK LONGBOW – The Hawk has a long history of success. It is a hybrid design, with a 16" riser and long working limbs. Pronounced reflex-deflex makes this bow hard-hitting while preserving smooth shooting characteristics. Available in 60", 62" or 64" lengths.

KESTREL LONGBOW – This is the Hawk's little brother, but it's not a toy. It has more reflex-deflex than the Hawk and is a more compact design. The riser has also been shortened to 14" to provide the maximum possible working limb length. In its 52", 54", 56", 58", and 60" lengths, the Kestrel is a pop-up blind hunter's dream.

WISP RECURVE – Reminiscent of the 1950's, the Wisp provides the light weight of a longbow while delivering the performance of a full working recurve. The Wisp's smooth, sweeping limbs "load-up" quickly during the draw to maximize the energy delivered to the arrow. Available in a 60" length.

MARIAH RECURVE – The performance characteristics of the Wisp have been captured in a smaller 54" length recurve. The goal in developing the Mariah was to create a quick, stable, and quiet bow in a compact package. The Mariah meets this goal.

COCOBOLO

BACOTE

ROSEWOOD

MACASSAR EBONY

BUBINGA

ZEBRAWOOD

LEOPARDWOOD

SHEDUA

MYRTLE

CHECHEN

FIGURED MAPLE

BLOODWOOD

PURPLEHEART

OSAGE ORANGE

ZIRCOTE

TULIPWOOD

SYCAMORE

TAMO ASH

OLIVE ASH

BLACK LIMBA

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Shawn Harding

START, STOP and KEEP

WORKING WITH THE SOUND OF WINTER

Driving home the other night I listened to my radio as the band, Bush, played "The Sound of Winter." It seemed appropriate since we were dealing with a "polar vortex" and the temperatures were frigid. The cold snap signified the end of my deer season and it was an appropriate chilly response to how my season played out. I still possess all of my 2013 tags. In the business world there is an analysis process that is used to evaluate programs or policies called Start, Stop and Keep. You Start new programs that seem to fit the business, you Stop the programs that didn't work and you Keep and improve on the programs that worked. Winter is a great time to review your season and do a little SSK analysis.

The sound of winter for me is that of bows returning to the basement, stands being hung in the garage along with climbing sticks and steps. Before it is all stashed, I get a chance to look it over and check them for problems and make adjustments.

Starting with the stuff that is easily overlooked, hung up and forgotten until next season, I look over my stands, sticks and blinds. This season I found that I need to replace some rubber bumpers that contact the tree trunk on one treestand and tighten a pair of bolts that attach the seat to the vertical supports. It will keep the seat from swinging freely and loudly tapping the frame and beating my butt on my walks in and out. I have a shoulder strap that appears to have been cut that needs fixed or replaced. I also like to touchup any worn spots with a matte finish spray paint and when I do this, I look for cracks or fatigued areas that may require me to scrap the stand. I have one ground blind with a splintered hub rod. If it was a better unit I'd probably call the manufacturer and get replacement parts or mail it back for a warranty repair. That particular blind will be set out early for the turkey season and it hopefully it lasts through May. I'll re-evaluate it after that season.

I don't have a 3D bow with a crazy

stabilizer setup, delicate target sight and neon string and cables. My summer rig is also what I carry daily in the fall so it is constantly scrutinized. I am fortunate to have a great relationship with Bow-Tech Archery and have the opportunity to shoot their latest models each season. Tuning a bow isn't that difficult if you start with an arrow of the proper spine for the bow's draw weight and your draw length. A nock set that aligns the arrow perpendicular to the string (90 degrees) and bisects the threaded hole the arrow rest bolts into is the first step. A quality arrow rest set to split the arrow lengthwise with the string while sighting down the center of the grip sets the other axis. From there you can paper tune the bow and make minor adjustments left/right and up/down at the rest with the proper tools. There are several web sites that give detailed instructions or even video to aid you in this process. If you shoot traditional the arrow spine is just as important and you can tune your set up by arrow length and point weight. I work hard



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FEATURE ARTICLE

BOWHUNTING

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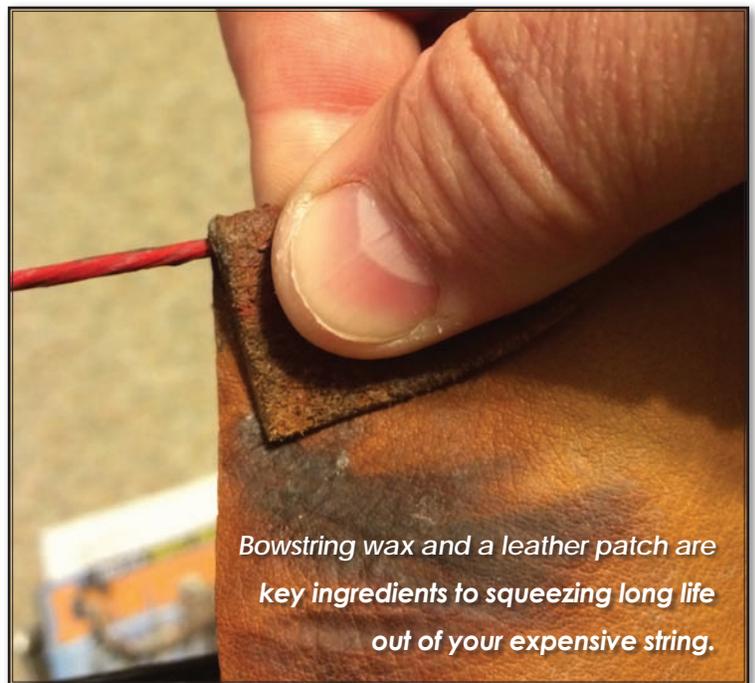
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I don't have a 3D bow with a crazy stabilizer setup, delicate target sight and neon string and cables. My summer rig is also what I carry daily in the fall so it is constantly scrutinized. I am fortunate to have a great relationship with Bow-Tech Archery and have the opportunity to shoot their latest models each season. Tuning a bow isn't that difficult if you start with an arrow of the proper spine for the bow's draw weight and your draw length. A nock set that aligns the arrow



Bowstring wax and a leather patch are key ingredients to squeezing long life out of your expensive string.

perpendicular to the string (90 degrees) and bisects the threaded hole the arrow rest bolts into is the first step. A quality arrow rest set to split the arrow lengthwise with the string while sighting down the center of the grip sets the other axis. From there you can paper tune the bow and make minor adjustments left/right and up/down at the rest with the proper tools. There are several web sites that give detailed instructions or even video to aid you in this process. If you shoot traditional the arrow spine is just as important and you can tune your set up by arrow length and point weight. I work hard to get my bow to shoot broadheads as close to my target pointed arrows as possible. If the paper tuning session indicates good flight them you can adjust the poundage slightly (affects the dynamic spine) or even minor adjustments to the tiller (upper or lower limb bolt adjustment) always working in known increments (quarter turns or half turns) so you can "zero" it if it doesn't help. If I just can't get the two points to impact the same I set up a sight for 3D and a sight for broadheads. That may seem excessive but it solves the issues and it's cheaper than a second bow specifically for target shooting.

On today's bows there are only a few things that aren't covered by warranty... the finish, strings and cables. They expect you to be responsible and shoot a safe arrow that meets the "grains per inch" weight matching your draw weight and draw length. If you're like me, the string



Now is the perfect time to inspect and touch up or replace the business end of your arrows.

and cable(s) after a season of hard hunting are starting to resemble yarn. I like to use a synthetic wax with silicone blended in to keep the new super fibers in good condition.

The string industry itself has blown up over the last decade. There are a number of manufacturers to choose from as well as color combinations but they are expensive. You are wise to care for them because replacements will typically exceed the \$100.00 mark. I use a small soft piece of leather that I add a small amount of string wax to. The leather folded over the string allows me to work the wax in deep and "burnishes" the product into all the strands. I avoid waxing my servings. I think it encourages separation by lubricating the strands that are

friction set.

This year I determined I can center my smaller 2" sight ring in my peep sight better than the larger 2-1/4". I'll trade out the large assembly for a smaller one while January and February occupy my calendar. I've also determined I see green sight pins much better than red or orange and those micro diameter fibers are worthless to my middle-aged eyes. I'll trade out .019 and .010 red and orange fiber sight pins with .029 green pins and rely on my years of shooting pin sights to make sure I select the right one in the heat of the moment.

Have you cleaned your arrows lately? I actually washed my arrows the other day and they were filthy. I also checked the fletching and gave a flex

to each shaft to make sure none of them were cracked. The purchase of a fletching tool is a must for persons that shoot a lot. Tuning broadheads creates a workload that will make that decision seem simple. Replace dull blades or cull a poor flying head completely. I spin my arrows and look closely at the attached broadhead. If it is wobbling it is removed and tested with another. If I can't get a broadhead to spin "clean" that arrow becomes a target arrow only. If it is the broadhead (bent ferrule) it is scrapped. One piece heads will always get a second look because it's tough for me to toss a broadhead in a scrap pile. I'll even touch up replacement blades if they aren't nicked too badly.

Clothing has become a greater part of the hunter's arsenal in recent years. Gone are the days of cotton flannel, denim and leather boots. "System clothing" that allows individual components to function together to wick moisture away, insulate as required, cover and protect you are now commonplace. Patterns are studied by scientists and tweaked by manufacturers and critiqued by the hunting public. They seem to grow in number every year. I still look at a tan/white deer hide every year and wonder how they disappear so easily in the dun of low light and why we haven't seen anything that perfect in a textile.

I got the nickname Packrat because I have always practiced SSK, and that

meant I was a fixture at the summer archery swap meets. If it didn't work for me, or I found an upgrade I liked better, the swap pile grew. Clothing was always a big contributor to my table. The right equipment... this includes clothing... keeps you hunting longer because you're more comfortable and confident. The sound of spring will soon overtake winter and I'll shift yet again. Shed antlers, turkey gobbles and crappie fishing will occupy the free moments then slowly transition to the hum of summer. It seems to go too fast, so for now... I'll focus on the sound of winter.

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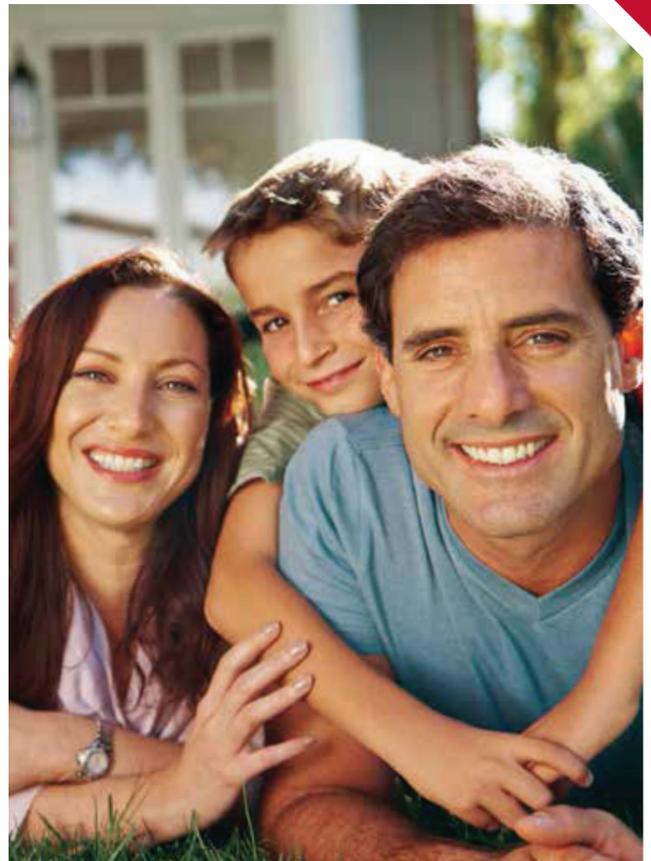
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