

**Wanderings
from the
Woods
& Water**
by Jay
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Why I Hunt

This is a re-run and I apologize! The new baby and lack of sleep has me with a major case of writers block. Hey but hunting season is HERE!! I thought this is fitting due to several hunting seasons opening up! Good Luck and have a GREAT season! Please send pics of the harvest!!

So why do I hunt?

Its 6am and I'm headed out the door with every piece of warm clothing on that I can find. The thermometer reads 10 degrees and there is 4 inches of snow on the ground. My brother-in-law and I are going to try to trick some coyotes into giving up.

When I step out of the door into the cold and snow, some questions comes to mind. Why do I hunt? Why do I leave the comforts of a warm bed? Why do I lose sleep?

I could tell you the reason I hunt is because it feeds my family. We do love wild game on the dinner plate, but we have a grocery store about six minutes from the house, so if I did not hunt we wouldn't starve.

I could tell you the reason I hunt is because it is important to wildlife management. As a Biologist I know hunting is a very important part of healthy wildlife populations. Without hunting there

would be detrimental effects on wildlife and habitat.

I could tell you the reason I hunt is because hunting gear and hunting licenses I buy are very important to wildlife management. The money that hunters spend on gear and license sales goes to all wildlife, not just game animals. The money goes to help everything from a small bat to a big Elk via the Pittman-Robison Act. Hunters pay for all wildlife.

The three reasons I just stated are important to me, but it is not why I hunt!

So why do I hunt? The reason I hunt is because of the blissful silence. The silence that is so loud that it is deafening is what I love. The woods are a break from all the noise that surrounds my life. It's where you can get a

lot of thinking done with out a cell phone ringing to interrupt your thoughts.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because of the sunrise. It's always a treat to see the absolute beauty of the sunrise. I love how the sunrise awakes the sleeping forest. All of the creatures that stir during the day start moving to and fro in the morning sun.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because of the nervous anticipation before opening day. It never fails the day before a season comes in; I get butterflies from the excitement and I can't sleep the night before just thinking about it. It's like a kid waiting on Christmas morning.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because it is an investment in my kids. The best hunt of my life was with my little girl and I hope to pass the love of the outdoors to her and my boys. They say take your kid hunting and you won't have to hunt your kid. I want my kids to know the natural high of hunting and being in the outdoors.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because of the friendships. Some my best friends are my hunting buddies. Through hunting I have made friends from Oklahoma to New York.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because of good old hunting dogs and the prospect of a new puppy. There is nothing

better than an awesome retrieve by a duck dog, a solid point from a bird dog, the cry of a good hound, or the potential a new puppy is showing.

So why do I hunt? I hunt because I get to see Gods wonderful creation up close and personal. The time I spend in the woods helps me to grow in my walk with the Lord. The outdoors is a classroom to Gods teachings.

Some people don't understand about why we hunt, they think it is all about the kill, but I beg to differ. Hunting is not about the kill, but rather all the things that come along with living the outdoor lifestyle. Hunting has influenced my spirituality and my career choices. It all started when my dad took me hunting as a little guy. So get a kid out hunting because you never know, you could be influencing the next director of Fish and Wildlife.

Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation.

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2	5	2	6	8	4	7	3	5	4	3	4	6
B	U	U	I	E	T	E	V	S	I	E	N	S
8	6	3	6	5	8	5	6	4	7	4	5	4
X	C	F	O	P	P	A	U	G	E	F	N	R
5	6	4	5	3	2	8	5	3	4	3	5	4
B	N	I	A	R	S	R	R	E	E	E	R	N
3	4	3	8	5	4	8	4	8	5	7	8	4
L	D	Y	E	I	S	S	H	S	E	C	I	I
6	8	4	5	2	5	2	8	2	6	2	7	2
T	V	P	R	I	S	N	E	E	F	S	H	S
6	7	2	6	7	2	7	2	6	2	7	6	7
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Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS [sic]
by Terry Stickels

Below are four squeezer puzzles.
Can you find the correct word to be placed in the middle of each to create two new words, one front-end, one back-end?

Here's an example of how it works:

ever G R E E N horn

1. news ____ away
2. eye ____ ware
3. pilot ____ wares
4. letter ____ room

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 12



New Visitors

A pair of purple finches came to my tray feeder to gobble up black oil sunflower seed. The male was beautiful with his red head, face and breast. They stayed for a couple of hours at dusk and even took time out from feeding to sing in a tree. Very nice.

E-mail: birdingbits@cflrr.com

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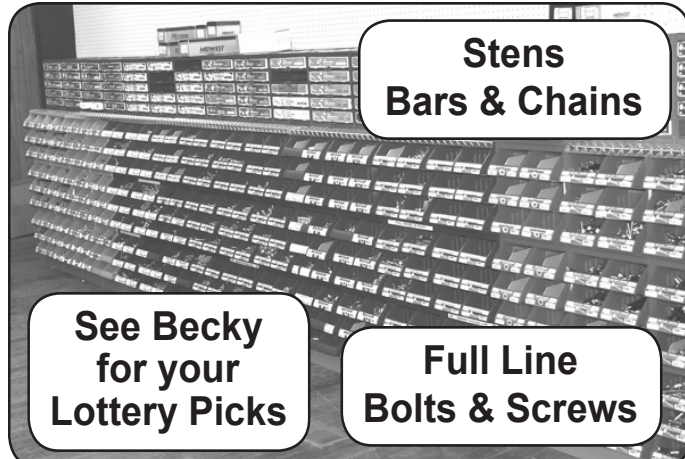
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