

EXPERIENCING DOVE HUNTING WITH NEIGHBORS & FEELING LIKE PRO'S!

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September seems to never get here quick enough when we are at the beginning of Summer, then before I can blink, I am hearing my husband talk about it being time to start cutting the corn and I realize DOVE season is approaching rapidly!

I always love Labor Day because I remember it gives us another day to hunt. Even if I were not off work already, I would take off to hunt on Memorial Day! As usual, I find myself tearing through all my hunting boxes and drawers to find those 12 gauge shotgun shells. I act like there is going to be boxes and boxes of them just waiting on me to

take them to the fields. But as usual, I go to the store the night before and have to pick through the shelves to find my particular brand and shot. I end up getting some mixed boxes and hope for the best.

I made plans to take my oldest son on opening day. The gentleman beside our farm actually invited us to come hunt with him and his friends. I thought well the gesture was nice, but I want to kill birds! Little did I know this would turn out to be a super nice time. We pulled up to tell him that we appreciate the kindness, but we would probably hunt on the upper side of the field that splits our prop-

erty.

Well, when we pulled up, we saw the most beautiful picture (to a hunters eye) there were about ten folks sitting on the front porch of this pretty house all dressed out in camo and this big stainless steel grill in the corner just pouring out smoke from some of the biggest slabs of steak you have ever seen. I looked at my son and said wow, what do we have here?! Of course we felt funny showing up at lunchtime, but one smell of the food and we were like zombies. Pete came over to us and said he would not hear of us leaving and so we said we would go home and get our gear and return.

My son BJ and I were giving each other high five's like we just walked into a sweet deal! We could hardly get our stuff together for thinking of the meal we were about to eat. Our meal on the other hand was going to be peanut butter crackers and a coke. When we returned we were introduced to all of Pete's friends and family and told to go inside and finish packing our plates. Little did we know there was more to the meal. There were the two sweetest ladies cooking inside and we have any kink of food you could imagine. They had a dessert table as well.

I looked at my son and said I wish we could videotape this and put it on the outdoor channel to show our good times. It reminded me of the Realtree Roadtrips! I said Waddell don't have nothing on us! We had a prayer at the



middle of our meal because there was so much going on, it just took awhile for everyone to settle down. It was the sweetest prayer I think I have ever heard. I could have listened to this gentleman pray all day! What a deal, a meal and a prayer, then off to shoot doves. Now, tell me what in life is better than that! Makes me want to write a country song!

We started up the hill of his property and he gave us a safety lecture and told us some general rules. I forgot how important it is to slow down sometimes and listen to good ole' advice. It was good my son heard it from some other adult, it made him pay attention. Still in disbelief of how we found the perfect hunt, we were off to our spot.

The doves were flying pretty good. My son shot and retrieved and I seemed to be shucking out more shells than birds retrieved. I was proud of my son, but frustrated at



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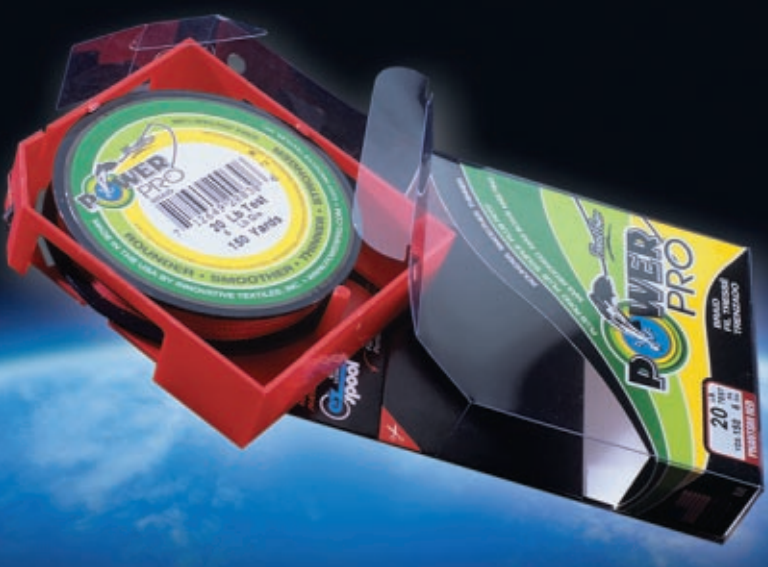
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myself. Pete would ride around some and ask us if we needed anything and I told BJ to at least put a dove or two on my side to look like I had a few. He laughed as he said "I almost have my limit"

He then took my gun and took my full choke out and I started hitting birds left and right. I never even thought about changing my choke to the improved choke tube. Funny how we get so excited that we can think pass the end of the barrel.

God was with us and we all had a wonderful successful day. Now let me ask you, how could anyone not want to dove hunt, is there anything better? Of course not.

As time is passing quickly we know we have to get home for the rest of the plans we had that evening then my son and I decided to clean the birds (rather than give them away). We sat down, he did all the cleaning and I soaked them, and then



cooked on the grill, it was a great time experiencing the whole hunt like we did. This is another memory to add to our hunting experience folder in our brain, and I think only BJ and I are the ones who know just how special it really was.



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