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Women with a Passion for Hunting & Fishing!

Hunting with Purpose



Story and Photo by Chelsea Tubridy

As someone who appreciates both reading and writing about hunting, I decided to check out some blogs about hunting the other night. Of course there were the blogs about preparing for the upcoming season and those showing off last season's bucks. But then I came across a poem written by an anti-hunter who appealed to the reader's emotions by describing a dead deer as orphaning her children and abandoning her family. The author also described that hunting is when, "Innocent animals get killed for fruitless hobby." The poem was accompanied by two photographs, one of a buck (a nice one at that) and a doe laying on the ground after being shot. Both photos came from Google which they gave credit for.

My first instinct was to comment on this poem and express my anger. But, I instead decided to write in defense of my sport.

First, deer do not have "families" as this poem suggests. Yes, does give birth to fawns after being impregnated by a buck, but you are not going to find a buck and a doe exchanging endearing kisses in the woods while they happily watch their offspring play amongst the squirrels and birds. No, a buck is going to do what comes naturally to it as an animal and move along. Yes, a doe's relationship with her fawn is strong and she will protect them. However, according to Tink's

(one of the largest manufacturers of scent bombs for hunting), does typically give birth in the spring and, "By fall, does have provided fawns with all of the skills necessary for survival." This means that right about the time hunting season comes in, fawns have been equipped with the necessary know-how on how to survive without their mother. So, what does this mean? If you kill a doe during hunting season (September – December in North Carolina), it is very unlikely that you will be orphaning a fawn as this is not a typical time for deer to give birth and most fawns have already reached self-sufficiency.

Second, I have huge problem when people want to argue that hunting is cruel or "Innocent animals get killed for fruitless hobby" as this author put it. A fruitless hobby? One kill of a decent sized deer will fill my freezer and feed my family for months—pounds and pounds of ground meat. I dare anyone to go to the grocery store and try to fill their freezer with ground beef for the same amount of money that I spend to have a deer processed—it won't happen. I can't tell you what a rewarding feeling it is knowing that you harvested, cleaned and prepared the food that you serve. People for centuries have hunted wild animals to provide for their families and hunting today is no different.

Yes, you will come across "trophy" hunters who are simply interested in harvesting the biggest buck or reaching some kind of goal. But, for the most part, the hunting community appreciates the fruit of their labor. I would also ask those who oppose hunting for meat, "Where do you think your hamburgers come from? How about your bacon?"

Hunting, despite popular belief, is an extremely humane way to kill an animal for its meat. These deer are free-range, uncaged, naturally eating animals that have never been fed hormones or herded around with tractors in order to somehow produce a better product. They are all natural, lean and clean meat.

Hunters work hard, spend a lot of money on their hobby and reap the benefits. Between determining what type of food plot to put out, what type of stand to sit in and what kind of scent sprays to use, the overall patience it takes to be a hunter is something that ought to be admired.

Finally, hunting is fun! I don't say that to mean that I get some weird rush out of taking an animal's life, but that the hunt itself is a blast.

