

by Rod Clark

Ok guys, its hunting season and we all know that our weekends are about to be spent in the outdoors away from home. What I am about to tell you is going to help you spend more stress free time in the field. What am I talking about? I am talking about earning your hunting time. This is directed to those of us who are married or have significant others. Every year when hunting season comes around we can't wait to get up early and get out of the house and into the field. I don't know about you, but my wife isn't too excited about this time of year. The way she sees it, if I am out hunting, then that means she is stuck doing chores and taking care of the kids. That's a pretty fair assessment. It's in our blood and we can't help it. I am going to share with you some simple ideas to help smooth over this whole process.

I recommend taking time to do things together either during the week or after you return from hunting. I found out about this one the hard way. After hours in the field I was exhausted and only wanted to come home, get a hot meal, a cold beer, and plant my butt on the couch to enjoy a ballgame. I soon found out that my wife didn't share the same enthusiasm for "doing nothing" that I did. Her perspective was that she had been home all day and now that I was back, we had things to do. I tried to distract her focus on my list of chores by telling her what a great hunt I had. Strike two! She doesn't care. So, long story short, after raking leaves for about two hours we cleaned up and headed out to dinner. This was a challenge in itself. By now I am so wiped out that I can barely keep my face out of my plate. I can't remember if I ordered the fish or the chicken. Where was I?? My point is that this whole thing could have been avoided had I planned ahead. The next week, I took the family out to dinner on a Tuesday night, helped out around the house, and took my wife to a movie on Friday. Guess what? I had nothing but love and hugs to come home to after the weekends hunt. Victory was mine!

Here's an idea, how about buying some flowers once in a while! There is no rule that flowers can only be purchased when someone dies, has a birthday, or is trying to kiss butt after an argument. Wives love flowers! Don't let them tell you they don't because they all do. It's a simple inexpensive way to tell them they are appreciated. It can carry a long way into a hunting season. In my house, a bouquet of flowers only carries about a week's worth of outdoor time so I have to get creative. I sometimes have to water them in front of her to show her how considerate I am in taking care of her beautiful bouquet. What I am really saying is "Hey honey, flowers equals hunting time right?" This generally goes over like a sliding door in a submarine. She can read through most of my techniques.

One of my favorites to use during hunting season is called the "weekend sacrifice". This is a simple process when done right can net you loads of time in the field. You simply watch the weather reports. We know that from time to time during the course of a season that bad weather shows up that we really don't feel like getting out in. Use these opportunities to your advantage! If you know that Saturday is going to be pouring down rain and the last place you want to be is your tree stand, simply tell your wife that you feel guilty for being gone all the time and would like to do something with her on Saturday. If you can sell your sincerity, this will be a big time score for you. This one will probably never work for me again as soon as it posts on the website.

The bottom line is this, sure, I joke around about this subject but in all honesty my wife and family make me happier than a 20 point buck! What I am trying to tell you is to please give some consideration to the ones who support us and put up with our crazy ritual of hunting year end and year out. Without them it just wouldn't be the same. To all of our female hunters out there, I didn't forget about you, I just figured that you were much better at this than me and probably already had your little bag of tricks down to a science. Until next time, this is Rod Clark saying so long and happy hunting!