

Town Topics

by Richard Craft, Supervisor, Town of Wawarsing

A Hunting We Will Go

The fever begins in early September and doesn't abate until mid-December. It builds in intensity until mid-November when it reaches its crisis and then slowly subsides. It is that seasonal malady called hunting season. It is during that time that men and women go into the fields and forests armed with shotgun, rifle, or bow to match wits with an often-times-smarter opponent. In most cases, the effort ends up as a draw, with the thought being that tomorrow will be a better day.

I will dispense with the rhetoric defending the constitutional right to hunt and the benefit hunters' dollars make in the preservation of our wildlife. Suffice it to say that the reason I like to hunt is because I like the taste of wild game. Be it rabbit, squirrel, pheasant, deer, or bear I know that it is antibiotic-free, low in cholesterol, and, besides that, it tastes so good.

As a hunter, I take very seriously my responsibilities of protecting and preserving wildlife for the generations to come. Therefore, I only shoot what I'm going to eat, which is just a small part of the entire wildlife food chain; and in the animal choices listed above there is an abundant population, so I don't have to worry about endangered species. This, in my way of thinking, is a true conservationist, the definition of which means the wise use of a resource.

All this aside, there is nothing more cleansing to the mind than to go into the woods, sit quietly under a tree, and watch nature play its role before your eyes. Oh yes, there may be the occasional nap in the fresh air but it always brings a resurgence of energy and alertness upon waking. It is a time to learn patience, as you can sit one, two, three hours in the same place waiting for your quarry to cross your sights. The therapeutic effects of being quiet and alone with your thoughts very often outweighs the benefits of "bringing home the bacon." For if you are successful in your hunt, the large game is then cause for some hard work. When you are alone in the woods, you leave behind the din of traffic and the concerns of business in general which can be very helpful to the psyche. As you rest your mind and body, you can begin to appreciate God's creation.

All this buildup is to make us aware that, each year, thousands of hunters view this region as their Number One destination. They come to spend their dollars in our stores, gas stations, and restaurants. The color orange will extend far beyond Halloween and will be worn proudly as a trademark of a heritage as old as this country.

The availability of thousands of acres of public lands in our township is the attraction. Our economy welcomes all sportsmen (and women), and it is not uncommon for the same hunter to return to this area for as long as they remain outdoorsmen. The amazing thing is that they never tire of it.

The "WELCOME HUNTERS" sign is out. The Town of Wawarsing is your Shangri-La.

The forests beckon you, and the balance of nature is further enhanced by your presence.

I can't wait; and in the excitement of opening day, I'm sure my wife will hear, at least once, "Dale, what did you do with my wool socks?"

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