

FALL HUNTING

Pop-up blinds a viable option for archery hunters

By **DOYLE DIETZ**

Sentinel correspondent

When Pennsylvania's statewide archery deer season opens Oct. 5, a lot of hunters will find themselves up a tree.

Outdoors television programs, newspaper features and magazine articles have created a subculture of bowhunters who would no

sooner think of hunting whitetail deer from anything other than a treestand than they would of hunting in anything other than the latest in camouflage clothing. Clearly, the most popular method to bowhunt whitetail deer is from an elevated stand, and being above the ground offers several advantages over — no pun intended — hunting from the ground.

Still, not every hunter thinks hunting 20 feet off the ground is a fun and enjoyable experience. And, even though the success rate for taking deer from the ground is much lower than hunting from a treestand, some older hunters — as well as individuals who simply do not enjoy hanging off a tree — prefer to hunt from the ground.

As a result, pop-up blinds

are gaining popularity among grounded hunters because, when used properly, they can make it easier to harvest deer and other big game animals. Pop-up blinds are lightweight, which makes them easy to transport, and most pop up in a few seconds.

Some hunters, however, who try pop-up blinds simply put them out on the edge of a field, climb inside and

then do not understand why they never see deer. If they do see a deer, it usually gives them a head bob, snorts, and does not present a shot opportunity.

Well, the problem is not the blind. It is not thinking through where to place it.

Most hunters who are successful at hunting from a ground blind do a variety of things to break up the outline of the blind. No one

knows this better than Bob Ransom, President of Ameristep. Ransom said when hunting from a ground blind for whitetails, hunters need to take the time to pile some brush around the blind.

“Regardless if a hunter leaves a blind out in the woods for a long period of time or puts it up and takes it

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Backpack

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is a crushproof-watertight case that can hold up to a 15-inch ultrabooks. It mimics a laptop case attached to the backpack.

A top compartment, which is commonly called a top-loader in backpack or hiking packs, clips and unclips, is quite large and offers a lot of room. It has various small compartments inside for smaller things such as pens, camera cards, keys, etc.

The bottom section has a removable divider that fits my lenses for my SLR digital camera and the camera itself. The dividers have

velcro straps and can be changed to the design of one's desire.

It fits like a hiking pack, with comfortable, padded shoulder straps, a lumbar support pad and a chest clip with a removable hip belt.

The bottom of the pack even has expandable storage, with small compressive storage compartments on the side - perfect for a bottle of water or allowing for a fast grab of a longer lens.

I love everything about this pack. The storage is perfect.

I find it to be a bit bulky and it can get a tad heavy. I wouldn't recommend one-strap usage because of its shape.

Although, once on, it

does form-fit to the body and provides a lot of comfort.

This thing can take a lot of wear-and-tear and keep on protecting my stuff.

I haven't tested the water tightness, I didn't really have any intentions on diving out of my kayak and getting soaked. But, I wouldn't have a doubt it does probably work.

It did sit out in a small rainstorm while I cast some lines on the dock of the St. Lawrence River. Everything in it stayed nice and dry.

The Pelican Elite Laptop and Camera backpack retails for \$304.95. It and other models can be found online at www.pelicanprogear.com.



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