

# It's time to camo up!

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Special Correspondent

As much as I try not to, each year I end up going into town the day before deer season opens for things I have forgotten.

A trip to the grocery store is always an experience that brings a smile to my face. The store is full of folks wandering the aisles dressed in camouflage. Their carts are full of deer camp necessities: beer, chips, eggs, bacon, steaks, ice and cigars. Do they need camouflage in the grocery store the day before hunting season? Of course they don't.

I used to have a Labrador retriever that could explain this practice. Her name was Annie. When I lived in Austin and hunting season was close,

my camouflage clothing was unpacked. Annie knew it was about that time. But when I put on my camouflage, Annie's tail started to wag at a high rate of speed, and when I headed to the door with my rifle case she started to dance and bark. She knew she was going hunting. It was her sign that the fun was about to start.

Hunters are the same way. Camouflage is their hunting uniform. When they don the camo, it is their first step into the world of relaxation, fellowship and their time away from work, the phone and other everyday distractions. It is their badge that shows the world they are hunters and proud they practice this time-honored tradition of our great country.

Camouflage is a marketing company's dream come true. Hunters

fall for all sorts of camo gizmos.

At the Shooting Hunting Outdoor Trade Show, the largest exhibit is that of camo giant Realtree. As I travel the aisles of the show, however, I see probably close to 100 other camouflage companies. They have camouflage patterns shaped like leaves, sticks, bark, moths, feathers, ducks, snake skin, marsh grass and, of course, the digital camo produced by a computer.

I have seen all sorts of things camouflaged, including toilet paper, baby doll pajamas, bikinis, house coats, re-

cliners and so many more I could not list them all. Some things I do not want in camouflage are my wallet -- I have enough trouble finding it when I lay it down -- and my pocket knife, because it usually ends up on the ground during field dressing.

My wife says when I die she is going to bury me dressed in camouflage. That is perfectly fine with me (like I will have a choice) because I am proud to be a hunter, conservationist and gun owner. Plus, you never know: Heaven just may have some big bucks.

## Come and get it!

### Venison Teriyaki

#### Ingredients:

1 cup soy sauce  
1 tablespoon brown sugar  
1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger  
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

Mix all ingredients together. Marinate venison steaks overnight with the mixture and grill. Baste meat with some of the reserved marinade while cooking.

Don't overcook! Serve with a rice dish.

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