

Father and Son Hunt

By Jeff Murphy

One of the things that we enjoy doing as part of our ministry is to take first time goose hunters into the field. On this particular morning we had our good friend Jon Konzelman along with first timers Russ and his son Andrew. Dave had talked with Russ in the summer about goose hunting and then we got to meet them at our Father/son weekend at camp.

We had scouted our field and found that a couple hundred birds were using it. After talking with the farmer we found out that another group of guys could possibly be showing up to hunt this field in the morning also, but he hadn't heard from them. Usually the rule is if you get to the field you want to hunt and other hunters beat you there then you leave and hunt somewhere else, so Dave and I decided to get there really early.

I couldn't sleep that night so I decided to head out to the field at 2:30 in the morning. The weather channel was calling for about a 30% chance of showers till around 7am. Well Dave and Konz showed up around 4 and we started carrying our gear across the field. As we were setting up here came the 30% chance of rain. At times it was a real downpour and the temperature was in the 40's. After we got set up we sat in the trucks to try and dry out and stay warm while we waited for Russ and Andrew.

The rain stopped and the sun started to break through as shooting time arrived. We all got down in our blinds and Dave went over safety rules and how we thought the morning would pan out. It didn't take long before we heard shots in the valley behind us on a neighboring farm, and we saw our first flocks of geese in the air. The wind had shifted on us a little so the first flock of birds came in at a slightly different angle than expected. Dave and I sat out the first flock but the guys knocked down several and we were off and running. The rest of the morning was spotty due to hunting pressure in the valley. It didn't matter too much though when we ended the morning one bird shy of our limit and made two new goose hunters. Russ even commented that it meant more to him watching Andrew shoot his first bird than it did to shoot his own birds. We took Russ and Andrew out again in the next season and had another great day and awesome time together.