

## { Tried And Tested }

**REALTREE TURNING 30**

Realtree is turning 30 years old. Can anyone believe that time has gone so quickly? Seems just yesterday a young man from Georgia named Bill Jordan began developing a pattern to be used as an ultra-effective camouflage and then, as never done before, made sure that the outstanding pattern was available on clothing that actually had a fit and feel and protected hunters from the elements. A lot has changed since those days, but some things have stayed the same too. The camo has evolved—all for the better—but the quality lines of products remain a hallmark of the Realtree brand. It is difficult to believe anything could replace Realtree's outstanding Max-4 camo for waterfowlers, but the new Max-5 is doing just that, establishing new waterfowl standards to obliterate the human outline. Realtree.com; 800-992-9968. JS

**Hard Working Dakota Decoys**

We go to a lot of work when we head afield for our annual waterfowl expeditions. Finding birds, getting on the X and making sure our storehouse of gear is in order and ready to deploy takes a lot of energy and forethought. The last thing we want to worry about is the look of our decoys. For that, we turn to Dakota Decoy. Not only does Dakota make super durable dekes with super durable paint jobs, but it also makes them in poses, flocking and painting that make them stand out as realistic to wary, working fowl. When it's crunch time, we know we've done all we can do to put ourselves in position for success. We want our decoys to do the same. When we're done, we know those high-density plastic birds will pack and trailer and be in good condition for the next go-round. Dakotadecoy.com; 605-624-3825. JS

**Hevi-Steel Shotshells**

I'm a lucky man. My situation is such that I enjoy a tad more waterfowl hunting—and shooting—than average. But a lot of shooting turns into a lot of expense. Hevi-Metal's Heavier-Than-Lead Hevi-Shot is no doubt the ultimate waterfowl killer, but it can get a bit pricey for a guy like me who does an inordinate amount of shooting. Enter Hevi-Metal's Hevi-Steel, a more economical, all-steel option with increased velocities for increased knockdown power. They're available in 3 ½- to 2 ¾-inch 12 and 3-inch 20 gauge, offering velocities from 1,550 fps (3 ½-inch 12) to 1,400 fps (3-inch 20) with plenty of KO punch for decoyed birds at less than 45 yards. I've put them to good use on everything from Saskatchewan honkers to Texas teal and have never found them lacking. Hevishot.com; 541-367-3522. CS



\* REALTREE  
MAX-5 CAMO



\* DAKOTA DECOY  
X-TREME MALLARDS



\* HEVI-STEEL  
SHOTSHHELLS