

# Thoughts revert back to turkey hunting

My buddy Anthony called me a few mornings ago. I knew he was deer hunting so I thought he had a big buck on the ground. He hadn't even seen a deer, the call was to tell me that he was listening to a tom turkey gobbling. Although not unheard of in the Fall gobbling is supposed to be a springtime activity. Spring or Fall it's still music to the ears of a turkey hunter.

I checked my trail cam and found 832 pictures, four of which were of deer.

I had raccoons, squirrels and quite a few turkeys, but hardly any deer. Every time the wind blows and a tree limb moves the motion sensor activated camera takes a picture. To make matters worse I sat on opening day of rifle season in a prime spot for almost five hours and didn't see a deer, not a trophy buck or a spotted fawn. I can't wait till turkey season.

The plan this coming Spring is to go out west and try to bring home a Merriam's turkey. If I can pull it off

I'll be three quarters of the way to a grand slam. A good resource for turkey hunting in faraway places is a National Wild Turkey Federation biologist. I've been in contact with Colin Smith, the biologist for the Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota area. Last year there were plenty of jakes in northern Wyoming and southern Montana, but

## Do It Outdoors



Wade Betts

not so many in South Dakota. There are lots of cabins for rent in South Dakota and almost none in Wyoming or Montana. We're talking big country so even though the three states border each other, me and my rental car, make that SUV, might have a

hard time commuting from home away from home to the turkey rich areas. Some

folks that travel to hunt hire a guide service and that helps a bunch. Me being a do-it-yourselfer and a little on the frugal side I'm not wanting to pay for a guide. To add to the dilemma most guide services are full service, room, board and meals included. Wifey can stay too, for an additional fee.

Part of what we want to do is to see the sights. The area has Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial Custer State Park as well as the Black Hills themselves. Planning a trip can be both

fun and frustrating. We've never been to that part of the world so just being there will be pretty cool. But I'm wanting a Merriam's. With luck, skill, planning and a homemade turkey call maybe I can pull it off.

If I have learned anything from hunting in NC's mountains it is that flatland lungs and legs don't cut it. So if you see me somewhere ask if I've been climbing lots of steps. One of my favorite things to do in a deer stand is to dream about turkey hunting.

## SCHOOL MENUS

### Perquimans Schools

Perquimans Central, Hertford Grammar

School, Perquimans Middle School.

■ OCT. 26: Breakfast: Yogurt and grahams, apple

half of juice. Lunch: Eastern BBQ on bun, cole slaw, broccoli dippers, diced pears, apple, milk. Grab and Go: Cobb salad or cold cut sub box.

■ OCT. 27: Breakfast: Nutri-grain bar, applesauce or fruit juice. Lunch: Popcorn chicken, Sun Chips, carrots and celery cups, banana, milk. Grab and Go: Grilled chicken salad or yogurt/cheese munchie pack.

■ OCT. 28: No meal service.

■ OCT. 31: Breakfast: Fruit muffin variety, applesauce or fruit juice. Lunch: Hot dog with chili on bun,

baked beans, sweet potato puffs, applesauce cup, milk. Grab and Go: Chef salad or yogurt/cheese munchie pack.

■ NOV. 1: Breakfast: Sausage biscuit. Lunch: Chicken quesadilla on wrap, seasoned white beans, lettuce and tomato trimmings, seasonal fruit, milk. Grab and Go: Chicken fajita salad or yogurt/cheese munchies pack.

■ NOV. 2: Breakfast: Fruit and yogurt parfait. Lunch: Pizza sticks with marinara dip, corn, glazed carrots, warm spiced pears, milk. Grab and Go: Cobb salad, cold cut sub pack.

### Perquimans High

■ OCT. 26: Breakfast: Yogurt and grahams, apple half of juice. Lunch: Eastern BBQ on bun, cole slaw, broccoli dippers, diced pears, apple, milk. Grab and Go: Cobb salad or cold cut sub.

■ OCT. 27: Breakfast: Nutri-grain bar, applesauce or juice. Lunch: Spicy wing basket, Sun Chips, carrots and celery cups, banana, mixed fruit, milk. Grab and Go: Grilled chicken salad or turkey/cheese wrap.

■ OCT. 28: No meal service.

■ OCT. 31: Breakfast: Fruit muffin variety, applesauce or fruit juice. Lunch:

Hot dog with chili on bun, baked beans, sweet potato puffs, applesauce cup, peach cup, milk. Grab and Go: Chef salad or bacon cheeseburger.

■ NOV. 1: Breakfast: Sausage biscuit. Lunch: Chicken quesadilla on wrap, seasoned white beans, lettuce and tomato trimmings, seasonal fruit, milk, pineapple tidbits. Grab and Go: Chicken fajita salad or cheeseburger.

■ NOV. 2: Breakfast: Fruit and yogurt parfait. Lunch: Pizza sticks with marinara dip, corn, glazed carrots, apples, milk. Grab and Go: Cobb salad, cold cut sub.

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