



# HUNTING Q&A



by DAVID E. PETZAL



**BEAR FACT:** Shrugs off beans.

*A man. I don't think they will do a lot to discourage a black bear, particularly a big one. I'd stick to pepper spray or rifled slugs.*

**Q:** I've had a deer cam set up all summer on a trail between a bedding area and a feeding area, and although I've photographed lots of does and fawns, I haven't recorded a single buck. Should I think about another spot for hunting season?

**A:** *Be of good cheer and don't move. Bucks don't run with does until the fall, but when they get horny they'll start to socialize. The rule is, where there are does, the bucks are sure to follow.*

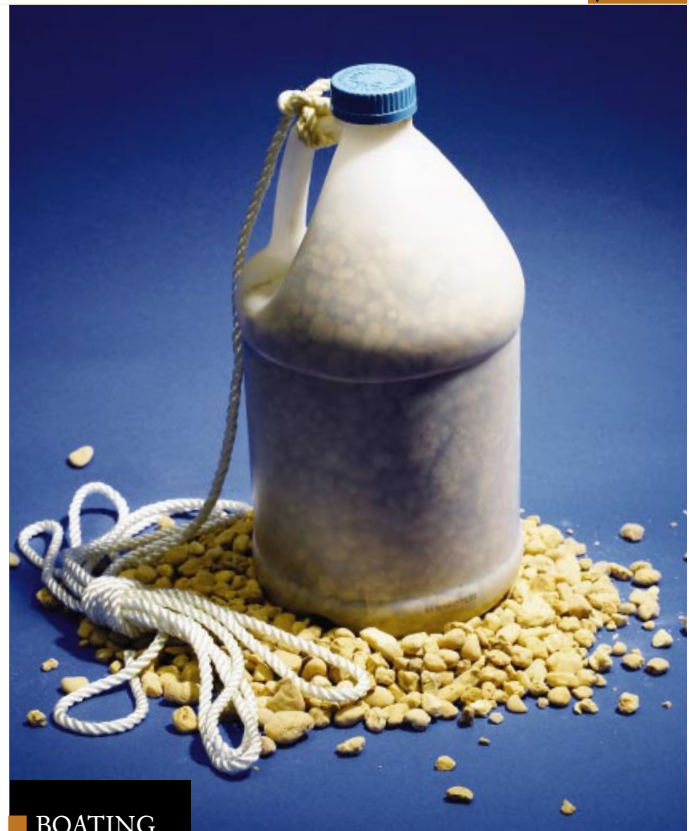
**Q:** Is it true that Weatherby once stocked its rifles with mesquite? Isn't that used for Tex-Mex barbecue?

**A:** *Yes and yes. From the late 1950s until the early 1970s, Weatherby stocked its godless and rock-shivering .460 magnum rifles with mesquite. It's extremely heavy and tough, which made it ideal for that use, but it's also very hard to find a mesquite blank that isn't full of knots. For that reason, Weatherby switched to French walnut for its .460s.*

● **SUBMIT QUESTIONS** to [fsonline@time4.com](mailto:fsonline@time4.com). Please include your name and address.

**Q:** I was recently on a trip in black bear country where the guide carried a shotgun loaded with beanbag ammo as protection. Do you recommend this?

**A:** *Beanbags are fine if you want to knock down*



BOATING

## LIGHTWEIGHT ANCHOR

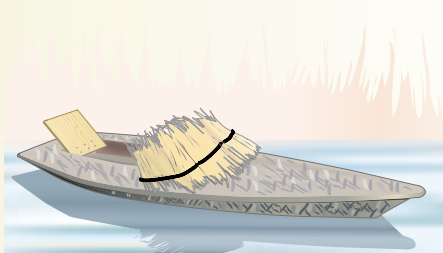
An oxymoron you can tie your boat to

■ When fishing from a kayak or a canoe, you often need to stop or slow your drift for a proper presentation. The problem is that carrying an actual anchor adds a lot of weight to your outfit, which is particularly annoying if you have to carry your craft to the water or make a long portage. One solution is to create an anchor on the spot, for which you'll need a 1-gallon plastic screw-top jug and some nylon anchor line. Once you arrive at your destination, fill the jug with sand or rocks from along the water's edge, tie it off to your boat, and hit the water. Before making a portage, or when you're done for the day, simply empty the container. —TOM KEER

## LAYOUT FOR LESS

Inexpensive sailcraft make great duck boats

Small day-sailboats—particularly Sunfish models—make ideal duck-hunting layout boats. Lightweight and seaworthy, day sailors can easily be towed behind a primary skiff, and their slim profile means they're much simpler to maneuver at 3 A.M. than standard layouts. Check local classified ads and Internet listings for used boats. You might also want to check in with a nearby beach or country club. They occasionally retire their older models during the off-season, and you may be able to pick one up for short money. Once you do, here's how to customize it:



[1] Paint the hull and boat according to your surroundings (sand-colored for beaches, hardwood patterns for oak stands). If you hunt a variety of different spots, you may want to cover the fiberglass with your favorite camo-cloth patterns. Paint the cockpit any generic camo color.

[2] Build a backrest out of marine plywood. Mine is 4x3 feet. I rest it against the top of the cockpit, and it rides at a 45-degree angle.

[3] Drill holes on the top of the boat and run bungee cords around the cockpit. Cut marsh grass or reeds and install them for natural stealth.

[4] Add gun hooks on the inside of the cockpit for easy and safe gun handling. —TOM KEER

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