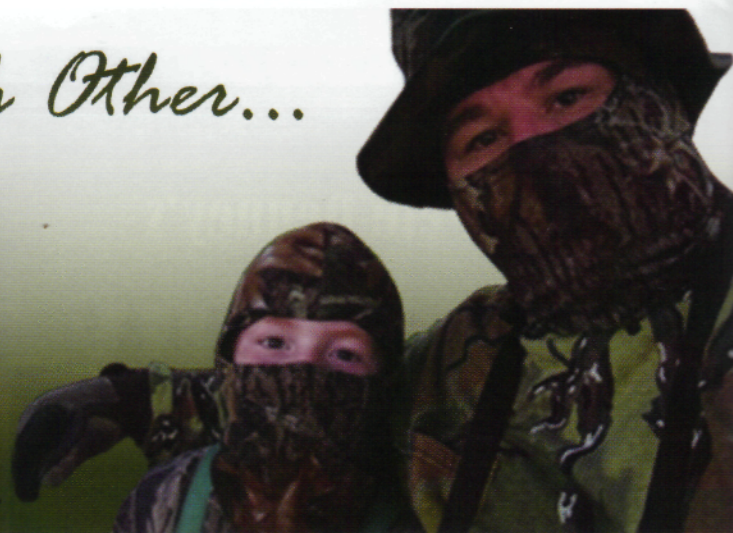


Watching Out for Each Other...



DONNIE RODRIGUEZ ★ DENA KANA

I have been bowhunting for many years now and have met many people with the same hunting interests. One thing I have noticed about many bowhunters is a willingness to watch out for and help each other.

Looking out for each other is a necessity especially since our hunting passion is being attacked by anti-hunters and anti-hunting groups. These people are constantly creeping around the internet looking for hunting pictures to steal and to use as part of their anti-hunting campaign, misleading other non-hunters and even breaking laws for their cause.

Recently, I fell victim to their anti-hunting campaign and their unlawful use of a photograph that I own.

THE DISCOVERY

As I was headed out to film a hog hunt for a friend of mine, I decided to take advantage of this great thing we call mobile internet access. After logging on and gaining access to e-mail and Facebook I noticed a message was sent to me by Dena Kana from the Lone Star Bowhunter Association (LSBA).

Dena told me that she had an invite on Facebook to a Hunters Group Opposing Anti-Hunting and as she was looking at some of the other anti-hunting groups, she came across a collage of pictures and believed that one of the pictures in the collage was my son. I decided to handle this matter after I got home where I had better resources at hand. When I got back home I looked at the picture and Dena was correct, that was my son's picture on a Facebook anti-hunting page, as well as on YouTube.

THE RESPONSE

My first thought was to attack whoever



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Colby with his first deer at age 8

Photo by Donnie Rodriguez

posted my son's picture. As a parent this was disturbing, yet I know that these people can and will use anything available to them to promote their cause.

Even though I was furious, I had to re-think my approach on handling this matter. I came to the realization that my approach is going to ultimately represent the whole hunting community, so I decided it was best to be positive, professional and use the law to combat my foe.

My first response to this person was, "You do not have permission to use this photo and am requesting you immediately remove it from your Facebook page and any other location which you have it posted."

Her reply was less than professional and

referred to my son as a "child wildlife serial killer" and, of course, other insults. The conversation ended with "You have proof that little sadist photos is yours?"

This was enough to send most folks over the top and my blood began to boil. I didn't want to play into her hand and at this point it was time to use some sort of psychology and facts.

My response was simple and went on to say, "I respect your views and how you feel about hunting without calling you names or insulting you. I would appreciate the same respect as I will give you. I don't want to try and change your mind about this topic. You have the right to express your opinions and beliefs in any manner you believe appropriate, for that I admire you and others like you.