



I was driving through Ohio yesterday when I got a message from Caroline asking the status of this article. This would be the article that I both forgot to pen and to submit! DANG! At least I

now knew what I forgot before leaving the house. I don't know what it is about the time leading up to a hog hunt, but my brain gets distracted with pigs and sometimes things fall through the cracks. Luckily for me I had my laptop in the car and 800 miles to think about things. As I reflected on my distracted mind I thought about an email I received; perhaps the two might be related.

There is a longbow shooting fellow up North whom I keep up with from time to time. We traded a few late winter messages recently about new longbows and the upcoming turkey season. A couple replies into the exchange he asked "So how are you doing with the Hogitis these days?" This cracked me up when I read it, it sounded so serious and very

The Parting Shot

clinical! I thought to myself "I wonder what the symptoms of Hogitis would be?" and I recognized a few right off the bat:

First sign; going afield on the opening day of deer season carrying a map of a swamp a thousand miles away and a notepad to scrawl notes into.

Second sign is hard for me to admit to, especially to this crowd; leaving the peak of rut up North to go hunt a marginal season for hogs down South.

Third sign is when as a Northerner you've finally made it to spring, and just in time for maple sap, morels, and turkey season; you pack up to go chase pigs in blistering heat.

I'm sure there are more that my friends have observed and could rattle off with some good laughs, but those above leave me scratching my own head. Perhaps "forgetting to write StickTalk article" could be number four on my list!

So if Hogitis is a real problem for some of us, what's the cure? From what I can tell there doesn't seem to be one. It's a bit more about managing the itch between hunts. Here are a few things that helped me though the past few months.

Perforate at line, send to address on back.

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I do find some comfort in living vicariously through other hog hunters who are afield. I thought it was fantastic that the very night I was presenting 2014 game awards; Jerry Keck was taking a Florida hog! I saw the picture and it looked delicious, huge congrats to Jerry on that one! A week later Donavan Watson took a trip to Oklahoma to try hogs for the first time in that state. He also scored on the hogs with his longbow! Looks like Game Awards 2015 should be off to a good start! I'll say no more as there could be future articles about the hunts, and as a Hogitis sufferer I really want to hear those stories!

I've tried to read some of the few books on the subject of hog hunting, and most of them have been amazingly disappointing. One afternoon I was thumbing through a 3 Rivers catalogue and saw a book that looked interesting so I decided to try again. The American Feral Hog by Tom Kidwell had good reviews so I bought a copy. I was amazed by

how great this book is! Thoughtfully laid out and easy to understand. The author goes through the history of hogs coming to the new world in great detail with tons of historical references. I spent most of my time rereading sections on habitat and behavior. Reading this book helped me understand the purpose in behavior behind some of my field observations.

There was also a story posted on Trad Gang titled "The Story of Kong" by Jerry Russell. It's a multiyear saga of a very accomplished hog hunter pursuing a particularly elusive boar. The story is extremely well written, there are some great pictures in there. If you search for the title and the author it should come right up.

I will close up this issue with this: I apologize if this article isn't as polished as usual. The sun is now coming up on my first morning in hog camp, and I have a serious condition to attend to!



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