



“That moment was a chance encounter that both of us will remember for many years to come....”Matt Blodgett with his first Tom

Hello Dave, from your website it looks as though you have been having a successful and enjoyable spring turkey season so far this year. I have a great story for you about a successful hunt and beginning of a new friendship.

Saturday April 6th, I was set up on a field well before sunrise on the eastern side of Fort Riley. I was there so early in fact that I started to drift off to sleep waiting for the sky to lighten up. I was startled awake by the sound of someone's voice just outside of my blind. A guy pokes his head through the window and says, "Hey buddy, have you hunted this field before?" I was expecting the guy to be upset that I had set up in his spot but I was quite wrong.

He then proceeds to tell me that he hunted the same field a few days earlier, and that I was set up on the wrong side of the field.

He then offered to show me where the Tom's entered the field on his hunt. I was extremely surprised that he not only was willing to give me his spot, but he also recommended we combine our efforts and hunt from the same blind.

After getting set up, we had a little time to chat and get to know each other before it was even light enough to see each other's faces. Matt Blodgett was his name, and just happens to be a pilot in the aviation brigade where I also work.

Most of Matt's hunting experience has been with you chasing fall turkeys this last season. We hit it off right away and were talking like old friends when we were interrupted by a group of hens entering the field followed shortly by a nice tom in full strut. Matt had told me that he had never successfully harvested any game yet in his short hunting career.

I was set up for the better shot at the tom, so I told him to switch positions with me so he could hopefully put his first tag on an animal.

After an intense 15 minutes of watching him slowly make his way to our decoys, Matt let his arrow fly. It found its mark on the Tom just slightly low of the vitals.

I was able to get out of the blind and put one more shot on the tom where he was hunkered down in the brush just outside of the field. It was an exciting moment for the both of us that could not have happened without the generosity and fine sportsmanship that Matt showed.

That moment was a chance encounter that both of us will remember for many years to come. We fully intend to continue combining our efforts and hunting together for the rest of the season. Hopefully I will soon put a tag on my first archery turkey!

I wish you much luck during the rest of the season David. It sounds like you have been busy sharing your knowledge with several hunters you have been guiding. Hopefully you can find time to get a spring gobbler of your own. Happy hunting!

Lucas