

Pocket Camera Valuable Tool on Hunts

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The pocket instamatic camera may not be a good choice for traditional wildlife photography, but they're great for "capturing the moments" of the hunt. Small 35mm instamatics don't have the zoom capabilities necessary to take a picture of a buck at 50 yards, but they're more than adequate for capturing related hunting scenes.

The single most important ingredient to getting a good photograph is to have your camera with you at all times, and one of the small 35mm cameras is no bigger than a pack of cigarettes. There's no reason not to have it in your shirt pocket when the special moment arrives.

Digital cameras have become common in recent years. Some special tips for those sporting the new cameras.

Digital cameras go through batteries like turkeys go through deer corn, so always take extra batteries with you. Also remember that some of the special camera batteries aren't always available at small-town convenience stores."

Scenes for the taking include the hunting camp, blinds, buddies, Fall's colorful foliage, and of course the trophy of the hunt. Photographers should consider how to make every effort to capture hunting "in a good light" when posing shots with their day's bag.

Avoid the 'tailgate kill scene' where the dead deer is sprawled half out of a pickup bed, tongue lolled out, and blood everywhere. Take your photographs while afield, before field dressing the animal. Clean yourself and the animal up to dispel the image that hunters revel in blood. Shoot lots of film, varying the position of the hunter and photographer. Using a fill flash is recommended for at least some of the shots.

Finally, consider your audience when showing photographs of the hunt, especially those displaying dead animals. Respect the fact that some people don't hunt and that the sight of a dead animal may be offensive to them.