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# ADVENTURESS<sup>TM</sup>

FALL 2017 | ISSUE

HUNT. FISH. RE. LIVE.

Malory  
Owens

FALL  
FIGHT

BROWNS,  
KINGS AND  
STEELHEAD

+DIAMONDS IN  
THE ROUGH

## Waterfowl<sup>her</sup>

SETUP TIPS FOR GOOSE HUNTS



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Shaienne Ganey





# editor's note

## HUNTING, DREAMING, FAILING

I can't even say it was a dream come true really... because what happened to me this deer season was more than I honestly ever dreamt for myself. Hunters are big dreamers, yes. It's impossible not to get carried away dreaming of big bucks



to some point. My husband and I have had a spot picked out in our house for years now that one day our 'big ones' will go there. My life goal was to make it to the 170-inch class with my bow someday. But I never imagined a 'buck of a lifetime' would happen to me, especially now.

I don't think of this any less than an absolute blessing from God,

and I reflected upon this after about how I got to this point.

I always looked at hunters with bucks like this and thought, "How did they do it? I would fall out of the tree!" It's such a good feeling to prove someone wrong who has underestimated you, but sometimes I think we underestimate ourselves the most.

Also in this reflection, I came to the simplified conclusion that hunting is really about failing. If you think about it, we go out time after time without a successful harvest. At times it can even seem you just like to torcher yourself (laughs)! But still, you just keep at it until that ONE TIME you succeed. That's hunting for you. And that's why we love it and are addicted. You can never perfect it, you can never finish it, you can never know everything.

So keep dreaming, keep failing and, most of all, keep being passionate. You truly never know what is about to happen.

*Jennifer Pudenz*

## ADVENTURESS

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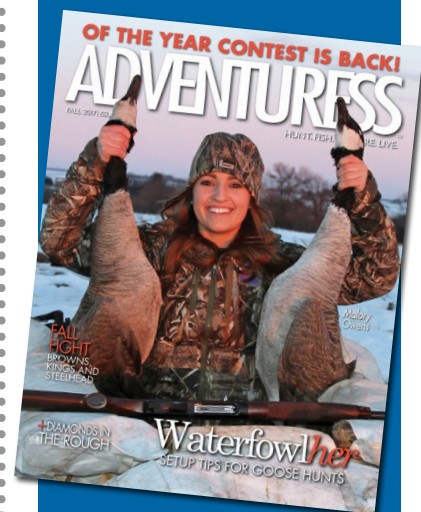
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## on the cover



Cover featuring  
Malory Owens. Check  
out her bio on page 8!



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Cover Girl

# Malory Owens



Meet 22-year-old **Malory Owens** from southeast Minnesota! Malory has been on countless waterfowl hunts across the nation, and her, her dad and her younger brother are all **Avery Outdoors** and **Banded** pro-staffers avid about waterfowl and enjoy guiding charity hunts together!

Malory was brought up in an outdoor lifestyle, riding in the fishing boat even before her first birthday and harvesting her first turkey at only 10 years old. She says being brought up in the outdoors has given her an amazing appreciation for wildlife.

While she pursues her aspiration to become a dentist, having graduated from Winona State University with a B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology and currently applying to dental school, it is also one of her biggest goals in life to share her passion of the outdoors with others, including youth. Way to go, Malory!





## +Past Issues



<< Lots of great information in last year's fall issue of ADVENTURESS magazine - pheasant hunting, recipe, mock scrapes, crankbaits and more!

Did you miss the last issue of ADVENTURESS magazine?! Check it out! >>



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FALL







## Shaianne Ganey

Featured  
photographer

### GOLD RUSH

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Elbert Creek  
Trail at Purgatory  
Resort, Colorado*

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Wa





# terfowlher

## *Tips on getting birds to finish all season long*

**By Malory Owens**

*T*here is nothing more frustrating than putting in extensive work leading up to a goose hunt only to have flock after flock pass you by. After years of hunting these birds, I have come to the conclusion that successful goose hunters do the little things right. Paying close attention to the details can leave the geese with no choice but to lock up right in front of you. I have broken down some key aspects of the hunt for you with helpful tips and tricks for successes.

### **EARLY SEASON HUNTING**

While it may be tempting to give the geese everything you have at the beginning of the season, it is important to keep in mind how you are educating the birds. Shooting into a flock is not the only way birds become educated. Showing them the quality and quantity of decoys you use, how you set up those decoys, your calling style and flagging are all ways to let the birds in on your hunting style. The takeaway point here is that less can be more in the early season. Don't show them all of the tools in the toolbox, if it isn't necessary to do so.

Ways you can avoid educating birds early on



# HUNT.

in the season can be anything from using a smaller decoy spread consisting of lesser-quality decoys to only calling and flagging when it is absolutely necessary. Respond to what the birds are telling you. Don't show them more than you need to harvest a limit.

## WHAT CAN GEESE SEE?

To fully understand what the geese are seeing when they fly over your spread, we need to delve into their anatomy. Geese not only have substantially better vision than humans (two to three times better, in fact), but the anatomy of their eyes also enables them to see certain colors (reds, greens, yellows and blues) more vibrantly. Being hyper vigilant about minimizing any unrealistic aspects of

your spread can be the difference between a flock locking up or flaring.

This means picking up any empty shells or candy wrappers (I can't be the only one who packs chocolate in my blind bag) laying in the field, wearing facemasks or face paint to conceal your rosy cheeks, and making sure there is zero shine anywhere in your spread. A good self-check would be to have one person in your party walk out several yards in front of your spread, while the rest of you cover up in your blinds. If your buddy spots something that sticks out, it will stick out even more to the geese.

## BLEND YOUR BLIND

A good first step in upping the realism







Photo courtesy of Nathan Bender.

of your spread is blending your blind into your surroundings. Whichever type of blind you are using, your goal is to make it nearly impossible for the geese to pick you out of the field from their point of view. Pit blinds, or underground blinds, are great because you can completely disappear in a field. However, they are in a permanent location that cannot be changed throughout the season.

Ground blinds are a mobile alternative that requires some extra thought to hide effectively. The first thing to consider, even before the morning of your hunt, is to eliminate any shine on the blind. A permanent solution is to dust them with just enough brown or black spray paint to eliminate shine. A more natural solution is to rub them down with mud,

preferably from the field you plan to hunt, if conditions allow.

Next, you want to stubble your blind to help break up its outline as well as blend it in to its surroundings.

## **THE FIRST THING TO CONSIDER, EVEN BEFORE THE MORNING OF YOUR HUNT, IS TO ELIMINATE ANY SHINE ON THE BLIND.**

A good first step is to use *Avery KillerWeed*, which is a dyed raffia grass. This grass can be used alone or as an excellent base layer in addition to natural stubble. Then the best way to get your blind

to disappear in the field is to gather stubble (corn stalks, grasses, bean stalks, etc.) directly from the field you are hunting. This will give you the most realistic and natural look possible. A noteworthy tip is to gather the stubble away from your spread to avoid creating bare spots around your blind. Your goal is to make your spread look as undisturbed as possible.













Something geese can see that you may not think about are the shadows cast by the blinds. Even when blinds are perfectly stubbled and blended into the natural surroundings, the shadows will show up as big black spots in the field pointing right to where you are hiding. There are a few tricks to avoid this as much as possible.

You can dig the blinds down into the ground, if the landowner will allow you to do so (always make sure you replace the dirt when you are done hunting for the day). If this is not an option, you can put all of the blinds close together and put piles of natural stubble

between them as well as off the end where the shadow would be. Keeping the little details in mind when it comes to blending your blinds in will really stack the odds in your favor.

## **KEEPING THE LITTLE DETAILS IN MIND WHEN IT COMES TO BLENDING YOUR BLINDS IN WILL REALLY STACK THE ODDS IN YOUR FAVOR.**

## **TRAILER FULL OF DECOYS**

As previously noted, if you are hunting in the early season, sticking to a smaller spread is probably best. As the season progresses, a larger spread can help to convince the birds your field is where they need to be. Scouting the field you plan to hunt the night before is very helpful in creating a realistic spread. It's important to make mental



notes on how the birds look in the field while scouting and copy that the next morning. Keep in mind geese in real life are not evenly spaced throughout the field. Realism is random.

## DIRECTION OF THE WIND

In almost every case, geese land into the wind. Utilize this piece of information when setting up your blinds as well as decoys. You want the geese to lock up in front of you rather than behind you, so make sure your blinds are facing with the wind. For example, if the wind is coming from the west, the geese will likely land coming from the east. Set your blinds up so they are facing east.

## FLIGHT PATH

Geese usually fly from their roost to the field they feed in (often called the “X”). It

is important to know if the field you will be hunting is in between the roost and the X (this is called “running traffic”) or if you are on the X. If you are running traffic, you need to up your game.

Think of it this way, you are at home and wake up from an afternoon nap craving some pizza. You get in your car and are on your way to your favorite pizzeria. Between your house and the pizzeria there are several other places to eat, but you would need some real convincing to stop somewhere else since you have pizza on your mind. Geese are the same way.

To pull a flock away from their original flight plan, you may need a bigger spread with great motion, more aggressive calling and flagging. You need to do all of the little things perfectly to convince them your field is where

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they need to be. If you are lucky enough to be able to hunt the X, you are where the birds want to be, so just don't do anything to mess it up, and you should have a very good hunt.

## TALK THE TALK

When calling, the most important thing is to be receptive to what the birds are telling you. If the wing tips are locked, continue what you are doing to keep them locked on you. However, if you notice their wing tips start to move, you need to adjust your calling in some way to re-center the flock.

Learning what the birds want is an acquired skill that takes practice and experience. The best thing for you to do is listen to live geese and be able to replicate the sounds they are making. Knowing when to use these sounds in the field will come with time and experience with live birds.

## FINISHING TOUCH

Another useful tool to use in the field is a flag. When you drive past a field loaded with

geese, you will notice them get up and stretch their wings. This motion is noticeable even from far distances. This is the kind of motion you are trying to replicate with a flag.

To do this, take the flag by the handle, lift it off of the ground, shake it a few times and set it back down. The flag can be used to get the attention of a flock that is a ways away or to bring back a flock that is sliding off to the side of your spread. This can add realism to your spread and it can be the key to a successful hunt.

Geese are tricky birds to figure out, but that just makes a successful hunt even more rewarding. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to grow up in the goose field and even more grateful to share some tricks I use in the field with fellow women hunters. Whether you have never stepped foot in a cornfield before or are a seasoned goose hunter, I hope you found some take-away points here. Happy hunting!

*Malory Owens is pro-staff for Avery, Banded and GHG. Check out her bio on page 8!*







A woman in full-body camouflage gear, including a beanie and a tactical vest, stands in a marshy field. She is holding a dead duck by its neck. The background is a blurred landscape with water and bare trees.

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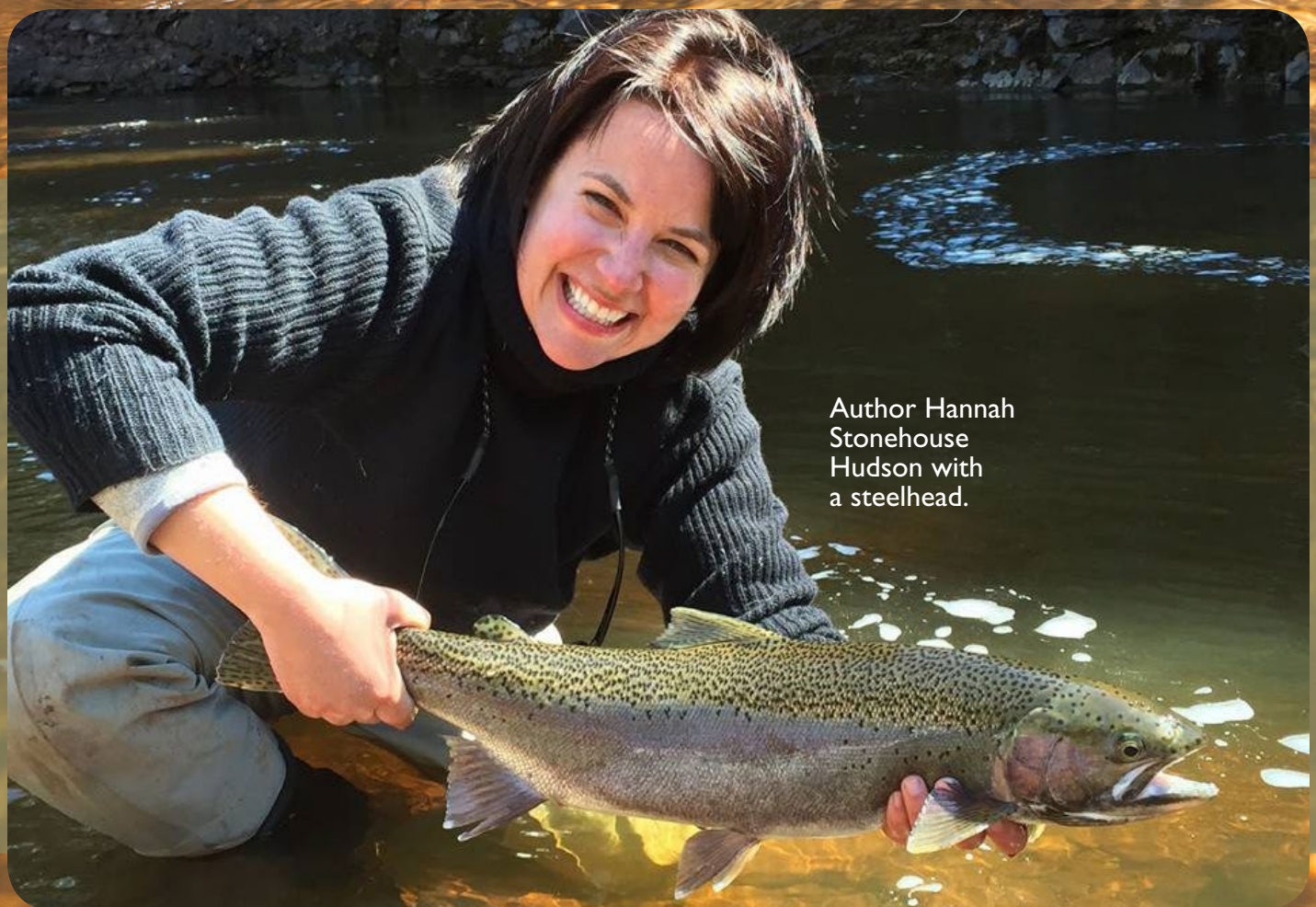


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# Fall Fight

Get in on the running action of browns, kings and steelhead



Author Hannah  
Stonehouse  
Hudson with  
a steelhead.





By Hannah Stonehouse Hudson  
Photos by Chris Lavalley

Want some of the strongest fighting fish with some of the fastest fishing action of the year? Try fishing for brown trout, king salmon and steelhead in the fall. Some of these fish are huge pigs, some are of the smaller variety - but all fight like crazy!

### **WHERE TO FIND THEM**

If you are lucky enough to live near a Great Lake or by one of its tributaries, you will be in for a treat of epic fishy proportions. The run of browns, kings and steelhead all happen around the same time all along the shores of those lakes - especially Superior and Michigan - and they can be absolutely huge fish. Some are huge thanks to being full of eggs and some are huge thanks to genetics.





Barb Carey  
with a  
steelhead.

All of the fishing is accessible by wading or from shore, so it is not necessary to have a boat to reach them, and there are ample places to walk-in. Most state DNR websites have maps on their websites of where to access fishing spots.

If you are not in the Great Lakes area, fall runs happen wherever there is a fish population needing to move from a larger body of water to their stream spawning grounds (though some also run in the spring as well). Check out your state's DNR website for run information.

## WHEN TO FISH FOR THEM

The fall run for salmon in particular is

very dependent on weather. They traditionally start in September, but warmer air temps and/or lack of rain will delay the run by a little bit, and cooler temps and/or increased water levels will start the run a bit earlier. The fish need fast running water and deeper levels of water to move up the tributaries into their preferred grounds.

Every year is slightly different, and many fishing groups keep each other updated online (especially on Facebook). Don't be afraid to ask other anglers what they have seen. The fish will always be moving in September and October (even into November some places), but finding the big numbers of fish is all a matter of timing it right.



## HOW TO FISH THE FALL RUN

Fishing in the fall can be a great time for some huge fish, but timing it to when they are actually interested in spoons, baits or skein can be a challenge. Most are not hungry - the majority of them are actually not interested in eating when they spawn. What causes them to bite is instinct. You want to either trigger their instinct to strike with a lure presentation that catches the fish's attention - or you want to trigger their instinct to eat salmon spawn.

There are a few ways an angler can trigger these instincts, and the following is a general overview of two very specific fishing techniques. The fun and frustrating thing about fall fishing is that one technique will work, but then suddenly it will not. All of it depends on timing, temperature, fish behavior, spawning activity, water levels, barometric pressure, etc.

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The advertisement features a collage of several ODU Magazine covers. The top cover is the 'Spring to Summer Transition Fishing Edition' for May/June 2015, showing a man holding a fish. Other covers include 'Soft Plastic Time', 'Summer Fishing Continues' for July/August 2015, 'Late Summer Fishing' for Aug-Sept 2016, 'Catching Trophy Bass 101', 'Walleyes In Small Rivers', 'The "HOOCH" Below Lake Lanier', and 'Sandy Toes & Salty Beaches'. The collage also includes images of various fish and anglers.



# FISH.



## SKEIN IN THE CURRENT

Salmon or trout eggs are one of the most effective baits for enticing salmon, steelhead and trout to bite. These egg clusters are called skein. The skein you use for bait can be fresh, cured or it can be an artificial presentation that is purchased. Curing the skein allows you to store the eggs clusters in the refrigerator for a month or freezer for up to a year.

When spawning fish are active in the streams, rivers, shoreline or harbors, they will often ignore all other baits and lures. On either a fly or spinning combo, attach a small bag of skein with a sinker and either a bobber or strike indicator. Cast it at the top of the current, allow it to follow down with the current and move past you. This



Egg clusters of the fish are called skein and are used for bait. Pictured here is right after they have been removed from a fish.

can trigger an instinctual bite as well as a territorial bite.



## CASTING SPOONS

Using a spoon like an *Acme Little Cleo*, cast to the top and a little above the running water current. Reel the lure in toward you so it follows with and across the current. This can trigger an instinctual bite when it flashes by them in the water.

These techniques can be done from shore or from a boat. I tend to prefer the shore or wading. Seeing those big browns up close as they go by you upstream is an incredible experience, especially when they unexpectedly hit your waders as they go by!

*Hannah Stonehouse Hudson of Wisconsin is a photographer, writer and speaker with a love for dogs and fishing. Follow her on Facebook @HannahStonehouseHudson.*



A flashing silver spoon, like an Acme Little Cleo, in the current can trigger an instinctual bite.

Skein after the egg clusters have been processed.







# DIAMONDS *in the* ROUGH

Protecting your rings as an outdoor woman

By Jennifer Pudenz

I wouldn't wish it upon anyone. Marriage can be hard enough at times, so to lose such a precious symbol of it... and so expensive it's not easily replaceable... can be an extreme hit to the gut. I'm talking about losing the main diamond out of your wedding ring, which happened to me this summer, or losing your ring itself.

As an avid outdoor woman, I put my ring through A LOT from hunting, fishing, gardening, chores and everything in between - I wore it through the dirt, sweat and blood of it all. And I was so proud of that. I felt like it reflected me - like the diamond is still a diamond through the mud as I can be a woman in the outdoors. And looking back on photos and videos, it was in all of my adventures. I loved that, and I can't help but cry just writing about losing it.

That fear of something happening was always there. It is just one of those things I was careful about and hoped it would never happen. I thought this was something that didn't happen a lot. However, after it was too late, similar stories came out of the woodworks from my family. I guess it's one of those common bad things we just don't talk about a lot. I hadn't myself.

I looked for a way to take anything positive out of this. So that is why I finally did choose to write about it, hoping it might save someone else from going through it.



## THAT FATEFUL DAY

It was one of those freak accidents where usually I wouldn't be there, doing that, but so many odd ball things had to play out a certain way for this to happen. Then my hand got hit hard, and I usually always check my ring after something like that, but I had my hands full so I couldn't. Once I could, I had forgotten and gone on with my day. Then I came into the house to wash my hands, and I felt a snag on the hand towel. I looked down and the large diamond from my engagement ring was gone. Yelling out and dropping to the floor, I immediately felt I would never see it again.

## FORGIVING YOURSELF

"This won't be your last tragedy in life," my grandpa said to me.

I sighed. While I knew this was true, it still wasn't what I wanted to hear at the moment. But this is how I reflected upon this happening to me... while it hurts, there's so much worse that could happen. In today's messed up world, while it feels major and is a major symbol, it's not a real tragedy as it's still a 'thing.' Certainly don't fight with your spouse about it and don't blame yourself. Bad things happen and it's all how you react and bounce back.

## IF IT HAPPENS TO YOU

First of all, stop and write down everything you've done until the last time



you know you had your ring on or intact. Even though you might not realize it, we

**I LOOKED DOWN AND  
THE LARGE DIAMOND  
FROM MY ENGAGEMENT  
RING WAS GONE ...  
I IMMEDIATELY FELT I  
WOULD NEVER  
SEE IT AGAIN.**

look down and see that ring lots of times in a day. So that's great you might have a small window of time you're working with. Mine was a pretty small amount of time, but unfortunately, I had been outside and

moved around quite a bit already.

If you're dealing with a whole ring instead of just a loose diamond, then you have a considerable edge at finding it.





Retrace your marks and get a metal detector if needed.

## **EXTREMELY LIGHT**

Researching about how to find diamonds, I came to find they are pretty tricky. Apparently, diamonds bounce like crazy. So much that even diamond handlers have major problems with them. So expect your loose diamond to bounce way farther than you could ever imagine and be hiding somewhere you'd never think possible.

Diamonds are also very light. While we checked the drain trap in the sink, I

do wonder if it flushed passed the trap. However, there are many stories of diamonds being a magnet for grease and they can stick to the sides of drains. So if you were at a sink, make sure to check all around the sink, the trap and also the pipe leading to it.

## **REFLECTIONS**

We love diamonds because of their ability to reflect. So use that to your advantage. Whether looking inside or outside, try every kind of different light you can find and try every kind of angle you can come up with. I lost my diamond during the daylight, so we looked in the sunlight, but we also used flashlights at night trying to catch a sparkle.

Another thing I hadn't known about diamonds is some actually have a bright blue glow under black lights. Not all of them - it's completely random, but if you look on your diamond report, it will usually say if it has some of this or not under a fluorescence category. While we still tried black lights, my papers showed my diamond only had a faint fluorescence. However, if you're buying a diamond, now you might want to choose one with that characteristic!

## **CUT GRASS**

If you lost your diamond or ring outside and have tried everything with no luck, next start marking sections off and cutting the grass back, preferably by hand, one section at a time. While I was able to limit myself to a pretty small area outside, in comparison to finding something small like this, it was still too much space. Still, I tried my best - feeling like I was losing my mind though as I spent a couple days out in the yard on my



knees cutting grass with a pair of scissors. My hands were full of blisters, but it's one of those desperate attempts.

## VACUUM COLLECTION

If you're searching in your house and still have no luck, start vacuuming. Vacuums can pick up diamonds and then search through the dust collected. For a month or so after the incident, we put all vacuum collections in a bucket in our basement so that we could later sort through it in case it turned up.

## IT CAN SHOW UP

While I immediately felt I would never see my diamond again, and so far it's still not turned up, there are many success stories.

A lot of people do have their diamond turn up a few days later. And I actually ran across a couple stories of 50 years later. Yep. A lady was gardening and lost her diamond. Her and her family searched everywhere in the flowerbed next to the house. Fifty years later, when the now elderly couple was selling the house, the daughter found it in the dirt.

Another one was a local story that popped up on the news actually soon after my incident. A woman lost her wedding ring in her house. Fifty years later now as an elderly woman moving out, a young couple bought the house and remodeled the kitchen finding it hidden behind the sink from when the woman took off her ring to do dishes. The young couple returned it to her. So know, it's still possible, even years later.



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## PROTECT THEM

I had some people tell me, “Oh, well, your home insurance should cover that.” Actually, we found that to be a pretty false feeling of safety. When I first had the ring, we looked into getting it added to our home insurance; however, they wanted us to take it to a couple places for appraisal (which I thought was weird since we had just bought it and had papers for the diamond and rings) and we had to pay extra monthly.

As long as I didn’t lose the ring and I took it into the jewelry store I bought it at every six months for a checkup, then my diamonds, any repair and cleaning were covered. So we chose to just go through the jewelry store. I kept up with this for the first six or so years, but life gets busy and I went passed my six months. So after something happens past the every six-month checkup, you must cover the cost to replace diamonds.

Once my diamond was lost, people still thought my home insurance would help. It didn’t. And even if we had it insured, there were some things about it only replacing the whole ring and not just a diamond, only replacing if stolen and not lost, and only covering \$1,500 with a \$500 deductible, so it would only help you out in the end for \$1,000 on a ring that’s worth quite a bit more. And there’s a point when if you pay extra to insure it every month for years and years, then you may pass the actual value of the ring in the first place.

I also found the every six-month checkup for the ring to be not very handy. In this age of so much technology, I still had to keep all my check up paperwork on little cards that I had to have with me every time and not lose or I’d lose any coverage. There were many



Taylor Drury was just recently engaged with this absolutely amazing ring! I’m sure Taylor will take good care of it, but I hope she’ll wear an active ring for the outdoors.

times I was around the store, but didn’t have my paperwork so I couldn’t check my ring in. Why is this not digital for customers?!?! Probably because the company knows they’d have to cover more cost from better-kept paperwork then!

You also have to watch your jewelry store





Groove Thin in Lilac.

doesn't end up moving or closing, which ours just did - making the coverage even harder to withhold.

So I really still have not figured out what the best option is to protect your ring in this kind of way. Make sure you look into the fine print of all your insurance and jewelry store options. And if you're like me and go through the jewelry store plan, take your ring off and wear an alternative if you go past the protected amount of time until you can get it up to date again.

I felt SO STUPID after this happened. It was such an obvious thing after the fact - how could you have something so expensive be put through everything you do and not have it protected! However, life is so busy and everyday things like this easily get pushed to the side. It's easy to see things like this once it's too late.

Like a stick in my side after the fact, I

had actually been meaning to get my ring checked. Looking back it's almost like I felt something was going to happen because I had forgot it for so long and all of a sudden for a month before kept thinking I had to get my ring checked. I had a Post-It Note stuck to our door to do that the next time we were in the city, it just didn't work out for us. Trust your gut when you feel things like that. And again, if you're overdue - take it off until you can get it protected. The following are some alternatives you could have handy. I wish I would have had one so I wouldn't have felt bad to take off my ring at the time.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

There is just no way we're going to spend that kind of money to replace my diamond anytime soon. However, know if this happens to you, there are some alternatives. There are look-alike, or faux diamonds, that



most people don't have the eye to tell the difference from real diamonds. They can run less than \$100 (white topaz, white zircon, cubic zirconia) to a few hundred dollars (white sapphire) to a couple thousand dollars (moissanite), depending on the size and cut. Of course they still don't measure up to real diamonds, but this is the alternative I'm looking into for now so at times I can still wear my rings.

Talking with others, I actually found out that diamond rings that are worth TONS of money, actually often also have a fake look alike for the women to wear those on a regular basis while the real expense is kept safe. I didn't know that!! Looking into this, there are a lot of cheap rings that can look like real wedding rings. We honeymooned in a third world country and as much as I didn't want to take off my rings, I didn't feel safe enough to travel with them. But then I felt like we weren't seen as honeymooners in our resort. While I wouldn't pay for an exact replica, I really wished I would have bought something similar for traveling back then and anytime my ring was sent in to get worked on.

## ACTIVE RINGS

In recent years, active rings to replace your wedding rings during activities have become more and more popular. After losing my diamond, I researched different brands of these rings and chose to go with Groove Life. For other brands, I read reviews of their rings stretching out, breaking, being sweaty, too bulky, etc. However, Groove Life claims the world's first breathable silicone ring, allowing air in and moisture out, while providing comfort and style with a low profile.



Bowhunting this fall with my Groove Ring, I harvested a turkey and my biggest buck so it not only performed great, I think it might have brought me some luck!

Groove Ring reviews impressed me so much with people saying how they switched from other brands to Groove Life and absolutely love them without the sweating, stretching out, bulky or breaking problems, plus great customer service. They even have a 'No BS Warranty' where if anything ever does happen to your ring from any kind of damage to losing it - no matter the circumstance - they will replace it!!! Plus Groove Life is from Alaska and geared toward outdoorsmen and women with hunting and fishing.

I wish I had found Groove Ring YEARS ago! I absolutely love them. I picked out several different colors and settled on the



moss green throughout this fall hunting season in the thin design tailored for women. It is so lightweight and comfortable - it's just so easily become a part of me! My metal rings used to clank on the treestand, snag on gloves and get extra cold during low temps while hunting - my Groove Ring really has ended up being way better for me while hunting and in the outdoors! I honestly never expected this diamond-less thing to be not only painless for my pride, but that I'd actually end up preferring it!

You can check out their rings at [groovelife.co](http://groovelife.co) and also watch a video and do a handy print off to help you choose your size. If you're in between sizes, you definitely want to size down. I had seemed a 7-1/2 so I chose a size 7, but ended up sizing down even more to a size 6 (you have a full month to exchange sizes if needed). At first this would have seemed too tight for me as size 7 did fit perfect as well, but I preferred the tighter ring so it also doesn't slide when in water. It's tight where it doesn't budge, but not too tight. I've now wore it for three months

and it has not stretched on me at all and still looks the exact same as when I first got it.

Again, I wish I had Groove Life years ago - if so, I really think I would have my diamond ring intact still as I wouldn't have had a problem to take off my wedding ring for the outdoors or until I was able to get my ring into the store for its six-month checkup.

**I WISH I HAD  
GROOVE LIFE YEARS  
AGO - IF SO, I REALLY  
THINK I WOULD HAVE  
MY DIAMOND RING  
INTACT STILL ...**



Groove Ring now comes in Mossy Oak and Kryptek camo! And don't forget the guys!!! As an avid outdoorsman as well, my husband's original wedding ring is at the bottom of a lake...Active rings are also much safer than metal rings for many occupations.

## **TAKE IT FROM ME**

Seeing my diamond ring in the outdoors once brought me so much joy, now I'll be honest, I cringe when I see other women doing the same. While that's perfectly fine if you still want to have it outdoors with you all the time - please make sure you have it thoroughly protected and inspected often then. Otherwise, look at alternatives for at least some of your time outdoors.

With more and more women getting involved in the outdoors, I think this kind of thing will continue to happen more and more. An everyday thing like this is easy to push off and say you'll take care of 'tomorrow.' While diamonds and rings are tough, everything has a breaking point. Mine lasted every day for about 8-1/2 years when the impact bent the prongs. So please take it from me, do what you can to protect your ring and enjoy your adventures without worrying.

*Jennifer Pudenz of Iowa is owner and editor of ADVENTURESS magazine.*



+last shot



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