



“A Few Special Hobbies That Can Give You More Quality Time with Your Kids”

David Loy: Hi and welcome to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews, I'm your host David Loy. Andy thanks for joining us, again, as always. Why are you staring at me?

Andy Andrews: I just, I don't know, I just think it's funny. You do such a good job buddy. Everywhere I go, you know, people are now asking about *In the Loop* and they say, so like, where in the room does Matt sit, now like where is David? Like they want to know exactly where you guys are. And who would've believed we're all three in a hot tub. But anyway.

David: That's really funny.

Andy: But it is cool. And they always say to tell hello.

David: And Matt I guess sits in the same place every time but you and I if we're in the same room, but it feels like we change around every now and then, it's not like this happens in the same place, at the exact same place every single time.

Andy: And Matthew aren't we glad David's wearing clothes today?

David: Yeah, from the waist up.

Andy: I've got a crick in my neck.

David: Why, why is that?

Andy: I don't know.

David: A lot of time in the car and on a plane.

Andy: I suppose. And I just really wanted to complain about something.

David: Yes, about something.

Andy: I mean, life is great but there are occasional cricks.

David: I wanted you to take just a second to talk about something new that you've been doing recently.

Andy: And what would that be?

David: That would be, you started taking some amazing photos.

Andy: Yeah, yeah.

David: Now you've always, anybody that's been on Facebook and social media scene, you do a bunch of pictures with the family, you do a bunch of funny stuff every now and then. But I'm talking about actual, like nature photos.

Andy: Yes, nature. Let me tell you about nature. I don't know why I'm in such a stupid mood today.

David: Today?

Andy: Today. Oh, oh.

David: Sorry. I'm feeling a little feisty myself.

Andy: Last year I was out and the deer hunters listening to this will freak when I say this, but last year I was sitting in a stand, overlooking this oak flat, and a big water oaks and white oaks. And all of a sudden this pretty big buck comes out and I thought, wow that's really cool. But I didn't take him or anything, I'm just basically there to look in, the boys are somewhere else hunting. And so, I mean, if a monster comes out, I'm gonna jump on him with both hands, but he was pretty big. So he kind of wanders on down and I'm doing something else and probably checking my email, I don't know. Then I pick up the binoculars because I see him down there and I go, oh there's some doves down there with him. And I

pick up the binoculars and I say, oh there he is. He's better than I thought he is, he's good real A point and I kind of turn the binoculars to one of the doves and go, hey that's not dove, that's another buck. Oh my gosh. And then I move and say, and there's another buck, and another buck. There were four bucks that are A points or better. Alright so they start kind of drifting toward me and I could see them great, they're not in brush or anything. And about 75 yards away, was actually exactly 74 because I had a range finder. And I had my bow in my hand. Well two of them start fighting. I've never seen a fight. You know, I've rattled deer but I've never actually seen a fight between two big deer. And I sat there and watched this fight for 45 minutes. I was blown away but I also, I thought, of all the times, because for years I thought, you know, I ought to have a good camera, some kind of good camera out there. And that day I decided I'm getting a good camera. So I got one for my birthday. Robert and Polly gave me a Canon. I mean, you know, it's not incredible or anything but it's that Canon thing and you can change the lens. And so I've taken my time and learned how to, I learned, I can manually focus it and do that kind of stuff. I really don't care about taking flowers or that kind of thing. But I love taking animals, I love being outdoors and you know, when you're hunting or fishing and taking stuff like that. And I like taking unusual stuff.

David: Right. And you sent me a picture this morning actually. And it's a pretty picture, it's beautiful. It's outdoors. I think the subject you sent was, what did it say, God's camouflage.

Andy: Yeah, God's camo.

David: And I stared at that thing for what seemed like, I don't know, several minutes. And I'm thinking, wow Andy just sent me a picture of the brush, oak trees. And I was like, oh well there's a cute nature picture. And after staring at it for several minutes, I finally see why you sent it to me. There's a deer standing in the middle.

Andy: Right in the middle, right in the open. But God what a great picture, isn't that?

David: It's fantastic. We should maybe post that in the podcast email.

Andy: Ok.

David: And send that out. Now everybody's going to think I'm slow though. Because they know it's there, when they hear us talking about it.

Andy: I told Polly, you know, you know, Toxie Haas and Bill are friends of mine, these are guys that, Toxie created mossy oak, and I told Polly, I showed her the picture and I said, this is what Toxie Haas dreams about, at night. This is his dream, this is the greatest that could ever been done, this is God's camo.

David: That's really funny. We'll try and include that on the podcast email and maybe put on Facebook as well, see if other people see it, if it takes them as long as it took me. Those are great picture. Alright, let's jump into a couple of questions today. Andy I've got some really good questions that came in by email so let me read our first one to you. This one came from Rocco, and I'll read it to you and we'll get going.

Andy: And the answer is 40. That's a good answer, if you just got to guess for an answer, 40, because in the Bible, it rained 40 days, 40 nights, Jesus fasted for 40 days.

You know, so 40. If you got to guess at an answer before the question comes up, you've got a good chance if you just say, 40.

David: What was the Carson character that did that?

Andy: Carnac.

David: Carnac, there you go.

Andy: Carnac the Magnificent, 40.

David: I don't think the answer for this one is gonna be 40 but we'll see, let's find out.

Andy God bless you for what you do. I'm inspired everyday by you and your style. I love how you always talk about the time you spend with your sons fishing. I've

recently re-awakened the joy of fishing with my boy. But I'd really like to try fly-fishing. I live in Southern California, near lake Elsinore and I don't have anyone in my life who fly fishes. It might be more of a Midwestern thing. Anyhow I want to learn. Do you have any online resources that won't overwhelm me but that would help me and my boy get going?

And again, that's from Rocco, in Southern California. Rocco thanks for sending that. Andy any, you're avid outdoorsman, do you fly fish at all?

Andy: You know, I don't eat flies and so I don't really fish for them. Now I've caught a few flies and it's kind of catch and release, with me, I let them go. Then again I catch them around the windows, a lot.

David: Rocco, I'm glad you brought out the best in Andy.

Andy: You know what? I am not a fly fisherman but Adam is.

David: Really?

Andy: Yes. I don't know why Adam has gotten so interested in that. And he has his own thing where he like ties his own flies. I mean, he's making flies. And so, I'll tell you what Rocco, probably the best thing to do, I mean, Adam takes me and sometimes he says, here watch this dad and he'll go on YouTube and he'll put different topics of fly fishing in. And that's probably your best bet. It's easy, it's quick, and you can say, just put in fly fishing for beginners, fly fishing in California, I mean, you will be shocked at what will be there. And it'll be real easy and teachable. And if it's boring you can cut it off and get another one. But these things, it is amazing to see what you can learn on YouTube. And Adam had made this unbelievable fly and then he took a sharpie and made stripes on it. And I said, Adam, that looks awesome, I mean, that really looks great. How did you learn how to do that? And he said, I saw that on YouTube, a guy did it on YouTube. I was like, ok, well maybe one day a guy named Rocco will ask me, where to go, and I can tell him YouTube.

David: That's great though. And I think the key word in Rocco's question was, so that I won't be overwhelmed, and you're right, that's the beauty of being able to

watch this three, five, ten minute clips on YouTube or I'm sure there's longer ones out there but you can digest this stuff quickly.

Andy: And Rocco, let me just tell you this. It's something that you and your boy will enjoy watching.

David: Together.

Andy: Yeah. And let me tell you something about YouTube very quickly, since I have mentioned deer and I've mentioned YouTube, let me tell you what my favorite channel is on YouTube. Now this is really just for hunters, ok. But it's called Growing Deer TV. Growing Deer TV on YouTube. If you just go on YouTube and put growing deer tv and if you're a deer hunter or you know a deer hunter or somebody that's really an outdoorsman, Growing Deer TV is done by dr. Grant Woods. He's a wildlife biologist and it really covers a lot of stuff. I mean, it covers feeding, nutrition and what you do with your land, predator control, taking coyotes. An it's just great. I'll tell you this, it is also a great testament to a spirit of entrepreneurship because I look at Grant Woods and I really, now I've never met the guy face to face. I've talked to him on the phone and we have texted back and forth. But I really like this guy. And I see such a great dad, a great husband in him, he has two girls, two daughters, Reilly and Rae, and his wife Tracy. And so Reilly and Rae are occasionally on the show that he does. And Tracy is occasionally on the show, doing some recipes and some stuff. So anyway, they've taken their passion, their knowledge and they have created, it's a television show and if you're a sportsman and you watch some of these things on the sportsman channel or the outdoor network, or ESPN, there are probably, I'm not kidding David, there are probably 40 or 50 hunting shows on television now. And Growing Deer TV on YouTube is by far better than any of them.

David: No way.

Andy: Yeah, I mean, the production values, the things that you learn, it's really, really good. And you can bring it up on your computer full screen, it's HD. I mean, it's really good stuff. Has some incredible footage, photography so just great stuff.

David: Well you know, what's interesting to me because I'm not, I think we all know, I'm not an outdoorsman, I don't really hunt but what's always interesting to me hearing you talk about what you do and what you do with your boys, and about other shows that are doing similar things, is how this activity brings you together as a family. This is something that you and your boys are all passionate about and I've heard you say this many times, but for you guys, it is about so much more than hunting or fishing.

Andy: I mean, I'm telling you, I can be up in a tree and if you're a hunter, you know way down on the list is actually harvesting an animal. And my dad brought me up that if you do harvest an animal you take care of that, you eat that. That's a part of what you do or you give it to a family who needs it. You know, we're a part of network of people down in South Alabama, these are all over. At some point I want to ask Chuck how many pounds of venison we gave last year to needy families and homeless shelters. And you know, venison has zero fat and twice the protein of beef. And obviously it's organic. But it's great for families that don't have anything so there are several drop off places, one of my friends owns farm fresh meats in Robertsdale, and I mean, this is a big operation, USDA checks it every single day, can you imagine. But they're big meat place, so a lot of hunters from area will drop off, you know, it will take a deer specifically for that, to give away. And so Chuck, they process it and make it into hamburger or roast or steaks.

David: I had no idea that that was done. That makes so much sense though.

Andy: You know, there are some friends of ours that have a farm and they hunt on this farm and they really manage the game on this farm. And in the past 20 years, they've given away, and I need to found out, it's several thousand pounds of meat, that they've given to homeless shelters and churches who distribute to needy families. But to get back to what you were saying, and as so often happens on this podcast, we start on one topic, end up on something else. But you're right, I realized at some point that the hunting thing, and specifically deer hunting the way we do it in the South, that held something for a dad and boys, that I cannot find anywhere else. And so much so that I've told a bunch of guys, you know, when I'm just talking to a hunter or outdoor person or whatever, and I'll say, you want to do this, I mean, whether you get in there or not, that's beside the point, but you really want to do this because I cannot find anything like sitting in a shooting

house, in the middle of the woods, or in a stand in the middle of the woods, to be with a boy that is more intimate and has more time attached to it. I mean, a lot of people say, well I can't think of anything I would less rather do than sit for three hours in a 4 by 6 foot box in the woods. But I want you to think about this, you're sitting out there in the woods, you're being still, squirrels are literally coming 4 and 5 feet from you. You know, I had a coyote walk, I mean, you saw the pictures that I took, coyote walked literally 5 feet from me. Oh today I saw a bobcat.

David: No way.

Andy: I was out and I got pictures of a bobcat. I mean, that joker was like right there and the wind was going from him to me, I couldn't tell what it was because I was moving really slow and he kind of came into view. I saw him before he saw me. I mean, it was close. I got off the topic. Alright, but you sit in one of these like stands with a boy, it's different from being in a boat, ok. Because it's different from fishing, different from bird hunting, different from any other kind of hunting, because a lot of the hunting, you know, like bird hunting, you can be loud and talk. But deer hunting, you got to be still and you got to be quiet, ok. And in the boat, you're talking loud and you're at one end of the boat and the boys are at the other end of the boat. And eh they don't fish by now, let's go somewhere else. You're sitting in the stand waiting, right. And so you're being still and you're hearing things that you never heard, the animals act, if you just be still 5 or 10 minutes and then they just kind of forget you or they don't know that you're there. And you get to watch things you never see. Well sitting with Adam and Austin as they were growing up, I realized that, that was the time, I mean, you're literally sitting shoulder to shoulder and you're whispering, and those were the times that Adam asked me, he said, dad what is abortion? He asked me one day, he said, what is a virgin? Ok, I want you to think about this David, when he said, because this is where I really started thinking there is really something to this beyond the obvious. The day he asked me, dad what is abortion? Well I know good and well if he had asked me that at the house when we're, you know, parking at the house and he said, hey dad. First of all, we're sitting in the stand and he said, dad what is abortion (whispering)? And I mean, my face is 6 inches from his face, we're kind of leaning our ears, kind of next to each other, we're looking out. And if we'd been in the house, and he'd asked me that, I would said, oh what? What is that? And he'd say it again. And I said, well Adam, hey listen, hang on a second, let me go put the stuff down and let me talk to uncle Bob on the phone, let me. And then

I'd go back and, well at this point he's already focused on something else, I'd say, have you asked your mother about this? And if I even wanted to think about it in normal situation like that, he might say, well dad, I didn't wanna know that bad, just like hurry up or something. But when you're sitting in that stand, I can't think of any place that you're with a boy, that there is no radio, no games, no TV, probably not a book, I mean, there's nothing, just you and your dad. And so when he asks something like that, he's patient, he waits and I've got plenty time to think it through. Pray to God and heaven above to reach down his mighty hand and give me an answer. Jesus, oh my God, the kid's asking about abortion.

David: These are places that conversations take place where they otherwise most likely wouldn't.

Andy: Exactly right. And I had time to explain it and time to him think about it and ask question again and da da daa. And you know, a lot of times parents say, well I don't know if I want to talk about it. Yeah, you do want to talk about this. Yeah, you do want to talk about virginity and what a virgin is. You know, he asked me one day, he said, dad what is a bitch? And I said, now what? And he said, I heard somebody say that. And I said, well ok, that's not something we say a lot and he said, ok. And I said, it's good that you asked me.

David: Rather them ask than just assume.

Andy: Yeah, so it's, there are conversations you want to have them and if you can have those conversations where your kids are asking, so much the better. You don't have to sit down and say, son, let me tell you a list of words you don't need to say. I mean, whatever. Or son, have you ever heard about abortion? I mean, that's just not gonna work. And so, time is the thing, time and quiet.

David: Well and I think that's kind of circling back to Rocco, that's certainly what he's looking for with his son.

Andy: Everybody says fly-fishing is very spiritual. It's almost, it's just peaceful, it's quiet. And Adam is, and I will get there because he's excited about it. So Rocco I'm going to go on YouTube and if you find something that you like, that'll be good for me, please let us know.

David: Yeah, exactly. And it's great to hear how people are trying to create these moments and conversations with their kids as well. If you've got a special way that you do that, we'd love to hear about it. Send us an email at loop@andyandrews.com. Tell us how you create those special moments of quiet and conversation with your kids. We're always excited to hear what other people are doing in these same areas. And if you've got a question, you want to jump in on a future episode, we've got tons of questions to get to, but we want to hear from you as well. Give us a call 1800 726 2639, that's 1800 726 Andy, or email intheloop@andyandrews.com. Matt receives all those and we try to get to as many as we can on these episodes. Share this with a friend, if you've got a hunter in your life, an outdoorsman that would benefit from this conversation, if this is a conversation starter, for you, for somebody that you've been wanting to introduce to Andy's material.

Andy: Or if you've got a negative comment about hunting or anything like that, just please know that I don't really wanna hear it.

David: That's terrific. Well thanks for listening, Andy thanks for taking the time and we will talk to you next week.

Andy: Alright buddy, I am excited, can't wait.

Would you like to run something by Andy? Contact us and your question might be featured on the show!

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