ozonics

UNDETECTABLE I UNDENIABLE

OPERATING MANUAL

FOR HR200 AND HR300 UNITS

IF IT'S NOT OZONICS™ IT'S NOT ELIMINATION.

CONGRATULATIONS ON TAKING THE FIRST STEP IN CHANGING THE WAY YOU HUNT—FOREVER. WITH PROPER APPLICATION, YOUR OZONICS UNIT WILL ALLOW YOU TO DESTROY THE MAIN DEFENSE OF THE GAME YOU PURSUE . . . ITS SENSE OF SMELL. HOW OZONICS WORKS IS SCIENCE, IS PROVEN AND IT'S SIMPLE: YOUR OZONICS UNIT PRODUCES OZONE, WHICH WILL ELIMINATE, ALTER AND REDUCE THE ODOR YOU EMIT DURING EVERY SECOND OF YOUR HUNT. THAT IS THE DEFINITION OF ACTIVE SCENT CONTROL, AND THAT IS THE DEFINITION OF SUCCESS.

{HR 300}

{HR 200}

IMPORTANT: READ THE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE OPERATING OZONICS™

- The Ozonics™ ozone generator operates in excess of 10,000 volts.
- Do not place fingers or any metal object into fan inlet/outlet grilles. If dirt or debris gets into unit, use gentle compressed air to remove. If you cannot remove debris, or if the air cell or fan needs replacement, contact Ozonics for service.
- Do not use Boost mode in any closed environment.
- When using the Ozonics™ ozone generator in a hunting enclosure, adequate ventilation is required to prevent the build-up of ozone within the enclosure.
- The Ozonics™ ozone generator operates in an oxygen-rich environment. Do not use in vicinity of combustible gases.
- Do not immerse Ozonics™ in water. Use a clean, dry rag to remove external dirt and dust. Do not use chemicals (e.g., gasoline, kerosene, acetone) to clean plastic.
- Use only the rechargeable battery and charger supplied by Ozonics.
- Ozone™ can be an irritant and powerful oxidizing agent. Like many products, ozone can be dangerous if used improperly. So, follow the instructions herein. Should you experience dry eyes or a sore, scratchy throat, turn the Ozonics™ ozone generator off immediately and get fresh air. Please refer to ozone and battery Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for further information (available from Ozonics). Ozonics, LLC manufactures to meet or exceed Federal Safety Standards (e.g., NIOSH, OSHA, EPA, etc.) when used as directed.

HOW TO USE THE OZONICS™ OZONE GENERATOR FOR OPTIMAL SCENT-DESTROYING PERFORMANCE

THE ONLY SCENT CONTROL PRODUCT THAT ACTIVELY ADDRESSES YOUR SCENT ZONE

The Ozonics ozone generator is the first and only in-the-field ozone generator. Each Unit actively blankets your scent with odor-destroying ozone. Unlike any other scent control product, the Ozonics ozone generator actively deals with the scent in your area between you and the deer or other game animals, cleansing the air-stream in this scent zone so game won't smell you.

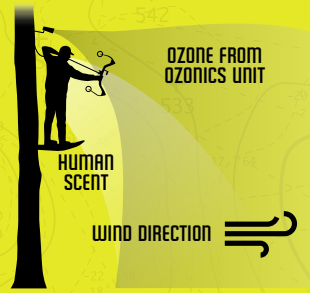
THE OZONICS™ OZONE GENERATOR ELECTRONICALLY CHANGES OXYGEN (O_2) MOLECULES INTO OZONE (O_3) MOLECULES

The Ozonics™ ozone generator produces ozone via corona discharge, converting oxygen to ozone through the introduction of electricity. This ozone gas is a very strong oxidizing agent that is commonly used to destroy odors and other organic contaminants. The Ozonics™ ozone generator projects the ozone downwind with a quiet, built-in fan.

HEAVY, UNSTABLE OZONE MOLECULES FALL THROUGH SCENT ZONE AND BOND WITH SCENT MOLECULES

Because ozone molecules are heavier than air, they disperse from the Ozonics ozone generator and fall into your scent zone. And because ozone molecules are also extremely unstable, they instantly bond with any molecules they encounter—your scent molecules—eliminating, altering, or reducing your human odor to the point it is no longer distinguishable to game animals.

THE BOTTOM LINE: YOU WILL NOTICE A DRAMATIC REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF GAME ANIMALS THAT SMELL YOU, DRASTICALLY INCREASING YOUR SUCCESS.



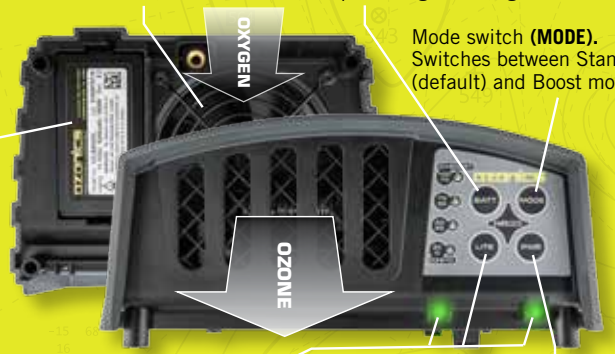
TREESTAND USE

1. Attach the tree mounting screw provided so the Ozonics™ ozone generator will be approximately 6 to 12 inches above the top of your head and facing at a slightly downward (30°) angle. The most effective use of the Ozonics™ ozone generator is keeping your scent profile as minimal as possible.
2. Connect the Ozonics™ ozone generator to tree mount, ensuring that it is facing downwind and that it gets proper air flow.
3. Turn the Ozonics™ ozone generator on (see pages 5-6 and 7-8 for operating instructions) ozone other than from an occasional change in wind speed or direction, you are improperly set up. Determine the new wind direction and correctly position your unit facing in the down wind direction—this is known as "chasing the wind." With an Ozonics Unit, always chase the wind.

GROUND BLIND USE

1. Determine dominant wind direction and slightly open window on downwind side of blind to create a controlled airflow. Attach ground blind mounting bracket to blind's roof frame. Connect the Ozonics ozone generator to the bracket so that the generator's outlet will be positioned 12-18 inches from the opening in the blind aimed toward the downwind ventilation. The goal is to hyper-ozonate human scent as it leaves the blind through this single location.
2. Do not direct the ozone at any occupant of the blind. Ozone is relatively heavy and without proper ventilation, the Ozonics™ ozone generator can create excess concentration of ozone, primarily found in the lower levels of the blind.
3. Turn the Ozonics™ ozone generator on (see operating instructions on subsequent pages). Do not operate an Ozonics HR200 or HR300 ozone generator on Boost mode in a ground blind.
4. If you smell ozone other than just with an occasional change in wind speed or direction, you are improperly set up.

HOW TO OPERATE THE OZONICS® HR200 OZONE GENERATOR



Built-in fan projects generated ozone silently over scent zone.

Battery level indicator **(BATT).** Push button to determine percentage of charge.

Mode switch **(MODE).** Switches between Standard (default) and Boost modes.

12-volt rechargeable battery. Removable quick-charge battery lasts up to 5 hours in Standard mode, 4 hours in Boost mode.

Green utility lights **(LITE).** Illuminates without warning nearby game.

Power switch **(PWR).** Silently turns machine on or off.

1. TURN THE OZONICS HR200 OZONE GENERATOR ON OR OFF WITH THE POWER BUTTON: To turn the unit ON, press the PWR button. The battery level indicator lights will illuminate from bottom to top in sequence. The fan will start and unit will start producing ozone **within 10-30 seconds.**

2. CHOOSE BETWEEN STANDARD (STD) OR BOOST MODE: The HR200 features a "Mode" button, which will change Ozone output from STD to Boost. When the HR200 unit is turned on, the unit first starts in STD setting. To change to Boost, push the Mode button and release. The "BOOST" indicator will illuminate. You will hear an increase in the fan speed as it goes into Boost mode. Pressing the Mode button again will toggle back to STD setting and the "STD" indicator will illuminate. The Boost mode was designed and is recommended for hunting in a treestand or other open-air environment.

3. BATTERY LEVEL INDICATION: On the left side of the faceplate are four battery level indicator LEDs. Next to each LED is a battery level percentage indicating the amount of remaining capacity in the battery. The top battery indicates an estimated remaining battery life of 100-75%, the second light down indicates 74-50%, the third one down indicates 49-25% and bottom LED indicates less than 25% battery life remaining. To check the estimated battery level, press the "BATT" button on the faceplate of the HR200 Unit and the corresponding battery level indicator LED will illuminate, informing you of the estimated remaining battery life.

4. LOW BATTERY WARNING: When the HR200 unit determines that the battery has been depleted, the bottom red LED will flash for 5 seconds and then the unit will automatically shut down.

5. BATTERY CHARGE LEVEL NOTE: When you receive your HR200 unit, it comes with a battery that is not fully charged specifically for storage purposes. This battery should be fully charged in the HR200 battery charger before use. To get optimal performance out of your HR200 unit, always start your hunt with a fully charged battery.

6. CHARGING THE BATTERY: To charge the battery, take the Ozonics HR200 battery charger and plug the AC wall supply into an available wall outlet. The LED on the AC wall supply will illuminate green. Insert the HR200 battery into the charger pocket. The LED on the AC wall supply will turn red, indicating the battery is charging. When the battery is fully charged, the LED on the AC wall supply will turn green and is ready for use. Remove the battery from the charger. Do not store the battery in the charger.

7. INCORPORATED UTILITY LIGHTS ARE GREEN SO GAME WON'T SEE THEM: External LED lights are for use whenever extra illumination is needed. Push the "LITE" button to activate or deactivate. These lights are green because green lights have been proven to minimize alerting game while maximizing illumination for the user.

8. TRANSPORTING BATTERIES WITHIN PASSENGER BAGGAGE: Certain restrictions apply to the carriage of lithium ion batteries when carried by passengers as baggage. Ozonics™ original batteries have successfully passed testing outlined in Part III, Sub-Section 38.3 of the UN Manual of tests, allowing them to be carried in passenger baggage. Because of the risks associated with the carriage of batteries, these may NOT be transported within passenger CHECKED BAGGAGE. Batteries MUST be in CARRY-ON BAGGAGE. Batteries must be installed in the device or individually protected to prevent short circuit by insulating the terminals (e.g., taping over terminals, or by placing batteries in a separate bag or protective pouch). Although not defined, a "reasonable" number of spare batteries can be carried within a passenger's carry-on baggage in context of the equipment used by the passenger and his or her itinerary. (see http://www.safetravel.dot.gov)

HOW TO OPERATE THE OZONICS® HR300 OZONE GENERATOR

Built-in fan silently projects generated ozone over scent zone.

Battery level indicator lights **(BATT)** indicate percentage of charge.

Mode switch **(MODE)**. Switched between Standard (default), Boost and DRiWASH modes.

12-volt rechargeable Smart Battery that lasts up to 5 hours in Standard mode and 4 hours in Boost mode.

Power switch **(PWR)**. Silently turns machine ON or OFF

1. TURN THE OZONICS HR300 OZONE GENERATOR ON OR OFF WITH THE POWER BUTTON: To turn the unit ON, simply press and hold the power button until the power and Mode button illuminate, along with the STD indicator and battery level indicator. Release the power button and the battery level indicator lights will illuminate from top to bottom in sequence. The fan will start and unit will begin producing ozone **within 10-30 seconds.**

2. CHOOSE BETWEEN STANDARD (STD), BOOST OR DRIWASH MODE: The HR300 features a "Mode" button, which will change ozone output from STD to Boost, and then to DriWash. When the HR300 Unit is turned on, the Unit first starts in STD setting. To change to Boost, push the Mode button and release. The "BOOST" indicator will illuminate, along with the power and Mode buttons. If the Mode button is pressed again, the unit will toggle to the "DriWash" setting (see DriWash instructions, Step 8). The DriWash indicator will illuminate and the fan speed will increase. Pressing the Mode button again will toggle the Unit back to STD setting.

3. BATTERY LEVEL INDICATION: On the left side of the faceplate are four battery level indicator LEDs. Next to each LED is a battery level symbol indicating the amount of remaining capacity in the battery. The top LED indicates a remaining battery life of 100-75%, the second from top indicates 74-50%, the third one down indicates 49-25% and the bottom LED indicates less than 25% battery life remaining. The HR300 Unit and the battery work on a "Smart Battery" platform that allows the Unit to better gauge the precise level of run time left in the battery based on the current Mode setting of the unit.

4. LOW BATTERY WARNING: When the HR300 Unit determines there is less than 20 minutes of battery run time remaining, the bottom red LED will flash once every 20 seconds, as a warning to be prepared to change the battery. When the Unit determines the battery has been fully depleted, the bottom red LED will flash for approximately 5 seconds and then the Unit will turn itself off.

5. BATTERY CHARGE LEVEL NOTE: When you receive your HR300 Unit, it comes with a battery that is not fully charged for storage purposes. This battery should be fully charged in the HR300 battery charger before use. To get optimal performance out of your HR300 Unit, always start your hunt with a fully charged battery.

6. CHARGING THE BATTERY: To charge the battery, plug the AC cord into the supplied power supply, and then into an AC outlet. The green light on the power supply will illuminate, letting you know it's functioning properly. Plug the DC barrel connector into the back of the HR300 charger. After plugging the power supply into the charger, allow 10 seconds before you place the HR300 battery into the charger (the charger performs a self-check during this time period). If you put the battery into the charger during this time, the charger might either a) display no LEDs or b) the red LED might flash. If either of these happen, remove the battery, wait 10 seconds and then re-insert the battery. The red "charging" LED should illuminate. Leave the battery in the charger until the red LED turns off and the green "ready" LED illuminates.

7. STORAGE MODE: The HR300 battery charger is equipped with a "Storage Cycle," which is to be used only at the end of the hunting season to put the battery into optimal charge level for prolonged periods of non-use. To initiate the Storage Cycle, place the battery into a powered battery charger. Once the battery is in the charger, press and hold the "Storage" button until the red LED begins to flash. Once the LED starts to flash, release the button and the charger will complete the storage cycle on its own. When the cycle is complete, the LEDs will toggle between red and green. Caution: During the Storage Cycle, the battery and charger might get very warm to the touch—this is normal.

8. DRIWASH MODE: The HR300 Unit has a special mode that's used in companion with the DriWash accessory bag (sold separately). To use the DriWash system, hang the DriWash bag and loosely hang your clothing inside. You can then zip the front panel closed. Take the HR300 Unit and turn it on and cycle through the Mode Settings by pressing the Mode button until the DriWash indicator illuminates. Place the HR300 Unit in the slot on the top of the DriWash bag so the output of the unit projects into the hole in the back of the slot and the fan on the unit is pointing up. Secure the HR300 Unit in the DriWash bag with included clip straps. The HR300 unit will run for approximately 10 minutes in the DriWash mode and then turn itself off.

MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY

HR UNITS 1 year from purchase date
HR BATTERY 6 months from purchase date
HR MOUNT 6 months from purchase date

OZONICARE RECERTIFICATION
To have your HR200 or HR300 cleaned and recertified to Ozonics Quality Standards (OQS), contact Ozonics at 979-285-2400 or www.ozonicshunting.com/contact-us/

EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED, OZONICS MAKES NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

OZONICS MAKES NO WARRANTY CONCERNING HUNTING SUCCESS. NEITHER OZONICS NOR ANY AFFILIATE OF OZONICS, LLC SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE TO CUSTOMER OR OTHERS FOR LOST REVENUES, LOST PROFITS, OR OTHER SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, DIRECT, INDIRECT, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE OR OTHER EXPENSE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ARISING FROM CUSTOMER'S, OR ANY OTHER PERSON'S USE OF OR INABILITY TO USE OZONICS™ PRODUCT OR FOR COMMERCIAL LOSS OF ANY KIND. NO RECOVERY AGAINST OZONICS, LLC, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE), STRICT LIABILITY OR OTHERWISE, SHALL BE GREATER THAN THE AMOUNT PAID BY CUSTOMER FOR THE OZONICSTM PRODUCT.

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Understanding Ozone For Scent Elimination
by Bowhunter Online Staff | May 26th, 2011

The future of ozone application may lie in taking it directly into the field with you to impact the downwind scent stream between you and your prey, be it bears from ground level or whitetails from a stand.

What air-delivered decontaminant is 3,000 times more potent than chlorine, annihilates most any smelly organic compound it contacts, and can render your clothes, gear or accessories virtually scent free? Concentrated ozone! Ozone treatments have so profoundly changed my previously laborious and time-intensive approach to preparing for a scent-free hunt that when not available, I feel seriously compromised. That best describes my experience with ozone generators (OGs), and my addiction to their compelling utility and convenience. I firmly believe this technology will revolutionize the way we wage war in limiting our scent, especially when used as part of a systematic approach to minimizing our overall scent signature.

How Ozone Generators Work
My introduction to OGs was through Moxy Technologies (not currently commercially available), but all OGs produce ozone in one of two ways — corona discharge (most common) or ultra violet — with varying levels of ozone output measured in milligrams per hour (mg/h). *Corona discharge creates ozone by applying high voltage to a metallic grid placed between two dielectrics. The high voltage passes through the dielectric to a grounded screen/plate, and in the process creates ozone from oxygen pulled into the unit from ambient air. Ultra-violet (UV) light creates ozone when a wavelength at 254 nanometers hits an oxygen atom. Both processes split oxygen molecules into single oxygen atoms (O). These atoms combine with another oxygen molecule (O2) to form ozone (O3). The unit then disperses the O3 with a fan or air pump to a port or hose. The O3 that is emitted is a predatory oxidizing molecule that destroys the organic scent-containing molecules it contacts, similar to the oxidizing effects of chlorine bleach, but in a powerful airborne form. After oxidizing a contaminant, O3 reverts back to O2 (*To learn more, visit FAQ at www.ozonesolutions.com).

Commercial units capable of destroying mold, mildew, fungus, viruses, and bacteria in large spaces can provide varying output up to 10,000 mg/h from ambient air as a source (a pure oxygen source would create a higher concentration of ozone). The more economical hunting-oriented models typically generate ozone in the 1 to 400 mg/h range for use in confined spaces like sealed garment bags, storage containers, a closet, or small room — or to act as an intermediary scent reduction measure by impacting scent molecules between you and your prey (more on that later). An OG's potential output is adversely impacted by high temperature and humidity; most require operating the unit in an environment of less than 60% humidity (to prevent internal component damage and maximize output), easily accomplished with a dehumidifier or air conditioner. Overall output is important, but to a degree. Higher mg/h units treat gear faster and offer more potential uses, from killing mold and mildew in your basement to sanitizing large amounts of clothing and gear quickly like an outfitter might need. However, given enough time for exposure and confining the treatment area to improve concentration, even a unit with low output can provide a benefit.

If you employ a pee bottle when hunting, a quick and effective demonstration of ozone's amazing cleansing power is easy to experience: empty your bottle of all urine after a hunt, treat the bottle's interior with ozone for five minutes, then take a deep whiff. You will be a believer. You can perform a similar test with foul socks after a long hike. The science is proven, being employed in a wide array of industries from healthcare (to eliminate biological contaminants in surgical rooms), to rental cars (smoke, mold, fungus, and other organic smells), to sports teams (bacterial infection prevention), and even municipal water treatment.

My ozone epiphany occurred one warm morning in early season after cleaning a deer. I had managed to thoroughly coat my pants, shirtsleeves, and rubber boots in blood, and the rest of my clothes in heavy sweat during the long, hot drag back to my truck. This putrid combination of contaminates was literally cleansed from my duds by a 35-minute treatment of ozone in a sealed garment bag while I ate lunch. After treatment I could see the bloodstains, but I couldn't smell them, and the garments had a fragrance similar to the "fresh outdoors" smell you detect after a spring thunderstorm, which is one way nature creates ozone. It's a natural part of the air around us, not to be confused with the smog it's often associated with.

Many OGs manufactured for hunting purposes can operate on AC or DC power, and work wonderfully for decontaminating the mysterious odors in your car as well. When I don't have a garment bag handy, that's precisely how I treat all my gear in the field: roll up the windows, lay all my gear (pack, shooting glove, clothes, hat, boots, bow) out on the seats and turn the unit on to "wash" it free of smell. If you turn your AC on and put it on re-circulate, you can even kill the smell of mold and mildew in the AC system, provided you leave the unit on long enough. Low output ozone can further be used to decontaminate your hair, scalp, and feet by blowing it over them for a few minutes — while you hold your breath.

How long does ozone last? Not long; maybe a couple hours under very favorable conditions. Ozone is very unstable and has a half-life of approximately 30 minutes before it quickly reverts back to the harmless O2 we breathe. You can start out on every hunt completely sanitized, but if you sweat or get other contaminants on you after treatment, ozone's residual effect is minimal. Use of antimicrobial and carbon-containing garments can further enhance your total scent-control arsenal, along with all your other countermeasures. Keep in mind that in order to work properly, ozone MUST come in contact with the contaminants on your clothes and gear. You can't just throw your clothes folded on top of one another in a plastic bin and expect good results. The ozone needs to freely circulate and contact all surfaces, and being heavier than air, it should be dispersed high in the treatment area.

A few manufacturers of OGs advocate the technology is best employed by taking it directly in the field with you — foregoing advance treatment of your gear — and instead using it to impact your downwind scent stream by having small concentrations of ozone intermingle and impact your dispersed scent cone. Ozonics' Dennis Fink put it this way: "We don't know exactly what part of our scent signature animals react to, and while you do need high concentrations of ozone to kill certain organic contaminants embedded in clothes for example, what we are finding out is relatively small amounts of ozone in an open air environment can meaningfully decrease an animal's ability to detect you. We feel that treating the air stream between you and your prey is a much more advantageous application of the technology." I haven't used ozone in this application, but those who do, like Jason Zins, a store manager at Scheel's, swear by it when used that way. "I can't imagine hunting from a treestand without it ever again," Zins said, relating his experience with an Ozonics unit hung above him.

Is it safe? A few words of caution: Ozone is a lung irritant, and in my opinion, you should never breathe it in a confined space, even at low output levels. How about in a tree above you? Different people react differently to all sorts of elements in different concentrations, from salt to car exhaust; I'm going to try it this fall, but the first few times I'm going to ensure it's only on days with some measurable wind. Even though ozone is present in the lower atmosphere, we breathe in concentrations from .001 to .01 parts per million (ppm), it is usually at very trace amounts. An OG's absolute safest use is to treat your clothes and gear in a confined, unoccupied space.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health recommends an upper limit of .10 ppm. The EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone is a maximum eight-hour average outdoor concentration of .08 ppm. Some of the more powerful generators can quickly exceed that level if you're in a confined space, like a blind, for a period of time. Some low-output ozone units may not exceed these ppm thresholds in a blind with air current. To be truly safe, if you really want to use ozone for a blind application, get it above you out of the blind and let it interact with your scent stream as it drifts downwind. The reason many OGs, namely the more versatile industrial-oriented models, offer greater and variable output power is for their "shocking" ability to destroy mold, mildew, fungus, and other stubborn micro-organisms in unoccupied rooms, cars, or other spaces. And while ozone does an unbelievable job of killing pet odors in everything from dog beds to hamster cages, DO NOT expose your pet or even plants, just to be safe.

Ozone will shorten the life of rubber, like that found in boots, washers, and seals, through concentrated oxidization. However, I've used it regularly on rubber boots for three years and have seen no material degradation. Natural rubber, small washers, O-rings, and the like may be quite susceptible to ozone's amazing oxidizing power — and a lot quicker than you might think.

The way I choose to employ it, OG's benefits far outweigh the negatives. I avoid shortening the life of my favorite clothes through repeated washings after every hunt; it's far faster than washing and drying; you can treat items like packs, boots, releases, and other gear very conveniently; and I don't need to bring lots of clothes on hunts because I can re-treat my gear anywhere there is AC or DC power.

2017 Ozonics Review
by Mike Carney | November 21st, 2016

What would you pay to have a second chance at all the biggest bucks that winded you over the last 10 years? Reflect hard on all those antlers for a moment. And this second time around, the animal would have no idea where you were, as if you were a ghost. Does that sound intriguing to you?

Five years ago, Bowhunter Magazine published the first national, in-depth article on how ozone works and the benefits of the technology for hunters. Our experience, at the time, was exclusively with ozone generators used to treat clothing and gear, and we were enamored with ozone's liberating utility: scent-free clothes in 20 minutes without washing; the ability to scent-cleanse large, bulky items like packs, boots and harnesses; plus the portability of the units and their operation on AC or DC power.

When we were researching product manufacturers for that article, we were introduced to Ozonics, the lone company that was promoting the use of ozone generators while actually hunting.

Having a pretty decent background in understanding how ozone works to decontaminate, cleanse and disinfect, I personally couldn't wrap my head around it being effective in an open-air environment, and nor could any of our staff. And we said as much in that 2011 article.

I knew that ozone molecules had to come in contact with offensive organic elements, contaminants, germs and bacteria to eradicate them, and that it takes time and concentration for ozone molecules to achieve this. But we were hearing lots of hype about Ozonics' effectiveness from trusted friends in retail who had been using the units while actually hunting. Editor Curt Wells had also heard about Ozonics from some of his friends at Scheels who swore by in-field ozone.

Dennis Fink, who was running Ozonics' PR efforts at the time, told me: "We don't know exactly what part of our scent signature animals react negatively to, and we've found that relatively small amounts of ozone introduced into our downwind scent stream have a material impact on animals being able to detect us. Try it and see for yourself."

I did try it while stand hunting that fall, and was astonished at how effective it was. Used in a ground blind, it was utterly amazing. I was eager to share my enthusiasm for the product with our other staff members at Bowhunter, Petersen's Bowhunting, North American Whitetail and Petersen's Hunting magazines.

The responses I received ranged from jaded doubt to near indifference, typical of editors who have seen and heard it all from PR and advertising execs. I arranged for a conference call between our staff and Fink, and Dennis met with similar vocal derision. "Hey guys," Fink said, "I'll send you some loaner units for you to test this fall, and you can let us know what you think."

I was somewhat conflicted. On one hand I felt like I'd just discovered some secret weapon and didn't want anyone else similarly empowered, and on the other hand I needed our staff to be as effective in the field as possible to get great articles, photography, and TV episodes.

Within a month, the e-mails and interoffice calls came pouring in, and they were all of the extremely positive, yet bewildered nature. Actual disbelief over how effective the HR200 units were proving to be!

Being in the multimedia content generation business, any utility we can employ that makes us more effective in the field — while saving time and money — is something we're going to take very seriously. And if you watch Bowhunter TV on Sportsman Channel or on the new MOTV app — you know that any time we are in a stand or blind we have Ozonics units running overhead. But we were learning the best practices and a few tricks in that initial testing year as well.

First, we all found out that when we ran out of battery power during all-day sits and stopped getting the occasional whiff of freshly created ozone (similar to the smell after a spring thunderstorm, where ozone is created naturally), we felt utterly exposed.

We were once again subject to the vagaries of shifting winds. We all started packing multiple batteries, and then the following year Ozonics came out with the XL battery, which lasts up to eight empowering hours.

Second, we learned how to correctly position the units above our heads, pointed downwind at a 45-degree angle to most effectively intermingle with our scent cone. In light or moderate winds, we had awesome scent-neutralizing results; in high winds it was somewhat less effective, and ditto in extremely humid conditions — but still light years ahead of being "unprotected."

In a blind, it was nothing short of phenomenal, akin to having a personal cloaking device with you.

Third, we discovered that if we wore the unit strapped to the back of our packs pointed downward as we walked to and from our stands, we were significantly limiting being detected when going to and from our stands by an easy 60 percent or more.

That in itself would make Ozonics worth the investment in my book, as I was getting betrayed regularly by my scent path, even when taking all the typical precautions of rubber boots, not touching foliage, and painstakingly choosing routes to the stand that should make me less detectable.

The use of Ozonics to and from the stand actually helped prevent early stand burnout — a huge benefit to all deer hunters, especially those hunting small lots and grounds where there are not a lot of good stand choices.

Fourth, we began experimenting with the units in spot-and-stalk scenarios (as had others), and the results, given the crude rigging methods we were employing, were very encouraging.

And stories from readers, outfitters, and guides came pouring in as well. Some outfitters, like Nelson Outfitters in Sheridan, Wyoming, were actually developing specialized strategies, tactics and a viable business through their use, providing clients an extremely effective way to get close to animals even when hunting the same blind setups regularly.

Another outfitter we know won't risk sending clients to their stands without an Ozonics, so he supplies units for clients along with a quick tutorial. Other outfitters ask in advance if their clients have units, and strongly encourage their daily use to prevent stand burnout. A simple Google search will attest to users' overwhelming belief and satisfaction with this technology.

We can argue the science all day long, but the one science we believe in most is that which our own eyes see. When Curt Wells has a Coues deer doe and fawn six yards downwind of his blind for long minutes, he believes.

When our staff hunters have both whitetails and mule deer 360 degrees around their blind in the middle of an alfalfa field from 3 p.m. to dark, they believe. And when a brown bear outfitter in Alaska says Ozonics has helped him get bears that are feeding on salmon closer to his client's blind, he believes.

Plus, I can't remember the last time a whitetail snorted at me when using Ozonics from a treestand. That's huge. These are just a few examples of the real-world science that matters to us.

This past season, Ozonics introduced a handful of new products that will enhance our ability to go undetected. The new HR300 delivers up to 45-percent higher ozone output than the proven HR200 (and yes, at perfectly safe levels according to OSHA standards).

Other features include a much-requested AC power option (DC batteries for field use), so you can use the unit to clean clothes and gear without needing a charged battery; an improved user interface with lighted buttons that is easy to use with gloves on; new Pulse Technology that balances time and oxidant concentration levels; and a quieter fan.

Frankly, we've never found the fan on the HR200 to be overly conspicuous to ourselves, let alone a game animal, but quieter never hurts. And yes, there are eight-hour batteries available for all-day sits during the rut.

Another new addition we are excited about is the new KiNETiC backpack, a purpose-built pack that features a dedicated upper section on the shoulder straps designed to carry an Ozonics unit in the ideal position for spot-and-stalk hunting or for going to and from the stand — the location of the upper pack points the Ozonics exhaust of heavier-than-air ozone "mist" where you want it, shooting up and back so it can "fall down" onto your scent stream, rendering it indistinguishable to game.

The upper pack can be adapted to use with your favorite pack — or paired with the removable bottom pack section that has 1,300 cubic inches of storage, side pockets, and compression straps for bulky clothing or other gear like camera tripods. The KiNETiC is a well thought out, cohesive design that we will be testing extensively this fall.

One of the new products I'm looking forward to using is the unique DRiWASH Bag, a heavy-duty, integrated hanging system that folds flat for storage and can be taken anywhere.

Special baffles and a unit-holding pouch make quick work of delivering ozone precisely where it's needed — on your clothes and gear. And the HR300's pulse mode makes "washing" your scent-contaminated equipment precise, blending the concentration of ozone and time needed at the optimal mix.

“At Ozonics, our mission is to optimize the delivery of ozone for use as a scent-elimination tool pre-hunt, mid-hunt, and post-hunt,” Buddy Piland, marketing director at Ozonics, said. “The development of Pulse Technology and our new DRiWASH Bag provide the hunter with an innovative pre and post-hunt cleaning solution that ensures all your hunting gear is cleaned and completely deodorized without the risk of degradation. Our DRiWASH uses the perfect amount of ozone…never too much, and never too little.”

If I were asked what single product or technology has been the most beneficial to my stand and blind hunting success over the last five years, it would easily be an in-field ozone generator. Is it 100-percent failsafe? No, nothing is.

But it will nearly always confuse an animal’s ability to process the level of threat for some time — clearly obfuscating his olfactory defenses — which may be all the time you need to send an arrow home.

Of course, every animal reacts differently to varying concentrations of scent, and winds can be fickle and strong, limiting the ability of ozone molecules to interact with odors. Extremely high humidity (95 percent plus) is not an environment that ozone does well in, but how often do you hunt in those conditions?

“The secret to effective scent elimination using ozone is a combination of two factors: time and concentration,” Piland said. “The addition of the new HR300 to our lineup has features that address the tough environmental challenges, such as higher than normal winds and high-humidity situations, by providing the hunter with 45 percent more ozone on demand. When correctly applied, this minimizes the amount of time human scent travels before it’s attacked by ozone, and it maximizes the concentration of ozone directly to your scent stream close to your setup, thus reducing the number of environmental challenges that may exceed the unit’s capabilities.”

If you told any of our staff that they couldn’t use an Ozonics for their stand and blind hunting this year, they would have a meltdown.

Our cumulative staff hours spent in stands and blinds over the last five years show Ozonics to be exceedingly effective, and it certainly enhances all your other scent countermeasures. You literally feel exposed if you don’t have it with you, and you pray a trophy doesn’t show up downwind.

I killed the largest buck of my career in a scenario where in-field ozone saved my hunt. Numerous other trophy deer that crossed my scent path also got a trip home in my truck thanks to Ozonics. Bowhunter Editor Curt Wells killed his biggest buck during the rut while protected by a “shower” of ozone under an Ozonics.

Publisher Jeff Waring killed his biggest buck ever in a blind while remaining undetected thanks to Ozonics. Assistant Editor Brain Fortenbaugh killed his biggest whitetail and mule deer while using an Ozonics unit. Sales Manager Jeff Millar killed his biggest buck and mule deer while protected by Ozonics. I could go on, but the fact is, you won’t believe it unless you try it for yourself. Ozonics is absolutely liberating as it allows you to push the envelope in all types of setups that would otherwise end in blowing and snorts.

As Curt Wells is fond of saying, there are two kinds of hunters — those who haven't tried Ozonics, and those who will never hunt without it again. It's safe, effective, works well in conjunction with your other scent-elimination strategies, and it's the closest thing we have to a cloaking device for hunting. And now it's available for on-the-go, spot-and-stalk applications as well.