

AMERICA'S WHITETAIL AUTHORITY

DEER & DEER HUNTING[®]

SCOUT
MANAGE
HUNT

NOVEMBER 2022
VOLUME 46 ■ ISSUE 6

HOW TO
AGE A DOE
ON THE
HOOF

HOW **TIDAL**
CHARTS AFFECT
DEER **ACTIVITY**

BAG YOUR
BEST
BUCK
THIS MONTH!

5 WAYS TO
OUTSMART A
MATURE BUCK

.45
VS
.50
CALIBER
MUZZLELOADERS

THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED OPTICS SYSTEM



Ballistic Data Xchange

SIERRA6BDX™ RIFLESCOPES

- Automatic Hold-over Dot based on your exact ballistic profile
- Advanced 6X HDX Optical system with up to 95% light transmission
- Dependable waterproof and fog-proof performance (IPX7)
- Innovative KinETHIC Energy transfer indicator for ethical shots
- Intuitive BDX App for easy setup

sigsauger.com

SIGSAUER®



IT'S **FEDERAL**  **SEASON**

THIS IS WHAT YOU LIVE FOR



LEADING OFF





Record-class bucks are breathtaking, but they are extremely rare. In fact, in most states, fewer than 0.013 percent of all bucks harvested annually have antlers that qualify for the record books. The take-home lesson: It's OK to dream as long as you keep it in perspective.

REID/DDH

FEATURES

12 | AMAZING STREAK

The story behind a hunter who got his buck – 70 years in a row! by Richard P. Smith

16 | GIVE ME NOVEMBER

In the 11th month, a hunter's blood knows what time it is. by Tom Carpenter

22 | BAG YOUR BEST BUCK

Hunt hard and smart, and read the signs that buck is giving you. by Steve Bartylla

30 | TIDAL CHARTS & MOON PHASES

A master archer reveals what he's learned about atmospheric forces. by Byron Ferguson

38 | MUZZLELOADING

Here's what you need to know about .45- and .50-caliber options. by Al Raychard

44 | DOE IDENTIFICATION

Target does by age, and you'll help your local deer population. by Tom Carpenter

50 | PUBLIC INPUT

Here's how the public can help their state-employed deer managers. by Keith R. McCaffery

56 | RUB-URINATION

Learn the nuances behind an oft-misunderstood deer behavior. by Auburn University Deer Lab



DEPARTMENTS

- 6 | EDITOR'S STUMP
- 8 | D&DH COMMUNITY
- 10 | RECOIL
- 12 | DEER BROWSE
- 79 | BUTCHER SHOP
- 83 | BOW SHOP
- 84 | GUN SHOP
- 86 | GROW 'EM BIG
- 88 | PURSUIT COMMUNITY
- 90 | NEW GEAR
- 91 | BUCK SHOTS
- 92 | DEER BEHAVIOR
- 94 | WHERE TO GO

64 | SURE-FIRE KILL SITES

The best place to ambush a buck isn't always the most obvious. by Josh Honeycutt

70 | 5 WAYS BUCKS BEAT US

Study whitetail behavior, and you'll outsmart more mature deer. by Charles J. Alsheimer

75 | TRUTH ABOUT HEART SHOTS

It's a lethal shot, no doubt, but the heart shot doesn't always provide the shortest blood trail. Here's why that happens. by John Trout Jr.

79 | BUTCHER SHOP

Poor-tasting venison? There could be many reasons why that happened. by Bob Robb

96 | THE OUTSIDE INSIDE ME

The November woods can provide peace, if only for a moment. by Joel Spring

ON THE COVER – PHOTO BY: CHARLES J. ALSHEIMER
PAGE 4 – PHOTOS:

TOP: RANDY HOPENER/WINDIGO
BOTTOM LEFT: BILL KINNEY/WINDIGO
BOTTOM RIGHT: RUSSELL GRAVES/WINDIGO



How to Contact Us

Visit us online:
WWW.DEERANDDEERHUNTING.COM
• Sign up for our free newsletter.
• Participate in deer hunting forums.
• Participate in deer hunting surveys.
• Renew your magazine subscription.
• Share whitetail insights with other members of the prestigious Stump Sitters Whitetail Study Group.
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: Visit us on the web at www.deeranddeerhunting.com, or call **(386) 246-3414**

Deer & Deer Hunting Magazine publishes 11 issues per year, which may include an occasional special, combined or expanded issue that may count as two issues toward your subscription.
ADVERTISING: Call Brad Rucks at (920) 284-8732 or send an email to him at brad.rucks@media360llc.com. For a media kit write to: Deer & Deer Hunting, P.O. Box 548, Waupaca, WI 54981.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Send letters to Daniel E. Schmidt, D&DH, P.O. Box 548, Waupaca, WI 54981. Or send an email to dan.schmidt@media360llc.com.



THE PERFECT STOCKING STUFFER!



LIMITED EDITION!

2023 DEER HUNTERS' ALMANAC

- ➔ STATE-BY-STATE RECORDS
- ➔ 2023 RUT PREDICTIONS
- ➔ USDA PLANTING DATES
- ➔ MOON DATA AND TIMING
- ➔ BEST SCOUTING APPS
- ➔ VENISON PREP & MORE!

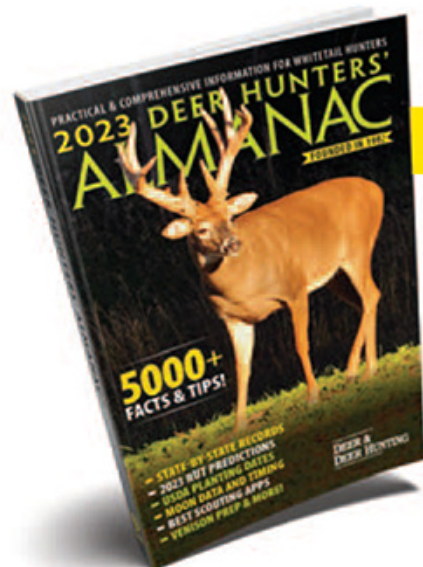
**208
PAGES!**

AVAILABLE ONLINE OR MAIL-IN ORDER BELOW

[SHOP.DEERANDDEERHUNTING.COM/
2023-DEER-AND-DEER-HUNTING-ALMANAC](http://SHOP.DEERANDDEERHUNTING.COM/2023-DEER-AND-DEER-HUNTING-ALMANAC)

AMERICA'S FAVORITE
WHITETAIL DIGEST SINCE 1992

- COMPACT SIZE IS PERFECT FOR BACKPACKS
- INFO FOR BOW, CROSSBOW, RIFLE, SHOTGUN & MUZZLELOADER HUNTERS



YES! SEND ME MY
2023 DEER HUNTERS' ALMANAC

**\$14 EACH
(PRICE INCLUDES SHIPPING)**

FOR FIVE OR MORE ALMANACS CONTACT:
SUSIE.MELUM@MEDIA360LLC.COM

BECAUSE QUANTITIES ARE VERY LIMITED, WE ARE ONLY ACCEPTING MAIL-IN ORDERS PAID WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER. CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED ONLINE ONLY. NO CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE ON MAIL-IN ORDERS AT THIS TIME.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MEDIA 360, LLC
FOR PROMPT SERVICE, SEND THIS COUPON AND PAYMENT TO:
MEDIA 360, LLC
ATTN: 2023 ALMANAC
P.O. BOX 548, WAUPACA, WI 54981

PAYMENT:

Check ☐ or Money Order ☐

QUANTITY: TOTAL ENCLOSED:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

**MEDIA
360**

EDITOR'S STUMP

FIRST DEER

DANIEL E. SCHMIDT

D&DH TV Producer Ian Sanchez is all smiles after bagging his first archery deer.

"WHEN SOME OF MY FRIENDS HAVE ASKED ME ANXIOUSLY ABOUT THEIR BOYS, WHETHER THEY SHOULD LET THEM HUNT, I HAVE ANSWERED YES – REMEMBERING THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF MY EDUCATION. MAKE THEM HUNTERS."

Henry David Thoreau / Walden. Aug. 9. 1854

It starts as a fascination. A new-age young man living in a world filled with pavement, digital screens and virtual, instant satisfaction discovers the age-old traditions of archery and hunting. The idea of hunting for free-range protein is more than appealing.

His buddies show him the basics at the local archery range, and he soon learns this won't be an easy pastime. Well, not as easy as those guys on TV make it look. Stacking arrows into a 10-inch circle at 20 yards is fun but narrowing that accuracy to 2 inches — proficient for bowhunting — will require time and repetition. But he's up to the task and begins on the journey just as the snow retreats, welcoming the spring season.

He's out there nearly every day after work, and even sometimes during his lunch hours. Arrow after arrow. Shot after shot. Lesson after sometimes painful (lost arrows and welted forearm) lesson.

Nothing comes easy; there's a lot to learn. Equipment must be tweaked. Draw-length adjusted. Bad shooting habits corrected. But he has friends who have been there and done that. They're eager to help this fledgling bowhunter shorten the learning curve. The first archery-deer season comes and goes, and all he has to show for it is one relatively close encounter with a deer that took his breath away without a shot opportunity. That brief moment lit a fire, however, that spurred him to learn more, shoot better and position

his blind in a more advantageous spot for next year.

Fast forward nine months. The young bowhunter is gaining skills, building confidence and in a much better place mentally to fully appreciate Mother Nature's ultimate experience. The mature doe steps out of the river-bottom, checks the wind and enters the turnip field. She browses within mere yards of our young bowhunter. The primal instinct surges, and he knows how to respond.

Muscles flex: bowstring is drawn to pursed lips; eyes narrowly focus on the crease in her shoulder.

THWACK ... THUNK!

Everything happens so fast. Adrenaline instantly surges, and he shakes uncontrollably.

"She ... she went down ... she's down!"

It starts as a fascination, indeed. But it ends with an obsession — to live a life as pure and free as possible in these ever-more troubling, so-called modern times.



WEB: DEERANDDEERHUNTING.COM
FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/DANSCHMIDTDEER
INSTAGRAM: INSTAGRAM.COM/DANSCHMIDTDEER
TWITTER: @DANSCHMIDTDEER

DEER & DEER HUNTING

"THE ORIGINAL STUMP SITTERS MAGAZINE"

Established In 1977

WWW.DEERANDDEERHUNTING.COM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Daniel E. Schmidt

SENIOR EDITOR

Chris Berens

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Rebecca Vogel

ONLINE CONTENT SPECIALIST

Sara Gilane

DEER RESEARCH FIELD EDITOR

John J. Ozoga

FIELD CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Bartylla, Bob Zaiglin,

Dr. Stephen Ditchkoff, Steve Sorensen

COPY EDITOR

Taylor Grace Schmidt

ADVERTISING SALES

PUBLISHER

Brad Rucks

brad.rucks@media360llc.com

SALES ASSOCIATES

Casey Lenz

casey.lenz@media360llc.com

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

Lisa Richter, lisa.richter@media360llc.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Susie Melum, susie.melum@media360llc.com

TELEVISION & ONLINE VIDEO

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

David Gilane

PRODUCERS

Ian Sanchez, Mackenzie Pelo

Deer & Deer Hunting (ISSN 01647318) is published 11 times per year: February, April, June, Summer, Equipment Annual, August, September, October, November and December by Media 360, LLC, P.O. Box 548, Waupaca, WI 54981. Periodical postage paid at Iowa, WI 54945, and at additional mailing offices. Canadian Agreement No. 40665675.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Deer & Deer Hunting, P.O. BOX 37180 BOONE, IA 50037-0180

Copyright 2022 by Media 360, LLC. | Printed in the U.S.A.

Deer & Deer Hunting and its logo are registered trademarks. Other names and logos referred to or displayed in editorial or advertising content may be trademarked or copyright. D&DH assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials sent to it. Publisher and advertisers are not liable for typographical errors that may appear in prices or descriptions in advertisements.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 800.250.9159 (U.S. and Canada)

P.O. BOX 37180 BOONE, IA 50037-0180

Outside the U.S., call 386.246.3414

MEDIA360

1990 Godfrey Drive | Waupaca, WI 54981

Brad Rucks, **PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER**

Daniel Schmidt, **VICE PRESIDENT**

FIND DEER & DEER HUNTING ON:

FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/DEERHUNTINGMAG

YOUTUBE: WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/DDHONLINE

TWITTER: TWITTER.COM/DEERHUNTINGMAG

INSTAGRAM: WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/DEERANDDEERHUNTING

PINTEREST: PINTEREST.COM/DEERHUNTINGMAG

Powerful ATTRACTANTS Made Easy



FILL THE AIR

WITH THESE ULTRA-PREMIUM AEROSOL SCENTS FROM WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER®. NOW AVAILABLE IN THREE ADDITIONAL GREAT NEW SCENTS!
EASY-TO-USE – JUST POINT, SPRAY, AND WATCH THE ACTION START!



Urine used in Wildlife Research Center® products is being RT-QuIC tested and certified by CWD Evolution™ that no CWD is detected.



RHSA DEER PROTECTION PROGRAM PARTICIPANT
www.RHSADPP.com



WWW.WILDLIFE.COM

DDH Community

CONNECT & WATCH OUR 4 SHOWS

WWW.DEERANDDEERHUNTING.COM

DEER & DEER HUNTING • DEERTECH • DEERTOPIA • LAND OF WHITETAIL

SOCIAL MEDIA, WEBSITES/STREAMING APPS

FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DEERHUNTINGMAG

YOUTUBE: WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/DDHONLINE

INSTAGRAM: WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/DEERANDDEERHUNTING

PURSUITUP: WWW.PURSUITUPTV.COM/DEER-AND-DEER-HUNTING/

WAYPOINT TV: WWW.WAYPOINTTV.COM/DEER-AND-DEER-HUNTING

WILDTV: WWW.WILDTV.CA/PROGRAM/DEERDEER

RUMBLE: WWW.RUMBLE.COM/C/DEERANDDEERHUNTING

TWITTER: @DEERHUNTINGMAG

PINTEREST: WWW.PINTEREST.COM/DEERHUNTINGMAG/

BROADCAST TELEVISION

PURSUIT CHANNEL - SATURDAY NIGHT DEER CAMP

WILD TV • WAYPOINT TV



WAYPOINT TV

WHAT'S NEW ON FACEBOOK?

WHEN WAS THE FIRST-EVER PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN OF A DEER? THE YEAR MIGHT SURPRISE YOU.



GETTY MUSEUM

The answer is 168 years ago, in 1854. According to a museum run by Getty Images, the first known photo of a deer is the one shown here of a girl posing with a black-tailed deer somewhere in the Western U.S., possibly Washington state. This image was displayed at the J. Paul Getty Museum in 2015 during an exhibition called, "In Focus: Animalia."

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT DEER & DEER HUNTING

*MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR JAN./FEB. 2021

FACEBOOK • PINTEREST • INSTAGRAM • TWITTER • YOUTUBE

FOLLOWERS: 1.01 MILLION

REACH: 7.6 MILLION

VIDEO VIEWS: 1.93 MILLION

DDH BUCK OF THE MONTH

LOGAN JAMES

Congratulations to Logan James, of Illinois, on his outstanding buck from last year! Thanks for sharing!



D&DH TV IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



LIKE A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

with a survival rate of zero.



SEVR's locking pivoting blades penetrate deeper with larger wounds
for more blood on the ground and a quick kill.

Fall Sale going on now. Visit sevrbroadheads.com

SEVRTM
STRAIGHT THROUGH IT.



AFTER THOROUGHLY READING this piece, I would have to agree that “carrying capacity” is indeed a “slippery shibboleth,” and that “readers should expect authors to define terms.”

Unless I missed it, nowhere in this article does the author explain what the K in KCC stands for. He makes reference to a “maximum biological carrying capacity,” but for the life of me I can’t find a K in either “maximum” nor “biological.” Ironically, KCC first appears under a “Some Science” subheading, leaving the reader to wonder what scientific information is potentially being withheld.

— Charles Slovensky, via email

Editor’s note: The K is in the formula for calculating the carrying capacity curve. Most laymen do not use the term, but most deer biologists do. More specifically, the formula is as follows:

$$K = R \times N \times (1-N) / CP$$

K = CARRYING CAPACITY

R = THE RATE OF THE POPULATION INCREASE

N = THE POPULATION SIZE

CP = THE CHANGE IN POPULATION SIZE

The December 2022 issue of D&DH will include a feature-length article by renowned deer biologist Keith McCaffery on this subject. That issue goes on sale Nov. 29.

THE TV IS off, the coffee is hot, and I’ve got the September issue of D&DH in hand. Your Editor’s Stump in this issue is spot on. It came right off the page and smacked me right on the forehead.

The negative energy out there has bled over from our jobs right into the quiet places many of us to get away from it, and that’s really unfortunate. I find myself in a job where a couple of folks I should be working side-by-side with make it almost unbearable to be around due to their negativity and childish behavior. It bothers me so much that we can’t get along the way a team should. As you stated in your article, sometimes no matter how hard we try to please people, some just are not going to feel the same. That is troubling and it’s something I find myself struggling with greatly from time to time.

However, as you usually do, you remind us again that those people are not the ones we should be seeking to please. Stepping back, looking at who we need in our circle vs. who we think we need in our circle, is one of keys to inner peace. Being humble and thankful for those that we truly need in our lives...those are who we should surround ourselves with. The good Lord provides us with a lot to be thankful for. These personal challenges help remind us of what is really important. Whether work or hunting, we should be thankful for what we have been provided & remind ourselves that some people show up on our journey to teach us lessons, so we should be willing to learn & move on so we CAN embrace the best and ignore the rest!

— Jeremy Miner, Iowa



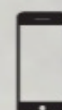
What’s on your mind? Send your letters via email to:
dan.schmidt@media360llc.com

800-338-3220 | HORNADY.COM



NEVER COMPROMISE AT ANY DISTANCE

When you set out to exceed the limits of what is expected of hunting ammunition, you don't do it by guessing what should happen. You test, evaluate and refine until you arrive at Hornady® Precision Hunter® ammunition, loaded with our ballistically advanced ELD-X® bullet with Heat Shield® tip. Engineered specifically to deliver **match accuracy** and **lethality at all practical ranges**, Hornady® Precision Hunter® ammunition is the best **ALL-RANGE** hunting ammunition.



FREE DOWNLOAD
Hornady Ballistic App with 4DOF*



4DOF® available on the Hornady®
Kestrel® 5700 Ballistics Weather Meter

Available in 27 different calibers, including the 6.5 PRC & 300 PRC!

HE GOT HIS BUCK 70 YEARS IN A ROW!

RICHARD P. SMITH

Eighty-nine-year-old Delor Wellman is one of Michigan's most successful deer hunters. While hunting in the UP's Delta County over the years, he shot bucks 70 years in a row. Some years he shot two bucks. He's saved the antlers from all of the bucks he's shot since 1948.

Someone with that much experience is bound to have valuable information to share, so I took advantage of the opportunity to interview the veteran whitetail slayer when I learned about Delor's envious record from his son Dave. Dave Wellman is also into whitetail antlers, especially big ones. He's a long-time measurer for state big game record keeper Commemorative Bucks of Michigan and is also a scorer for a well known national big game record keeping organization: the Boone & Crockett Club.

"I don't go looking for them (bucks)," Delor said. "I let them come looking for me."

The bucks he shoots aren't actually looking for him. They are attracted to the bait he puts out. More



Delor Wellman (left) poses with his brothers after a successful deer season in the 1980s.

accurately still, those bucks are looking for the does that have taken advantage of the bait he provides. Delor is a rifle hunter, but he starts baiting as early as he can. By the time firearm season arrives, deer in the area are familiar with the location of his bait.

"I'm the first one to shoot every year," Wellman stated. "Last fall (2017), I shot an 8-pointer at 9:00 a.m. That's the time for me. I've got more than 70 bucks.

Most of them were shot at 9:00 a.m.

"Bucks don't come to eat. They're after does. I've only had a few bucks come to the bait and eat. You should have your gun in hand because they don't come to play around. Most cruise on by if there isn't a doe at the bait.

"Another reason I like to be ready when I see a buck is, where I hunt, they're right on top of me when I see them. It's only 150 feet from my blind to my bait. That's point-blank range for me."

Delor said he saw five bucks on opening day of the 2017 gun deer season from his blind. Besides the 8-point he shot, he saw a pair of 6s, a 3-point and a big one that had at least 10 points. The big one cruised by 200 feet away at about 10:00 a.m. The veteran hunter let the big one go because he already had a buck down. He also didn't want to end his season so soon and he knew other family members were hunting in the area that might get a chance at that buck.

HIS FIRST DEER

The senior hunter said he was 11 years old when he started deer hunting in 1939.

"I come from a family of 14," he explained. "If we didn't kill a deer, we didn't have meat for the table."

Delor saw a small buck during his first hunt and shot it. The buck fell right away. Thinking the buck was dead, the inexperienced boy put his gun down and excitedly ran up to the deer.

"When I got there, the buck got up," Wellman commented. "So I grabbed the deer by the hind legs and pulled it back to where I left the gun to shoot it again. I learned my lesson that day. I learned that you should take your gun with you when going to a deer you shot."

Delor was extremely lucky the injured deer did not retaliate and try to hurt him during that episode. That was the first of many valuable lessons he learned over the years. Those lessons contributed to the evolution of his successful hunting strategy.

"I had nine brothers," Wellman said. "Dad knew what runway the deer would come on. My dad would put me on that runway. He knew if I saw a buck, I would get it. I can shoot with the best."

Delor's brothers got their share of bucks, too. The senior citizen has many fond memories of sharing annual deer camps with his brothers and other family members.

HIS BIGGEST

"I got a lot of 9-pointers," the experienced hunter remembered. "My biggest buck was a 10. He had a dressed weight of 220 pounds. The biggest 8-point I got is entered in state records. The antlers measured between 125 and 128."

The actual score is 126 4/8, but Delor made it clear that he doesn't hunt for the antlers.

"I'm a meat hunter," he commented. "If they've got horns, they're on the ground."

What's the best bait for deer?

"One thing deer really love is oats and molasses,"

Delor said. "The only problem is bears like it, too."

And there are lots of bears in the UP.

BEARS & BAIT

The long time UP resident shot two black bears while deer hunting over bait. Both were shot when bruins were bonus animals on deer licenses.

"One year I knew I had a bear hitting my bait," Delor stated. "I had just shot a nice 9-pointer. After that, two more bucks came to the bait. Then the big bear showed up. He got within 50 feet of those bucks before they took off. The bear dressed out at 350 pounds."

Bear hunting during November is no longer legal. Seasons specifically for bear hunting are now held during September and October, and bear licenses are limited in number, so hunters have to apply for those limited tags between May 1 and June 1 each year.

The second bear Delor shot was smaller than his first. He's also shot two coyotes and a bobcat while deer hunting. Bobcats used to be legal to shoot during deer season, but that is no longer the case.

SHOOTING DOES

Although Delor has shot his share of bucks, the same can't be said for does. He's from the old school of thought that shooting does is undesirable since they produce the future crop of bucks. That reasoning ignores the fact does that die during winter when too many are present don't produce any bucks for the future. He did admit to shooting one doe 40 years ago, though. It was a big doe that was "mean." The doe chased other deer away, including bucks, so he put an end to that.

Wellman said the meat was so tough from that big doe that he couldn't eat it. He figured the tough meat from that whitetail was his punishment for shooting the doe.

RIFLE OF CHOICE

Delor's favorite rifle for deer hunting is a scoped bolt action .30-06. When telescopic sights were a new thing, Delor was the first person in the area to put a scope on his rifle. He uses a 4 power scope.

His favorite aiming point on a whitetail is the neck. Most of the deer he kills drop right where they're standing. That's not the best shot for the average hunter, however. The shoulder area on a broadside deer provides the most margin for error. A bullet through the chest cavity is consistently deadly even though deer may run a short distance before dying.

ADVICE

When replenishing bait prior to the opening of hunting season, Delor recommends putting the bait where you want it, then getting out of there. The reason for that advice is that deer are often closer than you think and may be watching you.

After the season opens, "If you haven't got a buck in the first three days, pack a lot of lunches. They know you're there."



Delor Wellman has saved the racks from every buck he has shot dating back to his first one in 1948.

Although Delor has killed many bucks at 9:00 a.m., he often plans on hunting all day because bucks can and do show up at any time, including midday. Prime time for bait hunting success on bucks besides the morning, is the last hour or so of daylight. To make all day sits comfortable regardless of the weather, Delor hunts from an enclosed blind that is heated. He also brings food and drink with him, so hunger or thirst don't force him to leave the blind.

During a day of hunting, it's not unusual for Delor to see 15 deer. That's one of the things the veteran hunter likes about hunting over bait. He likes to see deer even if none of them are ones he wants to shoot. That's what most hunters find attractive about hunting over bait: seeing deer. If you don't see any, you can't shoot any.

"If you see that deer, he doesn't know you're there," the senior hunter advised, "so take your time to make a good shot."

BACK TO 2017

Prior to the beginning of the 2017 firearms season, Delor knew he had a pair of 8-pointers visiting his bait besides some smaller bucks. He ended up filling his

second tag later in the season with the second 8-point. Nobody did get the bigger buck that he let go on opening day. It should have been even bigger in 2018.

Delor continued his string of deer hunting success during 2018 and 2019. The fall of 2020 was the first time Delor did not hunt deer at the age of 91. He lost the vision in his right eye that year after being vaccinated against the coronavirus, an extremely rare side effect reported in .0128% of the total 52 million recipients.

Delor gave his large collection of antlers from bucks he's killed to his son. Dave has many of them mounted on plaques in his garage, but he's still working on mounting the remainder on boards so they can be displayed, too.

Although deer hunting with bait remained legal in the UP through 2021 seasons, the practice was banned across the entire Lower Peninsula starting in 2019 due to the presence of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in multiple counties. The future of deer hunting over bait in the UP is uncertain. A CWD Management Zone in the southern UP is the only place where deer baiting is currently banned in the region. A single deer, a 4 1/2-year-old

doe with CWD had been detected in the UP by the end of 2021 and that doe was killed on a crop damage permit during September of 2018 in southern Dickinson County near the Wisconsin border.

That doe most certainly had fawns and DNR research has confirmed does with CWD infect their fawns. The disease probably remains at such a low prevalence in the area that no additional deer with CWD have surfaced yet. The fact that so few deer from the UP's CWD Management Zone in parts of Dickinson and Menominee Counties are tested for the disease by the DNR each year is another important reason why no more infected deer have been identified.

— Richard P. Smith is an accomplished author, photographer and deer hunter from Marquette, Mich. To order his deer hunting books, please visit www.RichardPSmith.com



DEER & DEER HUNTING

BY ALAN CLEMONS

Illinois Deer Hunters Get More Options

Illinois deer hunters will have more options starting in the 2023 season when single-shot rifles will be allowed with specific caliber regulations.

The changes go into effect Jan. 1, 2023, according to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Legal specifics for the single-shot rifle and caliber:

- a bottleneck centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger with a case length not exceeding one and two-fifths inches, OR
- a straight-walled centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger.
- Both must be available as a factory load with the published ballistic tables of the manufacturer showing a capability of at least 500-foot pounds of energy at the muzzle.
- Full-metal jacket bullets may not be used to harvest deer.

These caliber specifications are the same for handgun deer hunting in previous years. The barrel of a handgun must be at least 4 inches long.

“Single shot” means a gun that is either manufactured or modified to only be capable of holding a total of one round in the magazine and chamber combined. “Single shot” does not include a rifle in the possession of a person who is also in possession of or in close proximity to a magazine that would allow the rifle to be capable of holding more than one round or a revolver.

Washington Wants Feedback on Columbian Whitetail

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking public input on its draft status review for the Columbian white-tailed deer.

The agency is recommending re-classifying Columbian white-tailed deer from endangered to threatened. That proposal is based on encouraging conservation gains and population growth, but continued vulnerability.

“We have seen some conservation gains for Columbian white-tailed deer over the last few years, particularly the population growth at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Area,” said Taylor Cotten, WDFW conservation assessment manager. “A potential down-listing is encouraging, but the species remains vulnerable to long-term persistence in Washington without continued conservation actions.”

Columbian white-tailed deer were listed under the federal Environmental Species Act in 1973, and by the state of Washington in 1980. Since 1980, the size of

the lower Columbia River Columbian white-tailed deer population has fluctuated. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted surveys that estimated a low of only 545 deer in 2002. The population is now substantially higher, with an estimated population of 1,296 deer in 2022.

The population of CWTD along the Columbia River has grown in the last five years. This contrasts with the preceding few years where growth was stagnant, and a longer period of decline before that. Recent increases in overall Columbia River population numbers are attributed mostly to a successful translocation to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. However, populations are still vulnerable to threats such as climate change, emerging diseases and a lack of secure and functionally connected habitat.

For more information visit the WDFW site at <http://wdfw.wa.gov>.

notebook



Some states allow straight-wall cartridges for deer hunting, including Illinois beginning in 2023. Check all state laws and regulations about allowable calibers and ammunition before hunting deer or other game.



| TOM CARPENTER



GIVE ME

IN OUR ELEVENTH MONTH, A HUNTER'S BLOOD KNOWS

NOVEMBER

When asked the age-old conversational question, “What month of the year is your favorite?” Or perhaps its more thought-provoking corollary, “What month of the year would you choose if you only had one to live?” My answer is the same. Give me November.

Now I admit, I would be hard-pressed not to choose May with its dewy mornings, new-green pastures and hayfields, songbird life, woodland wildflowers, unfurling oak leaves and long days ... with wild turkeys to hunt in the glory of it all and trout to fish in the cool, singing creeks.

But May doesn't quite match up to November. For me, three things make that so.

One. It must be some combination of the genes in me emanating from the north seas on one side and Slavic steppes on the other, but the swings and extremes of November weather make my heart happy. It likes a good old brooding day sometimes, as much as a sunny and sprightly smile-maker. The cool to downright cold temperatures of November fit me well too.

Two. Despite its sometimes in-your-face harshness as opposed to the caress of May on your cheek, the November landscape offers a subtle beauty you really have to search for. May's splendor is easy, make that effortless, to find; November's is hard work, and that makes it all the more pleasing to discover.

Three. November has deer hunting. I could say it is the best month for deer hunting outright, and while many wouldn't argue that, some would disagree. So I will say it this way: It is the best month for my deer hunting.



MATT HANSEN/WINDIGO

Yes, give me November. Why? Let me count the ways.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Someone once asked me what was my perfect weather day. Not for November, mind you, but for the whole year. Of course I turned to November. Here is how I answered.

The stars are shining so bright I can use that light to navigate through the timber to my post at an ancient bur oak. It is cold – let's say 20 degrees or so – plenty to keep whitetails moving long into the coming morning but not cold enough to make me shiver too hard and give up early.

The sun rises orange in the east and ever-so-slowly bathes the landscape in more and more of its glow. My breath steams out so profusely that I worry a deer will see it, so I cover my mouth with a mittened hand.

The sky is high and blue, and that is all the more appreciated after the leaden clouds of yore and the ones that will surely yet come. For it is, after all, November.

The day will get to somewhere just above the freezing point, and at that only for an hour or two after lunchtime. A guy can take his jacket off for his walk to the afternoon stand, and linger there on the way on a tote trail to watch a fox squirrel (as orange-bellied as the sunrise was) shuffle through the leaves, see titmice and nuthatches peck the tree trunks' bark, smell the sweet pungency of the leaves damp from morning's frost that melted but never dried, and hear a pileated woodpecker hootling in the next draw over.

The pause is brief though, for there is a stand to get to and the whitetails will be moving again soon after this brief interlude of a sweatshirt-friendly afternoon hour is done.

Later, the cold comes on again not like a seep but more like an anvil being dropped. One moment you're

thinking hey I really didn't need this jacket on yet and the next you're zipping it up the rest of the way, pulling up your neck gaiter and pulling down your cap.

And the heart quickens, for a hunter's blood knows.

LIGHT CONDITIONS

Some of that knowing relates to temperature, mind you: On days like this, whitetails are just going to be more comfortable moving in the downright chill to general coolness.

But I think a lot of that knowing relates to light.

During a sunny day in November, one keeps thinking the sun is going to get higher in the sky and the day brighter. But it never happens. Even at noontime, the light has that orange and eveninglike quality to it. That makes me happy, for I am a lover of evenings, and what could be better than a day-long evening?

I also think that quality of light is good for whitetail movement too. The rut and the temperature aside, November's low light conditions encourage deer to be more active all day long.

And even when the air is deeply cold, golden November sun warms my soul.

SOME UNCERTAINTY

Of course, if I did not like a brooding day too, I could not choose November. November offers plenty of brooding. And my favorite day brooding day is this one.

The clouds scud low and gray. The wind is, perhaps, pushing fast up above in the jet stream, but not so badly down here below on Earth -- where whitetails more willingly wander out of a bad blow and where hunters try to wait them out.

Then there is the element of snow. Not much mind you, but rather a waft or perhaps those little pelley flakes that come down and sprinkle the ground of an oak woodlot or of a corn stubblefield as if from a salt shaker.

MOSSBERG | PATRIOT™ RIFLES

**RIFLES
BUILT FOR
THE LONG
HAUL.**



Patriot
Vortex® Scoped Combo

Vortex is a registered trademark
of Sheltered Wings, Inc.

SAFETY TIP

Store firearms securely, inaccessible to children and unauthorized users.

Consult and comply with any and all applicable federal, state, and local: laws, regulations, requirements, and/or restrictions, including but not limited to those regarding the purchase, ownership, use, transport, and carrying of a firearm.

**WHAT YOU CARRY INTO THE FIELD — MAKES
A BIG DIFFERENCE IN WHAT YOU CARRY OUT.**

Available in 14 calibers and in configurations to suit any style, Patriot rifles are durable, accurate, and loaded with features. Modern innovations and traditional styling combine to keep you stocked with fresh carryout, season-after-season.

**Mossberg — Makers of dependable, hardworking firearms for more
than a century.**

**LEARN MORE AT
MOSSBERG.COM**

MOSSBERG®
SINCE 1919

You can hear the tick-tick-tick of the snow-grains hitting the tree trunks and the ground, and a heartbeat doubles and then doubles again as the ears pick up the shuffle of something else joining the rhythm.

SWEET SUCCESS

I once shot a buck on such a morning.

The world was silent save for the tick-ticking of the snow, which started soon after what had passed for dawn.

Not long after it was evident that the day was as light as it was going to get, another sound broke the precipitation's rhythm — leaves shuffling perhaps — and my head turned to lean an ear into it. It grew, as did the pounding of my heart.

The old shotgun came up. He stepped into the glade. A shot shattering the silence, a deer leaping, then silence again except for the tick-ticking of the snow.

Had he really been there?

As I walked over, the snow picked up, which I didn't like, and I stopped in my tracks at a spray of blood where he had stood. Following the trail was as challenging as walking on a sidewalk, but a sidewalk that was quickly disappearing under the now-accumulating snow as the evidence that this all was real faded from scarlet to mere red to pink to the buck sprawled out in his last stride in the brush the edge of a hayfield.

It was November.

CAMP AWAITS

November brings on a loneliness that is delicious to my soul, and my soul loves being alone in whitetail country in my favorite month.

But for me November also means deer camp and

family and friends and tradition. It is the perfect mix of solitary and social, of just being and of banter, and of hoping the hunting of the day will never end while looking as forward to who and what waits behind the glow of a window from a farmhouse, cabin, lodge, camper or whatever you call deer camp.

November brings my three boys (and me) back to the land where I grew up for deer hunting together — a chance to reconnect with ourselves and with good friends and with the land. It is a time sacrosanct on the calendar of everybody's busy lives.

And for that I also love November.

THE BEST OF ALL

No matter the month at hand, at some point November crosses my mind.

I think of it in January as I sear a venison burger in cast iron. I think of it in May when a young buck sprouting his first antlers glides across an emerald-green meadow as I wait there for turkeys. I think of it in August when we conquer foliage, bugs, heat and humidity to hang a stand and cut shooting lanes.

Give me our eleventh month, when the sun rakes in low and golden some days, while on others the skies brood and the clouds roll leaden, but through all of it whitetails are on the move recreating their kind and getting ready for winter and I am alive for all of it.

Give me November.





WC30



DESIGNED FOR USE WITH COVERT MOBILE APP



HIGHEST RESOLUTION PHOTO TRANSFER SIZE
— GREAT IMAGES DIRECT TO YOUR APP

AFFORDABLE PLANS WITH ADD-A-LINE OPTIONS

SIMPLISTIC MULTI-USER ACCESSIBILITY

REAL-TIME NOTIFICATIONS

RECOGNITION SOFTWARE AVAILABLE



WC20



AFFORDABLE. INTUITIVE.
MOBILE SCOUTING

WWW.COVERTSCOUTINGCAMERAS.COM



TAG YOUR BEST BUCK THIS SEASON

I'll begin by being brutally honest. I don't love writing articles on what we'll be covering today. Don't get me wrong. I sincerely find great satisfaction in being a small part of other's getting more from our shared passion. I just think both the sport and industry itself is generally too fixated on how many inches hunters put on the ground each fall.



I know how rich that is, coming from someone that hosts the “Grow ‘em Big” and “Hunt ‘em Big” video series, as well as given seminars, written many articles and entire books on the subject. In all cases, I merely hope the work is judged on their contents, not their titles. Why? Because I sincerely believe the best judges of the quality of a season is how much we enjoyed it, learned and were able to grow as people and hunters. It may sound super cheesy, and it took some years to get there, but that’s honestly my view.

With that firmly in mind the entire time reading this, let’s jump into how we can tag our biggest bucks, this year!

GET YOUR HEAD RIGHT

The starting point will likely surprise many, but the years have taught me that if one’s mind isn’t right and in a good place, well, not much good follows. That applies to hunting and management every bit as much as I’ve found it to apply to real life.

Before you discount this, I’d ask a simple question. Why do most pro baseball, football and basketball players talk so much about their mental approaches to truly physical sports? Heck, you ever see what often happens after FG kickers clank a ball off the posts, a player misses a truly critical free throws or a top pitcher gets jacked or gives up a walk in a critical juncture? They often spiral from there, until they can get their heads right. The mental aspect is huge in these physically based sports.

Well, deer hunting may have some physical aspects to it, but it really is far more a mental than a physical sport. If having one’s mind right is important in physical games, and it sure is based on how many top athletes keep talking the mental game, how critical is it to a more mental based sport, like hunting?

I sure can’t speak for anyone else, but I may as well let down my bow, if I’m questioning how I can make that shot. For me, the same applies to sitting on stand. If I don’t believe I’ll arrow Mr. Big today, my experiences have taught me that odds are far better that I’ll blow the situation up than be placing a tag on Mr. Big that day.

On the flip, I wouldn’t want to be the target, if I’m feeling confident in the shot. I also wouldn’t want to be Mr. Big, if I believe I have a legit crack at him on that sit. When I believe, arrows and bullets far more consistently hit their marks, I pay way

more attention, my senses are far better honed and my actions tend to be both purposeful and correct.

Getting my head in a good spot truly is a huge step in scoring on Mr. Big. Part of that is merely constantly reminding myself that tagging Mr. Big won’t end all wars or world hunger issues, and not doing so won’t harm the quality of my or my loved ones’ lives in the least. When we invest heavily into most anything, it’s super easy to make the results seem far more critical to one’s quality of life than they often are.

As surprising as it may sound, I honestly believe that being in a good head space, as well as keeping all of this in true perspective are the most important keys. If those cards aren’t in order, odds are too high that the chase will merely end in others not liking you as much as when you went in. Keep the head and priorities right and odds of good occurring skyrocket!

FIND HIM

Quite honestly, the next most important step is merely finding Mr. Big. One of the biggest reasons I’ll never take seriously the use of inches tagged as a judge of the quality of a hunter is that, no matter how great a hunter is, they simply can’t shoot a 140 inch buck, if a 120 is the biggest in their hunting area. Conversely, I’ll bet on the sloppy, just plain bad hunter that hunts areas with a surplus of 140+ bucks every time. Heck, they can often blow four or ten encounters in a season, and STILL tag a 140+. If he aint there, you aint placing a tag on him, period.

I’d never recommend to anyone to become a Mr. Big chasing fanatic. Frankly, it’s up to each of us to find the sweet spot in all of this for our own enjoyment, within the laws and one’s own morality, of course. That said, I know more than a couple great hunters who truly enjoy and are very successful at doing just that.

They all share one common trait. They invest way more time into finding Mr. Big than they do in hunting him.

In fact, they are almost always looking for new lands and larger racks to chase. I’m not exaggerating in the least when I say that the most successful I know at doing just that spend more than three times the time and effort on finding new spots and Mr. Bigs to hunt than they ever spend on stand, and many of them spend ridiculous amounts of time on stands!

In fact, if you don’t do that, the rest of the article can be summed up by this. Find a funnel between doe bedding that Mr. Big

Getting one’s head right plays a much more critical role in our success than we realize.



YOU ASKED. WE LISTENED.



{HR500}

Introducing The new HR500.

App Enabled.

Remote Compatible.

40% quieter in Boost mode.

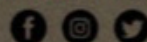
Ozonics. The Science behind Scent Elimination.

LEARN MORE HERE:



ozonics
UNDETECTABLE | UNDENIABLE

ozonicsshunting.com





The hunt the author took this great buck on had been brutal, but he believed he could pull it off by going deep in the woods after him. First sit in the high-confidence area paid off.



Once found, determine the various spots Mr. Big can be had during daylight, through good old-fashioned foot scouting, cams and observations.



Finding Mr. Big is right behind getting one's head straight in importance.

almost must use, place stands on both sides for varying winds and invest as much of the rut into sitting that stand as one possibly can.

For those that do, feel free to continue to the next section.

LISTEN TO HIM

Once you find him or, hopefully, multiple Mr. Bigs, now we must merely observe, be it long range surveillance, Reconyx images, sign, observations from stand and/or all of the above. Want to know which trails he prefers and when? Watch. Want to know his favorite foods at the moment? Watch. Want to know where he travels during daylight? Watch.

The beautiful thing about Mr. Big is he has no clue how to lie or deceive. He is a literal open book and the greatest teacher there is on how to tag him, specifically. All we must do is our assigned reading, which is reading his sign, and pay attention to him when he speaks in class, and he speaks in every photo, video clip and any other time we can set eyes on him.

When Mr. Big speaks, listen, as his actions tell us everything we really need to know. That most definitely includes where we should setup to meet him in daylight.

FIND A KINK

And there's the magic bullet. If we did our homework and paid attention in Mr. Big's Masters Course, he's already instructed us on where to sit to meet him in daylight.

This part really isn't that hard. The hard parts are already done. Just create a list of the spots where Mr. Big is telling and/or showing us he's ripe to be had during daylight. Now, of that list, which can I get to, hunt and get out of, without exploding the deer woods?

What's left are the spots we can effectively hunt Mr. Big from, at this exact moment of time. Though it certainly helps, we don't need to know every detail of what he does during daylight. If we just have one, that occurs in an area we can hunt, we're in the game and have a start.

HUNT HIM SMART AND HARD

Of course, there's still a couple issues left. We have to both hunt him smart and make it count when we have the chance.

When I was younger, I believed that hunting smart meant taking odor control steps, thinking out the safe winds for everything hunting related, not drawing destructive attentions to myself and so on.

Though all of that still rings true for me, one thing I used to believe was hunting smart was actually the opposite. That's my misguided belief that we needed to give stands rests between sits. By giving a stand five or more days off between sits, I was helping to keep stands fresh.

That's 100% true, but I was also limiting my opportunities at Mr. Bigs that were literally screaming that I should be hunting them every day right HERE, as that's where they currently are.

As I've matured and learned, I realize that hunting him smart is really hunting him as often as the conditions

STAY CONNECTED.

★
★
★
★
★
EST '02

HYPERFIRE 2
4G LTE CELLULAR

RECONYX.COM



We live in a connected world. Why should your Trail Camera be any different? Our proven HyperFire 2™ camera is now 4G LTE Cellular Enabled, allowing you to receive images from your camera almost anywhere in the world via email or through our Mobile App for Android® or iOS®. Cost effective data plans utilizing Verizon® or AT&T® are available directly through RECONYX and start at only \$5 per month, with no long term contracts. With our Mobile App, you can create a custom cellular plan, manage images and check status or change camera settings from anywhere. All RECONYX® HyperFire 2™ Cameras are Made in the USA and are backed by a full 5 year warranty. RECONYX®, See What You've Been Missing...



MADE IN USA  @RECONYX_CAMERAS



The author followed this formula to a T to tag this great buck. Not surprisingly, it was a slog and he was tagged once the author decided to chill and merely have some fun with the rest of the season.

warrant I can, without him knowing I'm there. Frankly, if I have stands for the winds in a specific area Mr. Big is currently utilizing during daylight, I'd be happy to sit that same spot for two weeks straight, every day, so long as he keeps coming and has no clue I'm there. If he figures it out, I merely shift closer to his bedding area.

CONCLUSION

Of course, it all ends with making the shot. Luckily, we can do wonders for our shot rate successes, merely by making practice mimic real world hunting and from very long range practice. The more closely practice resembles hunting, regardless of the weapon, the easier it is to remain calm and in control when the real shot occurs, as we've practiced this many times before. At the same time, that 30-yard bow or 200-yard firearms shot sure seems easy.

Putting this all together really starts with getting our heads right. Then, the hard part starts. We must both find Mr. Big and a daylight kink in his armor. With that, we merely setup in the spots he tells us to meet him in daylight that we can hunt safely, and both hunt him hard and smart to make it happen.

— Steve Bartylla's new show "DeerTopia TV" is available at www.YouTube.com/DDHonline



Along the way, never forget that this is supposed to be fun. If it isn't, change stuff up now!



STUMP 4

LIMITED EDITION



YOUR 360° VIEW JUST GOT EVEN BETTER.

New for 2022, the 'Limited Edition Stump 4 360°' boasts **eight new + improved larger silent-swinging framed windows** creating the ultimate panoramic view. This blind is available as a fully equipped 'Pro Hunter', Stump 4 model or tinted 'Phantom' Edition. With over 30 sq ft of room inside, the family-friendly 'Stump 4 360°' is perfect for filming hunts and viewing wildlife from every direction.

WWW.BANKSOUTDOORS.COM

TIDAL CHARTS & MOON PHASES





We've all had days in the woods where nothing, absolutely nothing, is happening. There are no birds singing, no squirrels feeding. It's totally dead ... and then all of a sudden everything comes to life. We start seeing birds fluttering around, squirrels coming down trees, everything feeding. If you'll take note when that happens, the moon is either in the major or minor phase, probably the major.

LINDA FRESHWATER'S ARNDT / WINDIGO

Obviously, there are circumstances which would override or otherwise heavily influence the feeding times. Hunter pressure is one. An approaching storm front is another. These are best described as “local” conditions.

The moon affects hunting success, but not in the way we usually believe (full moon -- deer feed all night -- lousy hunting). Since I do most of my whitetail hunting within 300 miles of the ocean, I also pay attention to tidal charts. Tides are governed by the moon’s position. Use this moon information to select when you should hunt.

The best hunting is when the moon is up about an hour high above the horizon when the sun goes down in the afternoon. I see considerable animal movement at that time. That would be equated to a tidal change.

If you hunt within about 300 miles of a body of water large enough to have tides, get the tidal charts for the numbers of days you will be hunting. The high tide - low tide is the same as the major feed - minor feed.

When you can see the moon earlier in the day, then the hunting and fishing is better. When the moon is coming up it is a major feed; when the moon is going down it is a minor feed. Actually, this particular year I’ve paid a lot of attention to the position of the moon. Any time the moon was up above the horizon I was on stand, because when the moon is visible above the horizon, that’s the best time to hunt.

Second best time is when the moon is rising on the opposite side of the earth. During a full moon on the opposite side of the earth, there will be minor feeds at sunrise and sunset and a major feed in the middle of the day.

Brad Smith, a friend from Tennessee, and I were hunting in south Alabama a couple of years ago. Brad had shot a deer the afternoon before, and the evidence on the shaft and on the ground indicated a shot through the intestines. So we didn’t track it at all that night.

The weather forecast was good -- cool and clear. We went out at daylight the next morning to track the animal. We found the animal

after a couple of hours, dressed it out and loaded it up. We were coming out on our ATVs about 10:45 a.m. when I noticed the moon was up about an hour high above the horizon.

I told Brad, “I’ll see you. I’m going to my stand.”

He took his animal back to camp and I went on stand. Fifteen minutes later I had another deer on the ground. That deer was feeding on acorns, just moseying along. I’ve shot deer the same way at 1:00 in the afternoon.

Relative to moon rise and set, here are the things to remember:

- **The NEW MOON** rises at sunrise and sets at sunset;
- **The FULL MOON** rises at sunset and sets at sunrise;
- **The FIRST QUARTER MOON** rises at noon and sets at midnight;
- **The LAST QUARTER MOON** rises at midnight and sets at noon.

The best possible time of the month to hunt is on a new moon, because it will have three feeding periods during daylight hours.

- 1) **A major feed** occurs one hour before to one hour after the moon is directly overhead. This occurs any time the moon is directly overhead, no matter which time of the month.
- 2) **A minor feed** occurs 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after moonrise.
- 3) **A minor feed** occurs 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after moonset.

The full moon is poor hunting because it has only two minor feeds corresponding with the usual times deer feed and there is no major feeding period during daylight hours.

The rut DOES NOT make all these conditions null and void, because does aren’t as affected. Bucks are looking for hot does over a long period of time, whereas does are looking for bucks only during the peak of their estrus. The remainder of the rut, the does are pretty much in their usual feeding and movement patterns, except for when a buck is harassing them to see if they are ready.

Paying attention to the moon phases last fall gave me one of

the best, yet one of the most frustrating, whitetail hunts I’ve ever had. I saw four Pope and Young-class bucks in one day but couldn’t get a shot at any of them. Made me a nervous wreck.

I selected dates to hunt by using the lunar chart, aiming to pick a time with as many feeding periods during daylight hours as possible. The next-to-last week of January looked to be my best chance. At that time, the rut would be going strong in the area I planned to hunt. I knew large bucks lived in the area; during my scouting I’d seen several huge rubs and scrapes. I arrived at deer camp one day early to hang stands in areas I’d already scouted.

The first morning was spent on the “swamp stand”, an area with a pine plantation at the base of the hill where the swamp begins. The plantation abruptly ends into a stand of mature hardwoods, which is a feeding area for deer. Approximately half a mile from here is a large pasture and green fields where deer feed at night.

Nothing showed the first two hours that morning. Then I sensed more than heard something moving behind me. I turned my head slowly to the left, and after some eyeballing finally spotted a deer’s legs in the pine plantation. I watched it half a minute or so before the

deer moved out to where I could see it fully....a humongous buck. P&Y #1 of the day. He stood there a bit but didn’t move close enough for a shot. Then he actually walked out the logging trail I had walked in on and out of sight. I tried grunting and rattling. No response. The buck had come out of the low ground. It wasn’t trailing a doe, just travelling. His antlers would score, in my estimation, 140-145.

I saw several does and small bucks moving across the ridge above me after this. An hour or so later, I saw a doe coming straight to me from my left, from east to west. I stood and got in shooting position, in case a buck followed her. Sure enough, P&Y #2 came into sight, a good eight-pointer, scoring in the 130s. The doe came to a big scrape not more than 10 paces from my tree stand and urinated in that scrape.

The buck came in behind her and paused. He needed to take three

QUIETKAT



**GET TO YOUR STAND QUICKLY, QUIETLY, AND SCENT FREE.
THE ULTIMATE ELECTRIC BIKE FOR THE OUTDOORSMAN.**

970.431.2515 | QUIETKAT.COM



more steps for me to get a shot. The buck grunted one time, real soft, sounding almost like a cat purring. That doe was not ready. She bolted and ran into the pine plantation. The buck, rather than coming to the scrape where I could shoot, cut the corner to head her off. The buck chased that doe in the plantation probably five minutes, only 30 yards from me, but in cover so thick there was no shot. Then they moved out of sight, still in the plantation.

I remained on stand until lunch, thinking I'd already had more than a full day's hunting excitement. At lunch my host, Billy Perryman, suggested I hunt a hill area nearby. I looked the area over and hung a stand on a trail leading uphill to a green field on top of the hill.

I began seeing deer within 30 seconds after I got on stand, coming from the hollow, up the drainage, under my stand and up to the green patch. I lost count of the spikes, button bucks, small racks and does. At two o'clock in the afternoon, the moon was almost directly overhead.

Near sundown, I glanced across the field, and saw the P&Y #3 of the day, 400-500 yards off, chasing a doe. I could see good antler mass and spread. This tended to frustrate me somewhat.

The next deer that came by me was a doe, which I fully intended to shoot. But I had made the mistake of putting my stand in a too-small pine tree. When I stood up, she caught the movement of the pine. The deer didn't bolt but made a wide circle around me and went

on to the field. I remained standing, because there was only one hour to sundown.

The next deer past was a six-pointer. Billy had already told me that bucks in this area often have only six points, no brow tines. He told me to take out such deer as culls. So I shot that buck.

Waiting for the necessary time to pass, and waiting for dark, I heard a deer coming from directly behind me. I turned to see what it was. Turned out to be a buck with the widest antler spread I've ever seen on a whitetail. I bet it was close to 30 inches, or maybe an actual 30 inches. The beams were so wide they looked out of place. Just humongous.

For some dumb reason, reflex action mostly, I stood up and moved too fast doing so. I couldn't shoot, because I'd already taken my one deer for the day. (Alabama law is one deer a day during bow season.) This deer also saw the tree shake and bolted. This was P&Y #4 in the same day.

I hunted the swamp on the remaining mornings of the four-day trip. In the afternoons I hunted green patches where does congregate. I saw small bucks and plenty of does. In swamp every morning, I would see a deer walking east to west where the pine plantation met mature hardwood. He had a spike on his left side, nothing on the right. Looked like he never had had anything on the right, because there was no antler-base scar, just hair.

On the fourth day, I pulled my stand and told Billy about the one-spiked deer and how he should

take his son out there and let his son shoot the deer. Billy suggested I shoot the deer. I explained how I had to leave to get ready for a show, and he explained to me that I'd lose only a couple hours of sleep and I should go shoot it.

I was there before daylight and hung the stand. Since I was running a little late, instead of getting my normal eight steps high (12-14 feet), I put only six tree steps in. After being on stand about 30 minutes, I saw a deer coming and figured it was the one-spike. I stood up and folded my seat back.

When the deer walked out, I could see it was a doe. Relief. I'm not shooting it. So I watched it for three minutes, then saw a larger deer coming behind her. I figured this one would be the spike. It walked 30 steps to the south of the first doe, stepped out and proved to be a big doe -- roughly 120 pounds, which for Alabama is a big doe.

I watched them feed five minutes, then noticed the first doe had its head up, ears forward, staring past me. It stood motionless more than a minute.

I turned my head slowly to look behind me, and there stood the monster buck, eight steps behind me. I almost fell out of the tree. This was the P&Y #1 buck I had seen four days earlier. His antlers looked three inches in diameter at their bases, so massive the main beams looked cupped. The ends of the tines were blunted like your thumb.

I was going to be Mr. Cool, so I turned around and e-e-e-ased the



EDGE
CELLULAR TRAIL CAMERA

INTRODUCING THE NEW STANDARD IN CELL CAM TECHNOLOGY

Engineered for year-round performance, Edge is easy to use and packed with the features hunters care about most – **exceptional image quality, longer battery life, and more reliable connection in remote areas** thanks to our new multi-network Auto Connect technology. Edge will automatically detect and connect to the strongest network in your area. Plus, we added built-in memory to remove the hassle and cost of SD cards. Combine Edge with the advanced features of the Moultrie Mobile App and **transform the way you hunt.**



AUTO CONNECT



BUILT-IN MEMORY



IMPROVED BATTERY LIFE

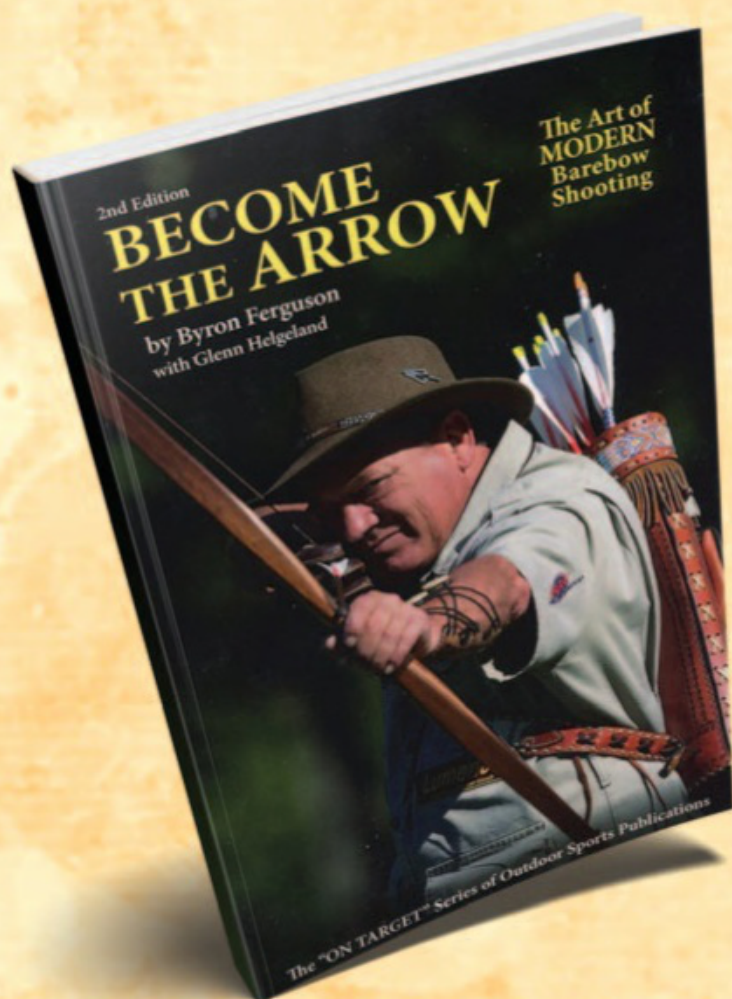


MOULTRIE MOBILE™

MOULTRIE MOBILE.COM

Available on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play



Byron recently noted to the publisher of his new book that turkeys and hogs are not affected by tides or moon phases.

THIS ARTICLE is from the beginning of **CHAPTER 6 OF BYRON FERGUSON'S NEW BOOK -- THE SECOND EDITION OF BECOME THE ARROW -- THE ART OF MODERN BAREBOW SHOOTING**. Byron Ferguson is a world-renowned archery trick shot, a regular on cable television 'amazing shots' programs, a long-time performer at deer-and-turkey hunting expos and other outdoor shows, a longbow manufacturer and a long-time successful bowhunter.

There's more new archery info in this second edition: **1) AN ENTIRE CHAPTER** on target panic. Ferguson had it and whipped it. Here he tells you how he believes you can whip it, too, if you have it; **2) BYRON'S INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING** performances, all 13 countries he has performed in and the great crowds he drew; **3) AN EXPANDED PHOTO DISPLAY** of the big game animals and other trophies Byron has taken with his longbow, including more than 300 whitetails; **4) SPECIAL AWARDS AND HONORS** Byron has received; plus **5) MANY OF THE NEW PHOTOS** in the book are printed in full color.

The core of the book learning to "become the arrow" ... is unchanged from when Ferguson developed this shooting system for longbow and recurve shooters. It is easy to learn, reliable and puts your mental and physical focus where it belongs - on the target.

• **PLUS...** Extensive, in-depth bowhunting tips from Byron that pay off. Remember, he's shot more than 300 whitetail deer with his longbow, moose, pronghorn, mule deer, five black bears, upland game birds and countless small game. He gives you the benefit of his hunting experience and what he feels are the five priorities of bowhunting, the 10 most frequent bowhunting mistakes, and more.

The book is **PAPERBACK, 5-1/2" X 8-1/2", 122 PAGES, PAPERBACK. ITS ISBN NUMBER IS 978-0-913305-22-5. RETAIL PRICE IS \$14.95.**

It can be ordered most easily from **WWW.TARGETCOMMBOOKS.COM** (pay by credit card), and also is available from **AMAZON**, at some (but not all) **CABELA'S AND BASS PRO SHOPS STORES**, from **LANCASTER ARCHERY SUPPLY IN PENNSYLVANIA**, and from **SOME BOOKSTORES IN THE MIDWEST**.

bow up onto my boot toe. I had convinced myself the buck would walk to the first doe and pass my tree at five steps. I waited and waited. He didn't show.

I couldn't stand it anymore. When I turned to look, the buck had already walked behind a brush screen toward the second doe. No shot. Fifteen steps, but no shot.

The buck walked to the second doe. She urinated, which didn't help my cause at all, then turned and started to walk away. Naturally, the buck followed. If she stayed on this path, she would cross 15-18 steps in front of me, with the buck right behind her and very shootable.

The doe walked to the edge of the clearing, hopped over a blown-down sapling stubbed about three feet off the ground, and cut through the edge of the clearing.

The buck was 20 yards behind her. He came to the sapling. I had the bow 3/4-drawn. But instead of hopping the blow-down, the buck ducked and went under it, and the limbs and brush in front of me screened him. No shot.

He turned and went out the edge of the clearing. No shot there either. I had what you would normally call a screaming, running, stomping, cussing fit.

I stayed until lunch and saw one more buck. Took my stand out at lunch and went home.

Those bucks are all still there.

I will return.

If my stand had been at its normal height, I could have shot over the branches that screened the buck. That really upset me. Also, playing the part of Mr. Cool didn't help me, either. I told myself all the way home that was the luckiest deer in the world, because I felt I hadn't screwed up anywhere else, other than setting my stand too low.

But I had. I took my eye off him. I was not in a strain. I could have leaned against the tree and continued to watch, and then when I would have seen him turn and go to the second doe instead of the first one, it would have been a 10-step, easy shot. He was in the open.

I can't wait to get back down there. Ol' Lucky is a shootable deer; I saw him too many times. He is patternable. He gave me every opportunity. I was so intent on not messing up that I messed up.

There was no trail. He just came out of the brush. Billy told me that deer has been there at least four years. He rubs trees at least eight inches in diameter. I have no idea how many points he has; the massiveness was too awesome. Those deer have food, cover and practically no hunting pressure — and good genetics. Some of those deer are Wisconsin deer... they are descendants of transplants from Wisconsin. The 120-pound doe looked like a yearling standing next to this buck. I get excited again just talking about it. That was NOT your typical Alabama buck.

— *Byron Ferguson is an international archery personality who once shot eight dimes in a row out of the air. He has conducted live shooting performances in more than 12 countries.*



ON  HUNT

KNOW
WHERE
YOU
STAND

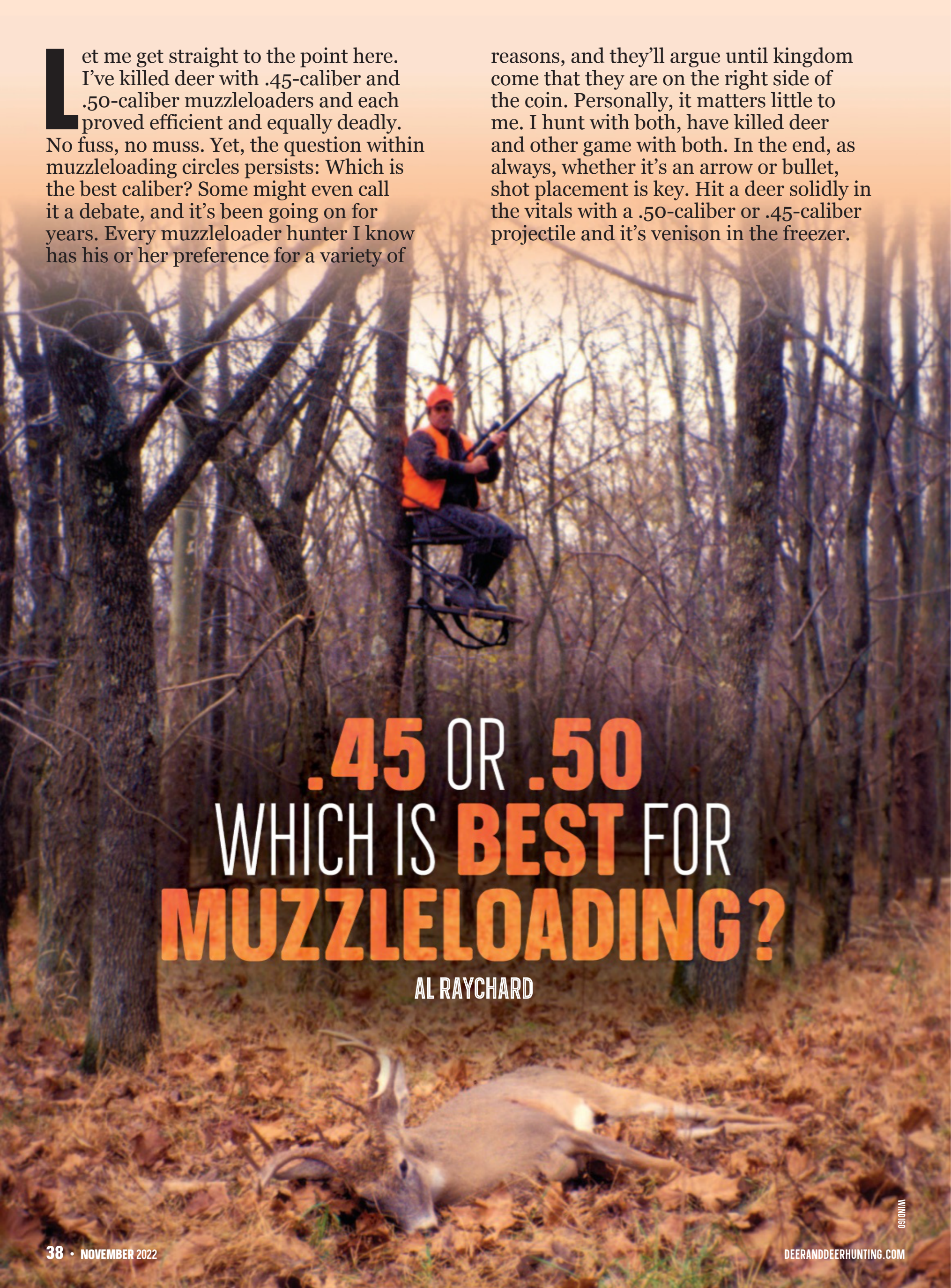
TRUSTED BY MILLIONS OF DEER HUNTERS

For more information on the most comprehensive hunting maps available visit: [ONXMAPS.COM/HUNT](https://onxmaps.com/hunt)



Let me get straight to the point here. I've killed deer with .45-caliber and .50-caliber muzzleloaders and each proved efficient and equally deadly. No fuss, no muss. Yet, the question within muzzleloading circles persists: Which is the best caliber? Some might even call it a debate, and it's been going on for years. Every muzzleloader hunter I know has his or her preference for a variety of

reasons, and they'll argue until kingdom come that they are on the right side of the coin. Personally, it matters little to me. I hunt with both, have killed deer and other game with both. In the end, as always, whether it's an arrow or bullet, shot placement is key. Hit a deer solidly in the vitals with a .50-caliber or .45-caliber projectile and it's venison in the freezer.



.45 OR .50 WHICH IS **BEST** FOR **MUZZLELOADING?**

AL RAYCHARD

GIVE THE GIFT OF DEER!

ORDER BY
DEC. 5
TO GET IN TIME FOR
CHRISTMAS!

ACT NOW... LIMITED TIME OFFER!

- Our annual Whitetail Calendar is the perfect gift for the deer hunter on your list (or for yourself!).
- The new 2023 Whitetail Calendar® features the incredible photography and rut predictions of Charles Alsheimer. Use it to plan your vacation days and to pinpoint when deer will enter the seeking, chasing and tending phases (both North & South) in 2023.
- This collector's edition calendar is only available on national newsstands and through this limited-time sale direct from Media 360 LLC.



PREFER A DIGITAL DOWNLOAD, OR WANT TO PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD?
HEAD TO OUR ONLINE STORE AT: [SHOP.DEERANDDEERHUNTING.COM/2023-WHITETAIL-CALENDAR](https://shop.deeranddeerhunting.com/2023-whitetail-calendar)

YES! SEND ME MY

2023

**WHITETAIL
CALENDARS**

(INCLUDES SHIPPING/HANDLING)

1 TO 4 CALENDARS \$11.50 EACH
5-9 CALENDARS \$9.50 EACH
10+ CALENDARS \$8.50 EACH

QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED, PLEASE NOTE
WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT MAIL ORDERS
PAID WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER.
MAKE CHECKS OUT TO: MEDIA 360, LLC.

FOR PROMPT SERVICE, SEND THIS
COUPON AND PAYMENT TO:

MEDIA 360, LLC
ATTN: 2023 WHITETAIL CALENDAR
P.O. BOX 548, WAUPACA, WI 54981

PAYMENT: Check ☐ or Money Order ☐

QUANTITY: _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

**MEDIA
360**

I doubt that statement will change any minds that are already steadfast in their beliefs and that's okay. Most enthusiasts have made decisions on past experience, trial and error and what's proven to work based on particular hunting situations. It's just part of what makes hunting with a muzzleloader interesting. Whether you hunt with the larger or smaller caliber, if it works, has proven efficient, and you're a happy hunter, that's the right one to stick with. In the end, what matters is that we're satisfied with the results.

UNDERSTANDING THE DEBATE

It's not surprising that this is a hotly debated issue. Hunters have always strived to obtain the perfect weapon whether it be spears, bows or firearms. It's in our DNA. With that said I'll stick my neck out here and say regardless of caliber and no matter how well educated a person is in the technical aspects of ballistic

cows come home but, with all things considered, both calibers are deer killers.

SIZE FOR SIZE

One of the most popular deer hunting loads in .50 caliber muzzleloaders is a .45 caliber bullet in a sabot. My guess is most whitetails are shot within 150 yards, some at greater range depending on the shooter's skill, but a good many at closer range. Within these range parameters the ballistics of a full bore .45 caliber bullet of similar weight and design shot from a .45 caliber muzzleloader with the same rate of twist will be comparable. Not identical, but close enough that there is little ballistic advantage between the two. As every experienced hunter is well aware, an animal dies due to wrecking the nervous system and by disrupting the vital organs ability to supply blood and oxygen. While a full bore .50 caliber bullet will produce a bigger hole,



WINDIGO

coefficient, sectional density, barrel length and twist, velocity loss, bullet drop and impact energy, to name but a few, there is no perfect muzzleloader caliber. Some calibers are better suited for specific hunting styles, terrain, and game. When it comes to whitetails, though, whether bored to .45 or .50 caliber, both are quite sufficient when matched with the right propellant charge and projectile, and when a proper shot is made. Say what you want and debate it vigorously until the

causing more damage, with all things equal a .45 caliber bullet in a sabot from a .50 caliber rifle will produce the same size hole as a full-bore .45 caliber bullet delivered from the smaller caliber.

While some may argue the smaller caliber bullet exits the barrel faster, with a flatter trajectory and with more force behind it, if the shot is true and where it should be in the vitals, whether one caliber bullet is a few seconds slower and hits the target with

CLEAN BURN DIRTY KNIFE



IMR® WHITE HOTS® ONE SHOT. ONE KILL.

Deliver powerful consistency with the accuracy you need when you only have one shot. They load easily, ignite dependably and burn clean. White Hots make the kill when it counts.



slightly less energy, in a hunting situation out to 150 yards or so what difference does it make? The answer is, not much.

Folks like to talk about the amount of energy, or “knock-down” energy it takes to kill game. Depending upon which theory is believed a low of 800-to-900 foot-pounds to a high of 1,000-to-1,200 foot pounds is the general rule for whitetails. I pay it little heed. Among other things, I want a bullet that will penetrate and create plenty of damage— but, after years hunting deer and other big game, experience has cleared illustrated time and time again that no amount of bullet energy compensates for poor shot placement. It has also illustrated a small caliber bullet that hits the spine, essentially shutting down the electrical nervous system will more times than not drop animal in its tracks while an animal shot through the chest with a larger caliber bullet is apt to run a number of yards before dropping.

With that said, it makes little different if a muzzleloader bullet smacks a deer with 800 pounds of energy or 1,200. It is proper shot placement and resulting internal damage rather than “knock-down” energy that counts and kills game. Even the lightest .45 caliber bullets, whether full bore or inside a sabot, have more of what it takes to get the job done— providing the hunter pulling the trigger does theirs.

PROS & CONS

When it comes to hunting whitetails and similar sized game, both calibers are a worthwhile choice. But each does have its pros and cons.

Not long ago the selection of .45 caliber muzzleloaders was rather limited, not only in terms of design and ignition options but in bullets as well. That’s not the case these days. There are still more options in the larger bored rifles, but it is far easier today to find a .45 caliber muzzleloader bored with a 1:20 or 1:24 twist to better stabilize today’s high ballistic coefficient bullets. Depending upon the maker and model, tapered barrels are available and, in fact, common to cut down on weight, especially on the front end for better balance and overall handling.

One thing .50 caliber guns can do that .45s can’t is accommodate as wide an array of bullets. Due to its smaller bore diameter, the .45 can only accommodate full conical bullets of that size or smaller, such as a .44 caliber bullet in a sabot. Due to its larger bore, a .50 caliber gun can accommodate every bullet size a .45 caliber can and then some. This may not make much of a difference in the deer hunting world, or to the hunter who only plans to hunt whitetails and other deer-size game. If only one caliber rifle is desired for multiple big-game species such as bear and

elk, however, the .50 caliber would be a more all-purpose option.

Another area where the smaller bored rifles might not be the best choice deals with minimum caliber requirements. In most states, a .45 caliber is the minimum for hunting deer. This is fine and dandy if hunting with a full bore bullet, but sabot shooters are out of luck. The same goes for hunters investing in one gun who might hunt bigger game than deer at some point. In many states the minimum caliber for elk, bear and moose is .50 caliber, making the .45 illegal to hunt with.

Besides equal or near equal ballistics and killing ability, the .45 caliber gun has an advantage in that it has less recoil and less propellant consumption. When the same weight bullet is used in guns with similar twists, barrel lengths and weights and loaded similar propellant, a .45 caliber can provide equal or better velocities, trajectories and delivered energy than the larger .50 caliber using more propellant. Without getting into the specifics, it has to do with higher compressions in the smaller diameter bore. But, even with those higher compressions recoil is lessened.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Over the years good things as well as not so good things have been said about .45 caliber muzzleloaders, but vast improvements in barrel design, ignition components, bullets and propellants have made it a viable deer hunting caliber. At the same time, the larger .50s are as good and versatile as they have ever been. It is possible to debate the intricacies and detail specifics of each all day long but the bottom line is both are deer killers.

MONTANA WHITE TAILS
License #116
WWW.MONTANAWHITETAILS.COM
Elk/Deer/Antelope

- + 20,000+ Acres/All Private Ranches
- + Archery & Rifle Hunts
- + 8 Miles of Private River Bottom
- + Awesome Combo Hunts Available
- + Beautiful 7 Bedroom, 4 Bath Lodge
- + Fantastic Elk Hunting
- + Call Today 717-512-3582

MANAGED FOR TROPHY BUCKS SINCE 1998!

MULE DEER **WHITETAIL DEER** **ANTELOPE**



FIRE
STICK™

JUST CHARGE IT

No mess. No uncertainty. No learning curve. The polymer-encapsulated **FIRESTICK™** charge simply slides into the breech of the Traditions™ NitroFire™ rifle, sealing out the elements and eliminating shot-to-shot inconsistencies. Load any bullet from the muzzle and send it downrange with an 80-, 100- or 120-grain FireStick charge of clean-burning Hodgdon® Triple-Eight™ powder.

It's muzzleloading made easy.

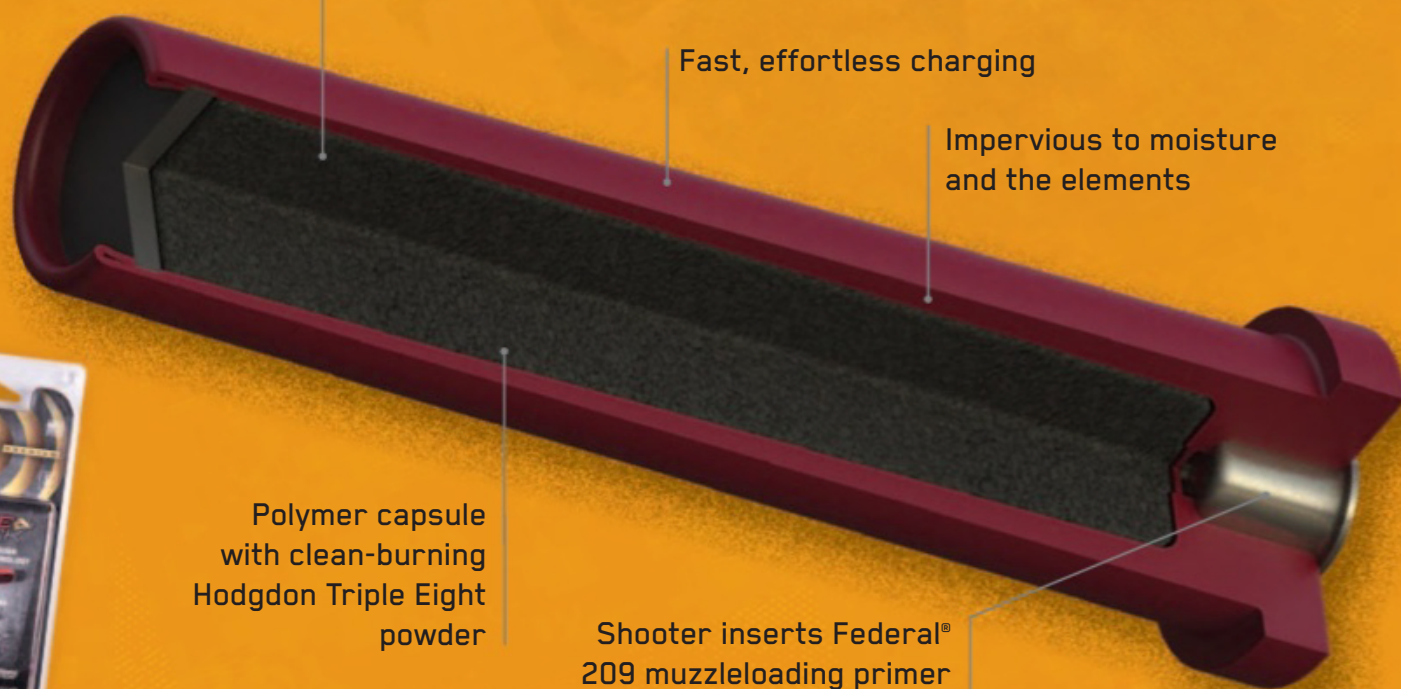
Same tight tolerances and quality controls as loaded ammunition

Fast, effortless charging

Impervious to moisture and the elements

Polymer capsule with clean-burning Hodgdon Triple Eight powder

Shooter inserts Federal® 209 muzzleloading primer (SOLD SEPARATELY)



NOW LEGAL IN MANY STATES—MORE COMING SOON
LEARN MORE AT FEDERALPREMIUM.COM

FEDERAL





AGING ANTLERLESS DEER ON THE HOOF

5 STEPS TO DECIDING IF AN ANTLERLESS WHITETAIL IS MATURE OR NOT

Even back then, it was my favorite kind of day for hunting whitetails.

Gray November skies ... the kind that keep the day evening-like in its light, even in the early afternoon.

A cold breeze ... not blowing hard enough to keep the deer hanging low, but plenty to make whitetails burn their calories and want to come out early to feed.

And then, the tick-ticking of snow ... at first stinging my face a little and then dusting up the oak leaves on the ground of the Cadiz Township hillside woodlot in which I was hunting.

A hunter's heart leaps in proportion to its desire for a deer in his sights, and mine jumped through my throat and up into the scudding clouds when I heard the shuffle of hoofbeats approaching through the snow pellets' gentle music.

Here they came. No antlers, but it didn't matter: Legal venison on the hoof. Two deer were visibly smaller, trailing two others. I raised the shotgun. One of the lead whitetails paused in the tractor trail transecting the woods, and I shot.

REASONS TO KNOW

I had it easy that day to avoid shooting one of the little deer (not that I have a problem with that, as you will see). The size difference was clear. But sometimes the job is not so simple or easy.

Maybe you want to shoot a mature doe when antlerless deer are legal game and ample venison is on your want-list, as it was on mine that day. Bigger deer just have more meat to offer.

Another reason for wanting to shoot an adult doe is to do your part for helping control the local deer population: Mature does produce the most fawns, and also employ their experience to have the best chance of raising the young ones successfully.

On the other hand, those two reasons for wanting to know if a deer is mature also go the other way.

Maybe you don't need a lot of venison and you relish the tender meat on a young-of-the-year whitetail, also called a fawn. Too bad that word "fawn" has such a "baby" stigma attached to it. When herd numbers are strong, there is nothing wrong with taking small deer out of the population. I often make that choice, just like I am a confirmed jake shooter in the turkey woods of spring.

And perhaps you want to avoid shooting a mature doe for the other reason: She is almost guaranteed to be a local baby-maker for building deer numbers if that's what is needed in your hunting area. Take another deer instead.

FAWN STIGMA

We've touched on the fawn topic, and it's worth discussing it a little more.

Maybe you just don't want to shoot a fawn. That's understandable. They are small, innocent looking, and somebody might make fun of you. You better know before you pull the trigger or punch the release.

GLASS IS GOOD

Your best tool for helping make a decision on what kind of whitetail you are looking at is a good set of binoculars. Even when whitetails are relatively close, any binoculars are better than no binoculars for studying details on a deer. That said, one good tenet for choosing this equipment is to get the best binoculars you can afford, coupling that with simplicity of use which boils down to ease of focus. You don't need that model costing thousands-of-dollars, but neither should you settle for the sub-\$100 binocs that just don't have good, clear, bright glass and reliable knobs and rings.

Maybe you don't want to shoot a buckfawn. While that is no sin and is also understandable, there is no doubt that you are taking out a future buck, and that can bother a hunter. Buckfawns can get sizable by late fall, and it can be difficult to pick them out. In addition, due to their bold nature, buckfawns are especially vulnerable to getting shot.

Let us not judge any brother or sister hunter for wanting to shoot a young deer (great meat, easy drag out, plenty of deer running around the neighborhood) or not wanting to shoot a young deer. It's your hunt, your tag, your trigger.

5-STEP CHECKLIST

No matter your reasons for wanting to judge the age and maturity of antlerless deer on the hoof, success in the identification process often must happen fast. And even with a little time at hand, the job can sometimes just be downright hard.

A group of deer makes the job a little easier. Simple size comparisons often get the job done. But the later autumn gets on into winter, it gets harder to see the difference.

And lone deer are especially difficult to judge. That situation – a whitetail alone – can be the most challenging of all, and makes this 5-step checklist even more important in making your personal "shoot" or "don't shoot" decision.

SMALL EARS

Fawn's heads are small; but their ears are full-sized, and look big. A mature doe's larger head makes her ears – which don't keep growing – look relatively small compared to her head size.

To be honest, this is the first thing I look at when deer body size doesn't jump out at me as a

truly differentiating feature among animals in sight.

LONG NOSE

Fawns have short, stubby noses. Whitetail noses elongate with age, especially on does. On some older does I have shot, it can be amazing how long that nose can be.

As long as we are looking at the face, consider the size of a deer's eyes too. This factor is less reliable than nose length, but a fawn's eyes in autumn are the size they will be for life, and eyes that appear especially big indicate a young deer.

SIZABLE HINDQUARTERS

Study deer proportions closely. A buck fawn will be "front-loaded" -- larger in the front shoulders than the hind legs. Adult females will be larger and wider larger in their withers (all the better for giving birth) than their front shoulders.

As a perhaps counterintuitive corollary here, you might also look at tails. The more mature an antlerless deer, the shorter its tail will be in proportion to its body. In my estimation, a fawn's tail will appear longer because the animal's body growth hasn't caught up with its tail yet.

WIDE BODY

Body height can be a bad barometer for picking out an adult doe. Some buckfawns are as tall as their mothers by late fall; but the young males are lean. Doe fawns are just dainty. Look for wider deer if you get a front-on or back-on view, to identify a mature whitetail.

This can be hard to evaluate if there is only one deer in front of you, but becomes easier if a group of whitetails is passing by.

How to Be Cut Off From Civilization

When it's you against nature, there's only one tool you need:
the stainless steel River Canyon Bowie Knife—now **ONLY \$49!**

You are a man of the wilderness. The only plan you have is to walk up that mountain until you feel like stopping. You tell your friends that it's nothing personal, but this weekend belongs to you.

You've come prepared with your **River Canyon Bowie Knife** sheathed at your side. This hand-forged, unique knife comes shaving sharp with a perfectly fitted hand-tooled sheath. The broad stainless steel blade shines in harmony with the stunning striped horn, wood and bone handle. When you feel the heft of the knife in your hand, you know that you're ready for whatever nature throws at you.

This knife boasts a full tang blade, meaning the blade doesn't stop at the handle, it runs the full length of the knife. According to Gear Patrol, a full tang blade is key, saying "*A full tang lends structural strength to the knife, allowing for better leverage ...think one long steel beam versus two.*"

With our limited edition **River Canyon Bowie Knife** you're getting the best in 21st-century construction with a classic look inspired by legendary American pioneers. What you won't get is the trumped up price tag. We know a thing or two about the hunt—like how to seek out and capture an outstanding, collector's-quality knife that won't cut into your bank account.

This quintessential knife can be yours to use out in the field or to display as the art piece it truly is. But don't wait. A knife of this caliber typically cost hundreds. Priced at an amazing **\$49**, we can't guarantee this knife will stick around for long. So call today!

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the sale price. But we believe that once you wrap your fingers around the **River Canyon's** handle, you'll be ready to carve your own niche into the wild frontier.



BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

What customers are saying about Stauer knives...



"First off, the shipping was fast and the quality is beyond what I paid for the knife. Overall I am a satisfied customer!"

— D., Houston, Texas

River Canyon Bowie Knife ~~\$79*~~

Offer Code Price Only **\$49** + S&P **Save \$30**

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: RCK445-01

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.



Not shown
actual size.

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste.155, Dept. RCK445-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

• Full tang 4 1/4" stainless steel blade, 9" overall length • Genuine horn, wood and bone handle • Polished brass guard and spacers • Includes leather sheath

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™



Rating of A+



ADULT DOE FACTS

- Most female whitetails achieve sexual maturity in their first year.
 - Skeletal maturity, however, isn't reached until much later.
 - Most managers agree that 2.5 years is considered "mature" for today's does.
 - Peak weight is usually achieved at 4.5 years old.
 - The average mature Northern doe will typically weigh 105 to 120 pounds field dressed.
 - Gestation time: 205 to 210 days.
 - Well-fed does usually give birth to twins.
 - Females will form small groups of related females, consisting of a matriarch with her fawns and some yearlings.
- Source: University of Wisconsin

LEAD DEER

If a group of deer is traveling through, the lead deer will often be a mature doe. Start your review there. As an exception, the first whitetails bounding into a food plot or feeding field are often the young ones. Wait and see what else shows up if a young deer isn't on your want list.

Personally, when I see a group of more than three deer, I often look for the middle-sized deer. That is often a year-and-a-half old doe out of the group's matriarch. Even if the mid-sizer has a fawn, it is going to be fine with big mama and her fawns of this year.

I suppose you could say I am going soft in my not-so-old but now-quite-experienced age, but I sometimes feel bad seeing a fawn orphaned ... even though studies have proven they will hook up with some other deer and do just fine.

CONCLUSION

No tree stands in those days where my tale started: I had been sitting on a bucket with my back against an oak on a vantage point above the draw the does were crossing.

There wasn't much waiting after a shot either: You hit a deer, you went after it.

Soon I found the doe stretched out from her last stride, maybe 40 yards beyond where she had paused in the tractor trail. She was

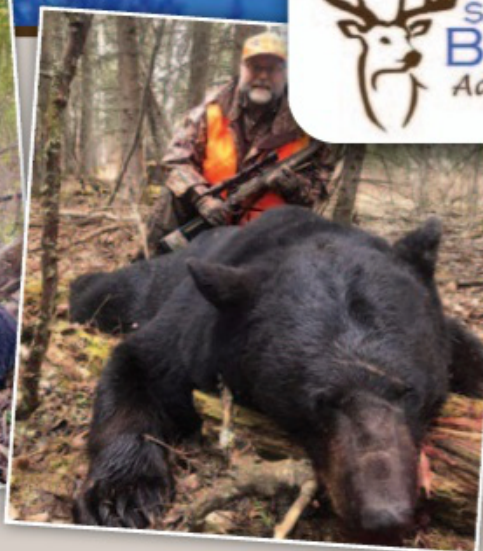
not a big, old deer, but not a fawn either: probably a year-and-a-half old. Of course I was happy. Elated might be more like it.

I was also a little lucky: I didn't know much about what to look for to identify a mature deer way back then, and she was the one that had paused for a shot.

But in the end there was no matter on this day, fawn or middle-sized or big: Every whitetail is a good one. Sometimes you want to know; sometimes any deer will do.

The snow was tick-ticking away as the afternoon light, what there was of it, began to fade and I got out my knife.

— Long-time Deer & Deer Hunting contributor Tom Carpenter has hunted the Midwest for 49 years, and his heart still jumps at the sound or sight of every approaching whitetail. To hear his latest podcast episode with Dan Schmidt, check out our Deer Talk Now podcast.



SASKATCHEWAN
BIG BUCK
Adventures LTD.



**WE HAVE
GIANT
BEARS**

ABOVE RIGHT PHOTO: "I went on my first bear hunt with Saskatchewan Big Buck Adventures LTD and what a hunt it was. I saw multiple bears on every sit, and was amazed at how quietly they could walk through the woods. On the night I harvested my big bore he was the ninth bear into the bait that night. Ryley's bear hunts are world class." -Brad Rucks, *Deer & Deer Hunting*

Book the Hunt of a Lifetime!

157,000 acres with two separate lodges. We offer: Bow, Muzzleloader or Rifle Hunts for Whitetails. Extremely low hunting pressure, many stands go untouched for seasons!

Give me a call, check out our website and be sure to look at our references. We strive to make sure you have a hunt of a lifetime.

RYLEY'S PHONE: **306.549.7501** | EMAIL: **Ryley@saskatchewanbigbuckadventures.com**

www.saskatchewanbigbuckadventures.com

SASKATCHEWAN'S PREMIER BEAR OUTFITTER



THE SHOOTING STICK THAT GOES FROM **8 INCHES TO OVER 60 INCHES** (and everything in-between)

Serious shooters know the value of shooting sticks, but for many years hunters have avoided using them due to their bulky nature and clumsy design. The new Solid Aim Shooting stick eliminates these flaws, giving you a sturdy solid shooting platform in a quickly deployable and ultra-compact design. At only 8 inches, the Solid Aim shooting stick will easily fit into a pocket or pack, yet still allows you to adjust from 8 inches to over 60 inches in an instant. Best of all it works with rifles, shotguns, pistols, and crossbows. Use it while stalking, in blinds, and even in tree stands.

► **EXTENDABLE**

Pull the foot to extend length

► **ADJUSTABLE**

Adjusts from 8 to over 60 inches

► **AIMABLE**

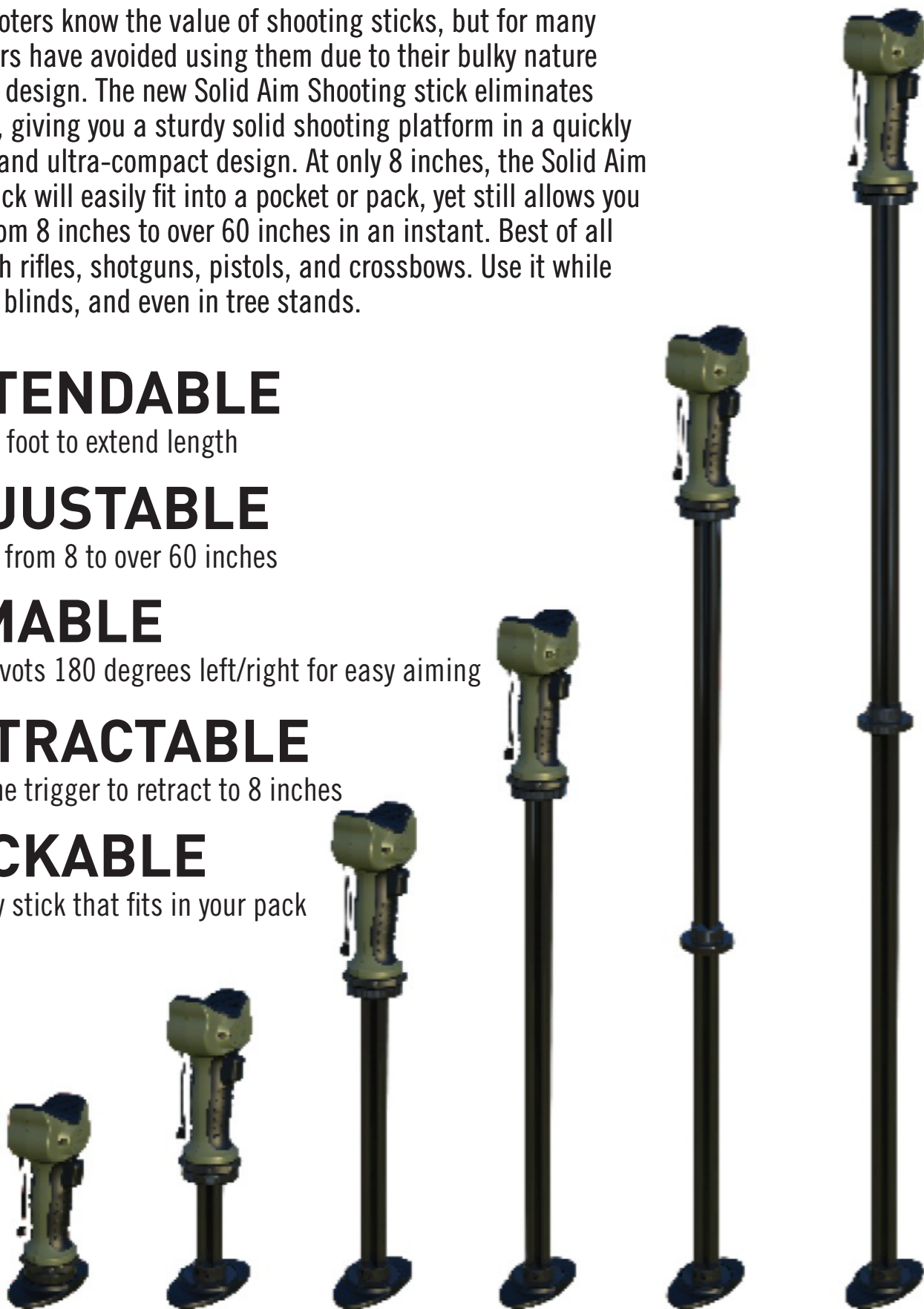
Head pivots 180 degrees left/right for easy aiming

► **RETRACTABLE**

Press the trigger to retract to 8 inches

► **PACKABLE**

The only stick that fits in your pack



AVAILABLE AT AMAZON

SOLIDAIM.COM

PUBLIC INPUT TO

DEER MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC TRUST RESOURCES

It is my understanding that wildlife, along with air and water are among natural resources that are held in “public trust.” That is, they are held in common by the citizenry and are not property owned by individuals or corporations. This idea was codified by ancient Romans and came to America via the Magna Carta. Ownership is vested in the people and the custodians are Congress and State Legislatures who are charged with managing the Public Trust for the benefit of all citizens. Thus, the allocation of benefits and the conservation of the Public Trust are regulated by law rather than by royalty or estate holders as may be the case today in parts of Europe.

RUSSELL GRAVES / WINDIGO



DANIEL SCHMIDT

As human and industrial use of natural resources increased, it became clear that environmental matters were becoming increasingly complicated. Remember “Better living through chemistry”? That DuPont slogan is an example of the good, perils, and complexity that progress can bring. Pollution, contamination, new chemistry were early harbingers that managing and conserving the Public Trust was a complicated responsibility. It was soon evident that elected representatives could not, themselves, effectively administer the Public Trust.

Politicians wisely delegated, with oversight, much of this responsibility at the national level to departments like Interior and Agriculture who went on to form agencies like the Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental

Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service. State legislatures did similarly by allowing departments of environmental conservation to administer the Public Trust with their oversight.

Civil Service protections for government employees were enacted as a personnel benefit but also to protect them from political meddling and to ensure some level of program consistency when administrations changed.

BIRTH OF DEER MANAGERS

Agencies went about hiring specialists to address the complex issues. Without addressing all the expertise represented by these agencies, let us get back to deer management. The science of wildlife management in America is less than 100 years old. Aldo Leopold’s

seminal book, *Game Management*, was published in 1933 and Leopold became the first wildlife professor at the University of Wisconsin.

Professional wildlife management really bloomed after World War II. Veterans, especially, took advantage of VA benefits and went to school for wildlife training and were happy to enter State and federal service. Many wildlife professionals today have graduate degrees, meaning they have 6 or more years of college preparation. Some of my colleagues included specialists with doctoral degrees.

It is not as though they walk out of school and into a job as an “unelected bureaucrat.” There is a rigorous, competitive process to vet candidates including a review of their academic record and experience followed by written exam and interviews.

YOU CAN STICK YOUR HEAD UP A DEER'S A\$\$
BUT WOULDN'T YOU RATHER
TAKE THE PROCESSORS
WORD FOR IT?



HYPERXP405™ ONLY \$599.99

25% MORE PENETRATION
WITH HYPERFLITE ARROWS VS. STANDARD DIAMETER ARROW



**SHOT FROM 50 YARDS INTO CLEAR BALLISTIC 20% GELATIN NATO BLOCK*

YOU CAN PAY A LOT MORE FOR A CROSSBOW, BUT THE DEER DON'T GET
ANY DEADER. We built the HyperXP405 around the small diameter HyperFlite
arrow. Barnett is the first crossbow company to improve the "ammo" in our
category by introducing small diameter arrow technology into the crossbow
platform. HyperFlite's provide numerous advantages. Deeper penetration, less
wind drift, increased durability, and delivery of maximum kinetic energy.



barnettcrossbows.com



MITCH KEZAR / WINDIGO

tough!” But the State still has a responsibility to the others as they also have a legitimate stake in the Public Trust.

Recently Wisconsin was mandated to adopt Citizen Deer Advisory Councils at the county level. There are usually 6 or more well-meaning citizen volunteers on each Council. Each person is to represent a constituency (hunting, farming, forestry, motorists, etc.). Each CDAC also does have a local advisor on wildlife, forestry, and law enforcement. But the last I knew, 95% of the citizen participants statewide were deer hunters. You might ask, “How is that working out?”

A recent meeting that I attended, the CDAC had received a hundred or more responses on local herd status after a public request for input. These responses were voluntary, somewhat negative, and quite unlikely to represent the over 15,000 deer hunters that use the county. Did the low response rate mean that most hunters were satisfied? That was not the CDAC conclusion.

Depending on the circumstances and issues, I would much prefer to have scientifically designed questionnaire surveys with follow-up for non-response bias. Of course, questionnaires alone would not provide opportunity for folks to blow off steam which may be a beneficial byproduct of requiring public hearings!

BOTTOM LINE

Public hearings and input are not going away. Everyone should have an opportunity to review and comment on public issues — there are times that even the “experts” can overlook something — but the public should not be surprised if many voiced concerns and opinions are not implemented. Scientific data with explanation should trump most personal opinions.

You may call me biased, but I was among those that had the advantage of seeing and analyzing the annual results of all Wisconsin deer hunters. One cannot duplicate the data-

gathering power of 600,000+ fellow hunters. Their success provides a rather complete story.

In this world of “fake news,” “junk science,” and conspiracy theories, you should be confident that your State wildlife professionals are doing their very best to provide responsible recommendations for deer management. What personal gain would there be in doing otherwise? It would simply be embarrassing for them. Most biologists’ satisfaction derives from doing their job well. I would not have continued to work with and be inspired by them for 57 years at our DNR if that were not so.

— *How is your state doing in managing its whitetail resource? Send your thoughts to us via email at: dan.schmidt@media360LLC.com*



Bushnell
BUILT FOR THE PURSUIT



0.3

YARD ACCURACY ACROSS ANY TARGET.

THE NEW BROADHEAD LASER RANGEFINDER

Lethal 0.30-yard accuracy out to 150 yards is the difference between success in the field or a miss on the trophy of a lifetime. Undeniably the most accurate archery rangefinder on the planet thanks to Full Spectrum Ranging Technology, it delivers revolutionary precision regardless of target, lighting, or reflectivity.



[BUSHNELL.COM/BROADHEAD](https://bushnell.com/broadhead)



One of the best aspects of being a deer hunter is the opportunity it provides to observe the wonders of nature. We've all been witness to some amazing sunrises and sunsets while in the stand, blind, or sitting on the ground against a tree. I'm sure most of us have had a birds-eye view of a bobcat or fox on the prowl. And the morning symphony of songbirds as they land, flutter, and sing within arm's reach without even knowing we exist? All of us have individual stories of some wonderful experiences while deer hunting. Some of the best involve the unique behaviors we observe in deer.

RUB URINATION IN WHITETAILS

If a hunter sits enough times in the woods, they will observe a variety of interesting behaviors by deer. Maybe it's a group of bucks in pursuit of a hot doe, two fawns playing, or the unsettling feeling when a deer decides to bed down within a few yards of our stand. Some of us have even been fortunate enough to see two mature bucks lock up. This is an unforgettable experience. One variety of interesting behaviors exhibited by deer are scent-marking behaviors. Scent-marking can be observed in a variety of forms that some of you may not even realize were a form of scent-marking. These behaviors include scraping, rubbing, and use of licking branches. Another marking behavior that some of you may have seen is rub-urination. This behavior itself looks pretty strange and is done by deer daily, but most hunters are generally uninformed on why deer do this odd behavior.



Rub-urination (also occasionally called hock-urinating) is a behavior where a deer squats with their hindquarters and urinates directly on their tarsal glands. While they squat and urinate, they will squeeze their hind legs together and rub their hocks (tarsal glands) against one another. The body positioning and movement by deer when rub-urinating results in an odd posture that some would describe as comedic. While seemingly odd, rub-urination is a very frequent behavior in white-tailed deer and, if you haven't seen it first-hand, you've likely smelled the result. Most hunters are familiar with the tarsals on deer. These are the one-to-two-inch-wide tufts of hair located on the inside of the hind leg near the heel. Deer have highly elongated feet and

toes, such that they walk on their toes, and their heel (more technically known as the tuber calcis) is located about 16 inches above the ground. It looks like a backwards bending knee, and the tarsal glands are located on the inside of this section of the leg. While our sense of smell is fairly poor compared to most wildlife species, it is easily sensitive enough to pick up a whiff of a rutting buck when we are in close proximity, which is actually the smell of urine-soaked tarsal glands. This behavior is most well-known in white-tailed deer and mule deer, but it has also been observed in moose. Caribou also exhibit a similar behavior.

Tarsal glands are present in white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, caribou, and several South American deer species. However, tarsal glands don't always mean a species will perform rub-urination. The brocket deer of South America has pronounced tarsals but does not rub-urinate. The glands are

surrounded by specialized, long tufts of hair, and the glands themselves secrete an oily substance. When a deer rub-urinates, the urine is excreted directly onto these tufts of hair, and the specialized hairs serve to retain some of the urine in close proximity to the glands. The hairs surrounding the tarsal glands allow the urine to mix with the oily secretions of the glands, creating a breeding ground for dozens of bacteria species, some of which are unique to the tarsal gland. A major misconception in the hunting community is that the tarsal glands secrete the unique "rutting buck" odor, when in reality the odor is produced by the bacteria breaking down organic compounds from the urine and the secreted oils from the glands. The regularity of rub-urination and subsequent bacterial decomposition of organic compounds in the hairs surrounding the tarsal glands is what gives the tarsal gland area that



DRIVING BUCKS WILD FOR 50 YEARS

TINK'S® #69 DOE-IN-RUT® is pure LIQUID LOVE
bucks can't resist. *Just ask Hank & Larry!*

Tink's®
TINKS.COM

distinguishable black staining. With dozens of bacteria species present on the tarsal glands it is recommended to always wear gloves when handling this area on a harvested deer, since some of the bacteria species are opportunistic pathogens in humans. For clarity's sake, deer also have small metatarsal glands located on the outer surface of their rear legs about 8-10 inches down from the tarsal gland. In white-tailed deer, it is about an inch wide and appears as a small white spot of fur with a black center. In mule deer, this gland is believed to secrete an alarm or fear pheromone, however, in white-tailed deer scientists are still unsure of its function. Regardless, the metatarsal gland is not involved in rub-urination and shouldn't be confused with the tarsal gland.

The first big myth of rub-urination is that only bucks exhibit this behavior. In reality, rub-urination is a regular behavior of bucks, does, and fawns, and has been documented in fawns as young as two days old. It is generally agreed upon in the scientific

community that the odors generated by rub-urination behavior are involved in communication among deer. In white-tailed deer, and many, if not most, other terrestrial mammalian species as well, scent is an extremely important component of social communication. In the case of odors produced via rub-urination, the scientific community believes they can serve to communicate identity, among other things. The combination of odors produced by bacterial decomposition of organic compounds, oily secretions, and urine compounds likely help deer distinguish each other by scent. For example, does and bucks have different variations of bacteria species on their tarsals, and sex is likely distinguishable just by odor. It is also believed that the odor produced by the tarsal gland helps deer recognize kin from strange deer. In captive situations, when new deer are introduced to a herd, the existing deer more frequently sniff the tarsal glands of newcomers compared to already established individuals; This is essentially

their form of getting to know a new individual. It has been observed that fawns, when among a group of deer, will search for their mother by sniffing tarsal glands. In cases where the fawn sniffed the tarsal area of another doe, the fawn quickly fled after smelling the tarsal.

Individual recognition is not the only useful information rub-urination provides. It plays a huge role in communication. For example, dominance and age are likely detectable by the odors generated from rub-urination. Just like variations between sexes, research has also found that dominance levels of bucks influence the bacterial communities on their tarsals. This variation among bacterial communities is likely due to differences in hormone levels, and subsequent variation in organic compounds excreted in the urine. This in turns plays a significant role in breeding season dynamics. When a dominant buck rub-urinates on a scrape, he is displaying his social status through scent, and also leaving breeding cues or



DR® Leaf & Lawn Vac
*Still #1 in Vacuum Power...Now #1 in Capacity!**

★ **USA**
 ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA
 using domestic and
 foreign parts.

Tow-Behind

- Rated #1 in Vacuum Power
- **NEW PRO MAX** model holds up to 450 gallons—
 *the largest capacity in a residential leaf vac
- All models newly redesigned with up to 20% more capacity

Walk-Behind

- **NEW!** PILOT XT Models fill standard paper leaf bags for curbside pickup
- Collect & mulch up to 50 lbs of leaves
- Includes on-board caddy for extra bags

SALE!

FREE SHIPPING

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY

DRleafvac.com

Request your FREE Product Catalog!

Toll Free: 888-206-5786





Only at **KUIU.COM**



LIFETIME WARRANTY ON ALL OUR GEAR

BASE LAYERS | INSULATION | OUTERWEAR | PACKS | SLEEP SYSTEMS | BOOTS | ACCESSORIES

INTRODUCING

PROXIMITY

COMPLETE CONCEALMENT

DESIGNED TO COVER A HUNTER'S EVERY MOVE,
KUIU PROXIMITY IS PROTECTION FROM THE ELEMENTS
AND COMPLETE CONCEALMENT IN EVERY SENSE.



FEATURE RICH

Developed from the ground up for silent, stationary situations, Proximity is a purpose-built outer layer for when being quiet and protected from the elements is top priority. Wear it alone in mid-season or layer underneath when the temperatures drop.

OUTER LAYER FABRIC

Proprietary brushed polyester face fabric for dead quiet performance and bonded wind-resistant membrane for ultimate comfort.

DWR PROTECTION

The proprietary brushed outer-shell face fabric is DWR treated to repel moisture when complete rain protection is not needed.

3DeFX+[®] INSULATION

Highly breathable insulation that stretches and moves with you while regulating body heat and keeps you warm during stationary sits.

ODOR-CONTROL TECHNOLOGY

Unmatched odor-control technology prevents the formation of bacteria and keeps you undetected in the field.

 **KUIU**[®]
ULTRALIGHT HUNTING

Whitetails rub-urinate as a sign of individual communication, displays of dominance and age determination. These characteristics are all likely detectable by the odors generated from rub-urination.

RALPH HENSLEY/WINDIGO



information for does in heat. This dominance display also provides indication of quality for does. Does will often rub-urinate on a scrape as a way for the doe to display her current status for breeding, and some research even speculates that scent at a scrape can act as a priming pheromone and bring does into estrus. Bucks often revisit their scrapes and likely can detect if does are in estrus based off hormones in the doe's urine. Utilizing these cues, a buck may then pursue the doe to attempt courtship.

Another common myth is that deer only rub-urinate during the breeding season. However, all deer exhibit this behavior throughout the year, and most deer (both sexes) rub-urinate at least once a day, including fawns. Deer likely re-mark daily due to scent dissipating over time; essentially refreshing their scent profile. Does commonly rub-urinate shortly after rising from their bedding site while they feed and groom themselves. Interestingly, research has found that rub-urinations occurs most frequently at night, and it is speculated this is due to the scent profile being more beneficial for social dynamics at night. The scent from rub-urination will be interpreted by other deer in different ways. For example, a doe rub-urinating may provide recognition for her fawn, but for

a buck it may be an indicator of breeding. Seasonality plays a large role. In bucks, the number of rub-urinations per day increase heavily close to the rut, especially in dominant individuals due to an increased frequency of scrape behavior. Does also will increase the number of rub-urinations per day during the rut, but not close to the frequency of dominant rutting bucks. It is also speculated that rub-urination may be involved in projecting fear or aggression. For example, several studies have reported that when fawns in captive herds were separated from their mother they immediately began to rub-urinate, and the researchers speculated that they were showing they were in distress. Similarly, bucks often rub-urinate spontaneously when in aggressive encounters with competitors.

So, what does this mean for us as deer hunters? To start, the odors produced from rub-urination play a pivotal role during the rut. This concept is not novel, as exemplified by the multitude of companies that manufacture and market tarsal gland scent lures. Similarly, many hunters remove the tarsal glands from harvested deer, with the intent of using them as a lure while hunting. But the big question is...what messages are these lures sending? Tarsal gland odors signal sex, dominance, reproductive status,

and likely other aspects of a deer's identity. As a result, the message sent may mean different things to different deer. Depending on the characteristics of the deer from which a set of tarsal glands was collected, some deer may be attracted to the odors, and others could actually be driven away. Another important thing to consider when using tarsal glands or a tarsal gland product as a lure is whether or not the lure is fresh. Remember, deer refresh their tarsal glands at least once daily, so the scent of a harvested tarsal gland may be far different after a few days (or even a few hours) than when it was harvested. Remember, the scent of the tarsal gland is from bacteria breaking down urine and oils, not the gland itself. The point is, rub-urination is a complex form of communication in white-tailed deer, and we should be cognizant of that fact. But if you observe this behavior in the field, there exists the potential to use it to your advantage, if you can interpret the message being sent.

— *Tristan Swartout is a graduate student working on his MS degree in the Auburn DeerLab. Tristan's thesis research focuses on reproductive patterns in female white-tailed deer.*





RAZORBONE[™] KNIFE TO DO IT ALL

NEW

5.0 Inch ▶
Boning Blade
▼

◀ RazorSafe[™]
Replaceable
Blade System

3.5 Inch
Drop-Point
Blade ▶

**BIG BLADE
PERFORMANCE.
FOLDING KNIFE
CONVENIENCE.**

Switch between three styles of interchangeable razor blades to break down the biggest game—all with one tool that never needs sharpening. Includes three 3.5" drop-point blades, two 5.0" boning blades, gutting blade to open game like a zipper, plus sheath to pack out this indispensable set once the job is complete. *Make the Cut[®]* and go from field to table fast and easy with the new **RazorBone[™]**.

▲ Gutting
Blade

MAKE THE CUT[®]

Cautious as ever, the 6½-year-old 8-pointer materialized in the staging area. Standing motionless, he peered from the thick cover with only his head and neck visible. The remainder of his body disappeared in a sea of brush and brambles. Finally, after several minutes of surveying the scene, the old fellow carefully entered the food plot, each step more calculated than the last.

Unfortunately for him, I had the wind and, barring an errant swirl, I'd get a shot. And I did. A few minutes later, I came to full draw, settled the pin, and filled my buck tag. Big buck down. Interestingly, I filled my 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 Kentucky buck tags within 75 yards of that very spot.

Deer behavior and lines of movement are largely influenced by habitat, terrain, and topography. Recognizing certain property attributes is important for identifying good treestand locations, especially high odds kill sites. Sure, you can select any number of treestand locations on a given property and likely see deer. You might even kill one. But if you're hoping to consistently arrow mature bucks, there might only be one or two surefire killer stand locations on a tract of land. Finding these areas might take a season or two, especially if you don't know what to look for.

But by locating natural kill sites, or manipulating the habitat to create these, deer hunters can improve the odds of having high-quality shot opportunities, season after season. Here are 25 kill sites for big deer.

25

SOME YOU CAN FIND. OTHERS YOU CAN MAKE OR PLANT. ALL ARE BIG BUCK KRYPTONITE.

SUREFIRE KILL SITES FOR *BIG DEER*

PROTECTING THE HERITAGE OF HUNTING



**Since 1887, conservation has
been our ultimate trophy.**

As part of the Boone and Crockett Club, you'll
protect the heritage of hunting and fair chase
ethics for generations to come.

Make our legacy your calling.

**JOIN
TODAY**

Boone-Crockett.org/join-us

1. ACORN POCKETS

A massive mast crop is great for deer but can make life hard on a deer hunter. It spreads out whitetails. In contrast, small pockets of acorns are a hunter's delight. It concentrates whitetails in a confined area, making it easier to pattern and intercept a target buck.

2. BENCHES

Hill country deer use the terrain. Numerous features, including benches, are excellent spots to produce shot opportunities. Deer commonly bed on and travel along these. Benches that connect bedding areas, or bedding areas and food sources, are even better.

3. CEDAR THICKETS

Whitetails prefer quality cover, and cedar thickets provide that. They especially benefit from the thermal protection offered under colder temperatures. If these are younger stands of cedars, and offer both overhead and horizontal cover, even better.

4. CHESTNUT GROVES

American chestnuts were once the acorn of the deer woods. Whitetails loved them and preferred these over all other hard mast food sources. Then, the blight wiped them out. It was a scorched earth scenario for the species. Fortunately, scientists have created a blight-resistant tree — the Dunstan chestnut. Plant a few of these in a spot and you'll for sure be drawing deer from all around.

5. CROSSINGS

Any type of crossing is sure to see frequent use by deer. Creeks, ditches, drainages, rivers, streams, fence gaps, and more, are all necessary places for deer to cross during their daily lives. Focusing on these will likely produce encounters.

6. CRP POCKETS

Deer flock to stands of native grasses. These massive seas of early successional cover are excellent places to bed and feed. That said, while huge expansive areas can hold higher numbers of deer, these aren't always easy to hunt. But if it's a smaller pocket of CRP — big enough to hold deer but not so big that they disappear — that's a good situation for deer hunters.

7. DEEP TIMBER HIDEOUTS

Big timber can be daunting, especially if it's homogenous timber with little edge habitat or change in terrain. But if you have a lot of homogenous hardwoods or pines, and an area of thick cover deep within it, watch out. There just might be a big buck living there.

8. DRAWS

Deer like change in the terrain. That's why they tend to use draws rather than straight tree line edges to enter open areas. Perhaps they feel safer. Maybe it's just convenient. Whatever the reason, deer commonly use draws.

9. HIDDEN AG FIELDS

Small ag fields that are hidden from roads, driveways, and other easily accessible areas are big buck magnets.

These prevent prying eyes from easily viewing the area and offer solitude and safety to whitetails.

10. INSIDE EDGE FIELD CORNERS

Speaking of ag fields, whether hidden or not, deer commonly enter these along the inside corners. Also like the common use of draws, deer like that change, and use these to enter fields more often than long straight tree line edges.

11. ISLANDS OF COVER

Any patch of heavy cover that's surrounded by something different will attract deer. Keep an eye out for stand-alone cover, such as thick undergrowth in a large stand of timber, in the middle of a field, etc.

12. LEEWARD RIDGES

Leeward ridges are the downwind sides of ridge lines. Deer frequently bed on and travel along these, making them excellent spots for filling deer tags. Mature bucks love them due to being able to smell danger in two directions. First, the prevailing wind comes over the top. Secondly, on most mornings, thermals bring scent upward from down below.

13. LOW SPOTS

In the afternoon, thermals work in the opposite manner. Thermals fall, which carries scent down into the lowest areas. Because of this, in the afternoon and evenings, deer tend to enter the open at the lowest point possible. All the scent from the surrounding area cascades to this location, making it possible to smell danger from numerous directions.

14. OXBOWS

Best described as waterways that create a U shape, oxbows are very attractive to whitetails. Generally, they bed down with their back to water and look inland. If a predator approaches from land, they cross the water and have a great barrier between them. And rarely do predators come from the waterside. This makes it the perfect play for those who have a boat.

15. RIDGELINES

Whitetails commonly bed on, feed along, and otherwise travel ridgelines. Focusing on these is an excellent way to intercept deer along their natural lines of movement. Fill your tag in grand fashion and with a beautiful view to boot.

16. RIDGE POINTS

Located at the end of ridge lines, ridge points are bedding hotspots. Even when they aren't, deer frequently use these as staging areas before hitting food and water sources below them. Keep this in mind when scouring properties, especially when scouting with topo maps.

17. SADDLES

A well-known term used to describe low, crossable spots in long ridge lines, saddles are great kill sites. Whitetails tend to travel the path of least resistance, especially if they feel secure using it. Focus on saddles all season long, but especially during the rut.



ELITE

THE WORLD'S MOST SHOOTABLE BOW JUST GOT FASTER



PREPARED FOR ALL.

OMNIA

READY FOR ANYTHING.

As architects of accuracy, Elite Archery is laser-focused on optimizing the shooting experience to offer archers the next level of confidence. And, for 2023 The World's Most Shootable Bow just got faster. This season *be prepared for all, and ready for anything* with the Omnia and experience the signature feel of Elite's Shootability while reaching new performance heights. With speeds up to 347 feet per second, the Elite Omnia brings a seemingly unachievable shooting experience to life through a 32" axle to axle foundation of Shootability, added performance of the All-New SP Cam design and a customizable feel that's unlike ever before with the industry's first V₂ Micro Mod Let-Off adjustment.





Almost every property has a spot or two that tends to produce better results than the remaining acreage.

18. SCRAPES

While research seems to contradict itself on whether scrapes are good for hunting over, whitetails undoubtedly create and use these to communicate with other deer. Never hunt over a scrape for the sake of hunting over one. But if you find one of these, and discover other reasons that support hunting that spot, go for it. This is especially true during the early season, pre-rut, and late season. That said, during the rut, forget about it. Whitetails all but forget scrapes during the big dance.

19. SECLUDED FOOD PLOTS

Much like hidden ag fields, secluded food plots offer a lot of value. Deer frequent these during legal shooting hours, especially if left unpressured. A well-timed strike in an unpressured, secluded food plot can kill the most elusive of bucks.

20. SOFT MAST STANDS

Whitetails love hard mast, including acorns, chestnuts and more. But they rely on soft mast, too. Apples, crabapples, pears, persimmons, and plums are excellent food sources, too. A small stand that condenses deer movement into a specific area is a kill site, for sure.

21. SMALL WATERING HOLES

Deer drink a lot of water. A mature, 200-pound buck can drink upward of 5 quarts per day. Some of that intake is during daylight if a water source is close enough to its bedding. By locating small, stagnant sources, or creating one, you can create great opportunities.

22. STAGING AREAS

Staging area is a loose term that can look very different from one place to the next. However, it's best described as a place located between bedding areas and destination food sources. Within bedding areas, where deer feel safe, they move about quite freely. In the open, such as in food sources, they don't feel as safe. Located between the two are staging areas, where deer feel somewhat safe, but begin moving more slowly, or perhaps where they hold up until after dark.

23. SUBURBAN POCKETS

Deer are adaptive creatures. They've learned just how hospitable suburban areas can be to them. Rarely do they get hunted here, and they can still find plenty of edge cover to bed in and feed on. Their basic needs are met despite what many would refer to as lesser habitat.

24. SWAMP ISLANDS

Many a buck has grown old on marsh and swamp islands. These small, isolated pockets of dry ground are surrounding (or mostly surrounded) by water. This makes it difficult for hunters and other predators to reach bedded deer without alerting them. Older deer know this and take advantage of it. But if you plan your approach carefully, you can use their advantage, and confidence, against them.

25. TRAIL INTERSECTIONS

Lastly, areas where multiple trails intersect are sure to be kill sites. This is especially true during the early season, when deer aren't as pressured, and during the rut, when bucks are covering more ground in search of does.

Specific locations aside, there are general places mature bucks frequent, too. Transitional edges are prime examples, and if you're having trouble finding big deer, remember this rule — deer love edge cover. A high stem count is key. Anywhere different habitat types meet is likely to hold deer, and some good ones at that.

All things considered, a common treestand location, or even a bona fide kill site, is only as good as the entry and exit route used to arrive on and depart from. If you can't get to a hotspot without spooking your target deer (or deer that in turn spook it), it isn't a kill site. Ultimately, if you can't get to a stand location without pressuring your target, it's good for zero hunts. If you can get there, but can't get back out without spooking deer, it's only good for one. But if you can get there and catch a big fellow by surprise, it just might be the hunting spot of a lifetime. It might be a bona fide kill site.



**NEW
FOR
2022!**



BROWNING
TRAIL CAMERAS

**NEW
FOR
2022!**



DUAL CARRIER DEVICE 4G LTE CELL DEVICES: CAMERAS CAN BE CONFIGURED FOR ATT OR VERIZON NETWORKS



ASPECTCAM
FIREARM/ARCHERY MOUNTED CAMERA SYSTEM

- MOUNTS ON MOST BOWS, RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS
- IMAGE STABILIZATION - PRODUCING GREAT VIDEOS
- OPERATES IN 4K UHD OR 1080P FULL HD MODES.

FASTER. SMALLER. BETTER.







WAYS WHITETAILS BEAT US

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY
CHARLES J. ALSHEIMER

Imagine for a moment what it was like learning about the white-tailed deer in the 1950s or 1960s. I know this period very well because I was a young farm kid who was becoming passionate about deer and deer hunting at that time. Unfortunately, there were very few resources available back then to help me learn about deer.

In the 1950s, very few people I knew had television, so there was no Versus Country, Wild TV, Sportsman Channel or Outdoor Channel to disseminate deer hunting information. Nor were there any pure deer hunting magazines to read on a monthly basis. About the only way a hunter could learn about whitetails was by spending time in the woods and tagging along with others who hunted.

Because most deer hunters where I grew up were recreational gun-hunters, who executed their craft by putting on deer drives, few knew anything about deer behavior. It wasn't until I weaned myself of group hunting and took up the camera that my knowledge of white-tailed deer started to increase.

The learning curve was slow, but by the mid-1970s I was spending every possible hour either photographing or hunting whitetails. In the process I gained a great deal of respect for their ability to out-fox beast and man.

I've spent the last 30 years bushwhacking around North America pursuing big game. Without question, the whitetail's running and jumping ability are head and shoulders above that of elk, moose, caribou, mule deer and mountain sheep. In fact, I've yet to find a wild animal that has the whole physical package like white-tailed deer. They consistently elude both man and beast because of five factors. Here they are, in order of importance.



BIG YARD OR SMALL MAKE YOUR FALL CLEANUP EASY

Get a Cyclone Rake and enjoy
the time and money you'll save.



Get Your FREE INFO KIT to learn more!
Call: 1-800-322-7187 or Visit: CycloneRake.com

The Cyclone Rake is shown with optional Mower Deck Adapter. Mower not included. ©2022 Woodland Power Products, Inc. • 72 Acton Street • West Haven, CT 06516





1. SENSE OF SMELL

Of the five ways a whitetail beats us, its ability to smell is its No. 1 resource. If you can beat a whitetail's nose, you have a chance of being a successful hunter.

Over the years, I've heard all kinds of claims about how well whitetails can smell. It's been said they can smell 1,000 to 4,000 times better than humans. Truth is, we don't know for sure.

Just how well can deer smell? Well, through work at my deer research facility, I have learned that deer can easily find an ear of corn buried under a foot of snow ... if the deer walks within 15 feet of it.

Also, we've rolled apples for 30 yards across cut grass fields (when no deer were present) to see if deer could find the apple when it came to the field to feed. What we've found is that if the deer can cut the apple's trail within 10 minutes of it being rolled across the grass, it will have no problem smelling where the apple rolled and tracking it down.

Our most impressive finding to date was discovered by accident. The distance between our high-fenced enclosure's south fence line and the nearest cover is 425 yards. During the rut, when there is a wind out of the south, our bucks pace the south fence, staring across open space toward the woods where wild deer are bedded. As they stand statuesque they often sniff and test the wind coming from the woods' direction. This reveals two things: They can smell other deer at least 425 yards away, and bucks can sift through all kinds of odors to pick up the smell of an estrous doe.

That's impressive!

2. HEARING

The whitetail's ability to hear doesn't garner nearly the same respect as its ability to smell, but it should. We are still learning about the whitetail's ability to hear different sounds. Research conducted at the University of Georgia reveals that normal whitetail hearing ranges from 20 hertz (sound frequency) to 30,000 hertz (human's hearing range is 20 to 20,000 hertz).

Gregg Ritz of
Hunt Masters

PINNACLE OF PRECISION

After debuting the first and best muzzleloader on the market to use the Federal Premium® Firestick™, Traditions® has upgraded the NitroFire® with our **VAPR™ TWIST BARREL TECHNOLOGY**. With a 1:24" twist rate, this allows for a faster twist which helps to stabilize bullets, expands the range of bullet options that can be used, and increases accuracy. The NitroFire® is safer, easier, and now even more accurate. Pick up the most revolutionary muzzleloader on the market today.

LEARN MORE ABOUT TRADITIONS® NITROFIRE® AT:
WWW.TRADITIONSFIREARMS.COM

#FEELTHEDIFFERENCE

Because deer seem to hear best in the 4,000 to 8,000 hertz range and humans best in the 2,000 to 5,000 hertz range, it appears on the surface that deer and humans have similar hearing abilities. However, there's a distinct difference between the two.

Humans have small ears. Whitetails, on the other hand, have large cone shaped ears that are capable of pivoting in all directions. This benefit gives deer the ability to detect certain sounds quicker and from greater distances than humans. When you couple this with the fact deer are always on the alert for danger, it's easy to see why they react to certain sounds much sooner than humans.

3. EYESIGHT

Whitetails might not possess the eyes of birds of prey, but you should never assume they cannot see as well as humans. Research done at the University of Georgia has shown that deer don't have the same optic cellular structure as people, but they certainly have the rod/cone makeup to suggest they can see certain colors. Specifically, blues and yellows can most likely be seen by deer.

Deer see very well into the blue wavelength, so they are able to see extremely well in dim light. As a result, their nighttime vision is exceptional, equipping them with the ability to survive predation any time of the day or night.

Having eyes mounted on the side of their head allows whitetails to have a much greater field of view than humans, giving them the ability to scan the horizon and to detect objects beside or behind them. Because they can detect movement at 300 degrees, they have greater ability to detect danger.

University of Georgia research has revealed that the whitetail's visual acuity is not as good as humans so it appears that deer do not see details quite as well. However, they have a tremendous ability to pick up the least movement. Any hunter who has been busted by a buck due to slight movement on his part can vouch for this.

4. MEMORY

Just because whitetails do not have the ability to reason as humans do, don't think for a minute they are dumb creatures. What they are capable of remembering can make even the smartest person sit up and take notice.

Dennis Olson, author of *Way of the Whitetail*, writes a very fitting description relating to the whitetail's intelligence.

"Of course, we value intellect as the trait of 'higher' animals. Deer are long on instinct and short on our version of logic. They are rather stupid, compared to us and our computers, satellites and complicated business deals. But, if just once we could let deer design an IQ test, the first question might be, which odors on the wind right now are edible, which are dangerous, and which are neutral? Who flunks the test?"

Olson's quote reminds me of why whitetails so often outsmart me. I've seen first hand how whitetails remember from past experiences. The deer in my research enclosure never forget that the sound of corn rattling in a plastic can is a treat they cannot resist. Furthermore, after they are introduced to predators, they seem to never forget it. Their mind is like a sponge; the longer they live, the smarter they get. difficult to hunt mature whitetails.

I've also observed the whitetail's ability to remember things in their environment. One of the best examples is their ability to know the time of day, with or without sunlight. For the past 12 years, I've fed our research deer two hours before sundown. They know exactly when to show up at the feeding station and seldom do they arrive before the prescribed time. It's incredible. Try getting a human to be on time like this, with or without a watch!

It just goes to show that deer are fast learners.

5. ATHLETICISM

Although great eyesight, hearing and sense of smell are critical to any wild animal's survival, incredible athletes are the most adept at survival.

The whitetail has few challengers when it comes to running ability.

The top speed I've witnessed a whitetail run is slightly over 40 miles per hour. This is pretty impressive, considering the world's fastest human, Usain Bolt of Jamaica, was clocked at around 25 miles per hour in his world-record setting 100-meter victory at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Of course, a whitetail really shines in an obstacle-strewn forest, where deadfalls, thick brush and other natural hazards are the norm. Certainly topography and natural conditions dictate a deer's speed in each situation, but it's safe to say that a mature whitetail can easily run 25 mph in a forest setting.

The whitetail is also blessed with unbelievable jumping ability. Although I've never seen deer consistently clear 8-foot-high fences with a running start, I have also seen them clear 7-foot fences with little effort from a standstill.

Finally, a whitetail's horizontal jumping prowess surpasses its ability to clear high fences because of the huge chunks of ground it gobbles up with each bound. The furthest distance I've seen a deer leap (where I could actually measure the distance) is 29 feet.

CONCLUSION

When you marry the whitetail's sheer athleticism to their ability to smell, see, and hear, is it any wonder why they continually makes fools of us hunters?

— Charles Alsheimer was D&DH's senior contributing editor on deer behavior for more than 30 years.

Go to www.YouTube.com/DDHOnline to see the following videos:

- *What Charlie Alsheimer Taught Us About Mock Scrapes*
- *Charles Alsheimer: 4 Factors that Contribute to an Ideal Whitetail Rut*
- *Understanding Whitetail Deer Vocalization*





THE HEART SHOT

**WHY IT'S NOT
BOWHUNTING'S
BEST TARGET**

The blood-soaked arrow couldn't have looked better. There was obvious sign of complete penetration, and Dad thought for certain the Pennsylvania buck had went down. He went on to explain how the deer jumped and lunged forward when hit, disappearing almost immediately into the dense, early season foliage.

RANDY HOEPNER/WINDIGO

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site



AVXLIVE • ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>

Forty-five minutes had elapsed since the shot as he began tracking the deer late that evening. The blood had dried but the trail remained easy to follow. Although the crimson-red blood did not provide evidence of a lung shot, he remained confident of spotting a downed deer within a short distance.

After following the trail for 150 yards, and with darkness rapidly approaching, he soon became concerned. Was the wound lethal after all? His worries soon ended — at least for the moment. Just ahead, he spotted the downed deer. Although he prematurely congratulated himself as he anxiously approached, he spotted the buck's head move and look toward him. Fearing he would push the deer, he backed out.

Three of us returned one hour later. When we arrived where Dad had left the area, we found the buck quite dead. Upon inspection, we saw the arrow had entered the deer low, just behind the left front leg. It had exited at the brisket, close to the right front leg. As we carefully field dressed the buck, we found the broadhead had made a 1-inch slice along the heart. The lungs had been spared and the heart nearly missed.

That incident occurred more than 20 years ago. I have not forgotten it, and for good reason. The heart-shot deer had not succumbed as quickly as expected. In fact, it would not be the last time I've helped track a heart-shot deer for a longer distance than expected.

Before proceeding, allow me to explain the uniqueness of this particular anecdote. I would wager my luckiest hunting hat that most heart-shot deer die within seconds, just as double-lung-shot deer do. I have examined the hearts of many whitetails after a projectile or broadhead has passed through them. The organ is typically pulverized and the deer usually dies quickly. However, there are exceptions. Let's look at a few reasons why bow-hunters should think twice about selecting the heart as the primary aiming point.

ANATOMY AND COMMON SENSE

"I always aim for the heart,"

explained one hunter as we sat in a taxidermy studio admiring his trophy. I never doubted the hunter's claim that the buck went down immediately, and that others he had shot ran only a short distance before dropping. Nevertheless, I have always remained skeptical when I hear from those who insist that the heart shot is unbeatable.

First, let's clear up one important theory: While the heart shot might be deadly, it is no more deadly than the lung shot. The lungs are no less vital than the heart. When squarely punctured, the lungs stop functioning almost immediately and result in near-instant death. The heart shot results in death, but not always as quickly as the lung shot. Hemorrhage appears inevitable with either wound.

I have heard tales of hunters who claimed their arrow passed through both lungs and that the deer continued onward and apparently survived the wound. This is impossible. No animal can survive with a wound to both lungs. The hunters might mistakenly have assumed they hit both lungs, but in reality, the possibility exists that only one lung was hit.

Now let's consider size. The heart of a whitetail is slightly oval and about the size of a grapefruit. An adult deer's heart is about 5 to 6 inches long and 4 inches wide. This is a sizable target, but it doesn't compare to the lungs, which have an inflated diameter of a 9-inch pie plate.

Location of the organs should also play a role in your selected target. The heart lies low in the chest cavity, lying just above the brisket and behind the front leg. This provides little room for error. A shot too low could result in a miss, or only a wound to the brisket or leg.

The lungs are nearly centered in the diaphragm. A portion of the organs are protected by the scapula, but they extend several inches beyond. An aiming point halfway from the top of the back to the brisket and about 3 inches behind the shoulder allows room for error. Your arrow or projectile could hit a few inches high or low, left or right, and still make contact with the vital lungs.

Another factor to consider is that deer do not carry a painted bulls-eye. Thus, we must estimate the precise

location of the vital organs. The closer we are to the aiming point, the better the chance we hit vitals. It's far easier to paint a mental picture of the center of the chest cavity and go for the lungs than it is to visualize the approximate location of the smaller heart.

The angle of the shot should also be considered. It is far more difficult to hit both lungs when the animal quarters into the hunter. This is exactly why many organizations have educated hunters in whitetail anatomy and shot placement. When aiming for the large lungs, nothing beats the broadside deer, or one that slightly quarters away.

The possibility also exists that you could shoot for the lungs and hit the heart. Such was the case of dad's buck mentioned previously.

Some bow-hunters claim it's better to aim low for the heart because most deer drop a few inches as they prepare to depart upon hearing the release of the bowstring. Thus, the arrow would hit the lungs squarely. Although circumstances make this possible, most of today's bows are sending arrows faster than ever before, eliminating this possibility. Moreover, the closer the deer, the more likely you will hit where you aim and no higher — if you bend at the waste when shooting and don't drop your bow arm.

TRACKING COMPARISONS

Although the color of all blood is red, wounds from different areas produce different shades of red. For instance, abdominal wounds typically produce dark-red blood. I've also found a difference in blood color of heart- and lung-shot deer. The blood of a lung-hit deer is very bright red, and sometimes has a pink cast. A muscular wound also might result in bright blood and resemble a lung hit, but the blood of a heart shot is somewhat darker; more of a crimson red.

Granted, the angle of the shot, as well as the entry and exit holes, could cause a variation in the brightness of blood when external bleeding occurs. For example, a deer shot quartering-away could leave both bright and dark blood. A liver-and-lung hit might result in dark blood from

**ABSOLUTE ACCURACY. EVEN WHEN YOUR HEART'S
BEATING OUT OF YOUR CHEST.**



Every riflescope in our whitetail hunting line follows in the footsteps of our most proven, battle-tested products. Otherwise, it wouldn't be a Trijicon® riflescope. Expect absolute precision, brilliant clarity from sunup to sundown, and extreme durability so you can hunt with confidence.



Trijicon Huron®



Trijicon Credo® HX



Trijicon AccuPoint®

See what it takes to make a brilliant aiming solution at [Trijicon.com](https://www.trijicon.com).





Seeing that whitetails can run 30+ mph, it's not inconceivable that a heart-shot deer can live long enough to travel several hundred yards before collapsing.

BILL KINNEY/WINDIGO

the liver, while the lungs produce bright-colored blood.

Be aware that as blood dries, it typically appears darker. Freezing also causes blood to appear dark, as does the type of debris and soil where blood falls.

The trail of the lung- and heart-shot are very similar, except that a low wound to the heart often causes blood to get to the ground sooner than some lung shots. A severed artery also might affect how soon external bleeding occurs. If a deer doesn't drop, a visible blood trail usually occurs within 20 to 30 yards of most lung-shot deer. Some heart shots bleed externally almost immediately, commonly leaving a blood trail on the spot or within a few yards of the site of the shot. The type of broadhead and projectile could also affect how soon a blood trail begins.

Just before the lung-shot deer goes down, you might find masses of "foamy" blood. Air bubbles are often

found in blood, but these do not provide solid evidence of a lung shot. Movement of the deer could cause air bubbles. The foamy blood of a lung hit is usually thick with bubbles. The heart shot will not cause foam in blood if the lungs are spared.

Another sign of only a heart shot might be determined if you find tallow on the arrow. Tallow is creamy white and somewhat greasy to the touch, similar to fat. Several areas of the deer contain tallow, including the forward portion of the brisket just under the heart.

Most lung-shot deer usually go down within 100 yards. There are exceptions. Strangely, I have seen some heart-shot deer go further, even when major damage occurs to the heart. Tales have been told of adult bucks surviving for longer than most would expect. Perhaps this is dependent upon the precise location of the heart wound and whether ventricles are affected.

SUMMARY

We all strive to achieve a quick and ethical kill. Nevertheless, we are human and make mistakes. Sometimes, regardless of our hunting and shooting ability, our shot will not be on target.

However, we will increase the possibility of a fast and humane kill by making certain our point of aim begins at the right location. Few will argue that the lungs provide the largest and deadliest target. Granted, I've harvested several deer shot through the heart and have been glad at the end. Nonetheless, I can't deny that I hit the heart only because my shot was low.

— *The late John Trout Jr. was a skilled bowhunter, blood-trailer, writer and photographer. He authored many books, including "Finding Wounded Deer" (2001).*



If done properly from field to butcher, the final product will be the tastiest, leanest, healthiest animal protein you'll ever eat.

WHY SOME VENISON *Tastes Horrible*

HOW TO MAXIMIZE THE FLAVOR OF YOUR HARD-EARNED DEER MEAT THIS SEASON.

There's a saying that's been around forever: "The job's never over until the paperwork's done." When it comes to hunting, it translates thusly: "The hunt's never over until the meat has been properly cared for." Why some hunters think that meat care is an onerous chore and not a celebration of the gift from nature baffles me. It's an easy process requiring nothing more than a few basic tools and some simple skills. Here's how to go about it.

REMEMBER: DEER TASTES LIKE ... VENISON

Never forget this simple fact: deer meat tastes a bit gamey because it's game, not a grain-fed cow. No matter how badly you want a free-range deer – even one that eats a lot of agriculture or munches on a carefully-tended food plot -- to taste like a fat beef cow, it never will. However, just like how the flavor quality of beef is controlled through selective feeding, so too will a deer's diet affect its flavor. A deer raised on corn or spends weeks on an alfalfa field will taste differently than one that eats acorns and sagebrush. But it will never taste like prime beef.

To get venison to taste it's very best, you have to cool it, clean it, and, when possible, age it. How you go about it depends on the conditions in which you're hunting. If you

hunt land where you can get a truck or ATV to the downed animal and transport it immediately to a barn or other designated processing area before doing anything else, do it. If you have to drag the deer a ways, you may choose to gut it first. Keeping the hide on until you reach the processing area will keep the meat as clean as possible. If you're a public land hunter hunting far from a road or easy vehicular access that has to pack the meat out, you may simply quarter the animal and take it out in pieces. Regardless, your first priority is to cool the meat down. That means getting meat away from internal organs and blood. Here's why.

COOL IT DOWN QUICKLY

By removing the entrails, you allow the carcass to cool faster. That's important because bacteria -- which play a big role in meat spoilage -- will increase rapidly in a warm carcass, leading to potential health issues and a decline in flavor quality. Cooling will slow the activity of bacteria. Also, allowing a carcass to remain warm results in what meat scientists call "heat shortening," a process that affects rigor mortis, which ultimately leads to tough meat. A whitetail's normal body temperature is about 102 degrees. Your goal is to cool the carcass to between 33-40 degrees as quickly as possible.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

PHOTO & TEXT BY JACK HENNESSY

Venison Roast With Mushroom Marsala Cream Sauce



You cannot cook a venison roast like you would a beef roast. An overdone beef roast still retains some of its juiciness due to fat content while a venison roast will just taste dry and not have good flavor. While the method to cook a venison roast is different, it is certainly not complicated at all.

I recommend a very low-and-slow bake to distribute heat evenly throughout the roast. A roast cooked at high heat can indeed have a perfect medium-rare center, but you will find the outer layers are well-done. Our goal is a larger ratio of pink to gray. To do so, we cook the roast at 175 degrees Fahrenheit for a longer period of time and only crank up the heat to add an outer crust.

An oven-safe meat probe is super helpful here and will allow you to monitor the internal temperature of the roast throughout this process. You'll want to turn up the heat when the internal temp reaches 112-115 then pull the roast from the oven at 125. But that isn't medium-rare yet, right? Fun fact: The hot outer layers of the roast will continue to cook the roast. This is referred to as the "carryover effect." While your roast rests, not only will juices evenly distribute throughout the meat, but the internal temp will rise 10-15 degrees.

The mushroom marsala cream sauce is also very simple but just requires time. It'll take almost an hour and a half from start to finish to reduce to the sauce texture you want. But trust me: it's worth the wait. And yes, you can use this sauce on anything, not just this roast recipe.

INGREDIENTS:

- + 2-pound venison roast (sirloin tip, top or bottom round all work great)
- + 2 tablespoons freshly minced garlic
- + Kosher salt
- + 1 pint heavy whipping cream
- + Freshly cracked black pepper
- + 8 ounces quartered button mushrooms
- + Granulated garlic powder
- + Optional garnish: Freshly chopped flat-leaf Italian parsley
- + Olive oil
- + 2 cups Marsala cooking wine

DIRECTIONS:

A few hours prior to cooking, trim all silver skin, fat, and fascia from fully thawed roast. Dust all sides with an even mix of kosher salt, freshly cracked black pepper, and granulated garlic. Place roast back in refrigerator until ready to cook (ideally allowing at least 3 hours for roast to absorb spices).

When ready to cook, pre-heat oven to 175 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly coat roast with olive oil. Place the roast in an oven-safe roasting or baking dish and slide into oven for 1 hour or until internal temp reads 112-115. (A meat probe works best here.)

During this time, in a medium saucepan, add Marsala cooking wine along with a dusting of kosher salt, freshly cracked black pepper, and freshly minced garlic. Heat burner to medium. Simmer until cooking wine reduces to half or one-third. Add heavy whipping cream and turn heat to medium-low. Stir often. Allow liquids to reduce to one-third (now sauce should be thicker, darker, and have a swampy-like texture when bubbling).

After 1 hour in the oven or once roasts reaches 112-115 internal temp, turn up oven to 425. Roast for 10 more minutes then remove and allow roast to rest uncovered for 10 minutes prior to carving.

To finish sauce, after cream has reduced to approximately one-third of its original amount (will likely take an hour total for wine and cream reduction steps), add mushrooms and, while stirring frequently, allow sauce to reduce for another 20 minutes.

Serve sliced venison roasted with sauce below, otop, or on the side. Optional: Garnish with freshly chopped flat-leaf parsley.

Any questions or comments, please reach out on Instagram: @WildGameJack

The pH level of the meat is also important. "To understand how this works, you must understand that bacteria grow rapidly at a pH level of 7.0," Tommy Johnson, a professional butcher and avid deer hunter, told me decades ago. "The pH contained in lemons or limes is about 2.35. By using a citric-acid solution sprayed either on a game bag or even the hanging carcass itself, the pH level drops dramatically, helping kill off bacteria." You can make a citric-

acid solution by combining the juice of three lemons, one large bottle of lemon juice concentrate and one small bottle of Tabasco sauce. When hanging meat, once excess moisture has been removed, apply the lemon juice mixture (a small plastic spray bottle is ideal for this.) This will create a high-acid protective glaze over the meat while it is drying.

FIELD-DRESSING

Regardless of whether you do it

in the field or at a more "civilized" location, step one – after making sure the animal is dead and you've legally tagged it – is to remove the entire digestive system, as well as the heart, lungs and windpipe, and facilitate cooling before internal bacteria begins to multiply. As you proceed, take great care not to puncture the bladder. Here's how to do it:

* **Make sure** the animal is dead. Once confirmed, unload your firearm. Safety first! Then position the animal

THE CHAMPAGNE OF BOURBON

We Double Barrel finish our 12 Point Bourbon Whiskey in specially chosen Brandy Barrels. It gives our bourbon a sweet fruit flavor you're sure to appreciate. So, hunt



us down and give 12 Point Bourbon Whiskey a try, it'll satisfy your search for a truly great bourbon and sate your appetite for a new trophy on your shelf.

Available at D R O P T I N E . C O M



If you have motor transport and a barn or other clean area to process your deer, haul it whole to the area before starting, to keep everything as clean as possible.

with its head uphill, which will facilitate the drainage of blood and body fluids. Prop the carcass on its back, and secure it.

* **Remove your** field-dressing knife and other tools from your pack, set them within easy reach, and put on your rubber gloves.

* **Make an incision** that encircles the external margin of the animal's anus, cutting deep enough to free the terminal end of the digestive system from the surrounding tissue. Then make a small opening in the abdominal wall -- taking care not to puncture the underlying internal organs -- from the pelvic bone upwards to the bottom of the sternum. Using the index and middle finger of your non-knife hand to lift the abdominal wall away from the internal organs helps. Slice the hide open to the sternum.

* **Pushing the** stomach out of the way, locate the diaphragm, the thin horizontal wall of muscle that divides the digestive tract from the chest cavity. Completely cut the diaphragm from one side of the rib cage to the other.

* **With your** free hand, reach up past the heart and lungs, locate and securely grasp the windpipe. Sever the windpipe with your knife blade as high up into the throat as possible. Take care not to nick yourself with your knife! (Note: Using a serrated blade or small saw to cut through the center of the sternum up to the throat before you do this will make removing the heart, lungs and windpipe much easier.)

* **Holding the** severed windpipe, begin pulling the heart, lungs, and internal organs free and out of the

chest cavity. It may be necessary to cut several adhesions to the body cavity, but this whole mess should come free relatively easily. Then reach down into the pelvic opening and grasp the lower end of the intestines, then pull them up and out of the abdominal cavity. If you've cut the anus free, everything, including bladder and rectum, should come free. If not, use the knife to carefully cut through the resisting areas. Take care not to puncture the bladder and get urine on the meat.

* **Elevate the** carcass, draining all the blood out of the body cavity through the hole where the anus used to be.

* **Transport the** carcass to civilization, where further cleaning, skinning and butchering can take place. When transporting the carcass whole from the field, leave the hide on. This will keep the meat cleaner and free of debris that would otherwise need to be trimmed away later.

CLEAN AND COOL IT

Once back at camp, it's time to thoroughly aggressively hose the inside of the carcass out with cool fresh water. This will both rid the carcass of blood, body fluids, and dirt, and also facilitate cooling. Position the animal with the head elevated so it drains out through the butt end.

There are two schools of thought here, with some choosing to skin the animal before washing it down, and others washing it down prior to skinning. Neither is wrong. My preference is to hose the animal out as quickly as possible, then I remove the hide, cut away any damaged or bloody

meat and bone, remove any loose hair from the carcass, then wash it all down again, and let it hang, drain and dry.

HANG AND AGE IT

After you wash the carcass and skin it, hang it and, if possible, let it age for 7-10 days. Just as beef tastes better after controlled aging, venison quality improves dramatically if it is allowed to hang and age in a walk-in cooler. Some processors will hang it even longer. Ideally you can age it in a dry area at 33-40 degrees F. "Aging allows the enzymes to break down the proteins in the muscle, which makes the meat more tender," Johnson said.

No place to hang your deer for 10 days? No worries. Ideally, you can let the carcass hang whole for at least 24 hours if it can be stored at less than 40 degrees F. but above freezing. Deboning it sooner can result in tougher meat, but often that's my only option, so that's what I do, but I make sure to get the meat cooled as quickly as possible. That can be done in bags in a refrigerator or an ice chest. The key is keeping the meat dry (moisture facilitates bacterial growth,) which is why I use heavy 3mm contractor-type garbage bags that are hard to rip and will keep moisture from melting ice off the meat.

Once this process is complete, it's time to cut and grind the meat into the highest-quality protein on the planet.





Two styles of broadheads shown on a free-range axis deer the author shot in Texas.

SELECTING *the Best* BROADHEAD

People often ask me which broadheads are best for big-game hunting. My answer? The choice is simply complex. If you remember that a broadhead has only one function — to cut a hole through hair, hide, muscle, and internal organs — and that to do so it must have blades sharp as a scalpel, be strong enough to withstand some serious abuse, and be designed and manufactured so precisely that it flies like a laser beam, you can eliminate the cheap stuff, choosing only from one of dozens of today's high-quality broadheads with confidence.

There are three basic types of modern broadheads: fixed (replaceable) blade, mechanical, and hybrid heads that combine both characteristics. Here's a look at each.

FIXED (REPLACEABLE) BLADE HEADS

Replaceable-blade broadheads were developed to eliminate the need to resharpen broadhead blades. It's that simple. Fixed-blade heads are favored by many traditional archers, but many more replaceable-blade heads are sold. Over the years, the number of blades varied as manufacturers tinkered with finding the right combination of blade number and broadhead flight. I remember 6-blade heads and, for a time, 4-blades seemed to be the number, but today the 3-blade design dominates.

MECHANICAL HEADS

While mechanical broadhead designs began surfacing back in the 1950s, it wasn't until the late 1980s and the Rocket Aerohead that bowhunters in any number began giving them serious consideration. Their development has paralleled the maturation of both the compound bow and carbon arrow shaft. As these two products became more efficient, and archers began using a mechanical release clipped onto a string

loop instead of fingers on the string, bowhunters began shooting hunting arrows at speeds upwards of 300 fps. At these higher speeds, getting a replaceable-blade broadhead to fly with pinpoint precision — especially at extended distances — requires meticulous bow tuning. The low profile of the mechanical broadhead eliminates the old issue of wind planing, and the accuracy equation just got much simpler. Mechanicals also produce a wider cutting diameter than replaceable- and fixed-blade heads. Along the way there have been performance and reliability issues but, by and large, the modern mechanical broadhead is a strong, accurate, and reliable product.

HYBRID HEADS

Hybrid heads feature a fixed two-blade design, but also a pair of mechanical blades that sweep backwards upon impact. They were initially developed for bowhunters who have their doubts about the reliability of a mechanical broadhead's blades deploying properly, but want the wider wound channel mechanicals provide over fixed-blade heads. Thus, if the movable blades fail to open, the fixed blades of the hybrid will still get the job done. Hybrids are interesting, and while my experience with them is limited, I've found the terminal performance has been devastating.

BROADHEAD WEIGHT

Today, the 100-grain broadhead is the largest seller, with 125-grain heads in second place. There are heavier and lighter options, but for virtually all North American big-game hunting, one of these two weights will get it done.



MIKE HANBACK

Introduced by Winchester in 1895 as the main chambering for their Model 1894 rifle, the .30-30 was the first sporting cartridge loaded with smokeless powder. The original .30-30 Winchester load featured a 160-grain bullet driven at almost 2,000 feet per second, a huge step up in performance as compared to the black powder cartridges of the day.

Hunters across America fell in love with this revolutionary rifle/cartridge combo, which hit game hard and shot amazingly flat for the day. The .30-30 quickly became the go-to for deer and bear at short to moderate range.

In the 20th Century, Marlin began chambering lever-action rifles in .30-30. In 1948 the gunmaker introduced the venerable Model 336, which fueled a boom in .30-30 popularity that peaked in the 1970s and 1980s, and hums along to this day.

While a modern .30-30 rifle shoots a 150-grain bullet flat and accurate enough out to kill a deer at 150 yards, and imparts plenty of foot-pounds of energy for the job, it does so with negligible recoil. A Winchester 94 or Marlin 336 is short, lightweight, easy to carry and dang fun to shoot. Today's lever guns are drilled and tapped for scope mounting. No wonder deer hunters, especially those who live east of the Mississippi River, still love them.

GUN AND AMMO STATS

Some 7 to 8 million Winchester Model 94s in .30-30 have been sold over the years, making it one of the most prolific firearms of all time. By 1983, during the heyday years of the Marlin 336, an estimated 3.5 to 4 million of those .30-30 rifles had been sold. Tack on tens of thousands more Model 336s sold during the last 40 years, and the ongoing popularity of the rifle is evident.

All the major ammunition companies report that to this day .30-30 is still a big volume item. It consistently ranks in or near the top 10 in annual ammo sales due to the sheer number of levers out there and still in use.

#1 DEER CARTRIDGE?

Sometime last century, some crusty old gun scribe announced one day out of the blue, "Boys, the .30-30 has killed more whitetail deer than any other cartridge!" The old saw caught on, and is perpetuated to this day by



LEVER-GUN FUN: .30-30 DEER HUNTING

modern gun writers and hunters around a campfire. "The .270 and .30-06 are okay, but the good old .30-30 has killed more deer!"

Is it true?

I can't prove it, but I believe it and here's the scoop.

While the .270 and .30-06 have felled more whitetails over the past 30 years, you've got to remember that the .30-30 has been around for 125 years. Twenty-five years before the .270 was introduced, meat hunters were stacking up game with the .30-30. And while the .30-06, introduced 15 years after the .30-30, is second on the all-time deer killing list, not as many semi-auto and bolt-action rifles have been chambered for the cartridge as compared to levers built for .30-30.

My story and I'm sticking to it: The .30-30 is Number 1! Think I'll go out and shoot a buck this fall with the scarred old Model 94 my dad gave me more than 50 years ago. Might as well add another one to the tally.





REMINGTON PRESENTS



CHAMPION OF THE 200-YARD SLUGFEST



DOMINANT BUCK

VS



PREMIER ACCUTIP

THE MOST ACCURATE
SABOT SLUG.
PERIOD.



ST ACCURATE • **200-YARD DEER DEVASTATOR** • TIGHT GROUPS • HUGE .58-CALIBER (12 GA) AND .45-CAL (20 GA) SLUGS • WORLD'S
• MASSIVE EXPANSION 5-200 YARDS • RIFLED BARRELS ONLY • **95% WEIGHT RETENTION** • POWER PORT™ TIP • MAS

BUY TODAY REMINGTON.COM

PROGRAMMING YOUR WAY TO MUZZLELOADER SUCCESS



When asked to do a piece on muzzleloader hunting, I struggled with how, as muzzleloader seasons range from before any other season opens to after bow and rifle seasons already had their crack. How can I possibly write a piece on how to effectively hunt the muzzleloader season, when the dates range so wildly from state to state and within provinces?

That's when the theme of this dawned on me. One simply uses the same "if, then, and" statements I did, way back when I had to learn basic computer programming for the day job I used to have. Actually, one can literally use that same language to program our way to muzzleloader success.

GRASPING THE PREMISE AND KEYS

The concept is simple. The program merely runs a series of tests. IF this is the case THEN do whatever. To add another layer, one can even do stuff like IF this AND that THEN preform the instructed task.

So, what do we need as variables to plug into our formula? Well, the obvious stuff that impacts our hunting. The hunting pressure levels, what phase the season is in, the specifics of the hunting property and what our hunting goals are for the day all need to be factored in to nearly any type of hunting we do, to best position ourselves for success. Muzzleloader season is no different.

PUTTING PROGRAMMING TO WORK

With that in mind, writing the programs is pretty simple. IF pressure is/has been moderate to low AND bucks are

currently feeding heavily on a huntable food source, THEN hunt the food.

IF it is unseasonably hot AND pressure is moderate to low, THEN hunting water sources can be a great bet, particularly in wood sources where the deer feel safe.

IF it is during or just days on either side of the breeding phase, THEN hunt the same rut setups one would with any other weapon during the rut.

IF it's after all the other seasons AND hunting mature bucks, THEN setup as close to their bedding as one safely can.

IF pressure is high AND one is trying to tag a mature buck AND temps are average and above AND deer won't be forcibly pushed across the food source, running to the next protective cover, THEN hunt within the deer cover, where deer feel safe.

IF in one of the rare areas where hunting pressure is high during muzzleloader season, THEN setup in or on the routes to the protective cover they hunker down in when pressured.

CONCLUSION

There is no way for one generalized method to work for most all muzzleloader hunters, as seasons are all over the board as are what the deer have endured to get to this point, ranging from next to nothing to having literally survived most of the war.

Because of that, we need to be flexible and match our tactics to what the programming tells us is the best route.



CRACK THE CODE WITH



DEERCAST

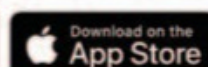


DRURY OUTDOORS | **DEERCAST**

With DeerCast, harness over 70 years of Mark and Terry Drury's whitetail hunting expertise through real-time, algorithm-driven deer movement forecasts based off of up-to-date weather information for your precise location. See inside your shot, track & recover your deer with the revolutionary DeerCast Track tool. Enjoy the entire catalog of classic & current DOD videos, share your kills, and get daily hunting articles. There's so much more to discover in DeerCast. Go check it out now in your app store or at DeerCast.com!



WWW.DEERCAST.COM





FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

FACEBOOK.COM/THEPURSUITCHANNEL

INSTAGRAM.COM/PURSUITCHANNEL

@PURSUITCHANNEL/TWEETS



GO TO PURSUITCHANNEL.COM for more information on all of the great shows and schedules, and how to get Pursuit Channel from your TV service provider or streaming online source.

- DISH NETWORK CHANNEL 393
- DIRECT TV CHANNEL 604 • VERIZON CHANNEL 818
- CENTURYLINK 1677 • AT&T U-VERSE 1644
- ROKU SEARCH PURSUIT CHANNEL
- WATCH ONLINE ON VIDILLION
- WWW.VIDILLION.TV/PURSUITCHANNEL/



FACEBOOK

Shared from our friends at Deer & Deer Hunting: "The Wisconsin bow opener is finally here and we're ready to hit the woods!! Good luck to all the hunters in our home state, and Minnesota also!" #deerhunting #wearepursuit

Reasons why fall is #1

- Chilly weather
- Halloween
- Sweaters
- Pumpkins

deer hunting
deer hunting
deer hunting
deer hunting

- Bugs are gone, dead, bye
- Yes... but also
deer hunting

PURSUIT CHANNEL LEADS MARKET PENETRATION

As most networks continue to see declining reach, Pursuit leads the industry in total market penetration and growth for its outdoor content creators and manufacturers. For the fishing, hunting, and shooting categories, television still provides one of the best solutions for marketers to target a strong demographic with product and brand messaging, and influence their buying decisions. While other industry networks shrink to a mere 12% and 16% of the total TV market penetration, Pursuit has not only maintained distribution levels, but has actually added linear homes. This, combined with the freedom and flexibility offered to its partners to garner additional distribution, continues to make Pursuit the ideal solution for long-term sustainability for content creators in our space. Pursuit also comes with built-in streaming distribution with its Pursuit UP channel available to millions of users across some of the country's most popular and easy-to-access platforms. This, without question, makes Pursuit the overwhelming industry leader in market penetration, which also makes it the best option for the needs of the outdoor industry.

"We've said many times that we believe Pursuit's model is key to the future of outdoor content distribution," said Rusty Faulk, CEO of Pursuit Media. "We're not just maintaining homes on the linear side for Pursuit Channel, but have actually added homes in recent months, during the same time that other outdoor networks have lost millions and millions of homes. On the streaming side, Pursuit UP is growing leaps and bounds in viewership and now will be available to millions more with recent additions to its distribution. We always like to remind everyone too ... that Pursuit content doesn't come with an extra cost to subscribers and users, and that's very important these days," he said. Reach out today to learn how Pursuit can help your business. #wearepursuit

ABOUT PURSUIT: Pursuit Media, LLC, the industry leader in total home and user delivery, has its linear feed Pursuit Channel, active nationally to 30+ million homes via DIRECTV, AT&T U-verse HD, DISH Network, Sling TV HD, Comcast Xfinity, Fios by Verizon HD, Centurylink Prism HD, Cox Communication HD and the National Cable Television Cooperative (NCTC). PursuitUP, is active to 75+ million users through Samsung's TV Plus, Sinclair's STIRR, Xumo, Glewed TV, Vidgo, Kloud TV, Select TV, TCL Smart TVs, Plex, and many more. Additionally, PursuitUP's VOD library is readily available online to anyone at pursuitup.tv, or by downloading the PursuitUP app available on most devices.

MEDIA CONTACT: Pursuit Media, LLC - 334.544.0701 - media@pursuitchannel.com

NOW STREAMING PAST EPISODES ON
WWW.PURSUITUP.TV.COM!



DEER & DEER HUNTING TV IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



**PURSUIT CHANNEL DELIVERS THE OUTDOORS STRAIGHT
TO YOUR TV AND DEVICES WITH THE CLICK OF A BUTTON.
DOWNLOAD OUR APP TODAY AND NEVER MISS AN EPISODE.**



- DISH CHANNEL 393 •
- DIRECT TV CHANNEL 604 •
- VERIZON CHANNEL 818 •
- CENTURY LINK 1677 •
- ATT U-VERSE 1644 •
- ROKU SEARCH PURSUIT CHANNEL •
- WWW.VIDILLION.TV/PURSUITCHANNEL •

pursuitUP
We Deliver the Outdoors

WWW.PURSUITUPTV.COM



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

[FACEBOOK.COM/THEPURSUITCHANNEL](https://www.facebook.com/thepursuitchannel)

[INSTAGRAM.COM/PURSUITCHANNEL](https://www.instagram.com/pursuitchannel)

[@PURSUITCHANNEL/TWEETS](https://twitter.com/pursuitchannel)



NEW GEAR

1 THERMACELL MULTI-INSECT REPELLENT REFILLS

New this year, Thermacell Multi-Insect Repellent creates a 15-foot zone of protection against mosquitoes and 10-foot zone against no-see-ums and black flies (buffalo gnats). The refills are compatible with Thermacell's existing mat and fuel repeller line, so you can seamlessly swap Multi-Insect repellent mats in for use on your MR300, MR450, Backpacker, Patio Shield, or Lantern repellers. Available now from \$32.97 at Home Depot, Amazon, and Sam's Club.

MSRP: \$32.97 WWW.THERMACELL.COM

2 WILDGAME INNOVATIONS MIRAGE 2.0 TRAIL CAMERA

Wildgame Innovations offers the Mirage 2.0, a 30-megapixel camera that delivers brilliant 16:9 ratio stills and 15-second 720p HD video clips to provide the imaging you need to observe, inventory, and target the alpha bucks in your hunting area. The Mirage 2.0's half-second trigger speed combined with 42 nearly invisible infrared LEDs and a long 90-foot illumination/detection range guarantees a camera that is both discrete and can get the shot in any setting. A built-in automatic exposure control ensures top-quality image captures in all lighting conditions—from the dark woods to the bright and wide-open green fields.

MSRP: \$89.99 | WWW.WILDGAMEINNOVATIONS.COM

3 EASTON AXIS SPT ARROW

The new Easton Axis SPT arrow was introduced for bowhunters with shorter draws and lighter poundage. Recently, Easton added spine sizes to round out the offering. Now AXIS SPT covers spines from 260 to 700 fitting virtually all hunting bow setups. In addition, the AXIS SPT will be offered with FOC enhancing half-out inserts and X-nocks included. The small diameter also means that AXIS arrows fly much better in crosswinds than regular carbon arrows. That means broadheads will find the aim-point more often in the field. AXIS is widely distributed across the nation and is found in virtually every pro shop. 5mm micro AXIS arrows are available in Match Grade, Standard, and Sport models.

MSRP: VARIES | EASTONARCHERY.COM

4 HORNADY AMMO CABINET

Safely store and organize ammo cans, cartons and boxes with the versatile Hornady Ammo Cabinet. The one-of-a-kind Square-Lok™ system allows you to arrange space and add features that suit your needs while securing valuable reloading tools, hunting and shooting gear, and other supplies. Bolt together two or more for even greater storage capacity.

MSRP: \$629 | WWW.HORNADY.COM

5 ZEISS LRP S3 RIFLESCOPE

ZEISS announces the release of its all-new first focal plane riflescope - the LRP S3. The new riflescope for long-range precision shooting and hunting includes impressive total elevation travel, advanced optics, daytime visible illuminated reticle, ballistic stop, and an external locking windage turret. The product family consist of two models: the LRP S3 425-50 and 636-56. Both are available in either milliradian (MRAD) or minute-of-angle (MOA) configurations. "With the LRP S3 we have expanded our successful long-range precision scope portfolio to provide more options for highly reliable and precise optics that are ready for competition," stated Kyle Brown, Director of Marketing and Products for ZEISS Consumer Products USA.

MSRP: VARIES | WWW.ZEISS.COM



JOSH HONEYCUTT

About an hour after daybreak, a doe bleated. Two young bucks chased her down the hill to his location. Twenty minutes later, after vocalizing several soft bleats himself, Miller saw the big buck working toward him. It was 70 yards and closing. Unfortunately, the wind betrayed him and the buck smelled him before presenting a shot opportunity.

Two days went by without any trail camera photos of the buck. Then, on the third day, it returned. Unfortunately, the temperature was very warm, and the forecast didn't look great. So, Miller waited.

Fast forward to November 26, 2021. A weather front passed through and ripened the hunting conditions. The day produced clear skies and

BUCK:
174 5/8 INCHES (GROSS)
DATE OF HARVEST:
NOVEMBER 26, 2021
LOCATION OF HARVEST:
LOGAN COUNTY, WV
WEAPON OF HARVEST:
COMPOUND BOW
PHOTO BY DAVID MILLER

AN APPALACHIAN MONSTER

Rarely do hunters get to follow a specific buck for three consecutive seasons, but David Miller of West Virginia did. It was a journey he won't soon forget.

"I watched this buck the past few seasons, monitoring his patterns and mannerisms with several trail cameras and maps," Miller said. "He was the most mature buck in the herd, and one of the least patternable bucks on my radar. He would move into an area for 24 hours, assert his dominance by pushing the other bucks around, then be a mile away on another ridge doing the same the next day."

That said, after continued study of the area, it started to click. He noticed some continuity in how the deer behaved and traveled. So, he hung treestands in key topographical locations, and prepped a tree saddle setup for mobility. It produced numerous encounters during the 2021 season.

One of those occurred in mid-October. Miller was hunting along a ridge when the buck appeared. It was about an hour before dusk, and he had high hopes the buck would offer a shot opportunity. It did. Miller drew back, settled the pin, and was seconds from releasing the arrow when tragedy struck.

Another buck snort wheezed behind him.. he immediately wheeled, ran to the other buck and lock up! They brawled down the hill like I had never heard two bucks before, deep into the hollow. I was hoping the would break apart and come just below me, but after the 20 minute war, I never saw either of them.

November 12 produced another encounter. "He was showing up more consistent than ever, but not daylighting at my primary stand sites with consistency," Miller said. "I devised a plan to enter the area that was so difficult to access. I loaded my mobile rig in my pack, and started into the area at 3:00 a.m."

Beginning the 3/4-mile journey into the valley, he walked slowly in the frosty, crunchy leaves, emitting soft grunts along the way. Around 3:45 a.m., he arrived at the destination and installed his steps and tree saddle. Everything seemed perfect.

37-degree temperatures.

His stand location destination was a point coming off a main ridgeline. It was a spectacular view. In front, the point tapered down 1/4 mile, dividing two drainages. To the left and right were steep hillsides that dropped off aggressively into valleys below. And to the rear was the main ridgeline.

The activity started off quite slowly. Around 3:45 p.m., two does walked into view. They fed around the stand. Fifteen minutes later, while the does were still 25 yards away, his target buck appeared.

"As I watched them, I heard something directly behind me," Miller said. "I slowly turned my head to look, and it was the buck. He was eye level with me."

Knowing he had a good wind, Miller patiently waited for a shot opportunity. The monster buck walked down the hill toward the does and stopped four yards from the base of his treestand. It stood there staring for two minutes, before finally continuing toward the does.

Just before it reached them, Miller drew back, anchored, and released the arrow. The 25-yard shot struck true, and the buck bolted. It disappeared over a steep bank.

"The recovery was not long, but challenging," Miller said. "My buddies, Reuben and Shannon, helped me drag it."

Looking back, Miller is reminded of how important patience and persistence were throughout this journey. At the time, he was dealing with unrelated challenges, some extremely difficult to overcome, including the passing of his father. But his unwavering efforts were rewarded with great days in the field, one of which was capped off with a 7 1/2-year-old, 174 5/8-inch deer.

"Could it be, while chasing a whitetail, God can use this as a tool to shape our character, growing patience within us? I can say, it is possible, if we yield and allow Him to do so. The Bible tells us to let patience have its perfect work, so that you may be complete, lacking nothing (James 1:4)."

— To have your deer considered for the Buck Shots column, send an email to dan.schmidt@media360LLC.com



OF Wind & Deer

TEXT & PHOTO BY CHARLES J. ALSHEIMER

Wind direction should always dictate where you hunt. With that said, there are several set ups that can provide the ultimate “honey hole.” What follows is my list, by preference, from a near half-century in the deer woods.

Funnels: I hunt nearly every structure ever written about but my greatest successes have come from hunting funnels, especially thick brushy funnels that are not wind sensitive. When a narrow body of cover attaches a bedding area to a feeding area it becomes a prime candidate for a potentially great set-up. It is here that you’ll find rubs and scrapes when the rut ramps up.

Inside corners: Inside corners are my second most favorite place to hunt whitetails. What makes inside corners great hunting locations is that a whitetail will usually opt to cut the corner just inside the woods or brush line in order to get from point A to B. This is especially true in areas with high hunting pressure. Also, if there is a prime food source in a field where the inside corner

exists, deer will have a tendency to enter the food source at the point of the inside corner.

Ravine heads: If given a choice, whitetails will go around a ravine before going down and back up, even if it adds a couple hundred yards to their journey. Because of this the head of a ravine or steep draw can be an excellent place to ambush the buck of your dreams when food sources are nearby and the rut is full-blown.

Benches: I grew up hunting benches, which are common in the hilly country of our area of western New York. Some are no wider than 30 yards and some 100 yards wide. The beauty of hunting benches is that they can offer some incredible opportunities (if the wind cooperates) because they allow whitetails to move more freely along a hillside’s steep inclines.

Ridgelines: Volumes have been written by whitetail experts on the benefits of hunting along ridge lines. In such areas where food is available and the terrain thick the hunting can be great. During the rut bucks are habitual ridge

runners because they can cover a lot of ground and detect does at lower elevations through wind currents. Most ridge lines can offer great hunting set ups because wind direction is more predictable.

Once a hunter becomes versed in the nuances of deer behavior and how to hunt various terrains, the stage is set for sealing the deal when the moment of truth comes along.

For starters, one needs to execute the details. Doing so requires not being heard, seen or smelled by a whitetail. All are tough to master. In order to get to and from stand locations, make each stand’s access trail noise-free. To accomplish this, rake a debris-free trail the last hundred yards to the stand. This will eliminate the sound of branches breaking and leaves rustling.

— *The late Charles Alsheimer was D&DH’s contributing editor of deer behavior for more than 30 years.*



YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT



WILD

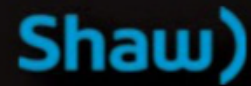
TELEVISION NETWORK

CALL YOUR SERVICE PROVIDER NOW TO ENJOY WILD TV!

 TELUS

 Bell

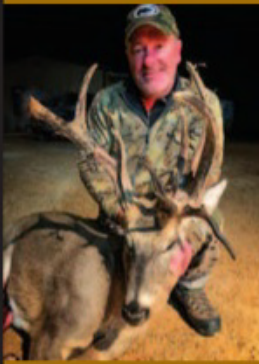
 SaskTel

 Shaw

 COGECO

 ROGERS

WHERE TO GO



TROPHY RIDGE OUTFITTERS

NE Wyoming • 300,000 acres
Private • Managed for Trophies

Whitetail • Mule Deer • Elk
Antelope • Buffalo • Merriam Turkeys

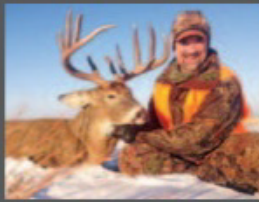
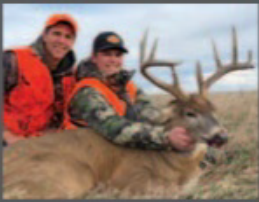
Archery hunts = 95% Success Rate
Gun hunts = 100% Success Rate



Ralph and Lenora Dampman - 17985 US HWY 14, Carlile, WY 82721
Phone (307) 756-9776 or Cell (307) 756-2194
www.trophyridgeoutfitters.com

License #BG-353

Nebraska's Premier Whitetail Deer Destination!





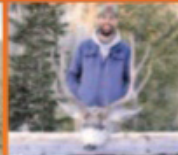
402.459.5823

www.gobblengrunt.com



OUTFITTER #: BG 208





We are a family-run outfit offering wilderness and lodge hunts in the most scenic, wild country in the lower 48. With mule deer, antelope and cow elk hunts, we have something for everyone! Hunt out of a fully set wilderness camp on horseback, or enjoy the comforts of our lodge hunts. We are handicap accessible and very encouraging of youth hunters! Give us a call and we'll set up your western adventure! NOW BOOKING FOR THE 2022/2023 SEASONS.

RACHEAL: 307.899.7040
RON: 307.899.3877
BOX 2166 | CODY, WYOMING 82414



DEERANDDEERHUNTING.COM

HUNTER'S CLOSET

ML KNIVES Traditional Forged
USA made Quality

Carbon steel Knives, made for the wilderness,
lover's of fine steel, & collectors alike.

WWW.ML-KNIVES.COM



LENON ANIMAL LURES

Serving Trappers
Continuously
Since 1924

LENONLURES.COM

From The Hills of "West Virginia"

Smokey's Deer Lures

The Original "Patent Pending" PRE-ORBITAL GLAND LURES



Deer Lures & Natural Organic Deer Lure

The "Wicked Wick" Compound

Trapping Snares & Baits

Turkey, Deer, and Coyote Calls

Hats & More

Call: 304-564-4087

www.smokeysdeerlure.com

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (required by Act of August 12, 1970:
 Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code). 1. Deer & Deer Hunting. 2. (ISSN: 0164-7318). 3. Filing date: 9/29/22. 4. Issue frequency: 11 issues annually. 5. Number of issues published annually: 11. 6. The annual subscription price is \$23.99. 7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: Media 360, LLC, 1990 Godfrey Drive Waupaca, WI 54981. 8. Complete mailing address of headquarters or general business office of publisher: Media 360, LLC, 1990 Godfrey Drive, Waupaca, WI 54981. 9. Full names and complete mailing addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor. Publisher, Brad Rucks, 1990 Godfrey Drive, Waupaca, WI 54981; Editor, Daniel Schmidt, 1990 Godfrey Drive, Waupaca, WI 54981; Managing Editor, N/A. 10. Owner: Media 360, LLC, 1990 Godfrey Drive, Waupaca, WI 54981, Brad Rucks, Steve Bartylla, Don Barry, Jr, DDHR LLC, Daniel Schmidt. 11. Known bondholders, mortgages and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent of more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None. 12. Tax status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months. 13. Publisher title: Deer & Deer Hunting. 14. Issue date for circulation data below: September 2022. 15. The extent and nature of circulation: A. Total number of copies printed (Net press run). Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 66,450. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 63,177. B. Paid circulation. 1. Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 48,693. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 45,483. 2. Mailed in-county paid subscriptions. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 0. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 0. 3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2,289. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 2,225. 4. Paid distribution through other classes mailed through the USPS. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 129. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 132. C. Total paid distribution. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 51,111. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 47,840. D. Free or nominal rate distribution (by mail and outside mail). 1. Free or nominal outside-county. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 66. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 63. 2. Free or nominal rate in-county copies. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 0. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 0. 3. Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other Classes through the USPS. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 0. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 0. 4. Free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 162. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 101. E. Total free or nominal rate distribution. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 228. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 164. F. Total free distribution (sum of 15c and 15e). Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 51,339. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 48,004. G. Copies not Distributed. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 15,124. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 15,173. H. Total (sum of 15f and 15g). Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 66,463. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 63,177. I. Percent paid. Average percent of copies paid for preceding 12 months: 99.6% Actual percent of copies paid for preceding 12 months: 99.7% 16. Electronic Copy Circulation: A. Average Paid Electronic Copies. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months : 37,396. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 31,890. B. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a). Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 88,735. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 79,894. D. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100). Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 99.7%. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 99.8%. I certify that 50% of all distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above nominal price: Yes. Report circulation on PS Form 3526-X worksheet. 17. Publication of statement of ownership will be printed in the November 2022 issue of the publication. 18. Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner: Brad Rucks, Publisher. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanction and civil actions.

I used to love November.

November sees the overlap of bird season and deer season, the first snows of the year, friendship and camaraderie. It's been an important month for me for all of my adult life, and my thirty-year hunting career. Thoughts of road-trips and cold weather, the whitetail rut and the bird migrations all stir in my thoughts while November is still months away. When it arrives, I feel at home. I feel alive.

I used to love November.

Now, the approach of November signals the nearing of the date of my daughter's death on November 2nd in 2016. For the first few months after her passing, every second day of every month was a stark reminder of that loss. As the October winds scour the leaves from the trees, the November I once looked forward to becomes the month I now dread. It's not the entire month but getting past the second is a large hurdle. I dread that hurdle like I used to look forward to the dawning of November. It's me who is stripped bare of all pretense of normality. Things aren't normal anymore, nor will they ever be. In my book *Strong is the Current*, I talked about how, in the early days after Jen's loss, I spent every free minute fishing. The rhythmic strokes of the kayak paddle and the peacefulness of the water provided some nourishing placidity in what had been a nightmare-inducing year. I still find great peace in being on the water. For the first couple of years after our tragedy, I had a hard time settling into the deer woods. My hunting style is to stay rock still in a good area and hope for the best. First, for those early months, I found it nearly impossible to sit still. I found it even more impossible to hope for the best after a year of the worst. It wasn't that the experience wasn't still rewarding, because it often was. It was that the company was terrible. Hours and hours alone with your own thoughts and little to do other than wait for a deer to show up does not bode well for an already badly bruised psyche.

Now, almost five years on, I can tolerate the peace and quiet once again. I have learned tricks to suppress the depression. I've learned to look deeper into my surroundings, to listen for the call of a cardinal at dawn, or the steady tap-tap-tap of a downy woodpecker on a nearby log. I have learned to home in on the details of everything around me. It isn't only a matter of distraction, but a matter of being more finely in tune with Nature. It doesn't always work. Nothing always works, but I am finally back to a place where I can be alone with myself without swimming in a sea of black thoughts. These days, that's more likely to happen to me when I'm sitting alone in my office for hours on end. My normal workday sees a lot of isolated, quiet time with little in the way of pleasant distraction. Meltdowns, which for the last few years had been a frequent occurrence, now happen only sporadically and mostly when I'm working alone at my day job. In the evenings, when I write, I also spend hours alone at the computer, but those days are more bearable because I can tap into the outside inside me. Memories of fish and pheasants, deer and woodcock provide visual memories that often succeed in crowding out the other, darker

visual memories of Jennifer's last days. It's a balancing act, and sometimes I fall, but my balance is at least becoming a little better.

When I was a child, I experienced problems with making my brain be still. As an adult, I realize now that the goal should never have been to be still, but to be occupied with things of interest, even importance. It's too simple to say that to keep my sanity, I need to keep busy. That is a part of the equation but not the entirety of it. Some of those black days, I didn't have the energy to battle through the depression and keep busy. Now, although the grief remains, my energy is starting to find a way to flow around that dam, propelling me forward.

Breathing in the cold November woods, I thought about my nephew, Porter. He was hunting with some friends several miles away this morning. He has been bearing a heavy burden of some personal grief as well. I can see the strain on his face, and his inability to relax and fall into our normal, comfortable pattern of hunting together. He's strong, and I know he'll find a way to battle through it but, in the meantime, the grief is raw and I wish I could help him. With his life so entwined with nature, like his uncle, I have no doubt that with time he will begin to tap into the outside inside him as well. He'll see that, even after the leaves fall and the beauty is gone, that the structural integrity of his nature, of his life, is intact. The good bones are still there. Spring is not far off and, in the meantime, we have deer season and all that means to us and our circle of friends. Porter will find a way through because that's what you have to do. It's the only thing you can do.

In the meantime, there's no fixing. There is no fixing anything. The upheaval of this year known as 2020 has made everything worse. It has been a magnifying glass concentrating the heat on the anthill of everyone's lives. Nothing is normal. Nothing has been routine for many months. It's small solace to know that so many others are hurting and afraid right now, dealing with family tragedies and deaths. It's no solace at all. Trying not to hard to think any more about it, I listened to a murder of crows chasing a great-horned owl around the woods. The who-who and caw-caws pierced the cold, bracing air of another day on the deer stand. Trying to clear my mind, I listened closely to what nature had to say.

I still love November.

— Joel Spring is an award-winning author from New York. He has been a *Deer & Deer Hunting* contributor for more than 35 years.





THE OUTSIDE INSIDE ME

I COME INTO THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS
WHO DO NOT TAX THEIR LIVES WITH
FORETHOUGHT OF GRIEF. FOR A TIME, I REST
IN THE GRACE OF THE WORLD, AND AM FREE.
—WENDELL BERRY

I treasure all the autumn months, but there is an undeniable honesty about November that calls to me. Once the Halloween winds strip the last of the trees bare, the last of the fall colors lie in piles on the ground, what remains are the bones, the true structures of nature. With only hints of October cold interspersed throughout other warm days, November air is clean and clear and bracing. Breathing it in breathes life into me.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 95



REMINGTON PRESENTS



NO CONTENDER LEFT STANDING SINCE 1939



DOMINANT BUCK



**DEADLIEST MUSHROOM
IN THE WOODS**

VS

OFFERED IN MORE CALIBER
AND CARTRIDGE OPTIONS
THAN ANY OTHER DEER
LOAD ON THE MARKET.



JUSTED • **MOST PROVEN** • BEST-SELLING BIG-GAME AMMUNITION OF ALL TIME • **HIGH WEIGHT RETENTION** • DENSE L
LOKT JACKET • **MASSIVE 2X EXPANSION** • DEVASTATING TERMINAL PERFORMANCE NEAR AND FAR • **HUGE WOUND CHANNELS** • PROVEN CO

BUY TODAY REMINGTON.COM



"THE NEXT GENERATION OF LTE PERFORMANCE"

INTRODUCING THE NEW TRACKS

Tracks is the new brand of cellular trail cameras by Cuddeback. Cuddeback is the innovator of the revolutionary CuddeLink networked trail cameras. However, many hunters do not require CuddeLink's advanced technology and a conventional cellular camera is preferred.

Best of all, Tracks is not another foreign designed import, it was designed in the USA by Cuddebacks' staff which have over 30 years of trail camera design experience.

FEATURES

- Dual paddle antennas for the best reception in fringe areas.
- Built-in user interface to allow field programming
- 4 different ways to receive images (Email - Text - Website - Mobile App)
- Up to 10 people can receive images.
- 7 animal sensor sensitivity settings
- DUAL SIM cards - Camera can be Verizon or AT&T
- DESIGNED IN THE USA



DUAL ANTENNAS for enhanced signal and connectivity



4D BATTERIES for extended battery life



Advanced **BACK-LITE USER INTERFACE** with enhanced features



CUDDEBACK.COM