

FIELD TEST: REMINGTON'S NEW CORE-LOKT TIPPED AMMO, P. 78

GAME & FISH

MIDWEST

The Regional Outdoor Guide

JUNGLE WARFARE

TIPS, TACTICS AND
TOP LURES FOR
LUNKERS IN
THICK
COVER

FOLLOW YOUR NOSE
TO LATE-SPAWNING
BLUEGILLS

GAFMAG.COM
AUGUST 2022

AMBUSH
CATFISH
BETWEEN
BEDROOM AND
KITCHEN

DEER SEASON
COUNTDOWN

- 8-STEP TO-DO LIST
- 3 BOW DRILLS TO MASTER
- TOP SPOTS FOR VELVET RACKS

REGION ROUNDUP

- HOOSIER PIGEONS
- ILLINOIS BLUEGILLS
- BLUE RIBBON TROUT
- WISCONSIN SMALLIES
- CORNHUSKER MUSKIES
- NORTH DAKOTA CRAPPIES
- BOUNDARY WATERS FLOAT

**THE BEST
FRESHWATER FISHING
SHOWS EVER MADE.
ONLY ON MY**OUTDOOR**TV.**





20,000+ Episodes. Best-In-Class Content.

Watch the best hunting, fishing and shooting shows ever made. Exclusive, premium content added weekly. **MyOutdoorTV** is available on all your favorite devices — stream or download to watch anytime, anywhere.

MOTV
MYOUTDOORTV
MYOUTDOORTV.COM

MYOUTDOORTV. NOW EVERYWHERE.

App Store
 Google Play
 Roku
 amazon fire tv
 apple tv
 XBOX
 LG
 SAMSUNG

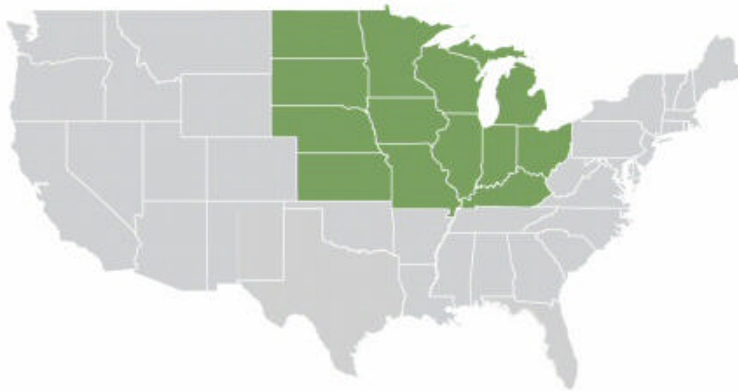
SCAN TO START
YOUR FREE TRIAL



GAME & FISH

The Regional Outdoor Guide

MIDWEST



REGIONAL EDITOR: Drew Warden, Drew.Warden@OutdoorSG.com | COVER IMAGE: Brad Richardson/Get N Bit Productions | [@GAMEANDFISHMAG](https://www.instagram.com/GAMEANDFISHMAG) | [FACEBOOK.COM/GAMEANDFISH](https://www.facebook.com/GAMEANDFISH)

CONTENTS

AUGUST 2022

42

HOW-TO

42 SENSORY ADVANTAGE

Use your eyes and your nose to pinpoint late-spawning bluegills.

By Keith Sutton

52 WEED WHACKING

Catch more bass hiding in thick vegetation this month with these four proven tactics.

By Glenn Walker



46

46 TRAVEL TIPS

Intercept catfish as they move along predictable pathways.

By Dan Anderson

60 STEPS TO PREP

Complete several key tasks ahead of the deer opener to give yourself every advantage this season.

By Josh Honeycutt



64

36 AROUND THE MIDWEST

Chase bluegills, walleyes, trout and more this month.

By Brandon Butler

FIELD SKILLS

38 PURSUING PERFECTION

Boost your bowhunting skills by practicing three shooting scenarios.

By Mark Kayser

DESTINATIONS

64 VELVET VACATIONS

Plan a trip to Kentucky, Nebraska or North Dakota for your best shot at a buck in velvet.

By Josh Honeycutt

10



18



DEPARTMENTS

10 SHOOTING

Hunting deer with a handgun? Load up with hardcast bullets for the best terminal performance.

By Richard Mann

18 VEHICLES

Smart plans and accessories turn a 4x4 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter van into the ultimate mobile base camp.

By Scott Turo

24



82

14 BOWHUNTING

Road trips are fun ways to fill more tags, but only if you're prepared to deal with minor setbacks.

By Tony Hansen

22 CONSERVATION

Future hunters need training, and you may be the perfect person to provide it by teaching hunter education.

By Andrew McKean

FEATURES

24 SOUNDS OF SUCCESS

The cow call changed elk hunting forever. Here's a look at nearly 40 years of its use by one of the first hunters to try it.

By Jim Zumbo

70 TO KNOW MULE DEER

Some of what hunters claim about mule deer just isn't true, and buying into it could end up costing you a chance at a good buck.

By Craig Boddington

GEAR

78 RANGE REPORT

Remington's latest hunting bullet, the Core-Lokt Tipped, updates a proven design to gain an edge at extended ranges.

By Adam Heggenstaller

82 BUYER'S GUIDE

Settling for just any boot is a mistake that can hamper success, if not outright ruin a hunt. We take a look at 10 that will go the distance.

By Game & Fish Staff

IN EVERY ISSUE

04 EDITOR'S LETTER

08 MOON TIMES

88 RITES

70





MULEY MEMORY

My first Western big-game hunt was for mule deer, and what I remember most about the experience was the preparation leading up to it. Like many whitetail hunters, I was intrigued by the “other” deer species and knew I had some work to do. I believe my longest shot at a deer up to that point was something around 120 yards, and I wanted to have the confidence to shoot three times that far.

By the fortune that only a grandson can have, I happened to be in possession of my grandfather's Winchester Model 70. It was an oldie, made in 1954, but a goodie that just needed a bit of attention. In the months leading up to the hunt, I disassembled the rifle and gave it a thorough cleaning. It also got a new Bushnell 4-12X scope. My friend and I worked up an incredibly accurate handload and figured out bullet drops the hard way without the aid of ballistic apps, which didn't exist then. By the time the hunt rolled around, I was ready to shoot a mule deer at 400 yards.

I expected a tough hunt with lots of climbing and glassing and a stalk that would just barely put me inside my self-imposed maximum range. But on the first morning, when a high 4-by-4 with deep forks and brow tines to boot stepped out of a fold in the rolling hills at 80 yards, I didn't hesitate. As Craig Boddington advises in his feature that begins on page 70, “First morning or last, when you see a truly fine mule deer, take the shot.”

I took that shot about 20 years ago in eastern Oregon near the North Fork John Day Wilderness. Oregon may not leap to mind as a mule deer state like Wyoming or Colorado or Montana, particularly for hunters from the eastern half of the country, but it's well within the muley's range. So are the western parts of Texas, Kansas and Nebraska, as Boddington points out. Thinking of mule deer as existing only in the Rocky Mountains is a mistake, one of several that Boddington addresses in his article.

As hunters, we're constantly learning. I still have a lot of it to do when it comes to mule deer. Even if you hunt only whitetails, I think you'll find “Mule Deer, Misunderstood” intriguing, and I hope one day you have a chance to put the information contained in the piece to good use.

Adam Heggenstaller
Editorial Director

GAME & FISH

The Regional Outdoor Guide

PUBLISHER

Michael F. X. Cassidy

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Adam Heggenstaller
Adam.Heggenstaller@outdoorsg.com

EDITOR

John Taranto
John.Taranto@outdoorsg.com

REGIONAL EDITORS

Dr. Todd A. Kuhn
Chuck Smock
Drew Warden

ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR

Scott Bernarde

ART DIRECTOR

Brian Judge

ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR

Andrew Tuchscherer

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Melissa Williams
Melissa.Williams@outdoorsg.com

ADVERTISING

NATIONAL ENDEMIC AD SALES

Jim McConville | (440) 791-7017
James.McConville@outdoorsg.com

WESTERN REGION

Hutch Looney
Hutch@HLooney.com

MARINE/FISHING ADVERTISING

Michael Cassidy | (407) 625-0992
Michael.Cassidy@outdoorsg.com

MIDWESTERN REGION

Mark Thiffault | (720) 630-9863
Mark.Thiffault@outdoorsg.com

NATIONAL AD SALES

ACCOUNT DIRECTOR DETROIT OFFICE

Kevin Donley | (248) 798-4458
Kevin.Donley@outdoorsg.com

NATIONAL ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE CHICAGO OFFICE

Carl Benson | (312) 955-0496
Carl.Benson@outdoorsg.com

DIRECT RESPONSE AD/ NON-ENDEMIC

Anthony Smyth | (914) 409-4202
anthony@smythps.com



VX-3HD

RUGGED PERFORMANCE.
RELENTLESS CLARITY.



TRENDING NOW AT GAME & FISH ONLINE

GET TIPS, SEE GEAR AND CELEBRATE THE LIFESTYLE AT [GAFMAG.COM](https://gafmag.com)



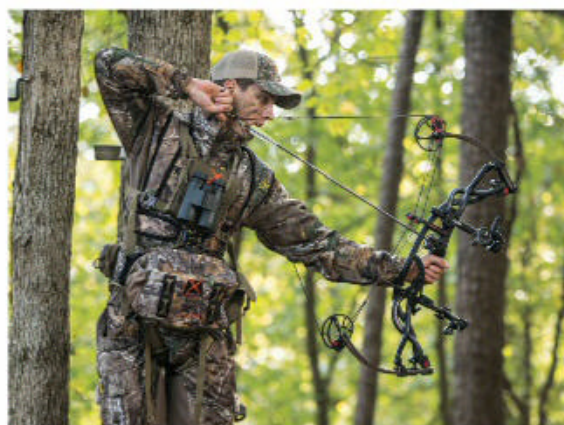
LEVER-ACTION CLASSICS

Craig Boddington highlights some of the most important hunting firearms in American history in “5 Classic Lever-Action Guns You Should Try.”



PREP FOR DOVES

At the end of August, footballs aren't the only things in flight. Greet the upcoming dove season with “Five Keys to Better Dove Shooting.”



BOWHUNTING TUNEUP

Despite how you feel about late-summer heat, bow openers are on our doorsteps. Be ready with “10 At-Home Tips to Prep for Bow Season.”



HOT BASS TIPS

Read “32 Lures, Tactics to Catch Late-Summer Bass” to find and hook more fish when hot weather causes other anglers to give up.



HELP FOR DAYDREAMERS

If you're not already thinking about that monster whitetail you're going to bag this fall, get inspired by our “Big Bucks” stories on some of last year's top trophies.



MOLD YOUR OWN

It may not be the easiest way to fill your worm box, but do-it-yourselfers will like the advice we offer in “Make Your Own Soft-Plastic Fishing Lures.”

OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN GROUP® PUBLISHING & BRANDED MEDIA

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
PUBLISHING & BRANDED MEDIA**
Mike Carney

EVP, GROUP PUBLISHER & OPERATIONS
Derek Sevcik

VP, CONSUMER MARKETING
Peter Watt

VP, MANUFACTURING
Deb Daniels

SENIOR DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION
Connie Mendoza

DIRECTOR, PUBLISHING TECHNOLOGY
Kyle Morgan

SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Tim Neher

DIRECTOR, DIGITAL EDITORIAL
Jeff Phillips

For questions regarding digital editions,
please contact digitalsupport@outdoorsg.com.

MEDIA
[OUTDOORSG.COM](https://outdoorsg.com)

TELEVISION
[OUTDOORCHANNEL.COM](https://outdoorchannel.com)
[THESPORTSMANCHANNEL.COM](https://thesportsmanchannel.com)
[WORLDFISHINGNETWORK.COM](https://worldfishingnetwork.com)

HUNTING
[BOWHUNTER.COM](https://bowhunter.com)
[BOWHUNTINGMAG.COM](https://bowhuntingmag.com)
[GAMEANDFISHMAG.COM](https://gameandfishmag.com)
[GUNDOGMAG.COM](https://gundogmag.com)
[NORTHAMERICANWHITETAIL.COM](https://northamericanwhitetail.com)
[PETERSENSHUNTING.COM](https://petersenshunting.com)
[WILDFOWLMAG.COM](https://wildfowlmag.com)

FISHING
[BASSFAN.COM](https://bassfan.com)
[FLORIDASPORTSMAN.COM](https://floridasportsman.com)
[FLYFISHERMAN.COM](https://flyfisherman.com)
[GAMEANDFISHMAG.COM](https://gameandfishmag.com)
[IN-FISHERMAN.COM](https://in-fisherman.com)

SHOOTING
[FIREARMSNEWS.COM](https://firearmsnews.com)
[GUNSANDAMMO.COM](https://gunsandammo.com)
[HANDGUNS.COM](https://handguns.com)
[RIFLESHOOTER.COM](https://rifleshooter.com)
[SHOOTINGTIMES.COM](https://shootingtimes.com)

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES: For address changes, subscriptions or questions, e-mail GNFcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, call (877) 416-2649 or write Game & Fish, P.O. Box 37539, Boone, IA 50037-0539. **BE AWARE THAT GAME & FISH ONLY ACCEPTS SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS FROM AUTHORIZED AGENTS! WE MAY NOT HONOR REQUESTS FROM UNAUTHORIZED AGENTS, AND YOU THEREFORE MAY LOSE YOUR MONEY IF YOU BUY FROM AN UNAUTHORIZED AGENT.** If you are offered a subscription to Game & Fish, please call (877) 416-2649 to determine if the agent is authorized. For more information on subscription scams, please visit www.ftc.gov.

Occasionally, our subscriber list is made available to reputable firms offering goods and services that we believe would be of interest to our readers. **If you prefer to be excluded, please send your current address label and a note requesting to be excluded from these promotions to: Outdoor Sportsman Group®, 1040 6th Ave., 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018, Attn: Privacy Coordinator, or email your label information and note to privacy@outdoorsg.com.**

REPRINTS: Reprints/Eprints or Licensing/Permissions, contact Wright's Media at (877) 652-5295.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Contact Drew Warden at Warden@outdoorsg.com for writer's guidelines. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to unsolicited material.

GAME & FISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL OFFICE
6385 Flank Drive, Suite 800, Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 695-8171 | Fax (717) 545-2527

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

Copyright 2022 by Outdoor Sportsman Group®. All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without written permission from the Publisher.

GAME&FISH® is a registered trademark of Outdoor Sportsman Group® in the United States.

The Publisher and authors make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of the information contained in this publication. Any reliance or use of the information is solely at your own risk, and the authors and Publisher disclaim any and all liability relating thereto. Any prices given in this issue were suggested prices at the press time and are subject to change. Some advertisements in this magazine may concern products that are not legally for sale to California residents or residents in other jurisdictions.

WELCOME TO

AMERICAN STRAIGHT PULL

BUILT FOR SPEED. BUILT FOR ACCURACY.



ALL-NEW **IMPULSE**
HOG HUNTER EDITION

Experience the natural feel, lightning-fast speed and exceptional accuracy of the all-new IMPULSE. Built here and engineered for the demands of the American shooter — straight pull action combines the confidence and accuracy of a traditional bolt with the speed of a semi-automatic. The pure movement allows for faster follow-up shots with quicker target reacquisition for instinctive, repeatable accuracy.



www.savagearms.com

BETTER COMES STANDARD.



SAVAGE®

**WE CARRY
MATCH GRADE**



Each order is individually mixed from the highest quality paints by our precision color match system. It exactly matches your factory color from our library of more than 300,000 OEM colors. Combine that accuracy with our industry leading primers and clear coat and you have the easiest to use, most professional looking touchup paint on the market.

AutomotiveTouchup.com
888-710-5192



JULY 2022													
SUN		MON		TUE		WED		THU		FRI		SAT	
24		25		26		27		28	NEW	29		30	
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
8:30	8:54	9:18	9:42	10:06	10:30	10:54	11:18	—	12:06	12:30	12:54	1:18	1:42
to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
10:30	10:54	11:18	11:42	12:06	12:30	12:54	1:18	—	2:06	2:30	2:54	3:18	3:42
31													
am	pm												
2:06	2:30												
to	to												
4:06	4:30												

AUGUST 2022													
SUN		MON		TUE		WED		THU		FRI		SAT	
		1		2		3		4		5	FIRST Q	6	
		am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
		3:42	4:06	4:30	4:54	5:18	5:42	6:06	6:30	6:54	7:18	7:42	8:06
		to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		5:42	6:06	6:30	6:54	7:18	7:42	8:06	8:30	8:54	9:18	9:42	10:06
7		8		9		10		11	FULL	12		13	
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
8:30	8:54	9:18	9:42	10:06	10:30	10:54	11:18	—	12:06	12:30	12:54	1:18	1:42
to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
10:30	10:54	11:18	11:42	12:06	12:30	12:54	1:18	—	2:06	2:30	2:54	3:18	3:42
14		15		16		17		18	LAST Q	19		20	
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
2:06	2:30	2:54	3:18	3:42	4:06	4:30	4:54	5:18	5:42	6:06	6:30	6:54	7:18
to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
4:06	4:30	4:54	5:18	5:42	6:06	6:30	6:54	7:18	7:42	8:06	8:30	8:54	9:18
21		22		23		24		25		26		27	NEW
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
7:42	8:06	8:30	8:54	9:18	9:42	10:06	10:30	10:54	11:18	11:18	11:42	—	12:06
to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
9:42	10:06	10:30	10:54	11:18	11:42	12:06	12:30	12:54	1:18	1:18	1:42	—	2:06
28		29		30		31							
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm						
12:30	12:54	1:18	1:42	2:06	2:30	2:54	3:18						
to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to						
2:30	2:54	3:18	3:42	4:06	4:30	4:54	5:18						

SEPTEMBER 2022													
SUN		MON		TUE		WED		THU		FRI		SAT	
								1		2		3	FIRST Q
								am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
								7:42	8:06	8:30	8:54	9:18	9:42
								to	to	to	to	to	to
								9:42	10:06	10:30	10:54	11:18	11:42
4		5		6		7		8		9	FULL	10	
am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
9:54	10:18	10:06	10:30	—	12:06	12:30	12:54	1:18	1:42	2:06	2:30	2:54	3:18
to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
11:54	12:18	12:06	12:30	—	2:06	2:30	2:54	3:18	3:42	4:06	4:30	4:54	5:18

The moon's phases are listed as New, First Quarter (First Q), Full and Last Quarter (Last Q). Times listed represent the peak activity times for game and fish each day.

BEST
DAYS

GOOD
DAYS

FAIR
DAYS

For your own 2022 Doug Hannon's Moon Clock go to moontimes.com or send \$9.95 each, plus \$3.75 shipping/handling per order, to: Moon Clock, P.O. Box 28460, Atlanta, GA 30358.

Shhhhh. No wake zone.



Protect your baby (and their toys) with coverage for fishing gear and personal property too.

1-800-PROGRESSIVE / [PROGRESSIVE.COM](https://www.progressive.com)

PROGRESSIVE

LITTLE GUN, BIG POWER

MAXIMIZE YOUR HANDGUN'S HUNTING CAPABILITIES BY
CHOOSING THE RIGHT AMMUNITION.

Story and Photos by Richard Mann



A single 130-grain hardcast bullet from the author's .327 Fed. Mag. cleanly took this whitetail at 40 yards and passed through the deer for complete penetration.

A guide and I were sitting in a pop-up blind, not far from the Texas coastline. I was helping with a culling operation for whitetail deer. It was my job to do the shooting and the guide's job to tell me what to shoot. I'd already taken two deer at a little over 100 yards with a rifle when several came out of the brush closer to the blind. Pointing, the guide said, "That one."

I unholstered my 4 5/8-inch Ruger Single Seven revolver in .327 Fed. Mag. and said, "If you don't care, I'll use my handgun."

The guide kind of grimaced, "I'm not sure that thirty-two is enough gun."

Leveling the little revolver on the whitetail at about 30 yards, I whispered, "Watch." The revolver bucked and so did the deer. Then it ran about 35 yards and piled up stone dead.

"Well, I'll be," he said. "Let's go have a look."

As we crawled out of the blind, I ejected the empty to load another round. That's when I noticed I'd inadvertently loaded the revolver with .32 H&R Mag. ammunition instead of .327 ammunition; the 130-grain hardcast loads from Buffalo Bore looked identical except the .32 H&R Mag. cartridges were just a tad shorter. Upon inspection, we found the bullet had passed through and poked a good-sized

hole in both lungs, busting a rib going in and another going out. Impacting at only about 1,000 fps with just around 300 ft-lbs. of energy, my little "thirty-two" had indeed been enough gun.

Outside of the big revolver cartridges, like the .480 Ruger and the .460 and .500 S&W Mag., handguns launch bullets at slow velocities. Even the hottest .44 Mag. hunting loads leave the muzzle at only around 1,400 fps. That's about 1,000 fps less than the best .30-30 Win. loads. And many hunters think the .30-30 is where deer cartridges start.

These same folks often suggest 1,000 ft-lbs. of energy at bullet impact as the minimum acceptable for deer. This is, as



MAX CUT. MAX PENETRATION. MAX EVERYTHING.



2.0 Titanium



1.5 Titanium



2.0 Robusto Steel

Get the world's most accurate broadheads.
SUMMER SALE going on now at [SEVRBROADHEADS.COM](https://sevrbroadheads.com)

SEVR
BROADHEADS

the .32 H&R Mag. has proven, bologna. Shot placement and bullet construction are what matter most.

Whether fired from a handgun or a rifle, bullets kill in the same way. They damage tissue and cause blood loss. The difference is that with rifle cartridges the bullets impact at much higher velocities. This allows tissue damage to extend well beyond the hole poked by the bullet.

With the low-velocity handgun bullets, tissue damage is mostly limited to that little hole. Therefore, bullets that deform or mushroom—develop a larger frontal diameter—are often preferred. However, with handgun bullets that deform, penetration becomes a problem. The larger the frontal diameter of the bullet, the less it will penetrate.

With most centerfire handgun cartridges—even those commonly used for self-defense like the 9 mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP—you can expect about a foot or so of penetration in deer-sized game. With conventional jacketed-hollow-point (JHP) bullets, exit wounds are rare. It's hard for bullets that mushroom wide to defeat the stretchable hide on the offside after they've lost so much velocity. With cartridges like the .357 Mag., 10 mm and .44 Mag., you'll see a bit more penetration, but not much. However, with all these cartridges, penetration is generally sufficient if a perfect broadside shot is taken. With quartering or angling shots, you need deeper penetration, and the best way to get it is with a non-deforming hardcast bullet.

Hardcast bullets are often thought of as lead bullets. They're made of lead but not pure lead; antimony, silver and tin are added to make them harder—as much as eight times harder. This extreme hardness allows these bullets to

break bones and penetrate extremely deep because they do not shed weight and do not mushroom. Compared to jacketed-soft-point (JSP) and hollow-point (HP) bullets of the same weight, hardcast bullets can penetrate twice as deep or even more.

Also, the best hardcast bullets for hunting have a flat nose. This flat nose works in a similar way that a hollow-point bullet does when it deforms. The flat nose helps increase the shock and the dispersion of fluid and tissue caused by the bullet. A hardcast bullet will not kill an animal any deadlier or quicker than a JSP or HP bullet, but it will penetrate deeper and substantially increase the odds of an exit wound. Exit wounds help blood find the ground, and the more blood that finds the ground, the easier blood trails are to follow.

How effective can a hardcast bullet be on a big-game animal? Well, I already relayed how a 130-grain hardcast bullet from a .32 H&R Mag. easily put down a whitetail. But Alaskan bear guide Phil Shoemaker once used a 9 mm pistol loaded with 147-grain hardcast bullets to stop an attacking grizzly. Was it the best option for the threat at hand? No, but it worked.

When hunting with handguns, you want ammunition loaded with heavy-for-caliber bullets that—whether they deform or not—will hold together. This gives the bullet the best chance to deliver optimum penetration. And whether the bullet deforms or not, if it does not deliver sufficient penetration, you're going to have problems. This applies to shooting whitetail deer, feral hogs, elk or brown bears. The bullet must go deep enough to damage vital organs. Hardcast bullets offer the best chance for this to happen.

Buffalo Bore offers a full line of handgun ammunition loaded with hardcast bullets. Not only will you get the advantage of the hardcast bullet, the Heavy or Outdoorsman loads also use heavy-for-caliber bullets loaded to deliver maximum velocity. For example, out of a 5-inch barrel, the 180-grain Buffalo Bore Outdoorsman load for the .357 Mag. will begin at nearly 1,400 fps. Out of my 4 5/8-inch Ruger Single Seven, the .327 Fed. Mag. Buffalo Bore Heavy load pushes a 130-grain bullet to almost that same speed.

The next-best option would be a monometal bullet like Hornady uses in its Handgun Hunter line. It includes loads for everything from 9 mm Luger to .460 S&W Mag. These bullets are made of the same lead-free material as Hornady's GMX bullet, and just like the GMX bullet, they're designed to flower open on impact. To make this flowering happen more reliably, Hornady added an elastomer plug to the bullet's hollow point. These bullets will penetrate deeper than most comparable JSP or JHP bullets, but still only about half as deep as hardcast bullets for the same cartridge. The advantage they bring is the increased diameter formed by deformation.

If you're patient enough to wait for the perfect shot—never a bad thing no matter the animal or the gun—these deforming monometal bullets are fine for handgun hunting. But, if you want the absolute best penetration possible, even after the bullet has busted through a shoulder full of heavy bone, cartilage and muscle, hardcast bullets are the way to go. 

Monometal Hornady Monoflex bullets are designed to mushroom on impact, while hardcast bullets like those from Buffalo Bore are not.





Turn Your **Passion** into **Action**

A minute of your time can ensure clean water,
abundant fisheries and the conservation of both.

Join us. Be heard.



The Voice of the American Angler

Preserve what you love at KeepAmericaFishing.org

ROAD WARRIORS

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PUT ASPHALT IN YOUR REARVIEW TO FILL A TAG.

By Tony Hansen



While UTVs make retrieving game easier, they're typically not permitted on public land. Have a plan for bringing out a deer before you release an arrow.

It is routine for me to travel to three or four states each year to hunt. With a couple decades of whitetail road tripping under my belt, I have learned that no plan is infallible.

When preparing for a trip I naturally make every effort to be as successful as possible. That means doing my best to be prepared. Whether that's hours spent staring at digital maps and marking locations of interest or making multiple checklists to ensure I have everything for the journey. But experience has shown me, all of that planning can only take me so far. The rest will be reactionary because it's not a matter

of "if" something will go awry, it's a matter of "when."

There was a time when these unexpected turns would derail me mentally. Now, I take them more in stride and know that I'm ready for just about any malady that may arise. Best of all, I've endured enough missteps and misfortune to know what I'll need to handle it. Let's try to cut the learning curve a bit and examine the overlooked details that can make or break your next whitetail road trip.

OUNCES OF PREVENTION

Mechanical failures have ruined many a dream hunt. I would much rather spend

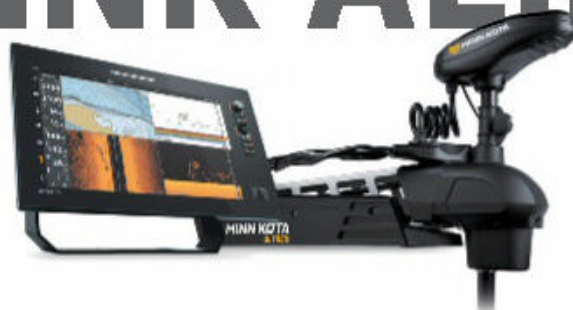
my money on hunting licenses, broadheads and hunting gear than a shiny, flashy vehicle. Thus, I've got a 12-year-old truck that's well on its way to the 400,000-mile mark.

With that being said, I have no hesitation loading it up and heading across the country in search of a big whitetail. But I never take off without making sure I've tackled all the preventative maintenance that I can and that goes beyond a basic oil change (but you should do that as well if it's time for one).

I go with a front-to-back, top-to-bottom system. I start at the front of the truck and move to the back, checking



GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE.



**MORE ANGLERS CHOOSE HUMMINBIRD®
TO SEE THE WATER MORE CLEARLY.**

The water's full of independent thinkers, and they agree on this: Humminbird® delivers the clearest underwater images. Also, its fish finders offer the most precise, most detailed maps of lakes. And when linked up with a Minn Kota® trolling motor, a Humminbird will take you where the bites are—automatically. But it's all those fish in the boat that have led anglers everywhere to conclude that Humminbird is Simply. Clearly. Better.



[Humminbird.com/ThinkClearly](https://www.humminbird.com/ThinkClearly)

everything I can from the lights, the battery and even the wheel bearings. This doesn't take long, and watching a few quick YouTube videos can help you with your systems check.

This is the same approach I take with my bow and hunting gear. I make sure my bow strings are in good shape, that I have all the arrows and broadheads I'll need, etc. With all inspections done, I double-check that I've got the most important piece of gear I take on any trip: a well-stocked toolbox that includes assorted wrenches, sockets and drives, several sizes and varieties of screwdrivers, a small cordless impact driver and a cordless impact wrench with enough torque to make quick work of lug nuts and stubborn bolts.

I also include zip ties, duct tape, superglue and a tire plug kit as well. To top off the kit, I bring a full-size floor jack. It's not overkill. The jacks included with most vehicles are a joke and will be almost no use if you need to hoist your vehicle on anything but flat, smooth pavement.



Thoroughly inspect your gear both before and during a road trip, and have the necessary tools on hand to make repairs.

COURTESY OF TENPOINT CROSSBOW TECHNOLOGIES



A DIFFERENT KIND OF 7.62



**SMACK STEEL WITH
THE GAUNTLET® 30
.30 CAL. AIR RIFLE**
UmarexUSA.com/GA-Long-Range

UX®
UMAREX
AIR GUNS

© 2022 UMAREX USA, INC.

PACK-OUT PREP

While we spend plenty of time considering what could go wrong, it is also important to ponder what we will do should everything go according to plan. That is, what will we do should we harvest a deer? After all, that's when the work really begins and if you've not properly planned for your success, things can go south quickly.

I hunt alone much of the time, thus my prep and planning is adjusted accordingly. I'm almost always hunting public land which means the use of a UTV or vehicle to aid in the retrieval of downed game is not an option.

As such, my pack-out plan is relatively rudimentary. In most instances, I use a four-wheeled game cart, equipped with plenty of ratchet straps to keep the deer lashed to the cart. When hunting hilly areas or those too rugged for the cart to be of much use, I'll butcher the deer in the field and pack it out.

Of course, you'll need to keep that meat cool. For this, I bring a pair of large coolers. One is used for food and drinks

at camp while the second is reserved for game. It's in that cooler that I store my processing gear: A couple of knives, gallon-size freezer bags, a couple jugs of water for cleanup and a package of wet wipes.

PLAN B, C, D AND E

I will spend hour after hour on my laptop most evenings scouring maps and gathering pertinent area information to find the most promising spots I can prior to heading out on a hunt. Over the years I've developed a color-coded system to mark locations according to their perceived potential.

It's this system that allows me to use the hunting app on my phone to prioritize those areas I want to scout first. Oddly enough nowadays, these locations typically turn out to have the most hunting pressure. A few years ago, that wasn't the case. However, with the advent of the internet and all the easily accessible information available there, public lands are enjoying renewed interest.

I no longer head out expecting my

"Plan A" locations to produce. This is an important part of the mental game. Scouting and planning for months only to find out that your top spots are loaded with other hunters can take a serious toll on a positive outlook. Yet, so many of the folks I know that are new to the road trip game express disappointment and frustration over reaching their destination and realizing many others had the same destination in mind. Without backup locations, they're stuck.

Now, I never take off without three times as many potential locations as I think I'll need and I'm mentally prepared to abandon an area should it turn out to be crowded or otherwise undesirable. Plan B, C, D and E spots have saved the day on many, many occasions. By accepting this new reality and being ready to make a location change (even if it means driving 100 miles or more), I minimize the disappointment and feelings of panic when realizing an area isn't what I thought it might be or the hunting pressure is simply too high to tolerate. 

READY FOR YOUR .410 GOBBLER CHALLENGE?

TriStar's fast-handling, ultra-reliable Viper G2 .410 Turkey model provides the confidence and performance needed for surgical strikes on wary gobblers. Designed and tested for functionality and accuracy with virtually any .410 load, this special turkey gun features pistol grip camouflage stock and handsome Viper G2 Bronze receiver - all appropriately scaled for optimum balance.

FEATURES:

- Extended Turkey Choke Tube and standard IC, M & F tubes, choke box and wrench.
- Pistol Grip Stock wrapped in Mossy Oak Bottomland pattern.
- Durable Bronze Cerakote Receiver and Barrel finish
- 5 Year Warranty



1816 Linn Street, North Kansas City, MO 64116 • 816.421.1400

TRISTARARMS.COM



ADVENTURE VANS

MY WALL TENT HAS FOUR WHEELS.
 Story and Photos by Scott Turo

The author converted a 4x4 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter into a mobile camp for road trips.



In 2015, when I heard Mercedes-Benz was set to release the 4x4 version of its popular Sprinter van in the U.S., I said: This is it, I've found it, and I can't live without it. I researched and made lists to justify the choice and proposed upgrades, but in the end, the decision was easy. With a family of four, it needed to perform at soccer tournaments and ski trips, then convert into a solo or two-person, expedition-grade fishing and hunting rig, while being able to cruise in comfort on family road trips. The first of which was a cross-country trip from Oregon to Louisiana to visit my wife's parents, whom I included in my sales pitch.

VEHICLE CHOICE

These demands leave two realistic vehicle choices in my opinion: the classic cab-over camper on your favorite pickup truck, or a converted van. The 4x4 requirement left the Mercedes Sprinter as the only factory 4x4 van option with a warranty. I set a firm requirement that I could stand up inside without having to pop up or convert anything first. A hard-top Sprinter with the high roof and 4x4 upgrades quickly took the top spot. Removing the three-person bench seat

that comes standard in the passenger van creates a roomy two-person capsule. In the house, the bench provides stylish seating placed against the wall on the carpet. Yes, it's heavy but manageable and functional in our family room.

A wall tent provides the heating, eating and sleeping essentials in a backcountry camp, and formed the foundation of my concept. Adding four wheels with a boat in tow or a canoe on top would address most of my adventures. The 144-inch wheelbase traded nimble sportiness with room and comfort, against the longer 177-inch land-yacht version, and is in line with most full-sized pickups. This is not a shift-on-the-fly four-wheel drive, but rather I have to stop the vehicle and push the button. With both high and low ranges, I feel stuck to the road when creeping through muddy ruts and rocky two-tracks, and in control during regular whiteout blizzard trips to ski areas, in time to sizzle some breakfast before the lifts open.

BUILD-OUT

It was important for us to locate a reputable van-conversion company at the time of purchase. Other than the sound-dampening tape and insulation, I chose

only to install 3/8-inch Baltic birch plywood as the lower wall of the interior. I figured it was durable and ready for anything I might want to attach in the future. I stained it gunmetal gray with a clear coat to aid cleaning, was pleased with my contribution and left the rest for the professionals.

My wife and I scheduled a shop tour at Van Specialties in Tualatin, Ore., about three hours from our home. The van outfitters had a 40-year history of converting all types of vans and offered an a-la-cart style to their builds. We could pick what accessories we wanted, rather than an entire build-out from a conceptual floorplan. This allowed us to test our assumptions of what we needed as we used the van.

The popularity of "van life" had created an 18-month waiting list for complete build-outs, largely controlling any timeline we might have had. This resulted in a two-phased build where we installed the basics: heat, minor electrical and a bed, first. A ceiling vent fan, CO2 sensor, smoke alarm and fire extinguisher were added to reassure my wife we were battle-ready. Custom windows, interior walls, full-length driver's side cabinets, the final electrical system, a fridge, upright toolbox, roof rack with



THE CULMINATION OF 30 YEARS OF ARCHERY INNOVATION.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE **V3X** AND OUR NEW **INTEGRATED**
LINE OF ACCESSORIES AT **MATHEWSINC.COM**



MODEL 2020

SEE THE WAY.

Springfield Armory® is proud to introduce the Model 2020 family of bolt action hunting rifles. Precision manufactured in the USA, each Model 2020 is built to deliver the accuracy and performance expected from a custom grade rifle. The Model 2020 Waypoint features a premium carbon fiber stock and the option of a steel or carbon fiber barrel with an impressive .75 MOA accuracy guarantee. Learn more at springfield-armory.com



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

ladder, and off-road lights were installed in phase two. Restrooms are available when needed on most trips and were not considered in our build. A bag shower, pressured by a foot pump, has been essential for off-grid bathing.

CREATURE COMFORTS

The point of camping in a van is to be comfortable as well as mobile. Three items in particular check those boxes.

Dometic's dual-zone line of fridge/freezers uses a removable insulated partition to create a separate freezer compartment. Powered through 100 watts of solar bolted to the roof rack that feeds a dual absorbed glass mat battery bank, the freezer side of this combo keeps burgers frozen and ice pops at the ready, while toting plenty of cubes for those celebratory moments requiring a proper drink. The fridge side holds a trip's worth of fixings easily.

The 1.5-quart crockpot from Road Pros plugs into 12-volt cigarette-lighter-style outlets just like the fridge and will deliver a hot meal at the end of a long day

on the road. I use slow-cooker liners to reduce any mess and preserve leftovers.

Webasto heaters draw fuel directly from the main fuel tank through a port on the motor that runs a small unit under the passenger seat. An exterior exhaust vent and programable thermostat complete the installation and allow comfortable nights, dry gear and a warm van after a day on the slopes. A maintenance reminder ensures regular operation and proper function to protect the investment.

HONEST REVIEW

After five years, I truly couldn't live without the van. The ability to be on the spot with comforts just behind a sliding door is reassuring. Stepping out to conquer the rainforest steelhead rivers in a gentle downpour fully suited up is the norm, as is reaching for a refrigerated snack or drink.

On the road, the van performs and drives to expectations. A glitch in the exhaust gas recycler system of my model creates a slight "cough" in some driving scenarios. It's well-documented and



warranted to 115,000 miles. I learned through counseling that it's a slight German flaw out of my control, and I am advised to get the newest valve at 100K. The 6-cylinder, 188-horsepower diesel engine averaged 16 mpg after 65,000 miles and got 18 mpg before the Aluminess roof rack addition during phase two. Given the accessories and upgrades possible, converted Sprinter vans bring adventure to a whole new level. **Go!**



CELLULAR SIMPLIFIED.



THE INDUSTRY'S MOST COMPLETE DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR HUNTERS, TOGETHER WITH TWO ICONIC TRAIL CAMERA BRANDS, MAKE THIS SEASON'S MUST HAVE GEAR - SIMPLE!



DS4K™ TRANSMIT



MANIFEST™ 2.0



POWERED BY
**STEALTH CAM
COMMAND PRO**

Download on the
App Store

ANDROID APP ON
Google play

GSMOUTDOORS.COM

MONTHLY OR ANNUAL PLANS AS LOW AS \$5

ONE **FREE** YEAR OF CLOUD STORAGE
[ACCESS IMAGES ANYWHERE FROM ANY DEVICE]



connected by

OFFICIAL NETWORK

CERTIFIED DEVICES



New hunters learn best from experienced hunters willing to give their time to ensure safety, responsibility and ethics are passed on.

HIGHER YEARNING

EVERY TOWN AND COUNTY
IN AMERICA NEEDS MORE
HUNTER EDUCATION
INSTRUCTORS.
WHEN WILL YOU JOIN US?

By Andrew McKean

This month I'll enter my third decade as a volunteer Hunter Education instructor for Montana's Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department. Actually, I'm not doing this for the department. Because I'm a selfish muck, I do it mainly for myself, with the perennial hope that some stray comment or perspective might hit a student in the right way, and they'll see my view of our shared obligation to the animals we hunt.

There are maybe half a dozen instructors in my little town, and we've been teaching together so long we know which chapters of the coursebook each will

lead, and who we can count on to come to Saturday's field day. I generally teach the squishier parts of the course, the ones on situational ethics and how to tell your dad or your uncle that he can't count your geese in his limit, or drive off the designated BLM route to retrieve a downed elk.

Part of my schtick about personal responsibility talks about deciding the sort of person these students want to be when nobody's looking. I also spend a fair amount of time talking about what we owe wild animals. It's my goal along with that of the other instructors to graduate new hunters who have a sound basis in gun handling, wildlife identification, regulations, ethics and the expectation that to hunt is to learn continuously. That's a pretty laudable goal, and it's one I share with roughly 55,000 fellow instructors across the country who teach hunter ed courses in church basements, the backrooms of American Legion halls, and in community rooms of courthouses and libraries in every state.

But, just like my little cadre of reliable instructors, the hunter educators

who answer the call are getting older every year, and there seem to be fewer younger parents and passionate hunters to take our place as we age out of the ranks. The case is even more dire for bowhunter education instructors.

We're not alone. Across America, church councils and volunteer fire departments are struggling to find folks to donate their time and knowledge. The COVID-19 pandemic surely didn't help — our hunter ed courses went to online instruction during the lockdown but the decline in volunteerism is older and more durable than COVID.

The national R3 (recruit, retain and reactivate) movement to promote hunting is gaining momentum, and we happily have more people interested in hunting now than any time in the past decade. Many adult-onset hunters are keen to get in the field, but because many have no family tradition of hunting or no prior experience with guns, they're in special need of thoughtful, patient instruction. In other words, you and your knowledge.

Many states throw up a high bar for hunter educator certification. But most

LEARN ALL ABOUT HUNTER ED

Just as game management is a function of each state, so is certifying new hunters. Every state has its own course and requirements, but most share a fairly standard curriculum. You can learn about hunter education and how to get involved at the local level by calling or visiting your local fish-and-game office. Or visit the International Hunter Education Association's excellent website at ihea-usa.org.

allow prospective instructors to test-drive the course by sitting in on a classroom or team-teaching a chapter. That's a great way to find out if the course material and delivery is for you. But even if it's not, every course can use someone with your knowledge to help with the field day or other course components.

States have a strong incentive to keep certifying new hunters; after all, it's how they continue to ensure customers. We existing hunters have a strong interest in ensuring that those new hunters come to the field with basic knowledge and ethics. If that's not a good argument for starting your own 20-year (or even 1-year) commitment as a volunteer instructor, I'll give you just one more.

In every course I teach, I tell students they are about to enter an exclusive club of hunters, one that has fairly high standards for membership. If they want to be accepted, then passing their written test is just the first measure. They also need to handle guns safely, to chase animals fairly, and to welcome other qualified hunters into the club in turn.

I tell them that game wardens and their parents aren't the members of the club that they most need to impress. It's the existing hunters, the ones they don't yet know who have been out in the field, learning the habits of game and the lay of the local land, and judging the newcomers. Some of them are just like me, hunter education instructors. We hope you'll join us, if only to ensure that every new class of hunters carries forward the high standards that you do. 

What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives



"This knife is beautiful!" — J., La Crescent, MN



"The feel of this knife is unbelievable... this is an incredibly fine instrument."

— H., Arvada, CO



OUR BONE-IFIED BEST BLADE

10" blade says you're bad to the bone

My friend Sergio is a mixed martial Marts fighter. His shoulders are broad. His muscles have muscles. He's not the kind of person you want to be on the wrong side of.

This manly man is bad to the bone — so much so that he carries a knife with a genuine natural blue bone handle. With its traditional plain edge and serrated spine, this knife can take care of anything life throws Sergio's way.

JOIN MORE THAN
322,000 SHARP
PEOPLE WHO COLLECT
STAUER KNIVES

Inspired by our buddy's blade, we're offering you the Blue Bone Bowie Knife, a collectable cutlery piece that's sure to impress.

As beautiful as it is functional, this knife is 10" overall and features a high-quality 420 surgical stainless steel blade with a serrated spine. The handle is constructed of genuine natural blue bone with redwood spacers. On the handle you'll find design work that's carved by hand, a testament to its craftsmanship.

This knife is full tang, meaning it won't wimp out when you need it. This knife also features brass handguards and brass spacers with file work, so you won't lose your grip. For easy carrying, it comes with

a genuine tooled leather sheath absolutely free! And if you purchase the Blue Bone Bowie Knife and aren't absolutely satisfied, return it for a full refund.

Act fast! As Stauer has become popular among knife collectors for our attention to detail and excellent value, our blades usually move quickly. The first time we offered this blade, we SOLD OUT IN THREE DAYS. Of our second run of 2,348, we only have 547 left!

Take Sergio's advice and get the Blue Bone Bowie Knife today. Otherwise, our fighting friend may have a bone to pick with you ...

Knife Specifications:

- 10" overall length
- 420 surgical stainless steel. Full tang construction
- Genuine natural blue bone and redwood handcarved handle
- Genuine leather sheath included

Blue Bone Bowie Knife ~~\$299~~
\$99* + S&P

*California residents please call
1-800-333-2045 regarding
Proposition 65 regulations before
purchasing this product.*

**Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

1-800-333-2045

Insider Offer Code: BBK150-01

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155,
Dept. BBK150-01, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®

GIRL TALK

NOW A STAPLE IN ANY ELK HUNTER'S ARSENAL, THE COW CALL'S HISTORY IS, SURPRISINGLY, NOT VERY LONG. BUT ITS EVOLUTION SINCE THE 1980S HAS REVOLUTIONIZED
THE WAY WE TALK TO AND PURSUE ELK.

By Jim Zumbo





When dealing with a herd of elk, cow calls are often more effective than bugling for luring the bull within range.

LON LAUBER PHOTOGRAPHY

I was hunting mule deer in an aspen forest when I heard strange, bird-like sounds off in the distance. Something about it wasn't right, though; these were unlike any birds I'd heard before. I eased up to a ridge and looked down the other side to try and identify the source of the sounds. To my surprise it wasn't birds at all, but a herd of elk.

That incident took place many years ago. I didn't give it much thought at the time, other than to acknowledge that elk make sounds that resemble a bird's chirp or a cat's meow. Years later, in 1985, I was chatting with Don Laubach about elk hunting in a Gardiner, Mont., saloon. Don lives in Gardiner, a small town next to Yellowstone Park's North Gate. Elk are frequent visitors around town, often foraging on lawns and landscape shrubbery. Every resident of Gardiner is familiar with elk language. While we talked, Don produced an object from his pocket.

"Know what this is?" he asked, holding it up for me to see.

I shook my head.

"It's a cow elk call," he said.

I must have had a disinterested look on my face because Don smiled and blew into it.

"What's that sound like?" he asked.

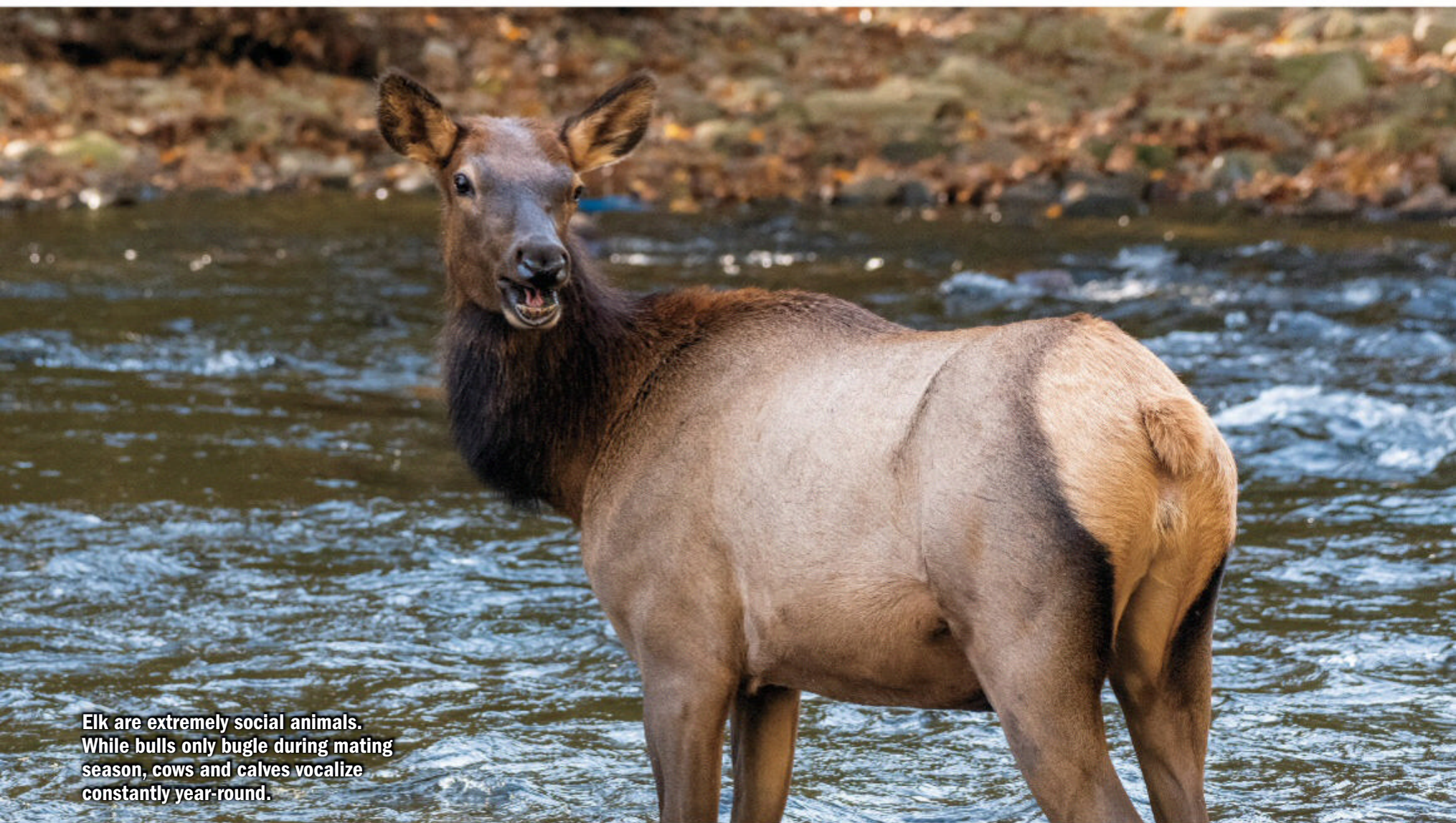
"Sure enough," I answered. "It definitely sounds like a cow elk."

Don sensed that I wasn't getting it.

"Think about it," he said. "When you hunt tom turkeys, you use a hen call. Doesn't it follow that a cow elk call would appeal to a bull elk?"

A light went on in my head. This was a brand-new strategy that just might work. Don handed me the prototype call and invited me to try it out during the upcoming hunting season. He'd also given calls to a couple different outfitters, curious to know how the call would perform in other areas.

I spent the late summer and fall using Don's call in as many scenarios I could think of. The results were amazing, and before long I was completely sold on the concept. Shortly thereafter I wrote a story about cow calling for an outdoor magazine and was fortunate to have broken the news to elk hunters everywhere. Readers bought Don's call, "Cow Talk," at a feverish pace, and it didn't take long for other call makers to come up with their own versions.



Elk are extremely social animals. While bulls only bugle during mating season, cows and calves vocalize constantly year-round.

IN THE BEGINNING ...

Of all the big game species in North America, elk are the most vocal. Bulls bugle during the rut, but cows and calves chatter all year long. Most calling occurs when elk are on the move, but they'll often sound off when they're feeding. Calves have a higher pitched sound than mature cows, but unless you're close enough to easily observe the herd, it's hard to tell which elk are calling in the moment.

My initial testing of the call occurred prior to hunting season so I could observe

the animals' reaction in a wild, undisturbed setting. Living in northwestern Wyoming, I didn't have to go far to find them. Remember, cow calls had yet to be available, and no one had ever heard of them except for Don Laubach and the few of us who were trying them out. Elk themselves had never been exposed to an imitation cow call, either.

My first attempt at using the call was surprising. I heard a bull bugle in the bottom of a canyon and eased over to the top to bugle a response. The bull bugled back instantly and moved into a small

opening about 200 yards away where I could clearly see him. He was soon joined by several cows. The bull and I exchanged bugles back and forth, but he was rooted to the spot. This scenario is well known to elk hunters—a herd bull is typically difficult to lure away from his cows.

Now was the time to try the cow call. I blew on it softly and waited. The bull fell silent and looked toward me as if extremely interested. I blew the call once more and he answered with a hearty bugle as he charged directly toward me. He stopped at 30 yards and offered a perfect broadside shot through a window in the underbrush. Had it been hunting season, I would have had a deadly opportunity with either a bow or a firearm. I lowered myself down close to the ground and crawled away with a big smile on my face.

There was no question that the cow call enticed the bull away from the herd. I've learned since that a herd bull with eight cows would prefer nine. There are exceptions, of course. His reaction has everything to do with his attitude and status within the herd. A mature bull with no cows, for example, has a

Texan is America's Preferred Big Bore Air Rifle

TEXAN 50-CF



Thousands of hunters agree, the AirForce Texan is the world's most powerful and most reliable production big bore air rifle. Capable of over 800 foot pounds of muzzle energy and available in a wide variety of calibers and configurations, no other airgun even comes close.

Serious airgun hunting starts at AirForce Airguns.

www.airforceairguns.com
or contact us today at 877-247-4867

Shown with optional scope and rings.

Proudly made in

Texas, USA

AIRFORCE
airguns



FASTEST.

WITH SPEEDS OF 505 FPS,
MEET THE FASTEST CROSSBOW
IN THE WORLD.

NITRO 505™



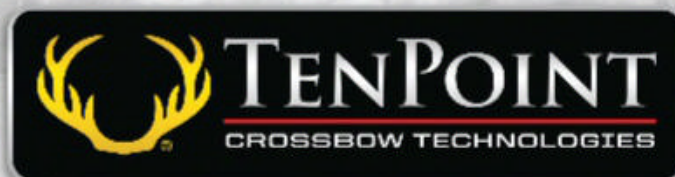
The Nitro 505™ is built from the ground up by the industry's finest engineers, with every component designed to deliver 227 foot-pounds of blistering power on every shot. With more than 25,000 test shots fired, it is built to maintain the durability you've come to expect from the leader in high-performance crossbows.

SILENT COCKING & SAFE DE-COCKING

The cocking and de-cocking system dealers recommend most, the ACUslide requires just 5-pounds of force – a fraction of the force required on competitors' bows – making it the easiest system to operate on the market.

EXACT AIM. ANY DISTANCE.

Forget the days of gap shooting, the Nitro 505 is available with the Garmin® XERO® X1i & Burris® Oracle X™ rangefinding scopes – giving you a single aiming point and making it the most accurate long-range crossbow on the market.



FIND & FOLLOW



TENPOINTCROSSBOWS.COM

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



far different mindset than a bull with a harem. Satellite bulls and even spikes have different agendas as well. Many will rush straight in to a cow call.

Sometimes a bull will respond vigorously to a bugle call by bugling back, but will hang up out of range or over a ridgetop or in timber where you can't see him. If the vegetation and terrain allow, move away from him quickly in

the opposite direction, blowing the cow call as you go. This tactic often entices the bull to follow because the call tells him that a cow is moving away from the bull he just heard (you).

Some bulls are extra wary if there's heavy pressure on them. Anything you can do to be different from others is worth a gamble. One trick is to carry more than one cow call or learn how to make

different sounds from your call. This presents a more realistic scenario. Cows almost never travel alone. Exceptions are when they're calving in the spring or have been separated from the herd after being pursued by predators or shot at by hunters. The different scenarios in which to use a cow call are endless. The more you try, the better your chances of tagging an elk.

Combining cow calling with decoys can sometimes convince a bull that's hung up to move close enough for a shot opportunity.



LON LAUBER PHOTOGRAPHY



WE LOSE, **YOU LOSE**

Join the Sportsmen's Alliance to protect hunting from animal-rights activists.

With every anti-hunting law passed, wildlife management suffers and
you lose a memory in the field.

JOIN THE SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE

[SPORTSMENSALLIANCE.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](https://sportsmensalliance.org/membership)



When an elk herd has been split up, cow calling is a great way to encourage the splintered groups to reconvene.



THE GREAT UNIFIER

Once, while hunting in eastern Oregon, I stumbled into a large herd of 90 or 100 elk. When they spooked, they separated into two groups. One group ran over a hill and the other down a canyon, causing a ruckus as they fled.

The wind had been right, so I was sure they hadn't smelled me. The timber was fairly thick, and I didn't think they'd gotten a good look at me either. Instead, I figured they'd heard me in the underbrush, saw movement and took off. Rather than risk a stalk, I decided to sit on a log, have a sandwich and let the woods calm down. About 20 minutes had passed when I heard a cow calling from down the canyon. Almost immediately, another cow answered from over the ridge. Soon, the two groups were vocalizing vigorously. It was obvious that they were regrouping. I wondered

what would happen if I blew my cow call. If, by any chance, they headed my way, I'd need to be off the ground since the forest was thick and offered poor visibility. I had a tag for any bull, and a spike would have been most welcome, so I'd need to be in a place where I could view as many elk as possible to locate a bull. A nearby tree had stout branches that allowed me to climb up, and I was able to get about 10 feet off the ground.

I blew on my cow call and got no response. After a couple minutes I tried again. To my surprise, a group of elk was heading my way. As soon as I blew the call, a cow or two would immediately reply. Moments later I saw movement in the timber and realized they were going to pass across a small opening about 40 yards away. I had a perfect vantage point and would be able to see every elk in the group. The two herds were now

together and walking slowly, some milling around—a couple within 20 yards of my tree. A cooperative breeze kept my scent from reaching them.

I figured that at some point I'd see antlers, and was concerned that the elk were so close together that I might not have a clear shot. I needn't have worried because the entire bunch was composed of cows and calves. Not a single bull. I couldn't believe it. But the incident bolstered my confidence in the cow call. That was the first time I got a positive response from elk that had been separated from each other, but it was hardly my last.

When you think about it, many wildlife species that travel in herds, flocks or coveys use vocalizations to regroup when split up. I've never made a conscious effort to break up an elk herd in order to call them back as you would

MOSSBERG | 450 BUSHMASTER

**A WINNER
BY
KNOCKOUT.**

Straight-walled 450 Bushmaster cartridges deliver devastating knockdown power and open up whitetail hunting opportunities in an increasing number of locales.



Patriot
450 Bushmaster
Threaded Barrel
Walnut

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.

**VERSATILE PATRIOT RIFLES
IN HEAVY-HITTING 450 BUSHMASTER.**

Patriot rifles are durable, accurate, and loaded with features. Modern innovations, traditional styling, and the stopping power of 450 Bushmaster rounds combine to keep you in the hunt—whatever the game, whatever the season.

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

LEARN MORE AT
MOSSBERG.COM

MOSSBERG[®]
SINCE 1919

with fall turkeys, but on countless occasions I've been busted by a herd while moving through thick underbrush and blowdowns. Calling them back with a cow call hasn't always been successful, but it's worked enough times to be worth the effort.

On another occasion, I hunted an area where a cow hunt had taken place the day before. As a result, cows and calves had scattered in different directions. I approached the area and spotted a large calf feeding by itself. The elk was on private land that was posted, and I was standing on public land. I made a cow call and the young elk immediately dashed straight toward me, jumped a fence and offered a legal shot. It was early December and very late in the season, and the calf was exceptionally large. I had no problem shooting it, knowing it would be fabulous on the dinner table. The elk reacted to my call because it was alone and wanted to rejoin the herd. In this case a bugle call would have been ineffective. Had I not used the cow call, I would not have taken that elk.



Nothing is more effective than a sharp blow on a cow call for getting a moving bull to stop dead in his tracks.



Trim and Mow the EASY Way! DR® Trimmer Mower

- TRIM fencelines and perimeters
- MOW waist-high grass & weeds
- 5X the power of handheld trimmers
- Self-propelled models
- Gas- or battery-powered



Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.

DRtrimmer.com

America's Original Field & Brush Mower

- MOW FIELD GRASS up to 8' high
- CUT BRUSH up to 3" thick
- Engines up to 22 HP
- Decks up to 34" wide
- Power steering



Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.

PLUS ALL-NEW
Commercial-Grade XD Series
with hydrostatic drive!

DRfieldbrush.com

SALE!

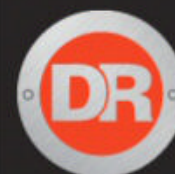
**FREE
SHIPPING**

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY

Request your FREE PRODUCT CATALOG
Online or Toll-Free at 888-212-1072

GoDRpower.com

DR POWER EQUIPMENT



STOP THEM IN THEIR TRACKS

The thing a cow call is perhaps most effective at—any time of the season—is stopping running elk. And I mean a skid-to-a-halt stop that allows the hunter to get a shot at a standing animal.

This technique allowed my wife, Madonna, to take a beautiful bull during a late Wyoming elk hunt. She'd drawn a tag that ran into early December, a time when most bulls have migrated out of the high country and are in more accessible lower elevations. We waited to hunt the last week of the season to capitalize on the larger number of bulls that we could reach by hiking. Our strategy was to hike up the bottom of a canyon for 4 or 5 miles, then up to the top of a ridge before hunting our way back to the truck parked along the highway.

We started each day in the dark and returned to the truck in the dark. The weather was terrible. The wind gusted with little letup, often reaching 50 mph. On top of that, the temperature never climbed above zero. It wasn't so bad when we were in the bottom of the

canyons, but it was horrid on the ridgetops when we had to hunt across an opening. When that was the case, we donned full face masks. We repeated this trek daily, hiking along different canyons and ridges. We saw decent herds of elk every day, including several bulls that would have been taken on any other hunt. But this tag was one of the best in Wyoming, and we knew there were big bulls in the country we hunted. After all, we live a dozen miles away.

One morning we eased up a canyon along a creek that was iced over. As we were about to round a bend, I heard a tapping sound up the creek. I peeked around and saw a big bull striking the ice with a hoof in an effort to get a drink of fresh water. At that moment, he saw me and ran up the heavily timbered hillside. I could see by the route he was taking that he'd eventually cross a clearing. I told Madonna to get ready to shoot when I blew the cow call, which I did as soon as he entered the clearing. He came to an abrupt stop and looked at us. Madonna was in an awkward position, though,

desperately trying to find a steady rest for the 150-yard shot, but the bull took off a split second before she was ready to shoot. One jump and he was back in the timber. The adage, "that's why they call it hunting," wasn't very comforting.

We continued to hunt every day, but we never saw a good bull. On the eve of the last day, we decided to try hunting on the mountain where we live. We headed up the slope and were startled to see a big bull running down the mountain. Something had spooked him, and he was only 30 yards away. Madonna got down on one knee and I blew the call. He stopped in his tracks and looked at us. A second later I heard the wonderful crack of the rifle as the bull collapsed at the spot. He was a dandy, with massive beams and five points on each side. A biologist estimated him to be at least 10 years old. Without the cow call, we likely would have gone home empty-handed. That hunt was one of the first where I tried stopping a running elk with the call, and I was immediately convinced of its effectiveness.

AN ACCURA® FOR EVERY TERRAIN



FOR LONG HIKES AND TIGHT QUARTERS

The 26" barrel make the Accura® MR-X right at home in the high-country, thick-country, and tight ambush spaces.



FROM WESTERN PLAINS TO EASTERN FIELDS

The 30" barrel produces higher velocities and less bullet drop. The Accura LR-X is built for long-range muzzleloader hunting.



Scan the code to learn more about the Accura Xtreme Series

CVA.com

THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

On another hunt, my daughter Judi and I and a small group hunted on horseback in the Wyoming Range in western Wyoming. After hunting hard for three days and seeing only cows and calves, we inadvertently spooked a bull from the timber. He dashed across a clearing and I hit the cow call. The bull stopped, Judi fired and missed, the bullet hitting high in branches. The bull took off again, I blew the call and Judi missed once more, again hitting high. The bull was almost into the timber when I told Judi to aim lower. I blew the call a third time. Incredibly, the bull stopped again. Judi's bullet passed through both lungs and the bull ran 40 yards before piling up. I was amazed it had stopped for the call after being shot at several times. I tested Judi's scope afterward and found that it was seriously off, no doubt a result of bouncing around in a scabbard and banging off trees all day.

So why do running or spooked elk stop for the cow call? I think a reasonable explanation is because it sounds somewhat like a bark made by an alarmed elk. Upon hearing that sound, elk are instantly on the lookout for danger, and stop to see what made the call.

WALK AND TALK

When walking through the woods, no matter how hard you try to be silent, you will inevitably make some noise. I coined this phrase many years ago: "The sound of a snapping twig is quickly forgotten by the hunter, but long remembered by the hunted."

If elk are bedded or feeding closely out of sight and they hear you, they'll either dash away or listen intently. If I blow my cow call lightly as I walk, I've found that the quarry will often allow me to get closer because they hear what they think are elk moving toward them. If everything goes to plan, I see them before they see me. If they spook, I blow sharply on the call and get ready to shoot when they stop to look.

The cow call has been around for 37 years since Don Laubach introduced it to the hunting world. It's been used by hunters everywhere from lowland deserts to snow-capped peaks. The bottom line is it works in any number of scenarios and is one of the most important tools in the elk hunter's bag of tricks. 

Occasionally blowing softly on a cow call as you walk through the timber is a good way to strike up a nearby bull without putting him on high alert.



VIC SCHENDEL



STILL MAKING HISTORY.



OUR HISTORY, YOUR LEGACY

The re-designed 2021 Colt Anaconda is once again making history. Featuring a bulked-up, solid stainless-steel frame for strength and durability, this DA revolver is worthy of its pedigree. Its Linear Leaf Spring Action provides a non-stacking, smooth-as-glass trigger pull. With recoil-absorbing Hogue grips and adjustable, interchangeable sights, this .44 Magnum is cool and comfortable from the range to the woods.

Anaconda 8" .44 MAG (ANACONDA-SP6RTS)

Anaconda 6" .44 MAG (ANACONDA-SP6RTS)



ANACONDA 8"

ANACONDA 6"

COLT.COM



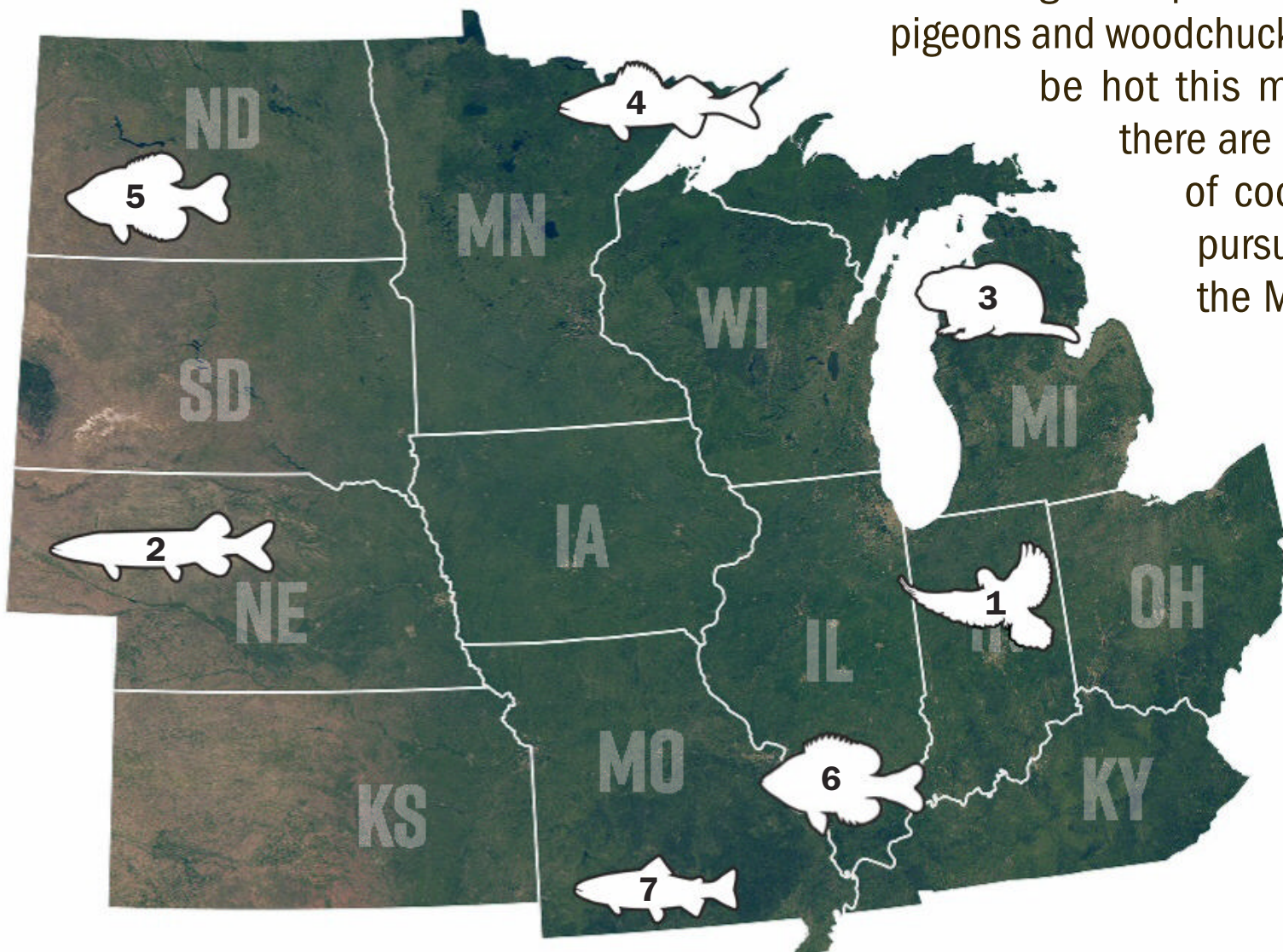
AROUND THE MIDWEST

A SAMPLING OF THE REGION'S BEST HUNTING AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES THIS MONTH

By Brandon Butler

August marks the end of summer, and time before the kids return to school is slipping away, but there's still a chance for one or two more outdoor adventures. Countless options exist for a Midwest camping and fishing trip, but few compare to exploring northern Minnesota's Boundary Waters. Other options, like Illinois' Pyramid State Park, offer plenty of chances to relax and wet a line. Those seeking to jumpstart their fall hunting exploits can pursue

less-common game species like feral pigeons and woodchucks. It might be hot this month, but there are still plenty of cool outdoor pursuits across the Midwest.





INDIANA FERAL PIGEONS

There's no season or limit on feral pigeons in Indiana, but many farmers would love for you to reduce the population around their barns. Set up around feed lots, barns or silos. Hunt early or late in the day to catch them coming or going from their roost. To up your game, add some pigeon decoys to the mix. Helping farmers with overpopulated pigeons is a great way to get on their good side, and it might help when you ask about deer hunting access. Either way, you'll have fun with the wingshooting.



SANDHILLS MUSKIES

Muskies are the apex predators of freshwater fishing, and they abound in Nebraska's connected Cottonwood and Steverson lakes in Cherry County north of Hyannis. These large, toothy creatures are not easy to catch, but they're worth the effort. With a depth of 20 feet, Cottonwood is one of the deeper lakes in the Sandhills; Steverson is much shallower. They're connected by a channel and offer a combined 680 acres of musky-filled water. Look for fish in ambush spots near brush and along weed lines, and cast big bucktails with a heavyweight rod.



MICHIGAN WOODCHUCKS

Woodchucks may not actually chuck wood, but boy can they destroy a field or foundation. This makes them a scourge to many landowners. Score some points with these folks by knocking a few groundhogs off their fields. There's no closed season. You need a small game license on public land, but you may openly shoot nuisance animals doing damage to private property without a license if you're the owner or the owner's designee.



BOUNDARY WATERS BLISS

Now is the perfect time for a back-country wilderness, multi-species fishing adventure in Minnesota's Boundary Waters area as fish feed aggressively to prepare for a long winter. Walleyes and pike abound and make great fare for shore lunches, and you can often catch smallmouths by the dozen. Ely is the gateway to the Boundary Waters and home to outfitters who can get you squared away.



HEART BUTTE CRAPPIES

North Dakota's Heart Butte Reservoir (aka Lake Tschida) has over 50 miles of shoreline surrounding 3,400 acres of water. Found in the southwest part of the state, it can produce impressive limits of crappies, which move shallow this month and next. Find them in brush or around cover in 10 feet of water or less. Casting jigs or using minnows under slip bobbers should get you on your way to a great-tasting fish fry. There is a fish cleaning station at the North Shore Concession.



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 'GILLS

Pyramid State Recreation Area is located near the town of Pinckneyville, Ill., just west of Rend Lake. The property has 19,701 acres of public land. There are just over 500 acres of surface water, with strip pits ranging in size from one tenth of an acre to 276 acres. Most of the typical Midwestern warmwater fish species are abundant, including largemouth bass, bluegills, crappies and catfish. Palm-sized 'gills hit just about anything you drop on them. They'll take worms, bee moths, dry flies and poppers, but for intense action, drop a slowly sinking cricket. Super Lake is the largest in the park and is full of bluegills.



MISSOURI TROUT

There are nine Blue Ribbon trout streams in Missouri: Barren Fork Creek, Blue Springs Creek, Crane Creek, Current River, Eleven Point River, Little Piney Creek, Mill Creek, North Fork of the White River and Spring Creek. These Ozark gems offer some of the most spectacular scenery in the Midwest. There are plenty of fish, too, with lots of rainbows and the occasional bruiser brown. Catch a trout in all nine of the streams and earn the Gold Level Blue Ribbon Trout Slam. Register your accomplishment and the MDC will send you a certificate, pin and medallion.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

MASTER THESE SHOOTING SCENARIOS TO ENSURE YOU'RE READY FOR THE ARCHERY OPENER.

By Mark Kayser

The adage “practice as you play” applies to bowhunting as much as it does to sports. If you hunt from a treestand in thick cover, replicate that scenario during pre-season training.

Shooting at a manicured and measured archery range—indoor or outdoor—has benefits. When zeroing your bow or during a prolonged stretch of inclement weather, a controlled environment is ideal. Those occasions aside, your archery practice sessions should simulate the hunting situations you'll encounter in the real world, right down to the exact bow, arrows and broadheads you intend to use during the season. Once your gear is lined out, try some of the following scenarios to get field-ready for opening day.

SHOOT THE GAPS

Start by setting targets in natural settings. It's likely that not all your hunts will occur on the trimmed edge of a planted food plot. Interior woodland stands might lead to shots on deer meandering through brush or shrouded by limbs.

Set your targets in thick vegetation to practice needling arrows through a jungle of foliage. It also pays to angle your target, be it 3D or block. This mimics shots where an animal is angling toward or away from you; not every deer will stand perfectly broadside. In the woods, a slight adjustment in aiming back or

slightly forward can be the difference between venison backstrap and having to frequent the meat counter at the grocery store all winter.

If you hunt from a ground blind, set it in a brushy area and launch arrows through the small windows. This ensures your proficiency in clearing window height and helps refine your form while shooting from a seated position. One of my ground blinds still has a slashed windowsill from a friend's low launch through a small window. It led to an agonizing day of trailing with no high-five ending.

TH_{RM}X



EXPERIENCE THE CONFIDENCE
OF THERMAL RECOVERY



UPGRADE YOUR OPTICS AT

WWW.COVERT-OPTICS.COM



ELEVATE YOURSELF

Treestand or elevated-blind hunters need high-rise training. If you stalk in uneven ground, you also need to consider the ups and downs of shooting. Aiming points change depending on the steepness of the shot, so practice those you may encounter.

Setting up a treestand in your backyard is one option, but also think efficiency. Do you have a raised porch or a second-story window in your home you can shoot from? Climbing up and down a treestand repeatedly can add danger—and extra time—to your shooting sessions. Conversely, climbing steps is relatively easy and doesn't require a safety harness. Be creative and look around your home environment to find something that mimics shooting from an elevated perch.

My horse pasture, for instance, includes several steep, deep draws. Instead of climbing trees, I situate a target in the bottom of a gully and climb hills after retrieving arrows from the target. This simulates aiming at a deer from a treestand or even encountering deer while stalking hilly country, but it's also a good workout. Maintain form, but bend, crouch and contort as you might when drawing on a deer that requires a steep shot angle.

INTRODUCE UNKNOWNNS

Rangefinders are standard gear for modern hunters, but situations can unfold fast and deny you the chance to range an animal before it disappears forever. Prep for these scenarios by estimating distance without digital help and launching arrows quickly. When a buck appears in a close shooting lane, it might offer ample time to range, draw and settle. Most likely, though, the encounter will last mere seconds. Estimating range is a skill that requires constant repetition to maintain. Train at the range, but also repeat that training elsewhere.

Varmint hunting, for example, offers a solid classroom environment. Find a field of gophers or someplace where groundhogs have been spotted. When a target pops up, estimate the range and launch an arrow to see how well you judged the distance. You can accomplish this with a block target set in a natural environment, too. Walk around it and launch arrows from guesstimated distances to enhance distance judging. Have a friend join you and

make a wager to keep the pressure at maximum level.

On cool mornings or evenings, add a few layers of clothing to simulate how you'll dress on the stand. Changes in wardrobe can alter your form and, in turn, cause your arrow to shoot differently. And don't skip practice just because the wind's blowing or it's raining. By shooting in these real conditions, you

can note and adjust to minimize accuracy issues when facing them out in the field.

Hitting the archery range with friends can be both relaxing and help you refine your form. However, a day in a natural environment shooting against Mother Nature prepares you for real-world fall success. Practice these scenarios and you should feel confident going into the season. 



One of the best things you can do during practice sessions is shoot at unknown distances. This prepares you for fleeting shot opportunities that don't allow time to use a rangefinder.

MARK KAYSER



A NEW HUNTER AT MAGPUL

The Hunter 110 for right and left-handed Savage® 10 & 110 series short actions joins our Hunter stock line this winter.

It brings you optimal rifle stabilization, improved comfort, and expanded customization options so you can dial in your unique hunting needs. Find out more at [Magpul.com](https://www.magpul.com).



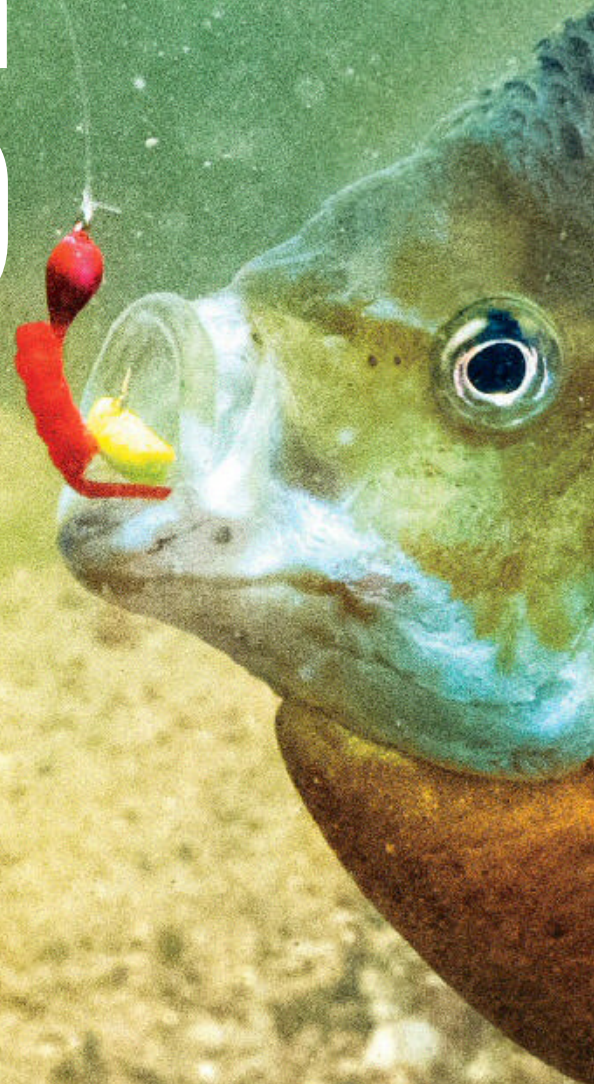
www.magpul.com

FOLLOW YOUR SENSES

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO FIND
A RED-HOT BLUEGILL BITE.**

LET YOUR EYES—AND YOUR NOSE—GUIDE
YOU TO BEDDING 'GILLS THIS SUMMER.

By Keith Sutton



One hot August day many years ago, I went fishing with my Uncle Julius on a big farm pond. He and I fished together often, but we hadn't visited this place before. Other anglers might have had difficulty finding the late-spawning bluegills we were looking for, but not my uncle.

He pointed toward a spot by the shore with foam and an oily film atop the water and asked if I could see it. I did. A fishy smell also permeated the air. I asked him if that was where it was coming from.

He nodded and told me that a bubbly surface and musty smell like that were sure signs of bluegills guarding their nests in the shallow water.

We put crickets on our hooks and threw them over to the spot simultaneously. As soon as our corks bobbed upright, they both shot out of sight. Uncle Julius laughed as the big bull 'gills bent our rods and told me that the fun had just begun. We quickly reeled in those fish, unhooked them and tossed them in a cooler. We then proceeded to load that cooler up with bluegills—more than 50 in all.

While he had no formal training in fisheries biology, my uncle taught me a lot about bluegills that day. Namely that, when males are on spawning beds, you can often find them by watching for areas where those bubbles cover the surface, especially if you can also detect that same fishy smell. He also proved that, contrary to popular belief, bluegills don't only spawn and guard nests in the spring. In fact, he told me it wasn't unusual for them to nest a second time in summer or to delay nesting after a cold spring or if food was scarce.



When searching out bluegill spawning spots, look for shallow coves or backwater areas protected from wind and waves that also have a firm bottom—often sand or fine gravel.

In the years since, these lessons have often informed my late-summer bluegill fishing efforts. This advice, along with some other tips I'll share below, should help you catch more fish this time of year, too.

LIKELY LOCATIONS

Start your late-season bluegill search by focusing on a few choice spawning locales. For nesting 'gills, this often means portions of shallow coves or backwaters protected from wind and waves. Almost any body of water—from farm ponds

and small park lakes to big flood-control reservoirs and natural oxbows—can have these.

Males usually build nests on a sand or fine-gravel bottom in or near shallow-water cover. Fish sweep away silt and debris with their body and tail to create a nest 2 to 4 inches deep and around a foot in diameter. Sometimes, many nests are side by side in a small area, and each one appears as a light-colored circle when viewed from above. Prime spawning sites in clear water look like artillery impact areas when bluegills are on their nests.

If you've fished a body of water before and know the location of previous bluegill bedding sites, return to those areas. These panfish often nest in the same locales year after year, season after season.

If you don't have experience on the waterbody you're visiting, use a bottom contour map or GPS unit to pinpoint likely hotspots. Look for broad, shallow flats adjacent to creek channels that approach the shore. When ready to nest, summer bluegills follow channels from deep water into the shallows and spread

In turbid water with less visibility, the author likes using a float—often a slip bobber—to improve bite detection. A float also helps suspend a bait at the right depth.



out on both sides of the channel/spawning cover junction if conditions are suitable. Shallow water in the backs of feeder-creek bays often proves good as well. Look, too, for migration corridors leading to shallow cover: stump rows, old fence lines, weed lines, ditches and the like.

I also find a lot of bluegill nests along the inside (shallower) edges of aquatic vegetation. This might be a bed of elodea or coontail or an expanse of water lilies or hydrilla. The key combination is shallow water with some green vegetative cover and a firm not silty bottom.

SIGHT FISHING

When you've found a promising spot to fish, move slowly along in your boat (or walk slowly along the bank) and watch for frothy bubbles on the water's surface. After these bubbles rise to the top, they remain for several days.

Some folks think male bluegills produce the bubbles with their mouths

BOUNTIFUL BLUEGILL SPOTS

Hit these destinations for great late-summer bluegill fishing.

LAKE ONALASKA, WI

This lake, a wide spot on the upper Mississippi River, has become famous for its bluegills. In fact, the 'gill fishing is so renowned that Onalaska has become known as the "Sunfish Capital of the World." Look for the best fishing on the edges of submerged green weed beds in the lake's many backwater channels and sloughs. At around 7,700 acres, there's a lot of water to explore.

HORSESHOE LAKE, IL

Located near Olive Branch in Alexander County, this beautiful oxbow lake grows lots of big bluegills in water shaded by huge cypress and tupelo trees. Like all oxbows, the 1,890-acre lake is slowly but inexorably silting up, but its 3- to 6-foot waters still produce bragging-sized fish on baits like crickets, redworms and waxworms.

HORSETHIEF LAKE, SD

This small lake lies in one of the most scenic spots in the Black Hills, just a few miles west of Mount Rushmore on

SD-244. It's known for its rainbow trout fishing, but it's also a great place to catch lots of bluegills, including some whoppers. Locals consider it a good spot to stop for a picnic and quick fishing trip.

SEVERY CITY LAKE, KS

Fish the quiet waters close to shore, especially around brush and in shady areas, to catch the big bluegills that swim in this 10-acre lake 64 miles east of Wichita. There are a couple picnic shelters and a boat ramp, and with no gas-powered motors allowed, the lake is perfectly suited for canoes, kayaks and shore fishing.

KENTUCKY LAKE, KY/TN

This 160,000-acre mega-lake serves up some of the continent's best bluegill fishing year after year. One way to catch the big ones is to look for stump fields, flooded brush and green aquatic vegetation. Then, scan with sonar to pinpoint the depth at which 'gills are holding, and suspend a cricket or worm in the strike zone beneath a slip bobber.

Late-summer bluegill fishing can be excellent on many Midwest lakes. Scope out likely spawning areas, and if you see frothy bubbles or smell a fishy odor, you might hit the jackpot.



during nest preparation and spawning. However, in his book, “New Techniques That Catch More Bluegill,” master ‘gill getter Steve Wunderle says fisheries researcher Dr. Roy Heidinger suggested the bubbles are more likely the result of trapped gases being released to the surface by the nest-building activities of the males.

In clear bodies of water, you can put on polarized sunglasses and actually see beneath the bubbly surface. Polarizing lenses reduce glare and allow you to see much better than with the naked eye. With a good pair, you can cast to individual fish or nests.

OOH, THAT SMELL

Mucous secretions from the active male fish create an oily surface film that may also be seen around shallow nests. This shiny skim of material has a very distinctive, though not powerful, odor that many people describe as fishy or musky.

Some individuals have difficulty even detecting the smell, while others have no trouble at all. One thing

is for sure: When you detect this unusual aroma in areas with lots of surface bubbles, it’s foolproof evidence that bedding bluegills are nearby.

TACTICS

When you spot bluegills on the nests, it may help to drop a marker buoy nearby and keep moving and marking other spots. You’ll then know where beds are and can slip in close without disturbing fish.

Some anglers like a long jigging pole to swing a jig, cricket or redworm to each fish. I prefer a spinning or spincast outfit to work the bait—usually a waxworm or cricket, but sometimes a mini crankbait or spinner—from a greater distance. In turbid water, I add a slip bobber for easier casting and bite detection. In clear water, I use nothing but a baited hook and one tiny split shot on extremely light (2- to 4-pound) line. The less there is for fish to observe, the more hook-ups you’ll have.

Hopefully, these tips will help you enjoy your next late-summer bluegill excursion to the fullest. Your nose and eyes are great tools to find summer bluegill beds other anglers miss. 



Despite conventional advice to fish deep, some bluegills are found shallow on beds late into summer. In clear water, use light line to fool more wary fish.

TOM MARTINEAU, THE RAW SPIRIT

THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

METICULOUS ATTENTION TO DETAIL, PRECISE HAND WELDS AND EXCEPTIONAL PAINT & FINISH MAKE THE BAY PRO ONE OF THE MOST STUNNING ON THE WATER. OUR STANDARD .160 THICK ALUMINUM HULLS, MAKE OUR BAY PRO MODELS THE TOUGHEST TODAY.



YAMAHA

EXPERIENCE THE SMOOTH OPERATION, HANDLING AND LEGENDARY TRUSTWORTHINESS OF YAMAHA AND AN EXCEL BAY PRO



SCAN ME

EXCEL

BOATS

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

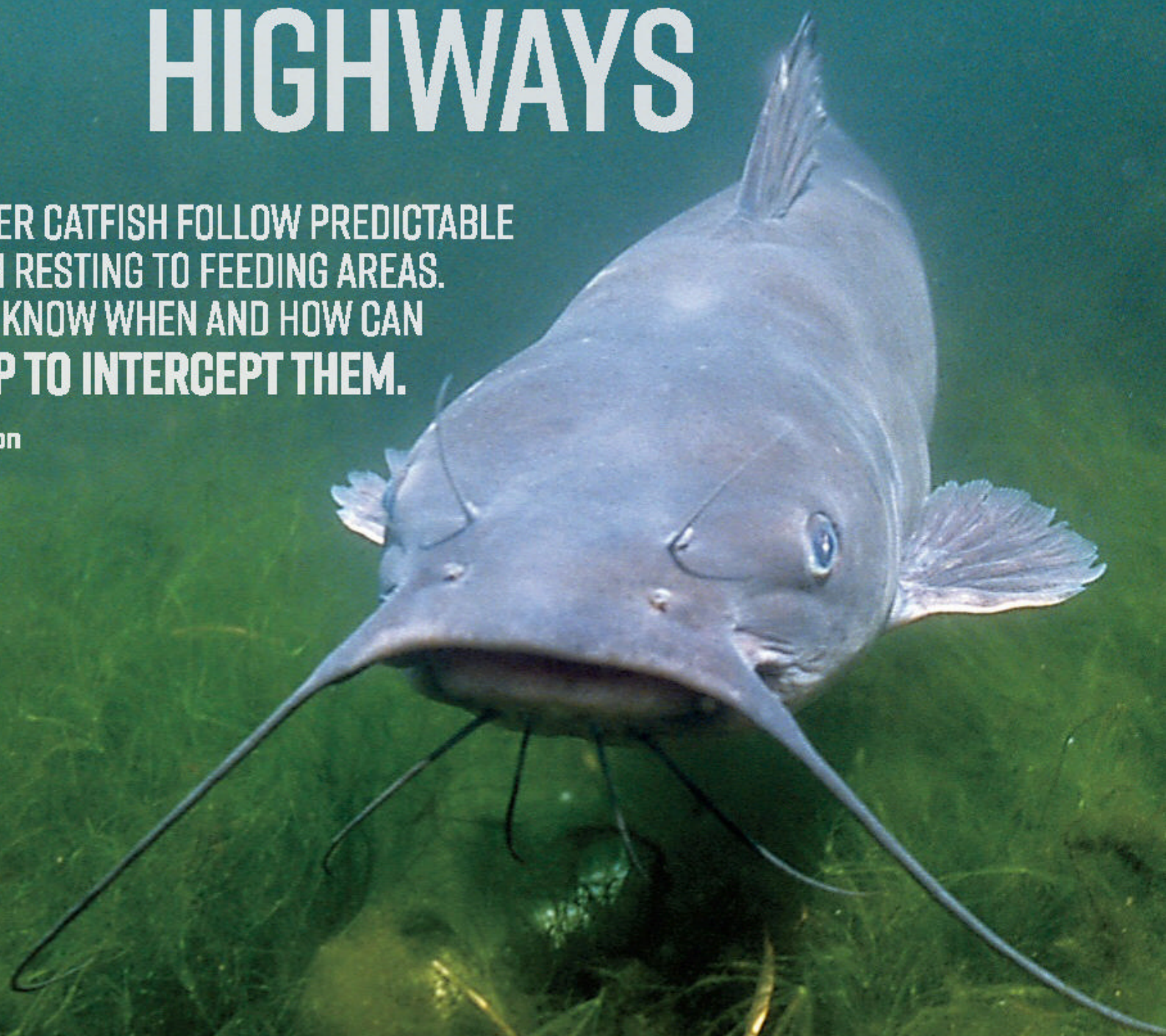
AvaxHome - Your End Place

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

CATFISH HIGHWAYS

LATE-SUMMER CATFISH FOLLOW PREDICTABLE PATHS FROM RESTING TO FEEDING AREAS. THOSE WHO KNOW WHEN AND HOW CAN SET A TRAP TO INTERCEPT THEM.

By Dan Anderson



Catfish often follow distinct pathways during their daily travels. Submerged river and creek channels are prime examples, as are shorelines and points, especially in the evening.

In his life, Grandpa never solved the mystery of his secret channel catfish hotspot on a local reservoir. He fussed and fretted every time we drifted stink baits across the lake's basin. We would always try to direct our path toward a magic location where we were almost guaranteed two or three nice cats. Then, before long, we would have to fire up the old Evinrude, move upwind and try to hit this sweet spot with another drift.

A lifetime later, I visited that same lake and graphed the bottom around Grandpa's secret honey hole. It didn't take long to identify a submerged roadbed with a jumble of debris that was probably an old bridge. As I sat on that spot, held in position by modern electronics, I wished Grandpa could have been there; he would have enjoyed solving the mystery. And he certainly would've loved catching his share of all the cats I found clustered along the roadbed and bridge that had become a thoroughfare for catfish moving around the lake.

RESERVOIR ROADMAP

Roadbeds

Professional catfish guide Chad Ferguson has had similar experiences with submerged roadbeds in lakes in Texas, but a catfish's fondness for these areas is true of these fish across the country.

"Fishing around submerged roadbeds that are significantly different from the surrounding bottom is a no-brainer," says Ferguson. "That change in elevation from the bottom up onto the top of the road, with the road generally running from shallow out into deeper water, is like a highway for catfish."

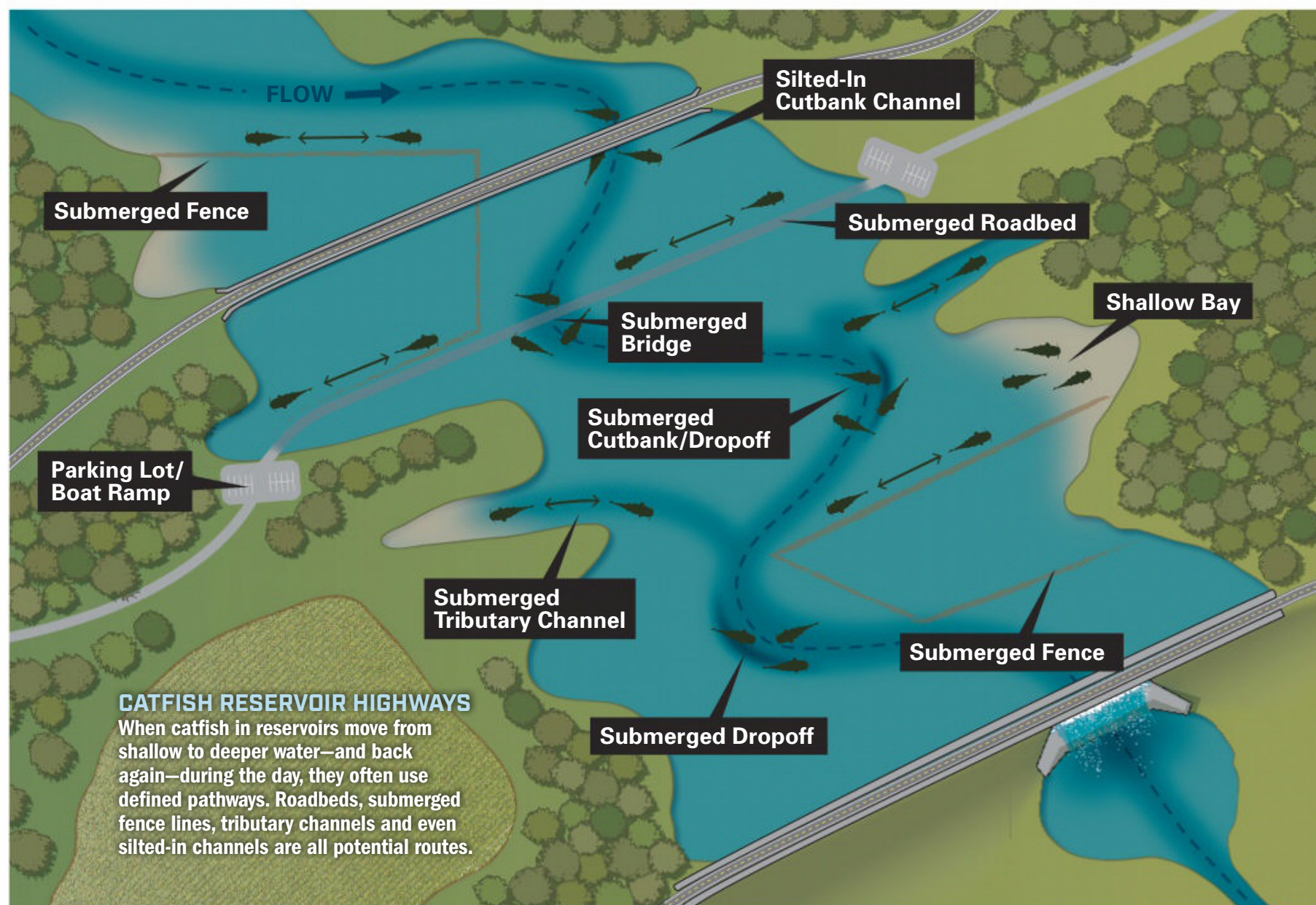
He suggests, however, that these changes in bottom topography don't have to be extreme to attract catfish. On one lake he fishes, an old roadbed runs through shallow water. He says it's all silted in and doesn't show up on sonar, but he still catches loads of catfish over it. Even after taking off his shoes, hopping out of the boat and wading around one day, he still couldn't feel a noticeable difference in texture between the top of the roadbed and the ditches on the side.

The fish, however, certainly knew the difference, and Ferguson estimates that his baits fished on top of the roadbed out-fished those placed on the sides by a margin of roughly three to one.

Channels

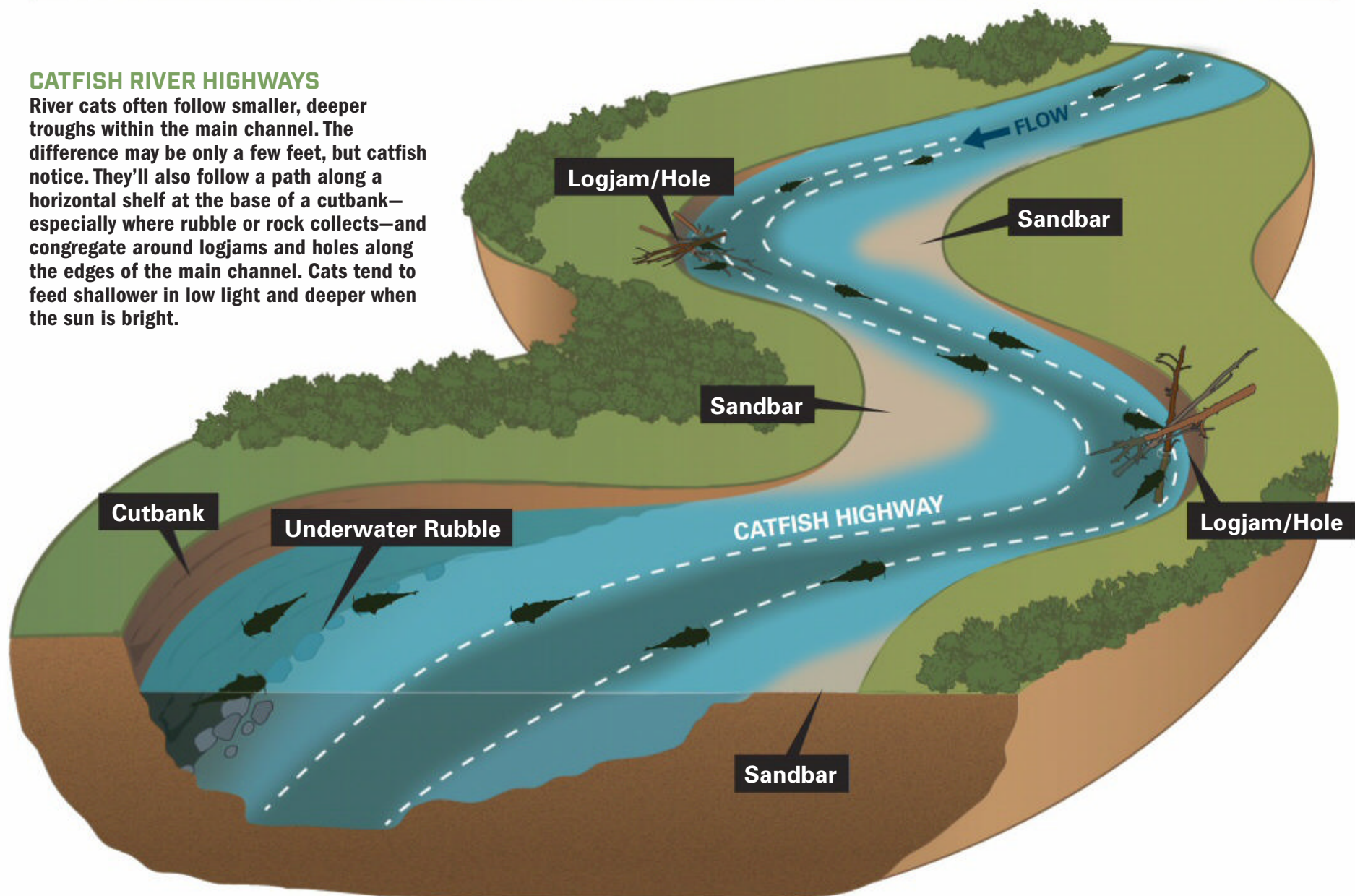
Submerged river and creek channels in reservoirs also act as highways for blue and channel catfish. Cats associate with drop-offs into old channels, though "drop-off" is a relative term. A deep channel with abrupt drop-offs may silt in and eventually become a shallow trough only a couple feet deeper than surrounding topography. But that subtle difference is often enough to attract catfish in reservoirs with featureless bottoms, to the point where catfish actually follow the paths where channels used to be.

Matt Davis, founder of Whisker Seeker tackle company, ran into that phenomenon in a Midwestern flood control reservoir. For years, he religiously marked every spot where he caught catfish from that lake on his sonar. One area seemed to contain a lot of marks,



CATFISH RIVER HIGHWAYS

River cats often follow smaller, deeper troughs within the main channel. The difference may be only a few feet, but catfish notice. They'll also follow a path along a horizontal shelf at the base of a cutbank—especially where rubble or rock collects—and congregate around logjams and holes along the edges of the main channel. Cats tend to feed shallower in low light and deeper when the sun is bright.



and he couldn't understand why. On the LakeMaster card he was using, it was roughly the size of a football field on a big flat at the north end of the lake. No structures or bottom irregularities showed up on sonar, but he consistently caught lots of channel cats there. So, he got on eBay and bought an older LakeMaster card for that lake from years ago.

"As soon as I put that card in my Humminbird, it showed there was an outside bend in the old river channel in that area," Davis says. "It's all silted in now, isn't shown on the newer card and doesn't show up on sonar, but the catfish are still relating to where that channel used to be."

Shorelines, Points and Jetties

Shorelines are another catfish highway in lakes, especially at night. Baitfish move shallow after dark. Catfish follow, and they usually patrol parallel to the shoreline. Deadfall trees and jetties are chokepoints. The "armpits" where those chokepoints meet the shoreline tend to concentrate forage fish, and catfish take advantage of those natural baitfish traps.

The tips of points and jetties are also prime places to fish, day or night. Catfish cruising parallel to shore are forced to move out and around the obstacle, temporarily concentrating them around the tip of the projection. If wind and waves blow across the tip of the jetty or point, it also creates a current. Cats moving around the tip often linger on the downwind side to take advantage of baitfish that cluster there to feed on microscopic organisms the current pushes into the slack water.

Timing

Knowing where to fish in lakes is only part of the conundrum of catching catfish. Knowing when to fish along catfish highways also greatly affects angling success. Cats move shallow as water cools in the evening and deeper as daytime temps rise in the morning. Radio tracking of tagged catfish shows they often follow submerged topographic features during daily movements. If there is a submerged creek channel, fence row or roadbed that provides a route between deep and shallow water, it can become a catfish highway during transition periods—such as when fish move shallow at night.

RIVER ROUTES

The Channels Within

Rivers are the catfish equivalent of the interstate highway system. Multiple lanes, rest areas and exit ramps control traffic on the interstate, just as submerged channels, brush piles and wing dams influence catfish movement in a river.

In his book, *Cracking the Channel Catfish Code*, professional catfish guide Brad Durick explains how advanced electronics helped him decipher the underwater mysteries in the legendary Red River of the North. He discovered that major holes associated with outside bends and log jams in rivers are often connected by distinct "channels" in the bottom of the river that catfish follow when traveling between holes. He notes those smaller channels within the larger main channel may only be several feet wide and a foot deeper than the main river bottom, depending on the size and flow of a river. However, the difference is enough to create a pathway catfish follow.

"Sometimes they follow the edges of the channel," Durick says, "and sometimes they follow the bottom. I like to set up my boat so I can put out a spread

FRANCHI®

FEELS RIGHT



Experience the superior ergonomics and features that set the Momentum Elite bolt-action rifles above all others in their class. Control one of the few things you can on your next hunt – make sure you're carrying the right rifle.

MOMENTUM ELITE RIFLE
Realtree® EXCAPE™, Burnt Bronze Cerakote®

MOMENTUM ELITE

of baits that goes all the way across that channel to intercept any cats that are moving through the area.”

Seeking Shade

The daily movement of catfish in rivers and lakes along their submerged thoroughfares is often mistakenly assumed as a move from nighttime feeding grounds to daytime lounging areas. But catfish feed throughout the day. Truthfully, those diurnal movements may be more associated with sunlight penetration of the water than with changes in feeding behavior. In his years guiding, Durick has proven that catfish highways are busy 24/7.

“I run all my trips during the day, and my clients catch tons of catfish,” he says. “[Catfish] move and feed all day. Do they move more at night? Maybe. But I catch all I need during the day when it’s easier to see what I’m doing on the river.”

He says he catches more of the Red River’s monster channel cats from shallower water on cloudy days and from deeper water on sunny days. If he’s finding fish shallow on a cloudy day, he knows he needs to move his baits deeper if the sun comes out. He adds that while fish may not move up- or downstream, they’ll certainly move sideways into deeper water. Sometimes, he says, all it takes to get the baits into deeper water is to move them to the other side of the boat.

A long-term study of the movement of radio-tagged flathead catfish in Missouri by Dr. Jason Vokoun shows that sunlight penetration may also influence flathead catfish behavior in late summer. Many of the flatheads in his study spent their days nearly immobile, typically associated with log jams. However, one irregularity became readily apparent.

“An odd thing we noticed was that they often did brief, short movements around noon each day,” says Vokoun. “There’s no good explanation why. It didn’t seem to be a feeding move. It was never far—often only a few feet. One suggestion is that they were moving to stay in the shade, as the sun moved to the other side of the sky ... who knows?”

MAP IT OUT

Fisheries biologists and catfish anglers will never know all the intricacies of catfish behavior. But modern anglers can use topographic maps and sonar systems to chart reservoirs and rivers and identify bottom features catfish use during their daily travels. Just like police officers who set up speed traps along busy streets, smart anglers can place their baits on or near catfish highways to catch their daily quota. 



Identifying prime catfish thoroughfares can lead to exceptional days on the water. Set up on deeper areas of these highways when the sun is high and temps are hottest.

WHEN YOU
FISH MORE
YOU
CATCH MORE

**THE BEST FISHERMEN JUST FISH —
WITH THE PROVEN POWER OF ULTREX™**

They don't mess with their boat. They don't waste time. And they end the day with no regrets. Because the best fishermen fish with Ultrex™, trusting its track record of legendary Minn Kota® toughness and the power of Spot-Lock®. It's more time on the water. And more fish in the boat.



IN THE WEEDS

WHEN BASS SEEK COVER IN THICK VEGETATION, TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM FOR SERIOUSLY PRODUCTIVE DAYS ON THE WATER.

By Glenn Walker



TOM MARTINEAU, THE RAW SPIRIT



When fishing hollow-bodied top-water frogs, vary your retrieve until fish reveal their preferred cadence.

Having grown up fishing the Mississippi River, I learned how to fish vegetation—and understand the opportunities it presents—early on in my fishing career. Now, in addition to my continued trips to the Mississippi's lily pad fields and eelgrass lines, I also get to fish many lakes in Minnesota that are filled with milfoil, coontail and cabbage. Bottom line: I'm fortunate to fish around vegetation for much of my fishing season, including late summer, and this has given me time to try many different approaches. However, when fishing weeds and other cover for largemouth bass, there are four key presentations that I traditionally employ, and these are tactics you can try on your own home waters.

EDGE MOVES

Buzz the Surface

During low-light hours, or when it is overcast, bass get out and feed on the edges of vegetation as they move freely and prey upon baitfish and bluegills. I target these bass primarily by covering open water quickly and putting my lure in front of as many different bass as possible. Because bass look up to the surface to feed, I usually begin my search with a topwater.

Retrieving a buzzbait parallel to the edge keeps a fast-moving bait in the strike zone for the longest amount of time. My go-to is a 3/8-ounce War Eagle Buzz Toad. The added bulk of a soft plastic frog on the back allows for longer casts, and the kicking feet entice bass to venture out beyond the vegetation edge.

To cover the most water, it helps to make long casts along the edge of the vegetation, but not in it. When fishing buzzbaits, I prefer braided line. I can cast my bait farther, and when I get a strike, the lack of stretch allows me to get a solid hookset and bring the bass to the boat. I spool up my high-speed casting reel with 40-pound Seaguar SmackDown braided line in the low-visibility Stealth Gray.

While fishing buzzbaits, I target key irregularities in the weedline, which often produce strikes. Features to look for include points, turns, cuts and openings in the vegetation or even just a change in type of vegetation.

Go Swimming

If you notice bass actively feeding along the edge, or see them on your sonar but can't get them to strike your buzzbait, a Texas-rigged soft-plastic swimbait is a great option. Rigging a 4- or 5-inch swimbait on a 5/0 Trokar TK120 Magworm Extra Wide Gap allows the bait to slide up the shaft when you set the hook. If you need to get the swimbait down in the water column, add a tungsten weight in front of the bait.

INSIDE GAME

Hit The Mats

When the sun gets higher in the sky, bass usually become less active and seek shade in the vegetation. This is when bass bury themselves in the thick stuff, and you'll need a presentation that allows you to go in after them. When I'm still looking to cover water and find active bass under matted vegetation, there is no better lure than a hollow-body topwater frog.

On waters like the Mississippi River, there are miles upon miles of matted vegetation, so knowing what to look for can speed up the elimination process. Keep an eye on water depth under the vegetation, noting whether there is current or not, and check for secondary forms of cover like a stump, laydown or riprap.

I like casting a Snag Proof Bobby's Perfect Frog out across the mat and working it back to the boat. While doing so, I look for pockets and vary my retrieves until I figure out what is triggering strikes. For frog fishing, I want a heavy-power rod with a fast to extra-fast action—something that lets me really work the frog but also has plenty of backbone for hooking and hauling big bass out of thick cover. Much like fishing a buzzbait, a line with no stretch is crucial when fishing topwater frogs. This is why I spool up with 65-pound Seaguar SmackDown Braid.

Crash Their Pads

When bass tuck up tight to vegetation or hold deep underneath it, it's time to slow down and pick the area apart with a slower presentation. Here, I like a jig or a Texas-rigged soft plastic. As I work the water, I again pay special attention to any irregularities in an otherwise solid edge—points and open-water pockets that form where different types of vegetation mix.

WEAPONS FOR THE WEEDS

Use these tools to pull bass from thick vegetation.

SNAG PROOF BOBBY'S PERFECT FROG

Snag Proof's iconic frog got a face lift and now features 14 real-life, 360-degree, hand-painted color schemes, a super-sharp hook and an incredibly soft body. This soft body helps increase your hook-up percentage as it collapses on the hook set. (\$11.99; americanbaitworks.com)

SNAG PROOF PHAT FROG

This frog was recently redesigned as well. Along with the features included with the Perfect Frog, the Phat Frog has a narrower body profile, making it ideal for skipping under overhanging trees and boat docks or for walking the dog across sparse grass in open water. (\$11.99; americanbaitworks.com)

ZOOM MAGNUM UV SPEED CRAW

Just like the original ultra-vibe kicking feet on other Zoom Baits, the Magnum Speed Craw has the extra bulk anglers need when flipping and pitching. It still sports the super-soft and salty makeup that Zoom fans know and love. (\$5.29; zoombait.com)

SEAGUAR TATSU FLUOROCARBON

The only double-structured fluorocarbon (DSF) fishing line on the market just got better by adding a 22-pound-test option. The DSF delivers a line that's extremely strong while still being very easy to cast. (\$62.99; seaguar.com)

HUMMINBIRD MEGA LIVE IMAGING

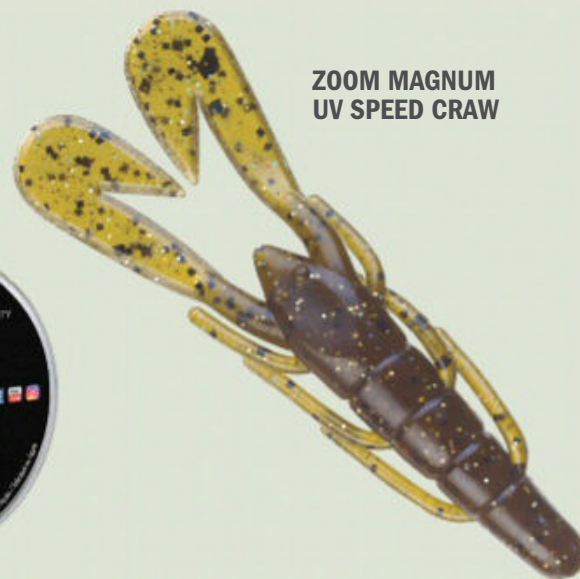
See fish in real time, see how they are reacting to your bait and get them to bite. Installation and use are easy, with no external sonar box required. (\$1,499.99; humminbird.com)



SNAG PROOF
PHAT FROG



SEAGUAR TATSU
FLUOROCARBON



ZOOM MAGNUM
UV SPEED CRAW

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.



Deciding between a jig and a Texas rig often comes down to the density of the vegetation. I may start out flipping a half-ounce All-Terrain Tackle AT Jig and then go up to 3/4-ounce if I need the added weight to punch through thicker vegetation. On my AT Jig, I like one of two soft-plastic trailers: a Zoom Z-Craw Jr. or a Super Chunk. If cover is sparse, the Super Chunk goes on the jig; in denser cover, a Z-Craw Jr. gets the nod.

For this slower presentation, I prefer a lighter, low-visibility fluorocarbon line. My personal preference is 20- or 22-pound Seaguar TATSU. It has very little stretch, so you get solid hooksets

and you can turn bass before they bury themselves in denser weeds. It's also extremely resistant to the sawing abrasion of the weeds.

When I need to punch through even thicker vegetation, I switch to a Texas rig with at least a 3/4-ounce tungsten weight. I'll push up to a 2-ounce weight if the weeds are incredibly dense. A strong and stout hook is also a must. You don't want the hook to bend on the hookset or when you're fighting a bass to the boat. My hook of choice is the Trokar TK133 Pro V Flippin' Hook in a 5/0 size. That hook size allows the bulk of the soft-plastic bait to slide away on

the hookset, helping you keep the bass pegged all the way to the boat.

Whether fishing a jig or a Texas-rigged soft plastic, I also want the bait to slide through the vegetation as cleanly as possible. A craw with lots of action might trigger more strikes, but only if it's not constantly hanging up on the way down to fish. When I see this might be a problem, I use a soft plastic with a more streamlined profile without appendages. Most of the flipping situations I face can be covered with either a Z-Craw or Z-Craw Jr. If I'm fishing through less stringy vegetation, I'll use a Magnum Speed Craw.



To aggressively fish hollow-bodied frogs atop mats, the author likes a heavy-power, fast-action rod and a high-speed casting reel.

COURTESY OF TYLER MOHR



YOUR NEXT BIG DEER WILL ALERT YOU WHEN HE'S READY.



- AUTO CONNECTS to the best cellular network.
- PHOTO AND VIDEO transmission.
- EASY TO SET UP AND USE.
- 100 FREE PHOTOS every month. No fees. No commitment.

FLEX

THE PERFORMANCE YOU WANT
THE FREEDOM YOU NEED

SPYPOINT

[SPYPOINT.COM/FLEX](https://spypoint.com/flex)

WIN WITH WEEDS

By keeping an eye on the vegetation and adapting my fishing presentations, I was able to lock up a top-ten finish in a large tournament on the Mississippi River. I got an early limit of quality bass flipping a Texas-rigged Z-Craw around scattered vegetation. Then, once the sun got higher in the sky, the bass tucked up underneath the mats of duckweed and lily pads, and a Bobby's Perfect Frog yielded three quality largemouths, all surpassing 3 pounds. My final bag was just over 14 pounds in all.

As you head out this month to your favorite lake or river to chase largemouths, don't forget about the vegetation that bass inhabit this time of year. And keep in mind the four key presentations highlighted above. You just may experience some of your best fishing of the summer. 



When working dense cover, look for pockets or holes, secondary cover and other irregularities that often attract bass.



A creature or craw on a Texas rig is great for bass tucked in tight to weedy cover. Use a stout hook and a strong line with little stretch.

JESSICA HAYDAHL-RICHARDSON (TOP); WINDIGO IMAGES (BOTTOM)

THE GAME KEEPERS OF MOSSY OAK

WE LIVE FOR THE MOMENT

On Mossy Oak Moments, we honor our hunting heritage with a full night of heart-pounding action in the field. We'll be featuring an All-American lineup of sportsmen and women that includes Will and Jimmy Primos, Brad Farris, David and Jeff Lindsey, Rick and Julie Kreuter, Ted Nugent, Pat and Nicole Reeve, Mark, Terry and Matt Drury, and Taylor Drury Land.

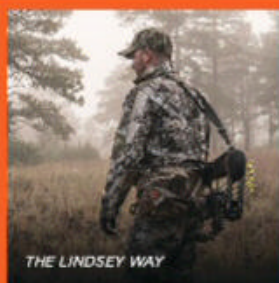
MOSSY OAK MOMENTS
TUESDAYS BEGINS 7P ET

SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE


Outdoor



PRIMOS
TRUTH ABOUT HUNTING



THE LINDSEY WAY



BEYOND THE HUNT



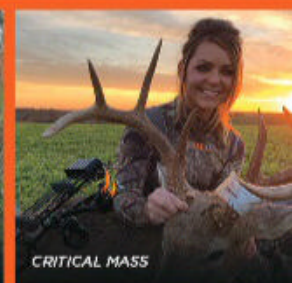
TED NUGENT
SPIRIT OF THE WILD



DRIVEN
WITH PAT & NICOLE



DRURY'S THIRTEEN



CRITICAL MASS

DEER TO-DO

**THERE ARE MANY TASKS TO
COMPLETE BEFORE DEER SEASON.
HERE'S HOW TO WORK YOUR WAY THROUGH THE LIST.**

By Josh Honeycutt



COURTESY OF REALTREE (MAIN); TOM MARTINEAU, THE RAW SPIRIT (RIGHT)



In America, deer seasons are limited to August through February, location depending. However, it's what you do during the other five months that really sets you up for success in the coming season. And while it might not always seem like it, pre-season projects are often time-sensitive. You need to complete certain things when they need to be done, and in the proper sequence. Here are the things I do, and the order in which I tend to do them.

1. REFLECT ON SHEDS

You found a bunch of sheds back in the spring, but all you did was pick them up and toss them in the corner of the garage. Finding antlers is great, but using these sheds to better yourself as a hunter is important, too. First, understand all shed finds aren't created equal. Sheds you discovered in or near bedding areas show you where the deer that dropped them spent their daytime hours, especially in winter. That can be valuable information come the late season.

Those you found near food sources and out in the open offer less value in terms of understanding how a deer uses a property. That said, it confirms the deer is still alive, and shows where that deer might feed or travel during the late and post-season. Looking at the pedicle can also reveal how healthy or unhealthy the deer was when it dropped the antler. A healthy deer will have a smooth pedicle that isn't too bumpy, raised or inconsistent; it's fairly flush across the underside of the burrs. An unhealthy deer's pedicle, meanwhile, often has jagged edges,

inconsistent texturing and more material attached to the underside of the shed base.

Another way to get the most from shed antler finds is to confirm your score guesstimates from during the season. Write down what you thought the deer scored based on trail camera photos. Then, score the antler (or antlers if it's a matched set), assign a close guess for inside spread and then tally it up. Check to see how close you were.

2. SCOUT NEW GROUND

One of the most important things a hunter can do is find new ground, even if deer season is only days away. You can never have too many hunting spots. Those who say otherwise have never lost ground, don't share permission or don't take other hunters afield with them. Real-life deer hunters need to expand their options.

One of the best ways to do this is to scout new public lands. I try to find a new out-of-state public-land hotspot each year. This opens additional opportunities when going on non-resident excursions. What qualifies an area as a hotspot? These need to be hard-to-reach areas that are landlocked by private land (requiring you to gain permission to cross through private land to access), waterlocked (requiring you to use a boat, canoe or kayak to access) or at least a 1-mile walk in on foot (preferably farther).

I also try to gain access to one new in-state private-land property each season. Sometimes I reach that goal, other times I don't, but I still try. Generally, I'm looking to gain permission, but this can also come in the form of buying or leasing land, budget depending.

Shed antlers can offer useful intel. Those found near bedding areas are often great indicators of where to find deer in the late season.



Inspect, repair and replace treestands in the off-season. Also, consider hanging stands in sensitive spots, like near bedding areas, well ahead of the opener.

3. HANG STANDS

You've scouted both new and old ground, and maybe even found some good stand locations. I conduct treestand maintenance each year during the off-season, too. I pull each treestand, inspect it and make repairs or replacements as necessary. This is very important for maintaining safety measures.

I also like to get treestands hung in high-risk, high-odds hunting spots, such as in or near bedding areas, during the off-season. This way, deer have plenty of time to forget about the human intrusion within these sensitive areas where they tolerate little of it. Then, I don't return until it's time to climb up and ambush my target buck.

This time is also great for planning and clearing entry and exit routes. The ability to access your stands without being seen or heard is just as important as not being smelled. You can't kill deer that you spook.

4. PLANT A PLOT

You've spent time scouting ground. Now, think about the best spots for small kill plots. But don't just plant for the sake of planting. Do so with purpose. Food plot design is as important as the food plot itself. This includes the shape, orientation and more.

The first step is location selection. Position these plots between bedding areas and destination food sources, but closer to the beds. This helps ensure that mature bucks use it more often in daylight.

Next, choose a food plot shape that optimizes deer movement. Round or four-sided plots allow deer to see the entire thing from one location. This means deer can move to the edge and see the whole plot without stepping foot inside it. You don't want that.

Instead, choose a shape that encourages deer to flow through the plot from end to end, or at least from one end to the middle. Shapes that accomplish this include L, K, T, U, V, figure 8, turkey foot, etc. If the field isn't already tall with vegetation, allowing you to carve out such shapes with a brush mower, you can still create your desired food plot shape within a circular, ovular, square or rectangular field. Simply plant seed inside the desired food plot shape boundary, and add a tall-growing vegetation—



Scrapes draw deer interest. Maximize your opportunities in an area where you've already documented deer on camera by creating a mock scrape near your stand.

such as Egyptian wheat—outside of the desired shape, effectively filling in the gaps between the food plot edges and the surrounding timber.

To fully take advantage of the food plot shape, deer should not be able to see beyond the plot boundary, and the taller natural vegetation helps with this. The tall visual barriers also make deer feel more comfortable about using the food plot during daylight hours. And, because deer are naturally inquisitive and like to see what else is in the plot, the strategic shapes force them to a point where they can see the rest of the plot. This point, or vertex, where everything meets in these shapes is where you should position your treestands and blinds.

The rest of the plan is business as usual. Hopefully you've already completed your soil tests. Now it's time to make things happen. Begin by safely, properly spraying plot interiors to kill competing plant species. Select the right herbicide for the weeds you're trying to kill and the type of plant species you'll put in the plot. You don't want to unknowingly kill the very plants you hope to grow.

Once the vegetation within the food plot is dead, mow the brushy, weedy plots to help reduce the discing workload later, especially if heavy brush clearing is involved. Reduce vegetation to as short as safely possible with the brush hog.

Next, spread fertilizer and lime as directed by the soil sample results. Once that is finished, disc the ground. It's important

to work the fertilizer and lime into the soil, as well as to create a good seed bed.

After that, it's time to get seed in the soil. Plant as directed on the bag. Then, once the seed is down, cover it as directed. Some seeds might do best barely pressed into the soil. Others might need to be planted 1/4 inch deep or more.

5. HANG CAMERAS

After deer season, you probably pulled all your trail cameras from the field, cleaned them up, checked for damage, ensured each one still worked properly and replaced irreparable ones. Afterward, you hopefully stored the cams in a dry, temperature-controlled environment.

Now it's time to get those workhorses back out and deployed. They need to produce actionable information, so place them in areas of interest. I focus on two key spots.

The first consists of locations where I'll leave cameras posted up all season long; I won't physically touch these again until after the season ends. Some might be cellular cameras with external batteries that last the length of deer season. Others are non-cellular cameras that I merely let soak and won't check until after deer season. The former provide in-season intel, whereas the latter will only produce historical information used to show how deer maneuver the most sensitive areas of the property. Either way, these will be in high-daytime-use locations such as bedding areas and sanctuaries.

The second group of cameras will be placed in spots I can physically check or where I can move them without doing too much damage. These places include field edges, food plots, travel routes, scrapes, rubs, watering holes, stand locations, etc.

6. STUDY CAMERA DATA

As mentioned, some trail cameras aren't checked during deer season. The photo data they collected last season can now illustrate how the deer herd used these areas during daylight hours. The data also reveals how specific target bucks use a given property. Both are helpful for the coming season, which leads us to the next task.

7. CREATE SMALL KILL SITES

After scouting properties and studying cameras that soaked, identify high-odds locations to intercept target bucks during daylight hours. These will be on the fringes of bedding and staging areas. Once you've selected general points of interest, it's important to find the X, which is where you should make your stand.

If these spots are already primed and ready to go, merely hang stands and leave them alone until it's time to hunt. However, if necessary, you can sweeten the deal. For example, consider planting micro plots close to bedding areas. Within these, add in small watering holes; excavate by hand or with larger equipment—depending on how big you want them to be—then bury a small plastic swimming pool or watering trough before backfilling around the edges. Also, perhaps jumpstart a mock scrape, scrape post or rubbing post to draw deer in for a shot opportunity. Then, hang a treestand or two and leave the area alone until it's time to hunt.

8. MAKE GAME PLANS

Think back to the last days of last deer season. Did you see certain target bucks? Maybe you had trail camera pictures late in the season or even after it ended. Knowing which bucks made it through the season can be beneficial. Not every deer will return, but some will.

Now, pull together target-buck gameplans for each of the bucks you believe

survived the season. If the deer is a season-long homebody, have a plan for each phase of the season, including early season, pre-rut, rut, post-rut and late season. If the deer tends to spend time on the property during only a portion of the season, create plans for those timeframes.

Regardless, examine prior knowledge of specific deer and have a plan in place for these, including when, where and how you'll target each buck. Of course, not all these plans will work. You just need one of them to for each tag you have. Chances are, if you have a lot of plans in place, one strategy will work.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to treestand and trail camera work, there are other gear-related off-season duties to accomplish. These include cleaning and maintaining guns and archery equipment, improving shooting skills, upgrading accessories and more. Have your gear in tip-top shape and ensure your abilities are rock solid for opening day. Do this, along with the other projects, and you should dramatically improve your odds this season. 

WE SELL LAND |



GREG MEADE
Agent, Land Specialist
East Central Kentucky
(859) 771-7640

DAVE SKINNER
Agent, Land Specialist
West Central Kentucky
(270) 791-3705

JOE MARTIN
Agent, Land Specialist
Southern Kentucky
(606) 669-2702

MARK WILLIAMS
Broker, Land Specialist
Western Kentucky
(270) 836-0819

CORY MEADE
Agent, Land Specialist
East Central Kentucky
(606) 481-4696

ISAAC SINGER
Agent, Land Specialist
Northeast Kentucky
(606) 748-6458

JASON WALLIN
Agent, Land Specialist
North Central Kentucky
(859) 492-9041

MATT YOUNG
Agent, Land Specialist
Western Kentucky
(270) 952-8624

QUINCY ADAMS
Agent, Land Specialist
Central Kentucky
(270) 823-4301



WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE
HUNTING | RANCH | FARM | TIMBER



WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM

Whitetail Properties Real Estate, LLC DBA Whitetail Properties, DBA Whitetail Properties Real Estate. In the States of Nebraska and North Dakota DBA Whitetail Trophy Properties Real Estate LLC. Licensed in CO, MN, ND, SD, TN & WI - Jeff Evans, Broker. Licensed in FL, KS, MO, OH & PA - Jefferson Kirk Gilbert, Broker. Licensed in TX & NM - Joey Bellington, Broker. Licensed in IN - Bill Minor, Broker. Licensed in AL, GA, LA, & MS - Sybil Stewart, Broker. Licensed in TN - Tim Burnette, Broker. Licensed in TN - David Pritchard, Broker. Licensed in AR - Anthony Chrisco, Broker. Licensed in NC, SC, VA - Chip Camp, Broker. Licensed in IA, NC - Richard F. Baugh, Broker. Licensed in MI - Edmund Joel Nogaski, Broker. Licensed in IL, MD, WV - Debbie S. Laux, Broker. Licensed in ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, & WY - Aaron Milliken, Broker. Licensed in NY - John Myers, Real Estate Broker. Licensed in OK - Dean Anderson, Broker. Licensed in KY - Derek Fisher, Broker. Licensed in OH - Jeremy Schaefer, Principal Broker. Licensed in NE - Jason Schendt, Broker.



CHASING VELVET

SEVERAL MIDWESTERN STATES OFFER
A SOLID SHOT AT BAGGING A VELVET BUCK.
START PLANNING NOW TO GET IT DONE THIS SEASON.

By Josh Honeycutt



A velvet-racked whitetail is one of hunting's rarest trophies. Your chance at one may be closer to home than you realize.

He's one of the largest true velvet 8-pointers ever to live. His heavy mass, long beams, towering tines and monstrous spread were enough to drop the jaws of even the most veteran bowhunter among us. This Kentucky buck was the stuff of legend, and that's no stretch.

I'd known about him since the 2017 season; he showed up a couple weeks after I filled my tag. But in 2018, I was fully dedicated to either arrowing this deer or eating tag soup.

Deer season arrived, and after waiting for the right conditions I finally got my chance. Still unsure exactly what the buck was doing, I hunted from an observation stand. I saw him that afternoon but didn't get close enough for a shot.

The next afternoon, with newfound scouting knowledge in hand, I moved in closer and made my final stand. The deer repeated its pattern, and I arrowed the buck at 25 yards. Today, he's a top-five true velvet 8-pointer and is what velvet dreams are made of.

That can be you, too. While there's no guarantee you'll tag a record-class deer, you just might have the velvet hunt of a lifetime in one of three Midwestern states.

KENTUCKY

Famous for its velvet whitetails, the Bluegrass State is one of the best in the country for those pursuing a fuzzy rack. The only downside is a somewhat low availability of public land.

The Basics: Kentucky's compound bow season begins the first full weekend in September (the crossbow season doesn't start until the 17th). Most years, this makes it a great place to capitalize on velvet bucks. Out-of-state deer hunters will need an over-the-counter non-resident hunting license (\$150) and deer permit (\$185), which is good for four deer, one of which may be antlered.

Target Areas: The best counties for top-end bucks lie in the western third of Kentucky, including those that border the Ohio River. Breckinridge, Butler, Christian, Daviess, Edmonson, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Hopkins, Logan, Muhlenberg, Ohio, and Todd are great counties to focus on. Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham and Shelby are good, too. Hunting outfitters are in great supply, and there are some decent public land options, too.

Those hunting public land should generally cast a broader net and consider various places all throughout the state. Thinking of hunting something a little smaller? In western Kentucky, Ballard and Peabody WMAs are some excellent spots to consider. The Pennyrile State Forest is good as well. In central Kentucky, Rough River Lake WMA and Fort Knox are solid contenders. In eastern Kentucky, Daniel Boone National Forest offers an abundance of opportunities.

NEBRASKA

Nebraska is another excellent option for velvet deer, and the hunting pressure is typically lower than in Kentucky. This is especially true for certain areas where there is some good public ground to be found.

The Basics: Bow season opens September 1. Archery permits (\$37 for residents/\$285 for nonresidents) can be purchased over the counter starting July 25 at 1 p.m. Hunters will also need a Habitat Stamp (\$25).



The window for bucks in velvet is a short one, usually only lasting the first couple weeks of September.

Target Areas: In terms of potential hotspots, eastern Nebraska is the go-to region of the state. Cass, Cedar, Dodge, Douglas, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington counties are among the best. Farther west, Holt, Furnas, Keya Paha and Lincoln are good, too.

Unfortunately, the state is more than 97 percent privately owned, according to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). Depending on where you want to hunt, and your expectations, that alone might push you toward an outfitter. That said, don't overlook the Open Fields and Waters (OFW) program, which offers public access to private lands totaling more than 370,000 acres. The Passing Along the Heritage Program (PATH) is good, too. Wildlife management areas,

Platte River Recreation Access and other programs offer entry as well. Furthermore, the NGPC works with Pheasants Forever, Nebraska Environmental Trust, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nebraska's Natural Resource Districts and other organizations to increase public opportunity.

NORTH DAKOTA

Perhaps the most overlooked and underrated velvet buck destination in the region is North Dakota, which has an abundance of public land. You'll probably have a better chance of gaining permission to hunt private land here, too.

The Basics: The tentative start date for North Dakota's archery season is September 2nd. Here, any-deer bow licenses, which are good for whitetails or mule deer, are issued in a lottery system. Any-whitetail-deer bow licenses,

on the other hand, are good for antlered or antlerless whitetails and can be purchased online, at the Game and Fish Department's Bismarck office or at participating license vendors. You can buy only one regular deer archery license per year. While the total deer population is largely unknown, most hunters feel that the deer-to-hunter ratio is good.

Target Areas: Not a lot of top-end whitetails come from North Dakota, but it cranks out many Pope and Young bucks. That said, those looking for high-scoring deer might consider west-central counties and the eastern quarter of the state. These regions are where the bulk of trophy bucks are taken. Select western counties produce solid numbers, too. Drilling down on specific areas, Burleigh, McHenry, McKenzie, McLean, Mountrail, Ward and Williams counties are historically among the best.

Furthermore, public-land deer hunters should consider the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's PLOTS (Private Land Open to Sportsmen) Program, which offers land access to hunters. The Sheyenne National Grassland can be good, too, and don't forget about Army Corps of Engineers ground that's open to deer hunting. Altogether, there are more than 2 million acres of open-access ground throughout the state. And while there aren't many whitetail outfitters, it's possible to find a few fair-chase operations. Do your homework to choose an outfitter that's right for you.

ADD-ON ADVENTURES

Things to do if you tag out early

If you're hunting with an outfitter, chances are you don't need lodging. But if you plan to hunt public land on your own, you'll likely choose to bring a camper or tent or maybe even rough it in your truck. I've done all three. And if you save money on accommodations, it frees up some budget to do other things. Fortunately, whether before or after the hunt, there are many attractions in Kentucky, Nebraska and North Dakota.

KENTUCKY

Located in central Kentucky, Mammoth Cave National Park offers a rare look at the longest cave system in the world. Thirty minutes west of there is the famous Corvette Museum. In northern Kentucky, consider seeing Churchill Downs, the Kentucky Horse Park and Abraham Lincoln's birthplace.

NEBRASKA

Chimney Rock Museum and Scotts Bluff National Monument are excellent natural places to visit. The Fort Robinson State Park (which allows some hunting) and the Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park and Wildlife Safari are interesting places to see, too.

NORTH DAKOTA

If hunting Roughrider Country, a visit to Theodore Roosevelt National Park should be considered compulsory. The North Dakota Heritage Center and Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site are popular tourist attractions, too.

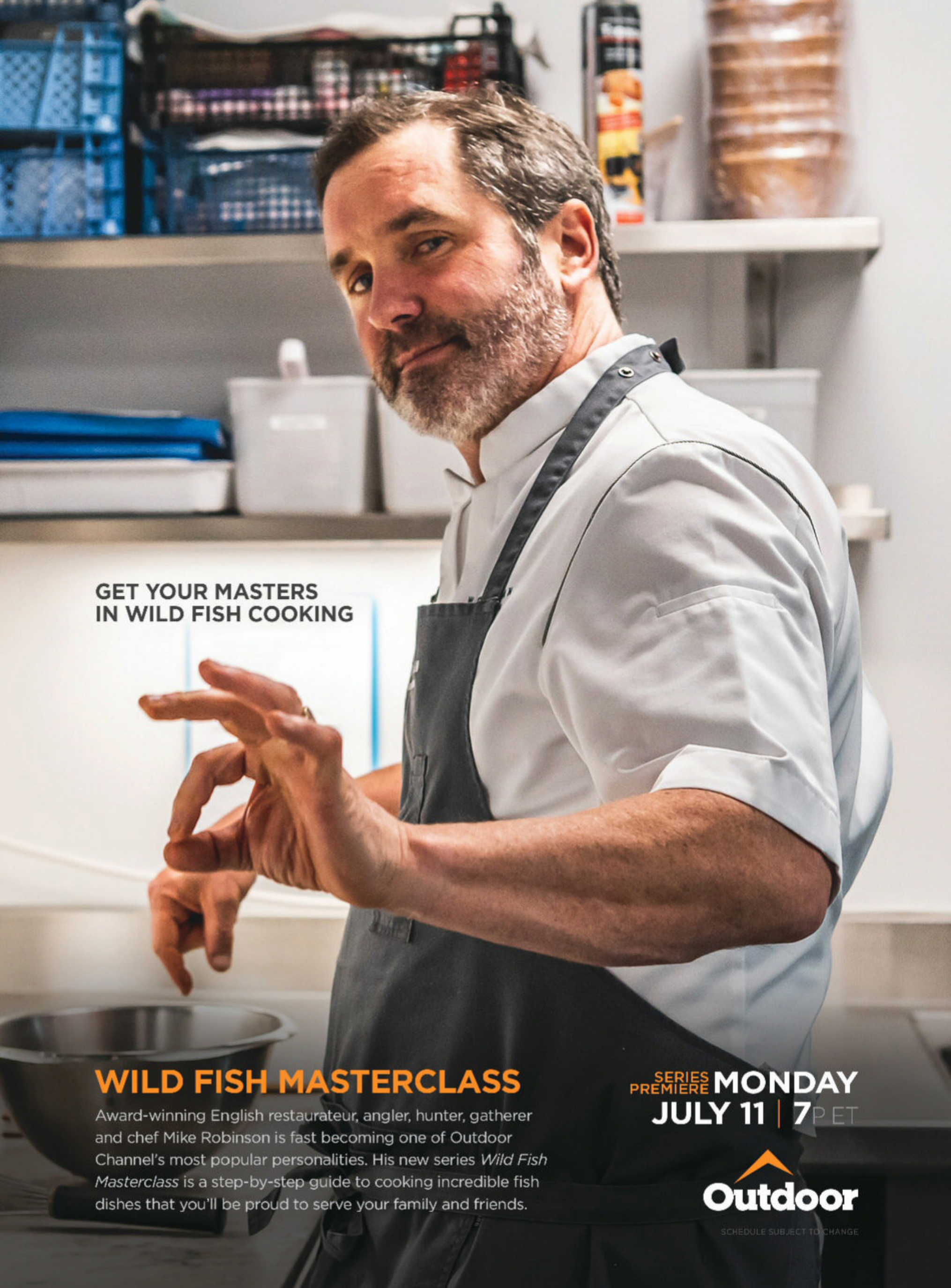


VELVET TACTICS

Once you've chosen your destination, it's time to drill down on a game plan. Whether it's a private- or public-land hunt, it's important to pull together a good scouting plan. This is a multi-phase process for DIY deer hunts.

The first phase happens at home by e-scouting the property (or properties) of interest. Pinpoint likely hotspots and cross off obvious areas to avoid.

The second phase involves an initial scouting trip well before the hunt. I prefer to do this about two months beforehand, but three or four weeks works, too. Regardless, go to the hunt area and walk the spots that pique the most interest. These should include early-season bedding areas, which are often located in cooler locations. Many times, these are places that receive less direct sunlight,



GET YOUR MASTERS
IN WILD FISH COOKING

WILD FISH MASTERCLASS

Award-winning English restaurateur, angler, hunter, gatherer and chef Mike Robinson is fast becoming one of Outdoor Channel's most popular personalities. His new series *Wild Fish Masterclass* is a step-by-step guide to cooking incredible fish dishes that you'll be proud to serve your family and friends.

SERIES
PREMIERE **MONDAY**
JULY 11 | 7P ET

**Outdoor**

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

such as north-facing slopes. Check out low-lying areas near creeks, streams, rivers, lakes and other waterways, too. Early-season beds tend to be well-shaded areas that produce moderate wind flow.

You should also know where to find good food sources. Crops, such as alfalfa, milo (sorghum) and soybeans are great destination food sources. Keep an eye out for natural food sources, too, including honeysuckle, apples, pears, persimmons, plums, chestnuts, oaks and warm-season browse.

Also, don't forget about water, especially if it isn't in great supply. Deer will focus on it. If water is isolated, consider those areas for hanging trail cameras and treestands.

If regulations allow it, post trail cameras in areas of interest as you find them. If necessary, make a mock scrape (depending on deer scent laws) to lure deer in front of cameras. Let these cams soak until you return to hunt.

The third phase comes later in the summer, just prior to the hunt. If your vacation time allows, get there about three days before the hunt begins, do

BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS

Early velvet options for those looking to travel outside the region

Already hunted the states highlighted in this story? Try another region. There are eight other states that offer quality velvet hunts. In the Southeast, both South Carolina and Tennessee have seasons that begin in late August. In the Northeast, Delaware offers an excellent early-September velvet window, and Maryland, which opens several days later, provides options, too. In the West, Idaho, Montana, Washington and Wyoming have opening dates in early September that provide at least a week of solid velvet hunting, and perhaps longer. Finally, don't forget about Canadian provinces, including Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

one last camera check and drill down on specific target bucks.

Then, if possible, spend time glassing from afar in the locations you're most excited to explore. Observe where deer emerge. Consider where they come from and where they go. Then, think about where you'll make your stand. Think about the best entry and exit routes to reduce odds of bumping deer along the walks in and out.

Complete your scouting efforts by finalizing the plan, then prep your gear. Get ready for a hang-and-hunt mission. Pack everything up nice and tight so you can walk in quietly without gear clanging around or catching on foliage. Everything will be in place for your dream velvet hunt. Finally, visualize success as you slowly and carefully ease into position for that first sit of the trip. 

When scouting before the opener, focus on shaded early-season bedding areas, natural food sources and desirable crops.



JOHN PENNOVER

One Look and You'll Be *Hooked*



◆
**Dramatic
Fishing Art
by Artist Al Agnew
on the Back
and Front**

◆
**An Easy-care,
Cotton Blend
with Warm
Thermal-lined
Hood**

*Available in
5 Men's Sizes
M-XXXL*

Fish On! Men's Hoodie

You can have the rare privilege of wearing a realistic and artistic depiction of the fish every angler is dying to land with our **"Fish On!" Men's Hoodie**, brought to you exclusively from The Bradford Exchange. Crafted in a machine-washable cotton-blend knit in tan, the back features artwork by artist Al Agnew capturing the exciting moment when you hook that trophy fish! Also on the back is an avid angler's favorite sentiment, *"I'd rather be fishing."* The front features a smaller fishing image as a reminder of the adrenaline rush you get when your dream catch is on the line! The hoodie also has a warm, thermal-knit lined hood, a full front zipper,

two front pockets, rib knit cuffs and hem, and silver-toned metal tippets on the cords. Imported.

AN OUTSTANDING VALUE; SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

This angler's choice hoodie is a remarkable value at \$99.95*, payable in 3 easy installments of \$33.32 each. To order yours in sizes M-XXXL (for size XXL & XXXL, add \$10), backed by our money-back, 30-day guarantee, send no money now; just fill out and send in your Priority Reservation. You won't find this striking design anywhere else—so don't be disappointed, order today!

Order online at bradfordexchange.com/33579



©Agnew 2022. Al Agnew® is a registered trademark of The Al Agnew collection Trust.

Connect with Us!     

©2022 The Bradford Exchange
01 33579 001 BIBR2

Where Passion Becomes Art

PRIORITY RESERVATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

The Bradford Exchange

9345 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60714-1393 U.S.A.

YES. Please reserve the **"Fish On!" Men's Hoodie** for me as described in this announcement. I've checked my size preference below.

☐ **Medium** (38-40) 01-33579-011

☐ **Large** (42-44) 01-33579-012

☐ **XL** (46-48) 01-33579-013

☐ **XXL** (50-52) 01-33579-014

☐ **XXXL** (54-56) 01-33579-015

Signature _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

*Plus \$14.99 shipping and service; see bradfordexchange.com. Please allow 2-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

E44202

MULE DEER, MISUNDERSTOOD

HUNTERS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY PURSUE THEM EVERY FALL,
BUT SOME OF THE STUFF WE BELIEVE ABOUT
MULE DEER SIMPLY ISN'T TRUE.

By Craig Boddington



SHUTTERSTOCK



Often displaced by expanding elk and whitetail herds, mule deer have learned to adapt to a wide range of habitat types.

Mule deer country starts in the Great Plains, continues over the Rockies and Sierra Nevada, and eventually bumps into the territory of the smaller blacktail along the Pacific Coast. There are also whitetails in much of the mule deer's range today, plus Coues deer in desert mule deer country. However, the muley is the primary quarry for most Western hunters, pursued annually and avidly. It stands to reason, then, that Westerners know their deer, just as Eastern deer hunters are the real experts on whitetails.

Many whitetail hunters journey to mule deer country every fall, and others dream of a trip out West. With millions of acres of public land, hunting mule deer is a doable deal, but hunters from elsewhere are going into new country after unfamiliar deer. Research is essential. There's good stuff out there, but much of what is commonly believed about mule deer and mule deer hunting is outdated ... or just plain wrong!

Whether mule deer live in your backyard or occupy a spot on your bucket list, having solid info on the species pays off when it comes time to hunt them. Let's set the record straight on some of the muley's habits and characteristics so there are no surprises, and so that you're prepared to make the most of every opportunity.

MYTH NO. 1

A mule deer buck always stops to look back.

This has been bandied about since I was a kid. Maybe they once did, but if so, it must have been before my time. The inference is that mule deer are more trusting, or dumber, than whitetails. Youngsters, maybe, but when they've seen the orange-clad army advancing up their hillsides, survivors learn their lessons.

I've shot a lot of mule deer bucks but never because I waited for that last backward glance. I've also seen a lot of them bound over ridges, wanting nothing to do with striking a head-turned pose. Long ago in some places, that pause may have been common, but don't count on it today. If you have a shot at a nice buck, take it. Don't expect a second chance.

Some mule deer are found in heavy timber or thick brush, but many good areas are shockingly open, without a tree in sight. Because water and food

It's true that mule deer live in the high country, but they're just as likely to be found in lower-elevation terrain like badlands and plains.



sources are more scattered, mule deer commute farther than whitetails and occupy larger ranges. They know their country and quickly recognize when something is out of place. They know how to pull a vanishing act, often without any obvious cover for escape.

One of the biggest mule deer I've ever seen was on the far side of a big eastern Montana hayfield at daybreak. There were several bucks, a couple dozen does and this one giant. With the wind good, we commenced a long stalk, circling to the back side of the field, hidden in coulees the whole way. It seemed like a slam dunk, and I was imagining my hands on those antlers. When we got around, we were in easy range, and the deer were still there and feeding happily. All except one, no doubt laughing at us from the safety of a sagebrush draw. We combed those draws all day and jumped a few deer, but we never got another glimpse of that monster. Maybe he stopped to look back as he exited the field, but I doubt it.

Those big ears serve a purpose, but mule deer also have sharp eyes and the keen noses of all deer. Since mule deer often live in open country, they place greater reliance on their eyes. The wind has to be right, but the most important key to a successful approach is keeping out of sight. If a mature buck sees you coming, don't expect him to look twice.

MYTH NO. 2 America's mule deer are in a downhill slide.

This is also old news, pounded into us for so long we still believe it. Truth is, most Western states are close to their management goals. The top five mule deer states by herd size (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Wyoming) collectively host 1.5 million mule deer; another half-dozen states have herds into the six figures. Sure, I could rattle off a dozen states that host more than a million whitetails, but the mule deer is not the same animal, and its Western habitat is much different. The mule deer is not a scarce resource, but it is fragile. Mule deer populations have significant fluctuations, based primarily on bad winters and drought.

For sure, there was a long downhill trend. In the two decades following World War II, many herds were at all-time highs. Old-timers call this the Golden Age of Mule Deer Hunting. (I wasn't hunting yet, so I missed it, but maybe this was when bucks stopped to look back!) It wasn't just that overall muley numbers were high. Hunting pressure was light, and mature bucks formed a higher percentage of the population than today. And then they went downhill.

The West is huge; both the peak and the decline happened at different times in different places. When a major population

enters a protracted downward trend, multiple factors are usually at play. Tags were over-the-counter, and taking multiple bucks was common. The West's human population grew rapidly with much development. Mining, settlement, tourism, roads—a lot of this impacted critical winter range. Sagebrush eradication was practiced in many areas, further impacting winter habitat. Predator control dropped. Trapping became less popular, and the use of poisons was curtailed. You can pick your favorite problem.

Meanwhile, again at different times in different places, elk herds exploded. When I was a kid, Colorado held a half-million mule deer but far fewer elk. Today, Colorado estimates 290,000 elk. While elk flourished, the state's mule deer population dropped way down and stayed down for years. Colorado's current mule deer herd is about 350,000, but it still goes up and down depending on winter and precipitation.

Some problems can't be fixed, but now we are far more conscious of impact on winter range. With more people, and more hunters, harvests are managed with greater care. Seasons are shorter and permits tighter. Arizona and Nevada, arid states with perhaps the most fragile populations, were among the first to draw all mule deer permits for firearm seasons. Other Western states followed, although several offer a combination

A True American Classic!

Get Morgan Silver Dollars by the Pound!

It's been more than 100 years since the last Morgan Silver Dollar was struck for circulation. The most revered, most-collected vintage U.S. Silver Dollars ever, the Morgan had a well-earned reputation as the coin that helped build the Wild West. Cowboys, ranchers, outlaws... they all preferred "hard currency" Morgan Silver Dollars in their saddle bags, to flimsy paper money favored by Easterners at the time.

These 90% Silver Dollars were minted from 1878 to 1904, then again in 1921. They came to be known by the name of their designer, George T. Morgan, and they were also nicknamed "cartwheels" because of their large weight and size.

Fewer Than 15% of Morgans Still Exist

Sadly, coin experts estimate that fewer than 15% of all Morgan Silver Dollars ever minted still exist today, due to the ravages of time and to U.S. government legislation that authorized the melting of hundreds of millions of Morgan Silver Dollars for their fine silver.

Our buyers are constantly on the lookout for Morgans and we've assembled a limited supply of these desirable Silver Dollars. Which is how we're able to give you the opportunity to add them to your collection...by the pound!

Get Morgan Silver Dollars by the Pound!

That's right! You can get a full pound of 1878 to 1921 classic American Morgan Silver Dollars—all in very good collector condition, with fully-visible dates and mint marks—GUARANTEED! Simply call 1-877-564-6468 to learn more and secure collector-grade U.S. Morgan Silver Dollars, the coins that built the Wild West, by the pound. PLUS, receive a BONUS American Collectors Pack, valued at \$25, FREE with every order. Call now, before our limited supply is gone, gone, gone!

FREE SHIPPING! Limited time only. Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.



Call 877-564-6468 **Offer Code PKA144-01**

GovMint.com • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept PKA144-01, Eagan, MN 55121

Dates will vary. GovMint.com® is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2022 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



Actual size
is 38.1 mm

**90% Silver Dollars
by the Pound!**

BONUS
American Collectors Pack
\$25 Value - FREE with every order



of limited-opportunity drawings and over-the-counter permits in other areas. Antler-point restrictions are common. Some states have landowner permits, others do not.

Wildlife management has gotten ever more complicated. Some Western states have systems of “bonus” or “preference” points accrued with unsuccessful drawings, increasing odds in subsequent years. I believe in permit draws. One of the tenets of our North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is “democracy of hunting.” Public drawings for limited hunting opportunities are a shining example of that democracy, but taking advantage requires planning.

A big mule deer is one of North America’s toughest prizes. Mule deer are slower to mature than whitetails. It takes time, and older bucks comprise a small percentage of any herd. Nowhere are they common, even in the best areas. It’s unlikely they will ever be plentiful again, but the big boys exist, and nice bucks are coming up behind them. Make your plans and establish goals. Want a giant mule deer? He’s out there, but finding him isn’t easy. Happy with a good, representative buck? He’s not uncommon in many places. Plan well and hunt hard.

MYTH NO. 3

The mule deer is a creature of the high country.

Yep, he sure is, but he’s also a creature of the plains, badlands, prairies and deserts around the big mountains. Raised in Kansas, I didn’t have a whitetail season when I started hunting. My first deer was a Wyoming muley, taken 55 years ago in badlands north of Gillette. Since then, I’ve hunted various races of mule deer in a lot of places.

Because foothills and plains can be very high, I’ve shot mule deer at significant elevation. They exist and persist up high, at least until winter approaches, but I’ve never shot a mule deer anywhere near the tops. Oh, I did shoot *at* one once. When I was in college, Dad and I put in for an August “timberline” buck hunt in Colorado’s Maroon Bell Wilderness. In still-summer August, the animals were near timberline in big basins, and I got a shot at a wonderful buck.

We were on top, looking down a long, grassy slope. Not yet understanding the uphill-downhill business, I shot right over him. Maybe he wasn’t a giant, but to a kid he sure looked big. Some years would pass before I took a mule deer in that class.

That hunt was above 12,000 feet, the highest I’ve ever pursued mule deer. They were there in late summer, but by October they’d be much farther down. Most mule deer hunting I’ve done has been at lower elevations—like, a mile lower. Some very good muley country doesn’t have tops at all. There are two problems with hunting in the big mountains. First, high ground is elk country, certainly summer range. More elk mean more competition for resources. Second, the higher the country, the more likely the deer population is to experience periodic winter losses. Put it together, and there aren’t as many mule deer in the high country as there were in the Golden Age.

Mule deer have adapted, expanded and increased in the badlands and prairies. The entire Rocky Mountain Front just east of the mountains is wonderful mule deer country today. The high plains of westernmost Kansas produce awesome mule deer, though hunting them is pretty much a residents-only deal. Eastern Colorado, Wyoming and Montana are excellent, and tags are not as scarce. The western third of Nebraska and the Dakotas are also good.

The other side of the Rockies has great mule deer hunting as well. Eastern Washington and Oregon have good herds. Arizona and Nevada produce big mule deer, but you’ll have to beat the odds to draw a good tag in one of those states. Here’s a sleeper: West and Far West Texas. Periodic drought changes the numbers, but in good years Texas may have a quarter-million mule deer. By herd size, that makes it one of our top mule deer states.

Let’s not forget our neighbors to the north and south. In my own quest for one monster mule deer, I hunted three times in the near-treeless prairies of southern Alberta. Third time was the charm: On the first morning I took the buck of a lifetime. First morning or last, when you see a truly fine mule deer, take the shot.

Northern Mexico also has excellent mule deer, the same desert subspecies found in Texas, southern Arizona and New Mexico. They are smaller in body, but a big mule deer is, well, a big mule deer. Western Coahuila and Chihuahua have good mule deer hunting, but the giants come from the Sonoran Desert. Part of the reason is the high protein content in the desert browse.

It’s widely believed that a bumped mule deer will eventually stop to look back at whatever spooked it. The author has found the opposite to be true.



MYTH NO. 4

Mule deer are bigger and tougher than whitetails.

I don't buy into this. The biggest mule deer and biggest whitetails are much the same; I've seen very rare bucks of both species that exceed 400 pounds. On average, mule deer are heavier, maybe 225 pounds for a mature buck. That's unusual for an Alabama whitetail, but below average for a Maine buck. Size, at least in weight, depends somewhat on age and where the buck came from. Mature Canadian bucks of both species are freakin' huge.

Tougher is a different subject. In my experience, few animals worldwide are as tenacious as a whitetail deer. Mule deer are simply not as tough. Hit a muley buck well, and my experience is the tracking job is shorter than with whitetails shot similarly. A whitetail buck will go the distance if he can. Doesn't mean the hit wasn't as good or that the buck is less dead when recovered. But absent a brain or spine shot, I expect to

While mule deer may not be as "tough" as whitetails, they are big animals that require a stout cartridge to keep the tracking job short.



ON  HUNT

KNOW
WHERE
YOU
STAND

TRUSTED BY MILLIONS OF DEER HUNTERS

For more information on the most comprehensive hunting maps available visit:



track a well-shot whitetail; I expect an equally well-hit mule deer to give it up more quickly.

Now, let's be careful with this. It doesn't mean you can be sloppy, or that it's a good idea to hunt mule deer with a less-powerful cartridge than a 200-plus-pound animal deserves. Also, keep the shooting in mind. In some areas, such as big agriculture fields, whitetails are often taken at distance, but for many of us, the average shot at a whitetail buck is from a stand at a hundred yards or less. Mule deer are rarely hunted from stands, and the average shot is often twice as far.

We need to factor in not only greater range, but also less-steady field positions. I prefer margin, not minimum. This doesn't mean cannons. I've said it before and I'll say it again: There's little justification for magnum cartridges in American deer hunting. However, you probably don't want to hunt mule deer, especially big mule deer, with a .223 and perhaps not even a 6 mm. Ideal cartridges, to my thinking, run from flat-shooting .25s and 6.5 mms on up to .270s and 7 mms.

Whatever you choose, power is no substitute for shot placement. In 55 years of mule deer hunting, the only buck I ever lost was shot with an accurate 7 mm Rem. Mag. and a good bullet. The buck was quartering-to at some distance, and I wobbled, hitting him inside the off-shoulder. It was a bad shot ... and I knew it. I ran out of blood 2 miles down a creek, and then it rained that night; game and hunt over. I stand firm that mule deer aren't as tough as whitetails, but you must hit them properly.

MYTH NO. 5

Big mule deer have to be wide.

We hunters are weird. In the East, we speak of a whitetail as an "8-point" or "10-point," meaning the full count of typical points, including eyeguards. We usually speak of an elk as a "6-point" or "5-by-6," meaning the fighting tines on one side or both antlers. Oddly, it's common to describe mule deer by outside antler width, the holy grail being a "30-inch" buck—a width even a giant whitetail is unlikely to achieve.

Problem is, antlers are complex, and width is just one feature. Most important, with any deer, is the number of points and point length. Then comes

mass, the hardest quality to see and judge. Whitetails have strong, sometimes huge, brow points; mule deer typically have small eyeguards, and they are often missing, even on big bucks. Typically, the main beams split, and the first upward point splits again to form a bifurcated rack. So, a typical mule deer buck has four points on each side: three fighting tines plus the main beam tip, whether brow tines are present or absent. A typical mule deer by Western count is a "4-point" or "4-by-4," ignoring the brow tines. Anything extra, and there may be much extra, is non-typical.

In the 1990s I did a lot of mule deer hunting in Sonora. Down there, a big buck is described as *muy grande*, and "very big" means wide. Some of those Sonoran bucks grow to extreme spreads but are often missing points, as in 4-by-3. They are giants, but mismatched racks are common ... if you care.

After four hours of amazing tracking, I was looking at my best Sonoran buck bedded and dead-to-rights at 60 yards.



Some hunters measure a trophy mule deer by the width of its rack, others by points and point length or mass. This one, taken by the author, has it all in spades.



CRAIG EDDINGTON (BOTTOM); SHUTTERSTOCK (ABOVE)



Many believe that the mule deer, as a species, is in trouble. In fact, most Western states' populations are at or near management goals.

My Mexican guide said, “*No es muy grande.*” Not big. Well, yes, the buck was not wide. But he was a clean, heavy 4-by-4 with deep forks and decent eye-guards. It’s never a good idea to ignore your guide, but his standards weren’t the same as mine. I shot that buck in the back of the neck. He was 190 inches with a 28-inch spread, easily one of my best mule deer from anywhere. But not *muy grande*.

Wide antlers catch your eye, and first impressions are often pretty good. As Jack O’Connor said, “the big ones look big.” Try to count points and determine if a buck is a 4-by-4. It’s not the end of the world if he isn’t; just make an informed decision. The height of a buck’s rack matters greatly, because this is point length. Mass matters, and though it’s hard to judge, you can see the difference between thick and pencil-horned. I like mass; maybe you prefer points or width. There are no wrong decisions, as long as you like the buck. Decide quickly, and don’t count on him to stop and look back. 

Boost Testosterone

Drive & Peak Performance



EXPIRES 10/31/22
MANUFACTURERS COUPON

SAVE \$3.00
ANY IRWIN NATURALS PRODUCT



Consumer: Redeemable at retail locations only. Not valid for online or mail-order purchases.
Retailer: Irwin Naturals will reimburse you for the face value plus 8 (cents) handling provided it is redeemed by a consumer at the time of purchase on the brand specified. Coupons not properly redeemed will be void and held. Reproduction by any party by any means is expressly prohibited. Any other use constitutes fraud. Irwin Naturals reserves the right to deny reimbursement (due to misrepresentation activity) and/or request proof of purchase for coupons submitted. Mail to: CMS Dept. #16362, Irwin Naturals, 1801 Union Pacific Blvd Ste 3, Laredo, TX 78045-9475. Cash value: .001 (cents). Void where taxed or restricted. ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE. Not valid for small correspondence. Retail only.

0710363-014998


\$3 COUPON redeemable at all Drug, Grocery and Health Food stores Nationwide

These statements have not been evaluated by the Food & Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

REMINGTON CORE-LOKT TIPPED

BIG GREEN UPDATES ITS MOST POPULAR HUNTING BULLET FOR **IMPROVED LONG-RANGE PERFORMANCE.**

By Adam Heggenstaller



Although I don't have an exact number, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to claim that the first dozen or so deer I shot in my lifetime all fell to the Remington Core-Lokt. I started hunting when I was 12, and Core-Lokt loads were the only ammo I used for whitetails until well after I graduated from college. In fact, for all but four of those years, I used a single Core-Lokt load, the 150-grain .308 Win. Took a bear with it, too. (Not long ago I found an old empty box of .308 Core-Lokt that must have been from my high-school years. The price sticker was marked \$8.99, which might buy six rounds today.)

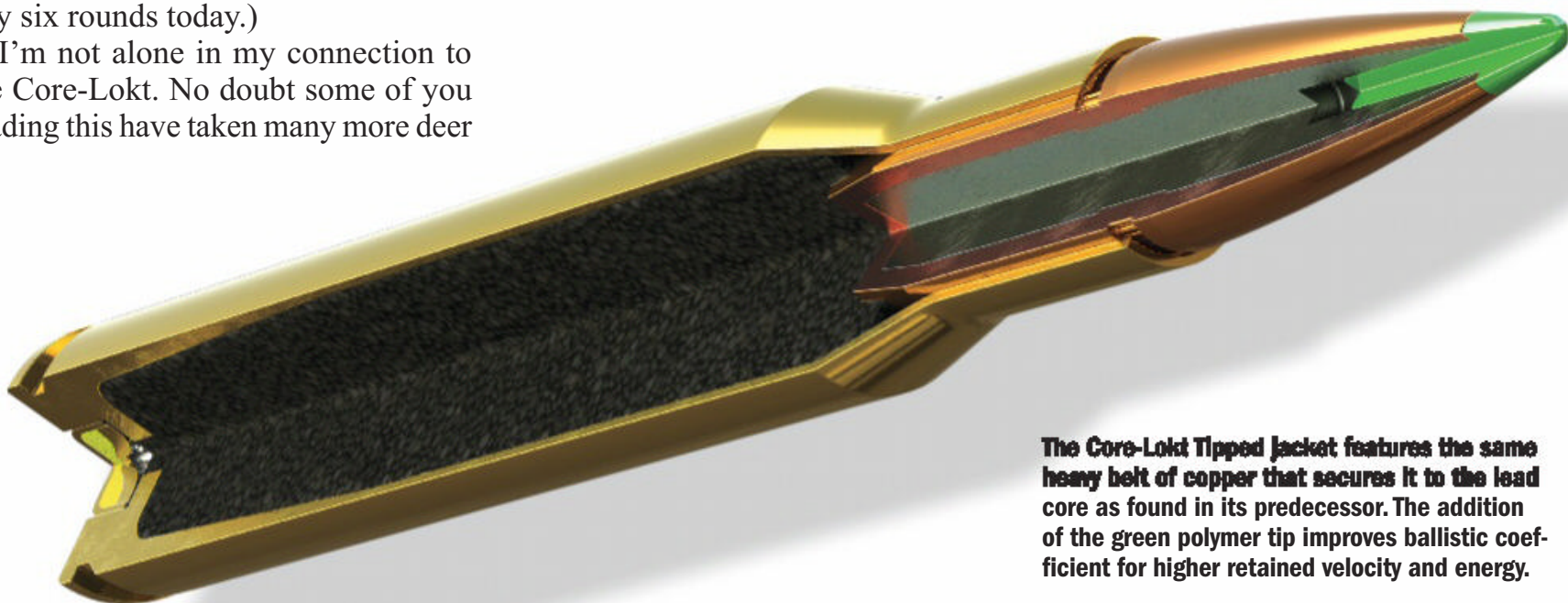
I'm not alone in my connection to the Core-Lokt. No doubt some of you reading this have taken many more deer

over many more years than I have with the bullet. "The Deadliest Mushroom in the Woods," as the ad copy used to proclaim, is likely the most popular deer bullet of all time.

The Core-Lokt has had 83 years to build that following, but it would not have been such a success were it not a great bullet. When Remington introduced the Core-Lokt in 1939, it was one of the first bullets to mechanically lock the lead core to the copper jacket to prevent the two components from separating. Controlled-expansion bullets have become pretty complicated in their construction, but the Core-Lokt, simple

by today's standards, helped start the trend with a tapered jacket.

Fast forward through what is certainly hundreds of thousands—possibly millions—of deer killed with the Core-Lokt to 2020. Remington Outdoor Company had filed for bankruptcy for the second time, its numerous brands were being auctioned, and Vista Outdoor (parent company of Federal Ammunition) bought the Remington ammunition and accessories businesses that October. Over the next six months, Vista, including Remington Ammunition President Jason Vanderbrink, oversaw the retooling



The Core-Lokt Tipped Jacket features the same heavy belt of copper that secures it to the lead core as found in its predecessor. The addition of the green polymer tip improves ballistic coefficient for higher retained velocity and energy.

and reopening of the 750,000-square-foot factory in Lonoke, Ark., that has produced Remington ammo since 1969. Cranking out Core-Lokt loads was a primary focus, of course, but the new Big Green had further plans for its flagship bullet.

Last fall Remington introduced Core-Lokt Tipped ammunition, loaded with a new bullet that adds a green polymer tip to the conventional Core-Lokt design. Until now the Core-Lokt has existed mainly as a pointed-soft-point bullet, the exceptions being a round-nose soft-point in some heavy-for-caliber and lever-action loads, and a hollow-point variation for the .30-30 Win. The polymer tip offers several advantages over these other Core-Lokt designs, particularly at extended distances.

Ballistic coefficient (BC) is a comparative measurement of a bullet's ability to overcome air resistance during flight. A sleeker, pointier bullet has a higher BC than a blunt bullet, meaning it experiences less drag as it travels downrange. Less drag equals less deceleration, which in turn reduces bullet drop and drift in wind over a given range. A Core-Lokt Tipped bullet has a higher BC than a Core-Lokt pointed-soft-point bullet of the same weight and caliber because of the sharp tip. For example, the 165-grain, .30-caliber Core-Lokt Tipped bullet's BC is .447, while the BC of its Core-Lokt pointed-soft-point counterpart is .339.

The advantages of the Core-Lokt Tipped bullet's higher BC are apparent when you compare exterior ballistics. I'll use Remington's factory data for

both loads here to keep things even. The Tipped bullet starts out of the muzzle a bit faster—2,820 fps compared to 2,800 fps—and at 500 yards it's moving more than 260 fps faster than the standard Core-Lokt. At that range it retains nearly 340 ft.-lbs. more energy. With a 200-yard zero, the Tipped drops 8 inches less than its predecessor at 500 yards, and in a 10-mph crosswind, it drifts 9 inches less at that range. These differences are the size of a deer's vital zone, and so it's clear that the Tipped permits more margin for error on the part of the shooter. (See the table below for comparisons between other popular loads.)

Another benefit of the polymer tip is consistency. There is less variation in its shape than what is found with the

SPECIFICATIONS

REMINGTON
CORE-LOKT
TIPPED

remington.com

CALIBER: .30-06 Sprg. (tested)

BULLET WEIGHT: 150 grs.

MUZZLE VELOCITY: 2,930 fps

BALLISTIC COEFFICIENT: .415

MSRP: \$49.99 per 20 rounds



CORE-LOKT VS. CORE-LOKT TIPPED

LOAD	BC	MUZZLE VELOCITY	IMPACT VELOCITY	BULLET DROP	WIND DRIFT
.270 Win. 130-gr. Core-Lokt Tipped	.447	3080	2093	37.2	18.4
.270 Win. 130-gr. Core-Lokt PSP	.336	3060	1799	43.4	26.4
.308 Win. 150-gr. Core-Lokt Tipped	.415	2840	1838	46.1	22.6
.308 Win. 150-gr. Core-Lokt PSP	.314	2820	1560	55.1	32.8
7 mm Rem. Mag. 150-gr. Core-Lokt Tipped	.530	3130	2274	33.6	14.7
7 mm Rem. Mag. 150-gr. Core-Lokt PSP	.346	3110	1866	40.9	24.7

Velocity measured in fps. Bullet drop and wind drift measured in inches. Impact velocity, bullet drop and wind drift values provided for 500 yards. Bullet drop based on a 200-yard zero. Wind drift is for a 10-mph, full-value wind. Data provided by Remington.



Remington produces the new Core-Lokt Tipped loads at its Lonoke, Ark., facility.

pointed-soft-point bullet's lead tip. In addition, polymer doesn't deform as easily as lead, keeping the meplat—or the front of the tip—from becoming marred and mangled during loading, chambering and accidental drops on rocky ground. Consistency from one bullet tip to the next promotes accuracy. The Core-Lokt Tipped also has a center of gravity that's a bit farther back than that of the other Core-Lokt bullets, because the polymer tip isn't as heavy as lead. This, too, aids in accurate bullet flight.

Finally, the polymer tip helps initiate expansion. While in my experience the standard Core-Lokt has never had any trouble expanding, I also don't recall ever shooting a deer with it beyond about 150 yards. As velocity drops at extended ranges, bullets don't deform as easily. The polymer tip, and the air pocket behind it, force open the nose of the bullet on impact to address this.

I tested the 150-grain .30-06 Sprg. Core-Lokt Tipped load through a Benelli Lupo that regularly produces sub-MOA groups. It did the same with the Tipped load, resulting in five, three-shot groups that averaged .94 inch. One of those groups was sub-half-MOA, something I can't say I've experienced with Core-Lokt pointed-soft-point loads.

Last fall I took the combo to Kansas for whitetails, and while I had an opportunity to shoot a heavy-racked buck at 500-plus yards across an open field, there was no reason to send it. The deer was coming straight toward the blind in which I was sitting. When he started to angle across the front, I shot him at less than 50 yards. The bullet hit the deer high in the shoulder—hey, I was excited after watching him approach all that way—and the buck instantly fell to the ground. He never made it back up, as the bullet had smashed through the

tops of both shoulders and caught the bottom edge of the spine. The Core-Lokt Tipped passed through the deer even after that extreme impact and proved every bit as devastating as its forebear.

Remington has no plans to replace the Core-Lokt with the Core-Lokt Tipped; the company is just offering hunters another option built on a strong reputation in the deer woods. Thirteen Core-Lokt Tipped loads range from 95-grain .243 Win. to 180-grain .300 Win. Mag. (Notably, they include a 140-grain .280 Rem. load.) There is no question that today's factory rifles are much more accurate than those from 80 years ago when the Core-Lokt had just come on the scene. Optics are better, too, and hunters have a deeper understanding of ballistics. Considering the bullet's history, it only seems right that the Core-Lokt Tipped should be part of this progression. 



↑
**5 FEET
HIGH!**
↓

Shown much smaller
than actual size of
10" x 10" x 60" high

HAPPINESS IS FISHING

FLOOR LAMP

WITH JAMES MEGER ART

Impressively sized at 5 feet high, it's a dynamic statement piece and a fully functional lamp



Lakeside artwork from James Meger is vividly reproduced on all 4 sides of the shade



Superior quality wrinkle-resistant fabric



Convenient floor switch for easy on/off



Two FREE energy-saving light bulbs
illuminate the art from within

Exceptional Value — Order Today!

Strong demand is expected for this relaxing floor lamp with its unique, contemporary design and artwork of a perfect day of fishing on the lake from acclaimed artist James Meger. Act now to make it yours in four installments of just \$42.50, for a total of \$169.99*, fully backed by our unconditional, 365-day money-back guarantee. You need send no money now. Simply complete and return the Reservation Application today!

© James Meger, Courtesy of MHS Licensing ©2022 BGE 01-37681-001-BI

ORDER AT [BRADFORDEXCHANGE.COM/MEGERLAMP](https://bradfordexchange.com/megerlamp)



Where Passion Becomes Art

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

The Bradford Exchange

9345 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the *Happiness is Fishing Floor Lamp* for me as described in this announcement.

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

01-37681-001-E44201

*Plus a total of \$20.99 shipping and service, see bradfordexchange.com. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 crafting days. Please allow 6-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

MAKING TRACKS

CHOOSE THE RIGHT BOOTS
FOR NOT ONLY THE TERRAIN BUT
ALSO YOUR STYLE OF HUNTING.

By Game & Fish Staff

Whether you hunt bucks with a bow or birds with a shotgun, having the correct type of boot for the pursuit can make all the difference between an enjoyable day in the field and a miserable experience. Blisters and rolled ankles just aren't fun. But beyond that, a good boot suited for both the country you're hunting and the way you're hunting it can help you be more effective. Quality boots give you confidence to travel across tough ground while focusing on the game and not your feet. Following are 10 boots that cover many situations; it's up to you to pick the one that fits your needs. 

DRYSHOD

COURTESY OF DRYSHOD

CRISPI BRIKSDAL PRO GTX

crispius.com

WEIGHT (Single Boot): 32 oz. | **HEIGHT:** 10"

INSULATION: 200-gram Gore-Tex Comfort lining

BEST FOR: Scrambling up rocky slopes and along steep ridges

KEY FEATURES: The height of the Briksdal Pro lends additional support to ankles in rough country while climbing or side-hilling, particularly when carrying a heavy pack. Crispi's board lasting wraps the soft part of the upper to the insole frame for a mechanical construction that balances torsion rigidity with comfortable flexibility. A rubber rand fully surrounds the nubuck leather upper to protect it from abrasion. The Vibram sole has a dual-density polyurethane midsole to absorb shock during descents.

MSRP: \$480



DANNER RECURVE

danner.com

WEIGHT (Single Boot): 23 oz. | **HEIGHT:** 7"

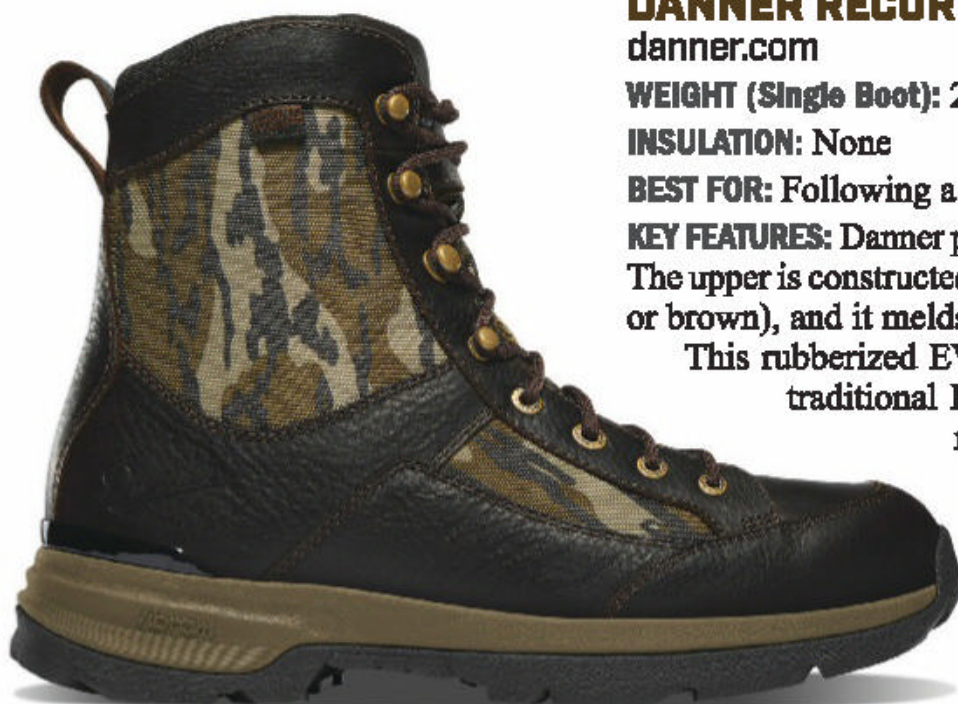
INSULATION: None

BEST FOR: Following a dog through pheasant fields or grouse woods

KEY FEATURES: Danner pairs classic design with modern technology in the Recurve. The upper is constructed of full-grain leather and nylon (in Mossy Oak Bottomland or brown), and it melds with a Vibram SPE midsole and grippy Vibram outsole.

This rubberized EVA midsole maintains the same cushioning properties of traditional EVA but is more durable. Open-cell polyurethane in the removable OrthoLite footbed offers support while improving heat dissipation and air circulation. The Danner Dry lining allows moisture to escape from inside the boot without letting water in from the outside.

MSRP: \$210



LACROSSE LODESTAR

lacrossefootwear.com

WEIGHT (Single Boot): 23 oz. | **HEIGHT:** 7"

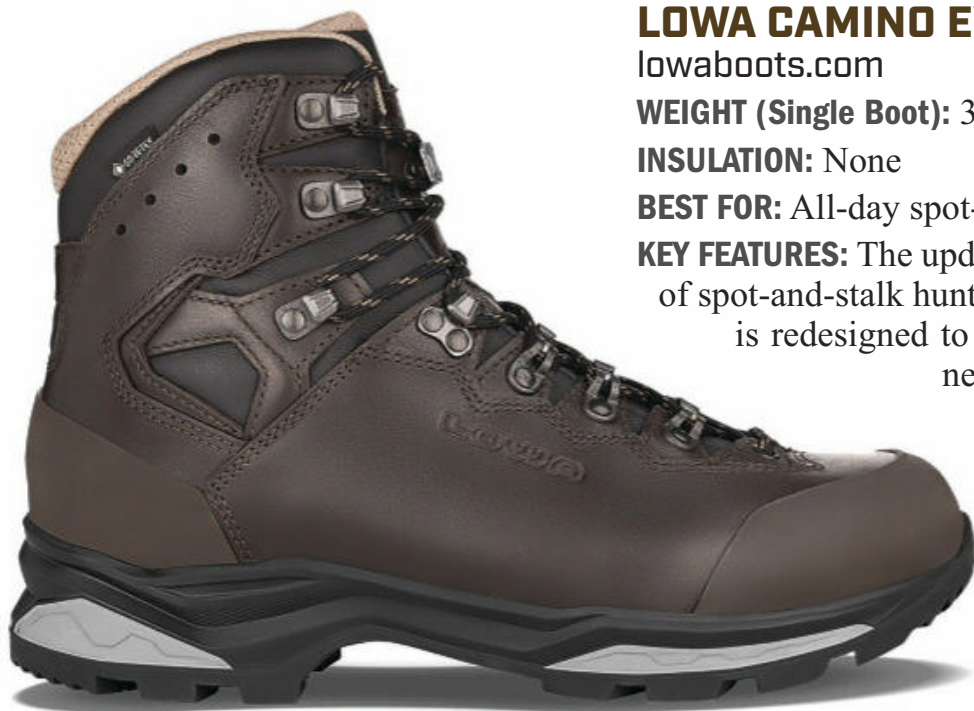
INSULATION: None

BEST FOR: Stalking elk through blowdowns

KEY FEATURES: The Lodestar offers a lot of stability in a lightweight boot that keeps feet nimble when navigating over and around obstacles. LaCrosse's X-shank has much to do with this, dispersing weight evenly underfoot while offering support on uneven surfaces. Further, the DuraFit heel cup locks the heel in place for a secure fit. The Vibram outsole has omni-direction lugs that grip difficult terrain, and the material is flexible enough to remain quiet when sneaking in for a shot. A HexGuard rubber toe protects against abrasion, while a Gore-Tex waterproof, breathable liner ensures feet remain dry.

MSRP: \$240





LOWA CAMINO EVO GTX FG

lowaboos.com

WEIGHT (Single Boot): 31 oz. | **HEIGHT:** 6"

INSULATION: None

BEST FOR: All-day spot-and-stalk sessions for mule deer

KEY FEATURES: The updated Camino Evo GTX handles the up-and-down business of spot-and-stalk hunting with a couple tweaks to a proven boot. The ankle area is redesigned to allow for more flex when hiking uphill to glass. Lowa's new sole package places cushioning under the heel and ball of the foot to improve the boot's rolling properties, or how energy is transferred along the foot during a step. The result is more comfort and stability when closing on a buck, whether that means hiking into or out of a canyon. The boot retains Lowa's independently adjustable lacing zones on the forefoot and upper.

MSRP: \$360

MEINDL COMFORT FIT HIKER

meindlusa.com

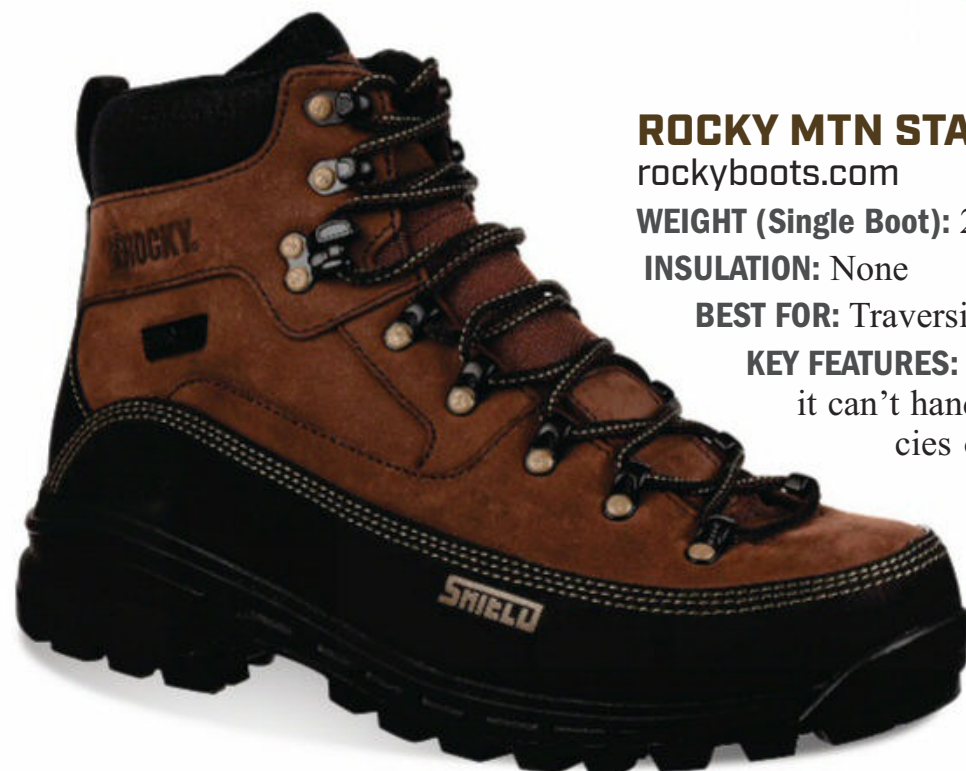
WEIGHT (Single Boot): 29 oz. | **HEIGHT:** 7"

INSULATION: None

BEST FOR: Late-summer pronghorns and early-fall whitetails when the weather is warm

KEY FEATURES: Hunters get the cradling support of Meindl's Comfort Fit system in a hiker-height boot with a Gore-Tex waterproof lining that permits feet to breathe. Comfort Fit provides more room in the toe box and width at the ball, ensuring the big toe doesn't get cramped. It also creates a wider sole base for more stability. Feet don't slide, however, thanks to a snug fit at the heel. Cork footbeds with Poron inserts absorb shock while Vibram Multigrip 6.0 outsoles dig into tough terrain.

MSRP: \$290



ROCKY MTN STALKER PRO

rockyboos.com

WEIGHT (Single Boot): 29 oz. | **HEIGHT:** 6"

INSULATION: None

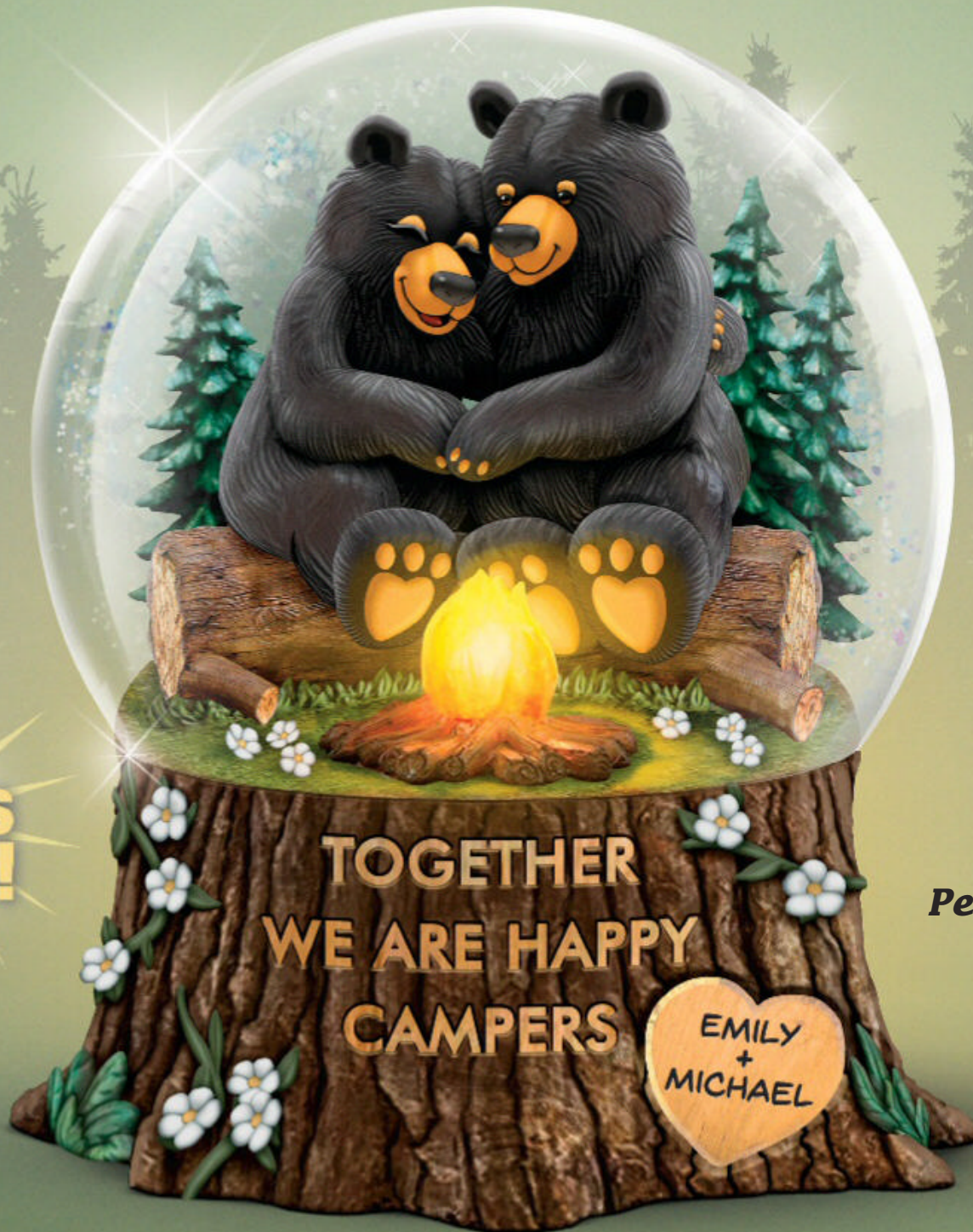
BEST FOR: Traversing rock-strewn hills in search of upland birds

KEY FEATURES: The MTN Stalker Pro is a low boot, but that doesn't mean it can't handle the rough country that chukars and Western quail species often call home. Traction comes in the form of a Vibram Mountaineering outsole, and the boot's Shield Guard provides an extra layer of protection from sharp rocks, cactus and thorns. Rocky's fiberglass shank adds stability when birds are on steep slopes. The lace-to-toe design anchors the feet, and the Rocky Rebound footbed keeps them comfortable over broken ground.

MSRP: \$207

Together We Are Happy Campers

Personalized Illuminated Glitter Globe



It
Lights
Up!

Free!
*Two-Name
Personalization*

Shown smaller than actual
size of about 5½ in. H

Your Love Makes Me Beary Happy!

Life is so much nicer with a love like yours...sweethearts, best friends, happy campers! Celebrate each other and your love of the outdoors with this adorable glitter globe featuring **FREE** personalization with your two names "carved" in a heart on the tree stump! Meticulous hand-crafting and hand-painting capture fine details: the bears' textured fur, nubby tree bark, and even heart-shaped foot pads. With a gentle shake, glitter swirls around the couple as they share a bear hug in front of an illuminated campfire! The message on the base says it all about you and your special someone. Makes the perfect gift!

Personalized just for you—order now!

Order now for just \$79.99*, payable in two installments of \$39.99, backed by our unconditional, 365-day money-back guarantee. Strong demand is expected, so don't wait! Send no money now. Just mail the coupon today!



ORDER TODAY AT BRADFORDEXCHANGE.COM/36454



©2022 BGE 01-36454-001-BDPR

Where Passion Becomes Art

PLEASE ORDER PROMPTLY SEND NO MONEY NOW

The Bradford Exchange

PO Box 806, Morton Grove, IL 60053-0806

YES. Please accept my order for the *Together We Are Happy Campers* Illuminated Glitter Globe with **FREE** dual personalization. I need send no money now. I will be billed with shipment. Please print two names for personalization, maximum 10 letters each.

Name One: _____

Name Two: _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email (optional) _____

01-36454-001-E44291

*Plus a total of \$12.99 shipping and service; see bradfordexchange.com. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 crafting days. Please allow 4-6 weeks for shipment. Subject to product availability and order acceptance.

CABELA'S ZONED COMFORT TRAC

cabelas.com

WEIGHT (Single Boot): 42 oz. | **HEIGHT:** 17"

INSULATION: 2,000/1,600/1,200-gram Thinsulate Ultra

BEST FOR: Treestand or blind hunting in frigid weather

KEY FEATURES: The Zoned Comfort Trac has three areas of Thinsulate Ultra to keep feet warm without adding unnecessary weight and bulk: 2,000-gram insulation in the toe, 1,600-gram insulation along the sides and top of the foot, and 1,200-gram insulation around the heel. Wool frost plugs also form a thermal barrier between the feet and the cold ground. Rubber uppers guard the feet against moisture, and gussets on the outside buckle tight to hold in heat while closing out sleet and snow. Molded polyurethane footbeds and nylon shanks provide support.

MSRP: \$149.99



DRYSHOD OVERLAND

dryshodusa.com

WEIGHT (Single Boot): 40 oz. | **HEIGHT:** 17"

INSULATION: 5 mm Densoprene foam

BEST FOR: Hunting whitetails in creek bottoms, swamps and marshes

KEY FEATURES: The Overland's hand-laid natural rubber and Densoprene construction is 100 percent waterproof. Plus, Hydrokote water repellent causes moisture to roll off the surface of the upper material so the outside of the boots dries quickly. The molded outsole provides traction in mud and slop, while a rigid shank and reinforced tuck board lend stability when trekking through the muck. A four-way stretch air-mesh lining allows air to circulate inside the boot, and the tops roll down for venting in warm temperatures.

MSRP: \$179.95

IRISH SETTER MUDTREK

irishsetterboots.com

WEIGHT (Single Boot): 35 oz. | **HEIGHT:** 15"

INSULATION: None

BEST FOR: Early- to mid-season bowhunting

KEY FEATURES: Irish Setter gives the MudTrek its ScentBan treatment to kill bacteria that causes odors. Rubber and 5 mm neoprene shield against water, and the vulcanized rubber outsole provides both traction and durability when traveling to and from stands. Inside, TempSens technology reacts to your body temperature to keep you comfortable. It either cools the feet by vaporizing moisture or retains heat to keep them warm. Support comes from a polyurethane footbed, and an integrated heel kick makes removal easy.

MSRP: \$149.99





LACROSSE ALPHA AGILITY SNAKE BOOT

lacrossefootwear.com

WEIGHT (Single Boot): 39 oz.

HEIGHT: 17"

INSULATION: None

BEST FOR: Spring, summer and early fall hunts when venomous reptiles are about

KEY FEATURES: Sandwiched between the liner and the exterior of this boot is a flexible fabric that protects against the fangs of snakes. It adds little to the weight of the Alpha Agility and doesn't hamper maneuverability or comfort. Hand-laid rubber over neoprene makes for a waterproof boot, while the jersey knit liner wicks interior moisture and dries quickly. You get all the benefits of a LaCrosse rubber-neoprene boot with added peace of mind when hunting around snakes.

MSRP: \$200

ALL-NEW! DR® ELECTRIC ZERO-TURN LAWN MOWERS!

Mow up to 5 ACRES on a single charge!



- Professional quality, 3-blade mowing deck (48" or 60" cutting width)
- Electric power means no gas, no oil, no emissions, less noise, and operational savings versus gas
- Accepts up to 3 E-Series Battery Packs (2.5 kWh each) so user can customize runtime to property size

★ USA
ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA using domestic and foreign parts.

E-SERIES



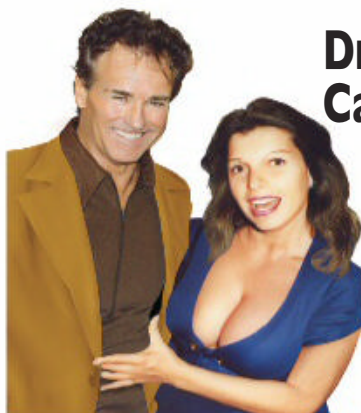
SALE!

FREE SHIPPING
SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY

DRmowers.com

Request your **FREE Product Catalog!**

Toll Free: 888-212-1072



Dr. Bross All Natural Herbal Liquid Can Work Faster Than The Blue Pill

PRO+PLUS XTREME

Can Work In 30 Minutes Effective Up To 12 Hours.

Take with or without your favorite beverage.

Greater Stamina & Longer Lasting Performance

Pro+Plus Xtreme is a professional strength liquid formula that digests quickly for immediate erections, increased blood flow and can help you maintain a firm erection.

Liquid is shown to work faster than pills or lube. However some men prefer PRO+PLUS XTREME pills or lube as an excellent alternative.



I'm Sheri, My man takes the Pro+Plus Xtreme while listening to the Ever-Last Subliminal Audio CD and he satisfies me every time.

EVER-LAST AUDIO CD

Control Premature Ejaculation Programs your mind to help blood flow and help give you more control, firmer erections and performance.

Super Formulas See FREE Special Offer Online

SEXCITER LIQUID
Excites women better than Spanish fly. A couple of drops mixed with or without her favorite beverage can increase libido.

ATTRACT-A-MATE
Human pheromone spray can make women desire you.



Call us about our products. We'll give you important information you can trust. Be careful of discounters and imitators that sell the same type of products on Amazon, Ebay and Google. Our products are not authorized to be sold through these companies. Don't buy from sellers who don't disclose where their products are made, use inferior blends and cannot call them.

FOR THE FASTEST WAY TO RECEIVE YOUR ORDER:

PAYPAL us at our email: DELUXE69@EARTHLINK.NET

Credit Card Orders Online: WWW.ProPlusMed.com

Credit Card Orders or Check By Phone: call 1-707-931-1001

Customer Service 1-747-230-5000 Se Habla Español



PRO+PLUS MYTMAX TESTOSTERONE BOOSTER

Can Help Raise Testosterone Levels. Increase Drive, Libido, Performance, Energy Stamina And Strength. Reduce recovery time between intervals. Can increase performance in 3 to 4 days.

POWER SEX-ESS AUDIO CD ATTRACT WOMEN

Programs your mind to make you irresistible. Hidden subliminal messages sends commands into your subconscious mind to achieve confidence and sex appeal.

Mail Payment to: **Avid Pro Medical Dept. 28GEA**
22287 Mulholland Hwy Box #416, Calabasas, CA 91302

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Cash

www.ProPlusMed.com

Money Back Guarantee

Pro+Plus XTREME Lube or Pills or Liquid

Lube ☐	Pills ☐	Liquid ☐
Results in 2-3 Hours.	Results in 1-2 Hours.	Results in 30 Minutes to 1 Hour.
1 Jar 60 Applications	1 Bottle 60 Capsules	1 Bottle 60 Servings
1 Jar ☐ \$50	1 Bottle ☐ \$60	1 Bottle ☐ \$75
2 Jars ☐ \$85	2 Bottles ☐ \$100	2 Bottles ☐ \$125
3 Jars ☐ \$100	3 Bottles ☐ \$120	3 Bottles ☐ \$150

Total From Other Side \$

Shipping, Rush Service and Insurance \$20.00 VALUE ONLY \$ 14.95

Total Enclosed \$



EVERLAST AUDIO CD \$29.95 \$

POWER SEX ESS AUDIO CD \$29.95 \$

SEXCITER LIQUID to Excite Women \$25.00 \$

ATTRACT-A-MATE Pheromone to Attract Women \$25.00 \$

MYTMAX Testosterone Booster 30 Days + 30 Days FREE ☐ \$45 \$

Can increase sex drive and performance 120 Days + 120 Days FREE ☐ \$110 \$

One Year Supply ☐ \$150 \$

© 2020 Avid Pro Medical. Individual results may vary. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

V196

THE SWEETER THE REWARD

TROPHIES ARE MEASURED MORE BY EFFORT THAN BY SIZE.

Shane returned home from school one day to find his father cleaning the garage on his day off from the steel mill.

“Learn anything today?” his father asked him.

“Well yeah, actually,” Shane said as he grabbed a broom to help. “I learned Steven McDonald killed a 12-point buck last year.”

“Twelve pointer, eh?!” crowed Shane’s father. “I didn’t even know they grew that big ’round here. That’s the trophy of a lifetime!”

“Not really,” said Shane. “The year before that, he got a non-typical 14-pointer.”

“Shane, I hate to say this because I don’t know Steven, but plenty of guys stretch the truth. You know, tell fish stories.”

“That’s what I was thinking before I saw the pictures,” said Shane. “They’re legit.”

“OK, I stand corrected. I guess I’m just surprised. I know Steven’s dad—he runs the bank downtown—but I never knew they were outdoorsmen.”

“I didn’t either,” replied Shane. “All I ever see Steven do is play video games. But they fish, too. Steven showed me a picture of a 10-pound bass he also caught last year.”

“A 10-pounder! I’ve fished my whole life and haven’t caught anything near that big. He must’ve been over the moon with that fish.”

“Eh, I don’t know. He didn’t really seem like it,” said Shane. “He just kind of shrugged and told me they catch ’em like that all the time. Then he went back to his game that he said he was about to win after a month of trying.”

“Well, we ought to ask them if they want to go hunting or fishing with us sometime soon.”

“Don’t know about that either, Dad,” said Shane. “Steven said they don’t go around here very much because it’s a waste of time.”

“A waste of time?”

“Really? We hunt all day every day in the freezing cold and rarely see anything bigger than a 6-point. I think it sounds like paradise.”

“That’s a good point, son, but as a general rule I’ve found that the harder the effort, the sweeter the reward. If I finally catch a 10-pound bass, I’ll never

forget it, because I’ll have worked my tail off for it. Seems to me like Steven may not fully appreciate the trophies he’s taken. I could be wrong, but I suspect he prefers video games to hunting because they offer more of a challenge.”

“Maybe so,” said Shane, “but then again, you may never catch a 10-pounder.”

“Another strong point,” said Shane’s father. “And I’ve also learned not to knock something until I’ve tried it.”

“So that means we can go?” asked Shane.

“Find out the cost,” said his father.

The following evening when his father got home from work, Shane had the answer.

“I got the name of the ranch from Steven, and I found out the fishing is free if you book a trophy whitetail hunt,” he explained.

“So how much is a trophy whitetail hunt?” asked his father.

“Ten thousand dollars per hunter, plus tips.”

“Well, son, I reckon if you bust your tail and become a banker or a doctor, taking a 12-point Texas buck will sure feel sweet indeed,” Shane’s father said, smiling. “As for me, nothing will ever taste finer than a half-pound Pennsylvania perch.” **G&F**



Shane’s father couldn’t believe what he was hearing.

“So where do they go?”

“Some big ranch in Texas,” said Shane.

“Ah,” sighed Shane’s father. “It’s starting to make sense.”

“Dad, can we go on a guided trip sometime?” asked Shane.

“Depends on how much it costs,” said his father. “We’ll see.”

“Steven says it’s great because he sits in a heated blind playing video games or snoozing, and then when a shooter buck shows up, the guide nudges him. Then they haul the deer back to the lodge with an ATV and go fishing or whatever.”

“It certainly sounds nice. But to be honest, son, it doesn’t sound all that much fun to me,” said Shane’s father.

NOW PICTURE — YOURSELF —



SAVING MONEY

GEICO®

GEICO.COM • 1-800-947-2886 • LOCAL OFFICE

GREAT LOW RATES | MULTI-VEHICLE DISCOUNT | SPECIALIZED AGENTS

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. In the state of CA, program provided through Boat Association Insurance Services, license #0H87086. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Customer satisfaction based on an independent study conducted by Alan Newman Research, 2020. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, DC 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2022 GEICO 21_782312631

FEDERAL PREMIUM

PRAIRIE STORM

Premium
copper-plated lead

FLITESTOPPER
pellets

FLITECONTROL FLEX wad



NOW WITH FLITECONTROL FLEX

The skies are ready to open. Federal Premium® Prairie Storm® uses the updated FLITECONTROL FLEX® wad and a mixed payload of standard and FLITESTOPPER® pellets to produce an inescapable torrent of shot through both ported and standard upland chokes. Now available in the complete line of 12-, 16-, 20- and 28-gauge loads,

THERE'S NO SHELTER.

BUY NOW AT FEDERALPREMIUM.COM