

REFLECTING BACK ON THE YEARS

Dr. James C. Kroll

I have been involved in deer research, management and hunting for four decades. Looking back on my career, there are many things I am very proud of; but, none more than my long-term association with The Texas Trophy Hunters Association! I regard my name and reputation as the most important thing to protect—my Dad taught me that. Never once in all these years have I had to apologize for being a writer and supporter of TTHA. It is a family organization, with true Texas family values. I remember one of the first times I visited Jerry Johnston's home near Castroville. We were sitting at the kitchen table and a cute little old lady came walking through and said something to Jerry. "You bet," granny, he said. He turned to me in a matter of fact tone and said, "That's my grandmother, I rescued her from the retirement home and promised her she could live with me as long as she wanted!" I was Jerry's friend from that point on.

It is a documented fact, Texas Trophy Hunters Magazine (Journal of the Texas Trophy Hunters) was the first big whitetail publication in the world. I also have been associated with North American WHITETAIL Magazine, which came along after TTHA. My friends at NAW are quick to acknowledge the role the magazine had in paving the way for NAW. I was not at the first Extravaganza, but I did present a talk at the second one. Jerry took a chance on a young biologist, allowing me to make a presentation on management. Of all the shows I do each year, TTHA Extravaganza is the one I look forward to.

The organization and magazine never has shied away from protecting the rights of hunters and landowners; something that no doubt has irritated state and federal agencies over the years. But, the magazine is about informing and entertaining its readers; and the positions taken over the years, more often than not have borne out to be factual and correct. I will end my days with kind regard and pride to have been associated with the TTHA family all these years!