INFORMATIVE GUIDE TO THE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE IN THE NORTHEAST

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT News

4th Quarter 2014

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Emotional
Physical

Hunts For Healing



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LYME DISEASE
Dr. Gregory Bach, D.O.P.C., F.A.A.I.M. 18

The highlight of my 2014 hunting season was to be with this wonderful group of wounded veterans and mentors during PA's antlerless inline season.

Russ Owens and friends show off a plump Susquehanna County doe.

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About Hunts for Healing *by Jim Holbert, Editor*

Hunts for Healing is a nonprofit organization located in Northeastern, PA, in the beautiful Endless Mountains – the very southwest corner of Susquehanna county.

Founder, Mindy Piccotti, explained to me how she and her husband, John, purchased the property in 2007. The building they had acquired had a fully handicapped access cabin. The big question they had was: "what do you do with such a building?" John Piccotti owns and manages Ringneck Ridge Hunting preserve and a handicap facility wasn't really part of his game plan.

Mindy told me that after lots of prayer, God gave her a vision of her mission: use this property to encourage wounded veterans; give them spiritual, emotional, and physical encouragement through outdoor challenges.

Hunts for Healing stands alone in its mission. It is a one-of-a-kind organization that is operated by all volunteers. 100% of all donations are used for veteran expenses. Hunts for Healing is not affiliated with any other group. If you may be interested in donating or finding out more about this unique ministry, please call Mindy Piccotti at 570-869-1233.



Head mentor Ken Buck and Hunts For Healing Founder Mindy Piccotti

Hunts for Healing: Where Angels Gather

by Travis Rupert

As I can recall, I met my guardian angel in early April of 2013. I was two weeks out of the hospital from my latest spinal surgery. I had my lumbar vertebra fused from trauma resulting from a large roadside bomb during my second tour to Iraq. I was walking through the Sportsman's Outdoor Expo located inside the Lycoming Mall in Muncy, PA, when I walked by a booth where I noticed some "Veteran, I served" stickers. As I reached out to grab one to place on my vehicle, a hand was firmly placed on mine. I glanced up to see a woman looking at me with understanding eyes. Now here I was gingerly walking with a TLSO (Thoracic Lumbar Support Orthotic) on and was in what I guess was noticeable discomfort. My first reaction was, "Who in God's name is this crazy lady and why is she grabbing onto my hand?" She promptly introduced herself as Mindy Picotti, the founder of an organization called Hunts for Healing. She looked at me and said, "I can see it in your eyes young man, you need this organization." After a brief introduction as to what HFH was, she extended me an invitation to their Spring Gobbler event. I told her that I was unsure if I would be physically able to participate in something like that but that I would think on the matter and get back to her.



Travis Rupert and Russ Owen

At this point in my life I was in a rather bad place. I had just had life-changing surgery, I was jobless, and my girlfriend and I had just separated. With all the worries about how I was going to function, how I was going to pay my bills, why is it that my girl felt she needed to leave me, going on in my head, thoughts of doing something stupid had begun to creep into my head. I must be worthless. I must be broken. There is really no point to go on from here. After talking with my family, they urged me to explore this recent invitation to HFH. I was reluctant at first, but really, what did I have to lose? I was already at an all-time low in my life; what could it hurt? So I called Mindy and asked if the spot was still open and she told me it was and that she knew I would be calling. So I filled out all the required forms and got ready to go on my first-ever turkey hunt.

When I got to the lodge, I instantly began to feel better. There was such a comforting vibe that was present. I met the other vets that were to be my hunting buddies and we immediately hit it off. It felt just like I was back in my old unit. We began telling stories and giving each other hard times about branch of service, MOS's, and shooting abilities – the stuff that typical military people do when they all get together. I had missed being with the guys and having a good time. I had almost forgotten about all my sorrows and fears. I could actually begin to feel a different kind of healing going on which was not so much physical, but emotional as well as spiritual. The mentors that are assigned to each veteran are mostly veterans as well. They too provided an atmosphere that was conducive to healing. They were always around and available to talk, an open set of ears to allow us to express ourselves and get our demons out. My mentor, Russ Wagner, owns his own company called TOP CALLS. I learned that he had competed in turkey calling competitions and won several. My other mentor, Trevor Fulmer, was the definition of an outdoorsman. He was very knowledgeable of the area we were hunting and acted as our scout/guide. The more I got to talk to Trevor, I realized how much knowledge he had of turkeys and other game of the area. I was confident that I would be successful with these two guys in my corner.

On the first day of hunting, I could see that Russ was indeed an accomplished turkey caller. It took a couple different areas of hunting but we finally had located some birds. Trevor and I set up and Russ began to call. A few times I had to look behind me as I thought there were hens creeping up on us because the calls Russ made sounded so real and lifelike! He called in a gobbler for me and, like most first-time hunters, I missed with the first shot from pure excitement and adrenaline. Being a combat veteran who had been shot at and blown

up, I didn't think there was much that could get me that excited again. Boy was I wrong. I did put my bird down with a second shot and we were done hunting by 9:00 am. My first turkey was not a long beard but a Jake with a 2½ inch beard. By common standards it wasn't a trophy, but to me it surely was. The memory of how it all happened was the real trophy, but I was thrilled and overjoyed at my harvest. It gave me a sense of accomplishment that I hadn't felt in a long time and had long forgotten about. It made me feel good about myself again – a feeling I truly needed.

As the days passed at the lodge, I could feel myself changing. I began to feel more like myself again. I was falling in love with this organization and what it was doing for me. It felt like I was "at camp" and with guys that I had known for years; yet, we had only just met days prior. Through the activities like fishing, clay bird shooting, and turkey calling, I began to realize this was the best therapy I had ever taken part in. At the end of the event on Sunday, I felt like a whole new person. I was optimistic about my future, I had faith that I was going to be all right, and I had identified within myself what medicine I truly needed to be well again – a healthy dose of the great outdoors. Tears flowed as I gave Mindy a farewell hug and I think I must have said thank you a hundred times. This living angel had saved my life with a simple grasp of the hand. Mindy has a gift in that she has the ability to see beyond the physical being and can peer into the eyes of a veteran and see his or her soul and the struggles the individual is battling within. I thank God every day for introducing me to my guardian angel and allowing her to do what she does with HFH and helping our veterans to heal in ways no hospital or medication ever could.

In the weeks following the turkey hunt, I contacted Mindy by phone to again thank her for all that she had done for me and expressed that if there was anything I could possibly do for her, not to hesitate to call me. She in fact did have a way for me to help. She had informed me that HFH was invited to an upcoming yellow ribbon ceremony in Baltimore, MD, in June. She explained that this was a transitional event for soldiers coming home from a deployment where they sit through presentations and briefings that are put on by many different organizations that help soldiers/veterans in different ways. She thought that it would be excellent for me to go to the event with her and share with the returning soldiers my story and how going through the event had helped me. It sounded like a great way for me to pay it forward and that I would be honored to go. At the event I met a lot of different people and shared my story. A couple of them I later learned had made it to an event because of hearing my story.

As time passed, I found myself being drawn to HFH. I had completely recovered from my surgery and my life was back on track. I had a job, my girlfriend (who is now my fiancée) was back with me, and I have never felt better. All of this I can attribute to HFH. I was invited back in February of 2014 for the predator hunt event. I met some familiar faces and some new ones as well. The hunting did not prove to be bountiful to say the least, but again I had such a great time. I didn't think it was possible to feel better than what I was already feeling; man was I wrong. Hunting with my old mentor Trevor for coyotes and foxes was so much fun. I was learning a whole new way of hunting and for a whole new type of game that I had never hunted before. The guys from the Endless Mountain Coon Hunting Club came to guide us on a night hunt for raccoons and we did manage to harvest a few with the help of some pretty amazing coon dogs. Again on Sunday when it was time to say farewell, I told Mindy that I wanted to be part of HFH permanently. I wanted to be a mentor and help vets the same way all the mentors helped me. As a registered nurse, it's in my true nature to want to help people. She agreed and from that point I dedicated what free time I had to coming up to the lodge and learning the lay of the land so I could mentor vets in future events.

Another great thing about being involved with HFH is the wonderful people I've had the pleasure of meeting. The editor of this magazine, Jim Holbert, and I met at the annual "Old Glory Shoot" at Rock Mountain Sporting Clay's in Springville, PA. This event is held every year on Flag Day and pays tribute to our nation's flag and helps to raise funds for HFH. I got to sit and talk with Jim at this event and he was intrigued by my story and amazed at how far I had come. With the type of job Jim has, he has quite a few friends and contacts. In learning that in 18 years I have been a deer hunter, I've never shot a buck, he made it his mission to help me harvest a trophy whitetail. He introduced me to some local landowners like Chuck Stone and Matt Sellers, who have graciously allowed me to come and hunt their property. It is through Jim that I've met these two amazing gentlemen who I'm proud to call my friends. Chuck continues to donate his land to HFH, which gives the veterans some very rich hunting grounds. At this year's in-line muzzleloader/archery event, we were able to harvest four whitetail does from Chuck's land. Matt has allowed me to hunt his land many times in search of a trophy whitetail. I have seen many quality deer on Matt's land; unfortunately, I haven't been afforded a shot at any mature bucks. I continue to this day to visit with Matt and learn from the vast wealth of knowledge he has of whitetail deer. He has helped me to understand feeding habits, behavior, and habitat – all things that I hope to be able to pass on through my mentorship with HFH. Matt is deeply involved with the PA Quality Deer Management Association which strives at improving deer herds and management of property for the betterment of habitat for growing mature whitetail deer.



Travis Grover with his huge Susquehanna County doe and Mentor Bill Daniel

I will forever be in debt to Mindy Picotti, HFH, and all the individuals, some I've mentioned and many I haven't, for all they have done for me. Saying thank you just doesn't seem to do justice to what these people give to make HFH possible. Most will say it's nothing compared to what we veterans have given, but I'm here to tell you, it is comparable. The mentors like Ken, Pete, Tony, Don, Russ, Glen, Trevor, volunteer and sacrifice their time in an effort to rehabilitate each and every veteran who attends the events the same way they did for me. They don't get paid or receive any dividends other than the self-gratitude of helping to heal veterans physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The lodge at Hunts for Healing is truly a heavenly place where angels meet and were it not for these angels on earth, I can honestly say I wouldn't be alive writing to you today. God bless our great nation, and our veterans.



DR. DEER'S Management Calendar



by Dr. James Kroll

The New Dr. Deer Pear: Once in a while we get lucky!

As many of you known, I have spent the last four and one-half decades conducting research on just about every aspect of deer biology and management. A significant portion of this work has been evaluating and developing plant varieties for food plots. In fact, the Institute for White-tailed Deer Management & Research conducted the first food plot research, and has worked cooperatively with Louisiana State University for over 20 years. Our joint work, sponsored by Buck Forage Products, led to release of three protected winter hardy oat varieties – the only food plot plants developed specifically for deer. My website, drdeer.com, receives hundreds of inquiries each year and we track the topics so we can better serve you. Hands down, the number one question we are asked is, "What do I plant in my food plots?" More recently, however, interest has turned to more long-term solutions to improving deer nutrition, most notably fruit and nut trees. Our work with Robert Wallace of Chestnut Hills Nursery in evaluating and testing his three-generation, blight-resistant chestnut (both trees and attractant) has been very educational. Public acceptance and demand for such trees has been striking, and we have seen fist fights break out over the few trees Bob develops for market!

More recently, Bob and our team have joined efforts to produce what we refer to as a "suite" of fruit and nut trees that provide highly needed calories and minerals during the longest period possible. It took Bob's family three generations to develop the Dunstan Chestnut, so you can understand how long it will take to accomplish our goal. Yet, we are moving faster as we build on Bob's experiences. So where do fruit and nut trees figure into your deer nutrition program, and what works and what does not?

Trees are a long-term investment

Food plots are a critical component to deer management, provided you plant the right varieties, the right proportion of the land, and do it right! Most food plots will cost you $300 per acre, per year to develop and maintain correctly. A well-managed plot will provide needed protein, minerals and phosphorus to your deer. Depending on the variety, food plots also can provide the very critical element of digestible energy, which is determined by the growth stage of your crop. So, you should understand it is my opinion food plots will always be an important part of deer management.

If you have 100 acres of deer woods and plant the recommended 2% in year-round food plots, your annual cost will be about $600, including labor. Fruit and nut trees, on the other hand, require considerable upfront investment and labor work to install, and a lesser amount to maintain, but the long-term cost of these plantings – when done correctly – is cost-effective. Most fruit/nut trees will cost from $15-30 for well-developed (4-6 feet) stock. Yet, that is only the initial cost of planting! We learned early on that bucks really like to rub on our newly-planted trees, usually killing them back year after year until the tree dies. There is a record of one trophy class buck doing over a million dollars in damages to an eastern nursery in a single year.

Plant right

I want you to be successful in adding "deer orchards" to your management program. So, let's start right from the start. When should you plant your trees? Timing will be geographically determined, with most southern plantings in the fall and northern plantings in the spring. However, it is possible to make successful fall plantings in the north, provided you plant early enough for the trees to establish a root system that will fight frost heave.



2-year tree, proper planting

If you have watched the HGTV channel, FORGET everything they tell you about planting trees! It is not that they are incorrect, but the plantings shown on TV are for landscapes, not deer food. The major difference is in site preparation. You should dig a hole roughly the size of the pot (container) or root ball (bare root). NEVER dig a hole that is deeper than the distance from the bottom of the container to the top of the medium in the pot. If you plant bare rooted trees, plant to a depth just at where the roots come off the stem. The primary feeder roots will develop in the top 4-6 inches, so planting a tree deeper than this level will cause serious damage, if not death. The photograph shows Dunstan Chestnut trees in their second year at the Institute's demonstration area. Note the front two, although the same age, are stunted and the tops have died. If they live it will take 2-3 years for them to catch up with the other trees. (One of my graduate



2-year tree, improper planting

students planted these trees, and I will never let him forget it! After taking the photograph, I dug them up and adjusted to the proper depth.)

The next step is to fluff the finer roots (if present) to provide room for expansion. The best way with a containerized tree is just to take your fingers and pull them gently away from the edges of the potting material. Next, place the tree in the hole and gently work the surrounding dirt into the space around the potting material. For bare rooted trees, just hold the tree in position while you gently work dirt thoroughly around the roots. The first cause of tree mortality is caused by air pockets around the roots. Often, no matter how diligently you work the soil around the roots, air pockets remain. The solution to this is to pour about 3 gallons of water around the newly-planted tree. At this point, our cost is only labor, but it now requires more investment.

We like to place a 4ft x 4ft piece of landscape cloth around the base of the tree. Just make a slit halfway across the cloth and slip it around the tree. Then you either can use landscape pins to hold down the cloth or simply shovel dirt on the four corners to hold it down. DO NOT be tempted to cover the top of the roots with dirt! The cost of the cloth is negligible up to this point. Now we move to more costly items.



You will need a 5-1/2 ft T-post and three pieces of livestock utility panel (1 ft wide x 50-60 in tall). T-posts cost about $5 and a 16 ft utility panel is $50, and will provide material for four trees. We arrange the panels as a triangle around the tree, tying them together with heavy zip ties at four or five places. Next, drive the T-post so that it touches one of the sides and secure the protective barrier at least in five locations. Now, we have invested almost as much as the tree cost to this point, about $17. The last step is to place a 4-5 ft tree tube over the tree, resting it on the top of the landscape cloth. That will add $3 to our cost, bringing our total for a single tree to $35-$50; a pretty large investment. However, if you do it right, each tree will be in service for at least 20 years, depending on species and variety; bringing your annual cost to less than $3. If you plant chestnuts, considering the life-expectancy of this species, your cost becomes almost negligible.



If you take the above precautions, the utility panels will protect the trees from bucks rubbing their antlers, the cloth will retard weed competition, and the tree tubes will provide a good environment as well as protecting your trees from rabbits and rats.

The last thing to consider in planting involves how many trees, at what spacing and where? I like to plant at least a half dozen trees at each of my food plots, located so that they will receive sun on at least their top and one side. You should never plant your trees closer than 25 ft from the forest edge; spacing should be one tree every 20-25 ft. If you decide to plant an entire orchard in a forest opening, the proper spacing is 20-25 ft x 20-25 feet.

What species and varieties?

Ideally, it would be nice to have a mixture of species and varieties of fruit/nut trees that would produce fruit over several months, particularly the months when deer need the added carbohydrates and fats. However, most fruiting woody plants tend to focus either on fall or spring to produce fruit. The joint project by Chestnut Hill Nursery and the Institute is focusing on developing or finding varieties that spread fruit/nut production out over as long a time as possible. Bob Wallace already has found some trees such as Japanese persimmons that complement the normal fruiting time for chestnuts (late summer, early fall). So, our goal is to fill in over time.



Parent tree of Dr. Deer pears

For many years, we have planted pears and sawtooth oaks to provide summer and late summer-early fall crops. Pears in particular are broadly adapted to cold and drought. After all, pears originally came from Persia (modern Iraq and Iran), a pretty dry place! Pears are suited as far north as USDA Zone 5 (southern New York) and stand up to cold rather well. The modern pear varieties produce fruit in late summer in most areas, but the fruits fall off rather quickly once they ripen. That is where the story about the new Dr. Deer Pear comes into play. (You probably have been wondering when I would get to it!)

A few years ago, we began planting and evaluating pear trees, as I discovered that several wild trees were doing quite well. Most of the wild trees either did not produce fruit, or produced tiny fruits similar to flowering Bradford pears. Three years into the project, I was walking and the property in late summer and noticed a tree with numerous golf ball-sized fruits. Taking interest in the tree, I began protecting it, and tried to find out what kind of pear stock was involved. To my frustration, not one horticulturalist was able to identify the new tree; yet, the common wisdom is that it is from some old variety.

Continued on page 6

Dr. James C. Kroll, continued from page 5





By five years, the tree was remarkable in drought hardiness, and its fruit stayed on the tree until well into December. We decided to take bud wood from the tree and multiply the stock. In less than 6 months, each tiny less than half inch bud grew into a 6-8 ft tall tree! In year six, we had 43 trees to out plant. This year (year seven) we now have 1,000. We are excited about the trees and have decided to let some out, once we acquire plant protection (equivalent to a patent). By fall 2015, we should have enough to allow folks in several geographic areas to plant the Dr. Deer Pear. Yields are exceptional, with the "mother tree" this year (in spite of having a lot of bud wood cut from it) of about two bushels. As of the time of this writing, the tree still has fruit from which a few drop every day. In spite of freezing temperatures, the fruits have remained sound and are highly prized by our deer here at the Institute.

This is a perfect example of how keeping your eyes open can lead to new developments in deer management. We have filled in another slot in our goal to have a suite of trees that produce fruit or nuts over at least seven months of the year. We now are looking at two new plums, a native apple and a very encouraging "mother native persimmon." Who knows, in a short 20 years, we may have our fruit/nut suite fully populated.

See Sieko ad on page 12 for ordering info for Dr. Deer Pears.

For some time, we have been working with Jim Holbert who publishes *Wildlife Management News*. Dr. Kroll even writes a column for the eNewsletter, which includes products endorsed as a Dr. Deer Certified Product. Only products tested by the Institute and proven to work, or those whose development included collaboration with Dr. Deer, achieve this high award! *Wildlife Management News* is one of these products or services. Jim Holbert is a man of utmost integrity and dedicated to the sound management and hunting ethics of whitetails; we wholeheartedly endorse the newsletter. You can access back issues of *Wildlife Management News* in Dr. Deer's Public Reading Room, and the latest issue in the Member's Reading Room. Enjoy and learn!

www.drdeer.com

Dr. Deer Launches Online Course in White-tailed Deer Management

America's foremost whitetail biologist, Dr. James C. Kroll (aka Dr. Deer), has launched a series of online course modules for training of White-tailed Deer Managers. The course is titled: "Ecology, Management & Harvesting of White-tailed Deer" and can be taken in its entirety or as individual modules. The modules cover more than a dozen specific topics ranging from *Aging & Judging Trophy Whitetails* to the *Art & Science of Patterning Whitetails.* Modules are being added weekly, so you can take them at your own learning pace.

Upon completing each module, you will receive a completion certificate that can be printed for framing. Students who complete the entire series will be given certification as a "White-tailed Deer Manager," and can even obtain course credit by contacting Kansas State University's Wildlife Management and Outdoor Enterprises Program through Continuing Education. Students wishing advanced certification can sign up for a capstone course, "White-tailed Deer Management Practicum," which culminates in an on-site field experience with the Institute for White-tailed Deer Management & Research.

The cost of each module varies from $39.95 to $129.95. For more information, go to drdeer.com.

Dreams Fulfilled

by Jamey Bohonyi



Growing up as a kid and learning to hunt from my father, I remember him telling me how great it would be to own his own piece of land to hunt in either NY or PA. Well, times were different then and he wasn't able to make that dream come true. Back in 2006, my wife Cheryl and I were able to resurrect that dream and make it a reality. It took my father eight seasons and many spikes and small racks passed up but he finally made it happen. I have tried to stick to the rule of 8 points or better, but as you may know, hunting the vast woods of NY isn't like one of those TV shows. What makes it even more special to me is that my son Alex was with us for his first out-of-state hunt. My dream was always to have the three generations together – that dream is now fulfilled. I just need to get the rest of my boys (three more to go) to hunt with Pop-Pop. This buck may not be a trophy to some, but for us it's a lifetime of dreams fulfilled and memories of a boy, his father and grandfather. For me it doesn't get any better than that! What a blessing.

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Gobbler Knob Longrifles

by Rick Larnerd

Pennsylvania is steeped in a rich history involving the black powder firearm; the Pennsylvania Longrifle was born here. The Pennsylvania Game Commission established its first black powder season in 1974 on 37 State Game Lands across the Commonwealth. It was so popular that in 1979 the game commission made it a statewide event. That was the same year I turned 16 and received a Connecticut Valley Arms "Mountain Rifle" kit for Christmas. It was a .50 caliber flintlock.

Just four days after I eagerly tore apart the carton in which it came, and before the kit was even finished, I harvested a deer with that gun. I didn't know it then, but my shop – Gobbler Knob Longrifles – was born before the acrid, white smoke cleared enough for me to see that fallen deer. I still have that rifle and have since passed it on to my son.

In 2000, I began to look toward retiring from the Thin Green Line of Pennsylvania's Wildlife Conservation Officers. I wanted a pursuit that would keep me busy, yet reward me as well. Recreating 18th Century Americana is where I came to rest.

My shop is humble, yet fulfills my needs. Gobbler Knob Longrifles started out on a hilltop along the California Road in my hometown of Birchardville, Susquehanna County. In May 2009, I moved to Middle Tennessee in rural Jackson County and it's where I am today. My shop is just south of Gainesboro and a little over an hour northeast of Nashville. It's the hometown of Jamie Dailey of Dailey and Vincent bluegrass fame. I listen to bluegrass music by Dailey & Vincent, the Lonesome River Band and the Steel Drivers as I recreate 18th Century Americana. If you show up at the right time, you'll also be able to enjoy the lilting voice of Alison Krauss with the incredible musical talents of Union Station.

Lancaster School



Rifles of this school are my favorite. The sleek lines of their architecture encourage the eye to smoothly flow from muzzle to buttplate.

Patchboxes from this school can be sliding wooden or brass. Those of brass many times depicted a daisy head finial and rococo scrolls along its edges. Relief and incised carving accent the beautiful and flowing lines the architecture of this rifle has to offer.

Reading School



Rifles from this school are readily recognizable by the very pronounced "Roman Nose" architecture, which defines the comb. However, earlier representatives of this school show clear German influence in their wide butt stocks and straight comb lines. Rifles from this school can be found with a sliding wooden, or later in the 18th Century, a brass patchbox.

This rifle is pure pleasure to hold. The exaggerated drop and curvature of the comb lend itself to easy mounting and sighting. Relief and incised carving accent the beautiful and flowing lines the architecture of this rifle has to offer.

Two prominent gun builders who influenced the style of guns coming out of the Reading area of Southeastern Pennsylvania are Wolfgang Haga and John Schreit.

The Fowler



Shown above is a 12 gauge smoothbore shotgun built to hunt turkeys. And here's one of several really nice gobblers shot.





This buck was shot on the 21st of November using a patched roundball. As you can see, it works great!

Fowlers played an important role in early America. In a sense, this gun is representative of the first guns made in the colonies. They put meat on the table and answered the call to arms during times of conflict.

The fowler has been broken down into several groups, which are based on distinguishing characteristics of each. For instance, the Hudson Valley Fowler is easily recognizable due to its extreme length, which many times, reached five and even six feet. They were built in the Hudson Valley area of eastern upstate New York.

The Club Butt Fowler has a very large butt stock with a pronounced convex curve to its underside. These smoothbores were built mostly in Massachusetts but a few are known to have been built in Rhode Island.

My fowlers don't fall squarely into any one classification. However, I do prefer to build them showing the flowing lines and other characteristics found on those of the New England fowler group. According to *Flintlock Fowlers,* by Tom Grinslade, the remaining groups are the British-Style fowlers, Kentucky fowlers, and Unique fowlers.

Even though the barrels are smooth-bored and used primarily for shooting shot at winged and small game, they can shoot a patched round ball with surprising accuracy.

I built this fowler to use on those gobblers that give my shop its name and make these hills ring with their mountain music.

The Jaeger



One of the most important influences on the American longrifle was the German Jaeger. The architecture of these guns dominated the 16th and 17th centuries and even well into the 18th century. During the Mid-1700s, however, colonial gun builders began to make substantial changes to their own creations and made them uniquely American.

Gun makers lengthened the barrels by as much as double, pared down the clunky profile of the stock and accompanying furniture, began using curly maple instead of walnut, and decreased bore sizes. By the beginning of the Golden Age of the American longrifle, guns being built then would bear little resemblance to their Germanic forefathers.

Poor Boy



Rifles that were made for the working class, these "Schimmels" were built without the furniture found on rifles from other schools of the 18th Century.

These guns were built without a sideplate, toeplate, muzzlecap, and many times, buttplate. While a patchbox was not normally found on such a rifle, a sliding wooden patchbox was not unusual. Even without the furniture, these rifles are quite capable of producing fantastic groups.

Made with high-quality parts, "Poor Boys" are a good alternative when looking for a gun that you won't be afraid to take afield.

Transitional



Rifles built during the middle of the 18th century were short, heavy, and appeared somewhat clumsy when compared to those built during the "Golden Age" of the Pennsylvania long-rifle. As the 1750s melted into the 1760s, rifle builders began to pare down the profile of their rifles. Still bearing the nuances of their Germanic forefathers, but continually showing the promise of their evolution into the slender piece of art so coveted today, these rifles are often referred to as, "Transitional."

The American Pistol



By the late 18th century, flintlock pistols were evolving right alongside their bigger cousins, the American longrifle. Their use became more commonplace in the colonies and they were possessed by more than just the gentry. After the French Revolution, sword duels were being replaced by pistol duels; therefore, the pistol had to be aimed and accurate out to acceptable dueling ranges, roughly 25 yards. Because of the relatively short sighting plane, the addition of a rear sight now made this possible. Often referred to as the "Kentucky Pistol," the distinctive architecture provided by the "Bird's Head" grip makes this pistol readily identifiable as one produced in the colonies rather than England.

Mission



I prefer to be influenced by the myriad of artisans from this period and in the process, create a rifle that reflects the best this era has to offer.

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BOCES Wildlife Management Unit

by Zach Whittaker

Every fall a handful of our students here at DCMO BOCES and I dive into a very broad, yet short, wildlife management unit lasting usually from mid-September through the end of October (providing the weather conditions are still adequate for the tasks that need completing). Each school year the students conduct a trail camera survey as part of this unit. Students set, monitor and chart all activity from each camera on a weekly basis. The culmination of the activity is graphing the results with integrated math instructor Mike Acre and displaying those results for all to see in the winter edition of the *Wildlife Management Newsletter*.



Shown here are the BOCES students who participated in the fall trail cam study (l-r): Taylor Morris, Downsville; Caleb Stevens, Afton; Zach Wilber, Walton; Dylan Walley, Walton; Dakota Allen, Walton; Phil Ives, Bainbridge-Guilford; James Ray, Bainbridge-Guilford; Aaron Tubbs, Delhi. (Not pictured: Ryan Sherwood, Sidney; Justin Daniels, Bainbridge-Guilford)

The target wildlife species is most commonly the white-tailed deer, as was the case this fall. Students are given an opportunity to voice their interests and preference areas of study. Once the students discuss different options, the class decides as a whole which direction to go. This fall students wanted to take a look at the effect the New York State rifle season has on whitetail deer movement, especially on managed areas designed for hunting – food plots. While this could be a broad subject, students wanted to look directly at, "Does movement cease all together and deer go underground?" as the popular hunting term states, or does movement simply change? Do the deer go nocturnal? Or do the hunted animals stay on the same patterns regardless of hunting pressure?

The setting of this activity is on the approximately 100-acre Robert W. Harrold BOCES campus located just outside the village of Trout Creek, NY, in Delaware County. This area is found on the western fringes of the Catskill Mountains along State Route 206. The landscape is described as steep-to-mountainous in areas, with sporadic agricultural fields comprised of mostly native grasses and corn. The woodlands are predominantly mixed hardwoods, featuring red oak and maple with stands of pine and hemlock sprinkled throughout. The area is known for having a healthy deer population, though not as large as neighboring counties westward. Predators in this area, such as coyotes and black bears, are as good at keeping the deer population in check as hunters, which in 2013 harvested 3.6 deer per square mile – two of which were bucks according to the New York State DEC.

As any good scientist knows, or anybody who paid attention in middle school, each scientific study or experiment must start with a hypothesis. Once the topic of the trail cam study was chosen, students quickly developed a hypothesis based on their background knowledge and experiences. The students' hypothesis: Deer movement would likely decrease due to hunting pressure and human activity in the whitetail's home, especially during daylight hours. Activity is expected to rise in the darkness hours after the November 15th NY southern zone firearms season opener. The thinking is, activity at food sources, as our cameras were set on, would decrease during daylight as deer become increasingly aware and alert of a spike in human presence. As any deer hunter knows, the whitetails' response to this added pressure is to become nocturnal and feed in the cover of darkness.

From the 1st of October through December 3, students reviewed hundreds of pictures and kept detailed notes regarding the number of camera triggers, how many bucks and doe were present and during what time of day the pictures were taken. At the culmination of the activity, we determined that deer activity gradually decreased to a low on the 3rd of December, as we had expected. That is where, as usual, we as humans were unable to predict the patterns of the unpredictable whitetail.



Activity increased significantly right around the 29th of October through Halloween, to a peak on the 5th of November, with the cameras capturing 160 photos that week. This was the first finding that was unexpected; this was sooner than common knowledge and trail camera data has shown in the past. The first three weeks of November are known as the peak of deer activity because of the whitetail rut and surely not a lull; this increase in activity "should" have lasted through mid-November. If this held true in 2014, activity should have kept at a plateau from the 5th through opening day, November 15. Around November 7 through December the activity very slowly, steadily declined to just 82 pictures on the final week. Only half of the pictures taken the week before the season opener. Even more unexpectedly, deer numbers stayed nearly 50/50 during daylight and evening hours from opening day of gun season through the 3rd of December. The final week the cameras captured 42 photos during daylight hours and 40 at night. Our hypothesis was busted!

As the class reacted and discussed the data, they tried to come up with answers. There were a few different thoughts that came to mind. First, it is possible that the whitetail rut landed earlier than on most years and peaked from Halloween through the 5th of November, which is a solid week earlier than the average. This would explain the peak of activity and then steady decline after this date. This information would lead us to believe that the decline in deer movement is not due to human pressure and activity, but a natural progression in annual movement patterns.

This left us with the question "why didn't firearms season have a greater effect on deer movement as most hunters perceive?" The class came up with only few possible answers to this. The most credible concerned the area, a public school, where no hunting is allowed. Possibly the deer did not react to any hunting pressure because there was none. The problem with this thought is that the property is only 100 acres and bordered by state and private land owners. 100 acres is not a large enough space for a deer herd to live on without wandering to neighboring properties. Other ideas that students brought up included, the number of hunters in the area. Some students believe that there are not as many hunters as in years past. Another explored the possibility that deer become accustom to human presence

Continued on page 29

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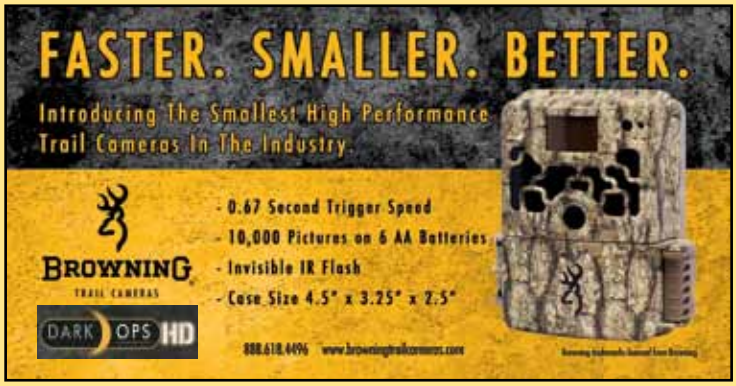
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I found the Browning Dark Ops camera easy to set up. There were very few photos without having some animal in the frame. The photos were clear at night and during the day. I am still using the same batteries after hundreds of photos. I am very happy with the camera's many features and small compact size. The green tree strap and camo color blends well into the surroundings. I have recommended this camera to a friend, several clients and would purchase more of these for myself in the future.

Matthew Sellers, Enhanced Habitat



CFD Featured Product

We have five different brands of trail cameras in use. The new Browning Dark Ops camera is one of the easiest to set up, the instructions are clear and easy to follow. Photo quality is excellent, both day and night and we do not even have it set up with the highest resolution. The nighttime photos are great – on some of our other cameras the pictures are so grainy you can't tell if you are looking at a buck or a doe. The photos are clear out to a greater distance as well. There doesn't seem to be any sound with this camera, so that means that it is probably going to last as far as bear contact. Browning has a winner in my book!

Dave Sienko

I really like the Browning cam!! Battery life is still over 80% and I put it out a few days after you dropped it off. The camera takes some really nice pix. This Browning Dark Ops is the best camera we run right now. We have a bunch of different Moultries, which have been my favorite. We use one Cuddieback and absolutely hate it. Nothing but problems – I'll never buy another. We have one WildGame Innovations and it's OK at best. Good daytime pix but very grainy IR pix. We had one Stealth Cam and got rid of it. Batteries would last three days at best and when it took pix they were not very clear.

Michael Koneski



I have recently transitioned my focus on trail cameras towards the product line that Browning offers. With being an avid bow hunter, I rely on my trail cameras to help with my overall success from season to season. Whether I am hanging them on a food plots, travel routes or other food sources, my Browning trail cameras provide me with the highest quality trigger speed, recovery time, detection width and overall range. With the combination of quick trigger speed (.7 seconds) and 2.3 second recovery time, Browning trail cameras ensure that your game will be detected. The thing that impressed me most with the Browning cameras was the detection range. Compared to other brands I have used in the past, the Browning trail cameras trigger pictures of animals as soon as they cross the detection zone, which helps prevent blank pictures. The overall quality of photos is outstanding, both daytime and especially the night pictures taking into consideration the no-glow infrared technology. The overall clarity, focus and brightness of the photos are top notch. In my opinion, Browning has surpassed many of its competitors with the Dark Ops model!

Chris Jeffers, Woodsfield, Ohio

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Special Birthday Celebration at Ringneck Ridge

by Jim Holbert

Sharing hunting time with my son, Jamie, seems to get harder these days. Work schedules, additions on homes, and most importantly, time he needs to spend with his young family, just don't allow time spent in the field during regular hunting seasons.

I had the idea this year to combine a special day to celebrate our birthdays at Ringneck Ridge where we could schedule an afternoon to hunt pheasants. We had never really been part of a professional bird hunt using well-trained dogs.

I've known and have been friends with John and Mindy, owners of Ringneck Ridge, for several years. The hunting preserve is the home base for Hunts for Healing, which was founded by the Piccottis. I called John, scheduled a day in the afternoon for our hunt, and met up with John Host and our hunting dog, Deseree. Deseree is a Weinheimer retriever who was as anxious as we were to hunt.

First-time hunters are required to go through a short orientation. Lanes of shooting are explained and safe shooting over the dog is taught. Ringneck pheasants were released earlier and Jamie, John Piccotti, and I, armed with our shotguns, went into the fields with our trainer, John Host and Deseree.

The dog's working nose is absolutely amazing. The bird's scent is picked up in the air and ground. It's an absolute treat to hunt with such incredible animals. It didn't take long to find and flush birds and were amazed we could actually harvest some! In fact, we killed eight birds in which the two Johns filleted the breasts for us. What a treat for our birthdays!

Ringneck Ridge is a hunting paradise in my opinion. It's close, professionally run, and most importantly, a ton of fun. Do yourself a favor and give the folks a call to book a hunt. I'm sure you'll be repeat customers.

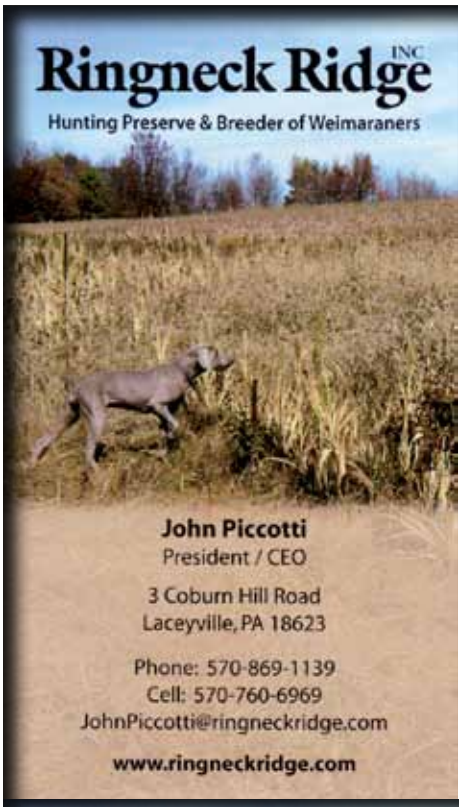


Jamie and I admire the beautiful ringneck pheasant he made a great shot on.





Jamie Holbert, John Piccotti, Jim Holbert, and the best hunter of the group – John's dog Deseree!






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My First Buck – A Mentored Hunt Gone Bad

by Jim Holbert

The names haven't been changed to protect anyone; in fact, if this article should bring reprisals to anyone, I would just plead incompetence due to dementia caused by Lyme disease: a common ailment these days and something that I have been tested for and diagnosed as having. I think.

My story begins with a close friend. Dave Larnerd stopped by on a Saturday morning to tell me that the old hunting cabin, "Camp Lookout," had been sold. The new owner had been gracious enough to let Dave gather up some old camp mementos and photos. The one thing he handed me was a dusty, smoke stained four-point rack. A flood gate of memories opened in my mind. This was my very first buck. It was a deer that I had killed exactly 50 seasons ago when I was 13 years old.



Fifty years ago, I was a "Ralphy" type kid, similar in appearance and dorky-ism as the popular character in the classic holiday movie, "A Christmas Story." I was short, with blond hair, extremely near-sighted, with thick glasses and I was a dreamer (like Ralphy). I didn't dream of getting a BB gun however; I had an 03-A3 Springfield 30.06 as long as me with military peep sights and powerful enough to drop a water buffalo, I was told.

My dream was to get a buck – a huge buck like the one on the beer advertisement poster that hung on the cabin wall. But as the hunting season approached in the fall of 1964, my dad informed me that we couldn't go deer hunting that year because his new job was not going to allow him time to take off. Heart-broken and disappointed, I couldn't stand to think of all my friends in school telling hunting stories and bragging of their exploits. Hunters started at an early age back then of shooting as much bull as deer. If you didn't get a deer (preferably a buck…even a one-antlered spike of 3 inches), you were pretty much a failure in the eyes of your peers.

So here I was, a 13-year-old dreamer with no chance in sight of fulfilling any of those dreams, when my dad was called by his old hunting and fishing buddy, Fred Larnerd. Fred was also the king pin of the newly-built hunting cabin and wanted to invite us out to hunt. When dad explained his work situation to Fred, I couldn't believe my change in fortune in that Mr. Larnerd said he would take me to camp to hunt.

With an old army duffle bag loaded with gear and my 30.06 slung over my shoulder, I entered the magical world of "Hunting Camp." Stories, opinions, jokes, card games, laughter, and all the things that spawn memories richly flowed from the camp characters.

One character in particular I bonded with almost immediately was Bobby Graham. Bob was from Oklahoma and not only had a cool accent but told stories with a flair that I had never experienced. He told me he had a "special stand" where deer crossed every 10 minutes. It would be almost a sure thing to get a buck if I wanted to go with him in the morning. Camp captain Mr. Larnerd said that was fine with him and instructed Bobby to keep an eye on me.

With little sleep and huge amounts of excitement, Bobby got me on stand well before daylight that first day so many years ago. The stand was under a pine tree where a cushion of pine needles made a dry and quiet carpet. The tree was next to a stream and the panoramic view looking up the power line toward the cabin will always be a photo in my mind.

I remember that with only a few minutes of daylight, we heard our first shot. It came from an area where Fred's stand was located. Bobby said, "Keep your eyes open, deer are gonna be moving soon." Sure enough! Several deer started to run across the power line. Bob said to get ready; a buck could come out at any time!

Three deer suddenly appeared in a wide opening on the power line. They seemed to materialize in the early morning light. They were standing in the open but at a distance that was later paced off at almost 200 yards.

With words that will be forever embedded in my brain, Bobby said, "Shoot! That last one's a buck." BAM! The old 03-A3 barked and the deer collapsed. What an adrenaline rush when Bobby said a few minutes later that the deer was dead and for me to run up to check it out. Ran I did – straight up the 200yd slope to the deer. The excitement, fun, and potential bragging rights were all ripped from my heart when I discovered there were no antlers on the deer. It was a huge doe as bald as I am now.

Running back to Bobby, I said, "Mr. Graham, there's no horns on the deer!" Now, Bob said something that would have a profound impact on my entire hunting career. "Oh no! I didn't think you could hit it!" I realized he never saw antlers on the deer; he just wanted a little kid to shoot for the excitement of simply shooting.

The joy was now replaced with disappointment and a totally deflated ego. Bobby said he would take care of the doe and I was to find Fred Larnerd and tell him what had happened. The first shot we had heard proved to be what we had anticipated. Mr. Larnerd killed a nice buck and he was dragging it back to camp when I found him. He asked if the shooting on the power line was us and I told him that it was me and that I killed a deer but it was a doe. In words that could make a sailor blush, Fred gave me hell! I was lectured and scolded for what seemed forever about never shooting at anything unless you're positive of your target. Shame replaced all the joy that took place earlier that morning.

I walked away from Fred crying and was pretty sure I never wanted to hunt again. I remember wishing my dad was there but was really glad he wasn't. There was no sense having him there to see I was a hunting failure.

I sat down on a stone wall fence a short time after my lecture; I don't remember if I stopped crying or my tears were frozen to my cheeks. But suddenly, a literal stampede of deer broke over the hill and then stopped in front of me. I could see the antlers on the one deer and I snapped the safety off my rifle and shot. Lo and behold, my first buck was a fine, plump 4 point. What a bitter-sweet experience.

Not knowing what to do, I returned to camp not really knowing what the reaction to my appearance and news about the second deer would be. Bobby and Fred were the only ones back at camp at that time and Bob had had the time to explain the story and situation to Fred. I was smugly elated to find out that Bobby caught as much hell as I did. Bobby's words to me when he found out about the buck: "What'd you do, redeem yourself?"

These were tough lessons to learn for a kid and a mentoring adult but everyone has to be positive of the target being shot at. The person pulling the trigger holds all of the responsibility, so unless you see real antlers, don't shoot. I didn't ever want to hear, "Oh no! I didn't think you could hit it," again.



Lyme Disease Symptoms



Please check if you have the symptoms listed below:

- Unexplained fever, chills, or sweats?
- Unexplained weight changes, gain or loss?
- Fatigue, tiredness, especially around 3 P.M.?
- Unexplained swollen glands?
- Chronic sore throat or sinus infections
- Testicular/pelvic pain?
- Unexplained menstrual irregularity?
- Irritable bladder or bladder dysfunction?
- Sexual dysfunction or loss of libido?
- Stomach problems?
- Change in bowel function, constipation, diarrhea?
- Chest pains?
- Shortness of breath/cough?
- Heart palpitations, heart block, racking heart, slow beat?
- Muscle pain/cramps?
- Joint pain/swelling that come & go - knees, hips, ankles, wrists?
- Twitches of facial or other muscles?
- Headaches, sometimes days at a time?
- Neck creaks/cracks - stiffness?
- Stiffness of the joints or back?
- Tingling, numbness, burning or stabbing sensations?
- Facial paralysis - Bell's Palsy?
- Double or blurry vision, floaters, pain, light sensitivity?
- Buzzing or ringing in ears, ear pain, sensitivity to sound?
- Dizziness, poor balance, increased motion sickness?
- Light-headed?
- Confusion, difficulty thinking?
- Difficulty with concentration, reading, or following plots?
- Decreased short term memory loss?
- Disorientation, getting lost, going to wrong places?
- Difficulty with speech, think one thing and another word comes out?
- Mood swings, irritability, depression, crying for no reason?
- Disturbed sleep - increased, decreased or nightmares, night sweats?
- Exaggerated symptoms from alcohol?
- Diagnosis of *Carpal* Tunnel, Chronic Fatigue, Epstein Barr or M.S.?
- Do you feel like dying?
- Have you seen multiple doctors without success?
- Do people say you are a "hypochondriac" or tell you it's in your head?





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Attention Hunters; Warning!
Guns are not the only danger in the woods.
Be Aware, Be Vigilant!
This predator, though very small, has a life altering agenda for you and your family!
Check the Symptom list on the previous page to see how
JUST ONE TICK BITE
can affect your health! Please don't drag them home to your family, take Precautions!

Tick bites are very misleading, and fact is you don't have to see a bull's-eye rash to be infected. You may not even know you've been bit. There is a number of Disease's that travel with Lyme Disease, these are known as Co-Infections. The following list is just a few of the most common: Babesia, Bartonella, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Q-Fever, Erlichiosis, & Rickettsia. We have a lot of Hunters as patients, many of which have been mis-diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson Disease, Depression, and Anxiety but when properly treated for Lyme Disease with Antibiotics, not herbs, they do not work, they can resume a normal life, and return to Hunting once again. Have you noticed any of these symptoms in yourself or your family? If so go to www.drgregorybach.com to find out more about Lyme Disease. To hear our pod cast on "The truth about Lyme Disease" check out www.thepeoplechronicles.com/dr-bach Unfortunately Blood tests done for Lyme are not always accurate, so even when you're told it's not Lyme that may very well be wrong!



This young Mennonite patient suffered for 10 years with depression and did not want to live, only to find out it was caused by Lyme disease. After being treated, with Proper antibiotic treatment, until his symptoms resolved, has been off all anti-depressants for 3 years and is living a normal life, enjoying Hunting! He just shot this Buck at 488 yards, Not Bad!

Note: We have a children's book coming out in Jan. 2015, titled "The Greatest Rescue Puppy" proceeds help support Lyme disease.

*Stay tuned future in depth articles are coming "Lyme Disease 101"
Dr. Gregory Bach, D.O.PC., F.A.A.I.M.

Ohio Bow Hunt

By Glenn Wolfe

My son-in-law David and I made the 7-hour trip to Southeast Ohio on Sunday, November 9 to meet up with our good friends Chris and Natalie Jeffers. David and I arrived in camp around 3:00 am and were greeted by my son Craig who had driven out earlier and readied the camp for our arrival.

Craig went out with Chris for the Monday morning hunt to hunt the magical benches stand where six hollows come together on a little flat. David and I decided since we had traveled all night it was best we get some sleep before getting in a stand.

Around noon David and I got to Chris's house where it was decided that David would hunt a stand on the same farm that Craig was hunting and I would go to a different farm a mile or so away and set up a stand. Chris said he was getting pictures of a good 9-point and a really wide 8-point on this farm.

Chris showed me two white oak flats that he thought would be good for a stand. The first was the flat where he was getting the pictures from; the second was a flat to the north – I picked the flat about 170 yards to the north from where he had been getting the pictures. It was a nice flat with a hay field to the east side and a very steep ravine to the west. I set up a lock on with stagger steps about 20 yards off the field edge inside the woods where I could get a good shot at any buck cruising the oak flat looking for love. I poured out a bag of Chestnut Magic on the other side of a deer trail about 20 yards away and got in the stand for the afternoon hunt.

It was about 70 degrees that afternoon and I didn't see anything, but my hopes were high for the morning hunt when it would be cooler. My Tuesday morning sit was better than the evening before as I saw three small bucks cruising for does. That afternoon I was back in the stand for a really slow and really hot sit, not seeing any deer activity at all.

Since I had seen deer in the morning, I planned to be back in that stand the next morning, but my plans all changed when Chris picked me up at dark. He said, "I've figured out what the big drop tine buck is doing and I set up a stand for you and you need to be in it in the morning." Back at camp that night I told my son & son-in-law that since I was moving stand locations that one of them should sit in the oak flat stand. My son Craig declined, but my son-in-law David said, "I haven't seen much from where I have hunted. I'll hunt it tomorrow."

Wednesday morning found me hunting a new stand and found David in my stand. We all had vowed to hunt until around 11:00 AM that morning as a cold front had begun moving into the area and deer movement should pick up. My morning sit produced a nice 120" or so 9-point at 10 yards but nothing else. David saw two or three small bucks cruising the oak flat early in the morning. At 11:00, David lowered his bow to the ground and was preparing to climb down when he looked over his shoulder to see the really wide 8-pointer at 20 yards away; the buck stopped momentarily and took a bite of the Chestnut Magic and then continued on out the oak flat. Once the buck got a little ways past David, he quickly retrieved his bow, knocked an arrow and tried to call the buck back, to no avail. The buck simply walked out of his life. David was so shaken up about the events that he vowed he would sit that stand until the buck showed back up or until we needed to leave for Pennsylvania. Wednesday evening produced no deer sightings for David or me, but Craig had seen a couple of small bucks. Thursday morning we were all back in our stands. I saw another small buck early in the morning, but no sign of the big drop tine buck. David saw the two or three small bucks that normally showed up, but not the wide 8.

Our Thursday afternoon hunt was unproductive – no deer sightings for David or me, but Craig was covered up with does at his new stand. Thursday evening David said he wanted to sit somewhere else Friday morning and since I hadn't seen the big drop tine yet, I said I would go back and hunt the wide 8. David said that he hoped that I didn't kill that buck so he wouldn't have to relive his mistake every time he visited my house. Friday morning found me back on the white oak flat where I watched three small buck cruising for doe. Friday afternoon I was in the same stand and after seeing nothing, decided to put out some more Chestnut Magic on the way out. Saturday morning found me back in my white oak flat stand. Right after sunrise I had a one-horn buck walk through at about 40 yards; a few minutes later I had another small buck cruise the flat in the opposite direction. At 7:20 I heard something walking where no deer had come from before. I looked through my binoculars and identified the noise as the wide 8-pointer and he was headed in my direction. I quickly got my bow off the hanger, attached my release and prepared for the shot. The buck was angling toward me and the direction he was headed would take him behind a cluster of trees where I intended to draw my bow and prepare for the shot. As if on cue, the buck stopped behind the trees giving me ample time to draw. I was at full draw when the buck came out from

Continued on page 23



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Ohio Bow Hunt cont'd from page 20

behind the trees and when he stopped again, I released the arrow. The buck only went 40 yards before piling up within sight of the stand. There wasn't any ground shrinkage on the wide 8 as I walked up to him… 4½-year-old 8-point, 23½" inside spread, 6½" bases with 25½" main beams and a gross score of 156".



I believe what we experienced that week was most of the big bucks were in "lock down" with a hot doe so they weren't on their feet actually searching for receptive does like we thought they would be. Persistence and patience is the story of this hunt as I have no doubt that if my son-in-law would have remained diligent to the oak flat stand he would have harvested the wide 8-point.

On the day we left for Pennsylvania, the big drop tine buck showed up on camera at 11:00 am. The Thursday my son Craig abandoned the "magic benches" stand, five different bucks showed up there including two different 10-point 130" bucks.

Stay tuned as there will be a "late season" bow hunt for Craig and David.



Here is Dad with his buck shot out of elevated box blind in background. 8-point about a 50 yard shot in a Buck Forage clover & chicory plot. The buck never made it out of the plot.

Mule Deer Hunt

By John Utter

My wife and I were in Miles City, Montana, on a late season deer hunt. We were hunting with Paul Ellis of Sunday Week Outfitters. It was the middle of November and a cold front from Canada had the temperature at 18 degrees below zero!

Our guide, Brian, picked us up at 5:30AM and we headed to mule deer country. We saw a lot of deer just after daylight. We put a stalk on a nice buck but he wasn't a shooter. Around nine o' clock, we spotted a big buck with some does. We tried to close the distance, but the buck wanted no part of that. He went into some really rough country, so we left him alone. We did not shoot at the buck nor pursue him further.

The rut was in full swing so we went back to the spot where we saw the buck in the afternoon. We were watching a group of does on a hillside around four o' clock when out he came. He chased the does around like a sheepdog herds sheep. We closed the distance from 500 yards to 265 yards as he was paying little attention to us. I got a good solid rest for my Weaterby 300 magnum and waited for a good shot. Brian ranged the buck at 264 yards but he was looking straight at us. I heard my wife Mary say: "The does are leaving," so I was ready when he turned to leave. One shot and down he went. When we got over to the deer, a 6x6 with a 25" spread and high tines, we all agreed that hunting all day in the cold had paid off!



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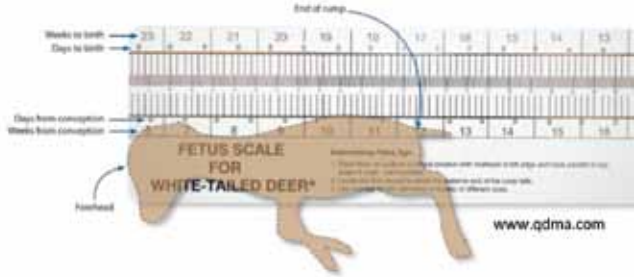
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Mapping the Rut: How Fred Mack Saved My Master's Thesis

by Jim Stickles, AWB®

Fred Mack was a good friend, an auto body repair man, a fellow hunter, and my landlord. During my tenure in Pennsylvania, Fred's auto body shop shared a driveway with my apartment. We were both deer enthusiasts, so naturally Fred and I had many heart-to-heart conversations about hunting, often over a few cold beverages. Fred has since passed, but his legacy will live on because one of our conversations turned into something special that will benefit deer hunters for years to come!

Unlike their northern relatives, which have a concise and predictable rut during November, southern deer have a wide range of rut dates that pose challenges to both deer biologists and hunters. Currently, the most common method to determine timing of the rut is to collect fetuses from deceased does and measure them using a special scale that back dates



to the approximate day of conception. The problem with this method of data collection is it is riddled with logistical issues that make it expensive and impractical to use by state agencies. That being said, back to the auto body shop!

After a long day of telemetry in early November, I returned to find my driveway full of incapacitated vehicles. Business was good for Fred in early November – the rut was "on" and it was blatantly obvious! Nearly every car in the driveway was the result of a deer-vehicle collision. I decided to swing by the shop and see how things were going. Knowing Fred was likely to be tired and could use a break, I was sure to bring a couple of frosty beverages before my unannounced visit. As we talked about the day's events, I looked out the garage window into the driveway and said, "I bet you know exactly when peak rut is based on the number of cars that come into your shop this time of year."

Fred took a sip of his drink and said, "Yup, and I picked the wrong profession because I'm so busy this time of year that I never get to hunt it!" We both laughed and continued our conversation until our drinks were gone, but a seed of an idea had been planted.



Georgia rut map created using deer-vehicle collision data. An interactive version can be viewed at: http://georgiawildlife.com/rut-map

Five years later, that seed has come to full bloom. My first year in Georgia, I turned to internet message boards to get some local information on rut dates, but I got answers all over the board from October to December. Georgia did have a rut map that was based on 20-year-old conception data and hunter observations. Needless to say, I was hesitant to trust a map that was based on a mixture of hunter opinion and a 20-year-old data set. Luckily, the Georgia Department of Transportation furnished me with some deer-vehicle collision data. With some help from other graduate students at the University of Georgia Deer Lab and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, we were able to take the deer-vehicle collision data and make it into a new rut map for Georgia!

The idea was simple. As deer activity increases during the rut, deer tend to cross roads more frequently which increases their likelihood of becoming road kill. Unlike fetal scale data, deer-vehicle collision data is more solidly based on deer movement. If you are a deer hunter, this means that the week of greatest road kill is likely the best week of the year to be in the woods. Coincidently, it is also the worst week to be a commuter! Fred knew this truth all too well, as do other auto body shop owners.

So if you are hunting a new area and you need some local rut knowledge, consider making friends with the folks at the local auto body repair shop, and remember that a cold, refreshing beverage is usually appreciated. Cheers, Fred!

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Elk with a Handgun

by David Tyler

My elk hunt with Big Horn Outfitters was an eight day, fully guided, wilderness, horseback, canvas tent hunt. I would be hunting with a revolver, a Ruger Super Red Hawk 480 with a Trijicon red dot sight and shooting 400gr Speer Gold Dot bullets.

I flew from Scranton-Wilkes-Barre to Idaho Falls, Idaho on Friday September 11th and spent the night there. Saturday morning, I drove a rental car to Salmon and spent the afternoon and overnight at the outfitters'. Early Sunday morning, we drove for three hours to reach the outfitters' trail-head staging camp. We then loaded mules with supplies and traveled on horseback 27 miles further into the Frank Church wilderness.

My guide Shane and I rode out well before dawn Monday morning, taking about an hour to reach the area where we would hunt. The rut was just beginning and the bulls were bulging mornings and late afternoon but it was too warm midday for them to be active. That morning we watched a nice bull push several cows over the mountain ridge opposite us. When it cooled off that afternoon, we heard several bulls bugle but could not get close to them.

Tuesday, we returned to the same area and found one of the bulls. We spent until well past noon trying several ways to get close enough to call him in, but could not. Later that afternoon, we heard another bull on the mountain across from us and we went after him. We were able to get close enough to engage him and he was responding eagerly to Shane's calling. He was working in to us but tried to circle down wind, so we backed up and dropped down to stay down wind of him. The third time that happened, he got ahead of us and smelled us from only 50 yards. Disappointing but very exciting!

Wednesday morning, we located a bull for another hunter that he and his guide were in place to pursue but needed to make sure he was still there. We used radios to tell them he was still there and later that morning we heard him shoot and take that bull. We hunted that morning without finding an active bull. Soon after noon we heard a bull bulge on the mountain side below us. We dropped down and engaged him for over an hour before he finally came in to less than 50yds, but it was thick enough that I could not get a shot. I could see enough to know he was a big mature bull, but he was in no hurry to keep coming. It was very intense waiting while the bull and Shane continued to challenge each other as Shane moved back to try and pull him in. The wind was steady from right to left with the bull in front; when I felt the wind stop I thought, "Oh No!"

Sure enough, the wind swirled; he got my scent and left in a hurry. Shane, who was unable to see the bull at all, heard him crash away, came up to me and asked, "How big was he?" I answered, "really big!" As we sat there disappointed, the bull stopped, went back to bulging, and another bull behind us answered him. We looked at each other and said, "Oh Yes;" we're still in play with the newcomer. He had heard all this calling and wanted in on the action. We quickly moved down the hill to get between them and within several minutes he was there.

At about 35 yards, he entered an opening above me and I started shooting. I hit him three times before he got through the opening and behind some trees. I quickly moved a few yards back and could see him standing still. Because I was hunting an animal this size with a handgun, I had committed to not even taking a first shot unless I was sure I would have a bullet through both lungs, and then put as many as possible in him to keep him from going very far. So now that I had several in the lungs and heart, it was time to go for bone, so I put a 400 grain bullet square on his shoulder. With that, he spun around to go back the way he came, but went down right away. This bull is younger and smaller than the other ones we had been hunting but I was thrilled to have accomplished my goal of harvesting a bull elk with a handgun. It was also a great experience for Shane to have guided a hunter to that goal, so we both were pretty excited. When you put this kill together with the other close encounters we had leading up to it, it made for a really great hunt.



The elk was taken Sept 17, 2014, in the Frank Church Wilderness, Salmon, Idaho – with a Ruger 480 Super Red Hawk with a Trijacon Sight.



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Wildlife Management News

is dedicated to

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BOCES cont'd from page 11

and are less likely to react drastically to it. All are viable points. The problem with these thoughts is that they are based on opinions and not the facts, they are long shots.

Other highlights from the study showed that the highest amount of activity occurred during the first week of October. This was probably because deer had not yet felt our presence on a weekly basis in the area. The information also shows that in this specific location, the peak of the rut probably took place from October 29 through November 5. While this seems very early as mentioned beforehand it's hard to argue with proof. During that week our cameras photographed 7 bucks, including the biggest we caught on camera, a most likely three year old 8 pointer at 12:10 in the afternoon. The 7 bucks were up from just 1 the previous week and 4 the week following. Another eye opening week was from October 15 through the 22. This week, by far, had the least amount of activity. Snapping only 27 pictures! The assumption is that during that week another food source, that was more attractive, became available to the deer. The classes best guess was one of the neighboring corn fields were cut or the acorns started to drop heavily from the numerous Oak's on the property. Just goes to show how quickly and abruptly Whitetail's can shift their patterns and movement.

Given all this information that I have discussed, the students and I came to a conclusion based on the facts and information that our trail cameras provided. That conclusion was that, at least in this particular area, this year, the firearms season did not affect the deer movement. We concluded that the reduction in deer movement throughout the fall was due to a natural progression that started with the wane of the whitetail rut.

We hope that you found this information helpful in your hunting endeavors and you can take it for what it is worth. The fact of the matter is as soon as you think you have a whitetail pegged; he will probably throw you for a loop!





Last Night – Last Light After 35 Years

by Randy Reynolds

It was the 1979 deer season when I shot my last deer, a small 4-point. Hunting with good friend Dan Millard, it was a special moment – it was my third deer, all 4-pts.

In 1981 I missed my only hunting season due to an auto accident, but my license and doe tag were pinned on my wall in the hospital room. After my stay in the hospital, the 1982 season came, I took a shot on another small buck, but what was different was I could not do the follow up due to my injury. My father and friend went into the woods after it, but with no luck. It was then I realized I couldn't ask someone else to do the dirty work every time I shot.

I started passing up many, many deer, and catching hell back at camp; it was at that time I realized if the little bucks had a chance to grow they would get larger. A few years later I started putting out mineral licks around the farm and planting food plots. I started see deer all year long – it is great to see them using the plots.

Finally, the crew that hunts here came on board and started passing on the small bucks and felt good about it. Sure we weren't shooting as many, but those that were shot were nicer.

Now it's spring 2014 and seeing good bucks in food plot, and all summer long they grow into shooter deer. I was so excited I bought a Shadow Hunter blind and placed it on my food plot. Within two days they were feeding so close to it their tail would hit the front door. I was able to get out 8 or 9 times with a bow and saw a nice shooter, but had no shot. Rifle season came in and our crew saw lots of deer but had no shots. I got out about five times with no luck, but on the last day (12-13-14) – and again hunting with good friend Dan Millard – a shooter came out to feed with two small bucks already there at 4:20pm and I let the 12-gauge bark. I had just fulfilled a 35-year goal, to harvest a good buck here on the farm.



I only hope this starts a few more years of quality hunting here at home for me!



For more information on the 2015 field schools, contact Institute Director Michele Kittell at mkittell@piceweb.org or (570) 245-8518 or Program and Outreach Coordinator Katie Cassidy at kcassidy@piceweb.org or (570) 939-5109. You can also connect with the Academy on Facebook (facebook.com/wildlifeleadershipacademy).

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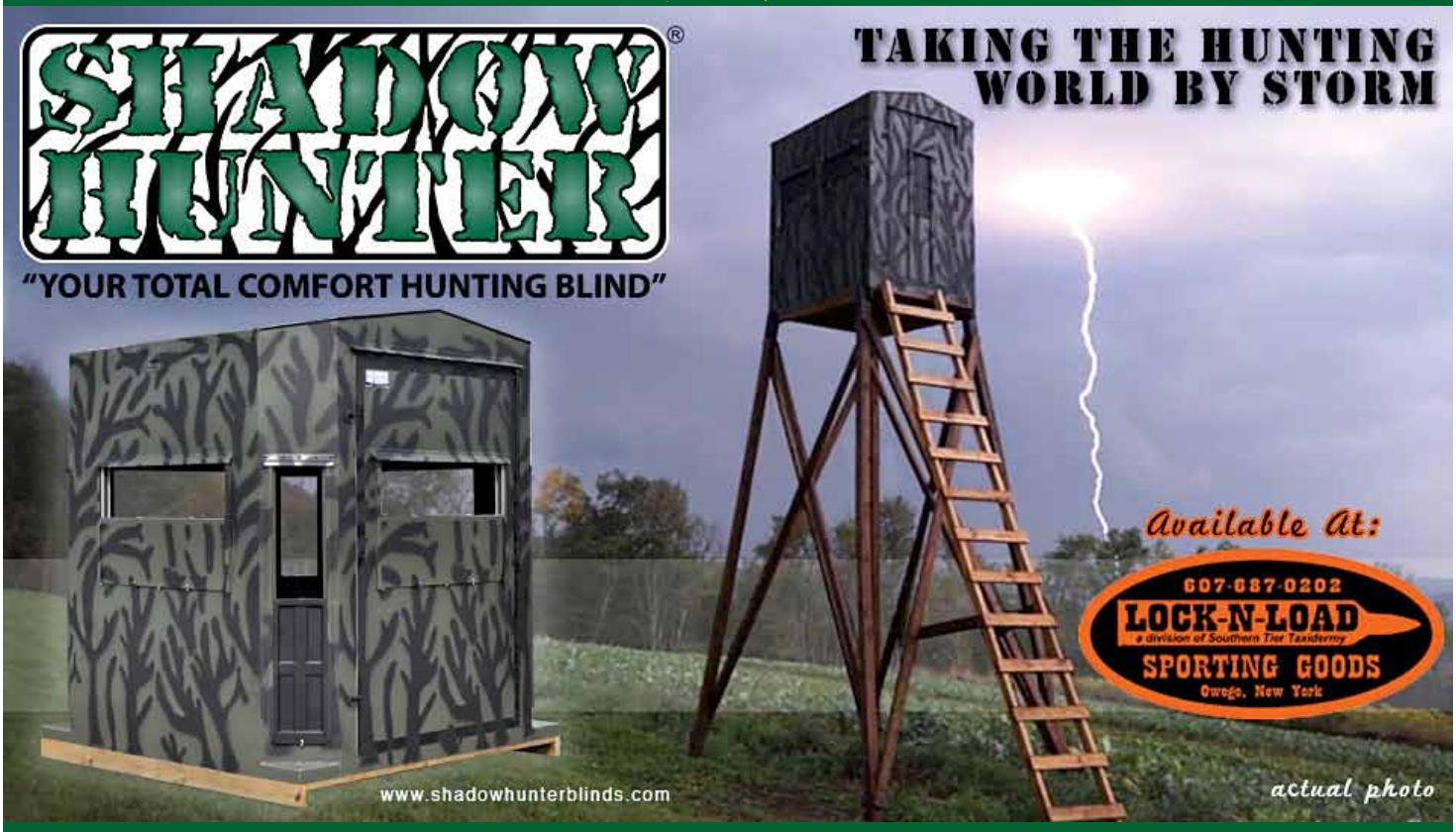
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Mock Scrapes: Signpost Symbols

by John Buck

The distinct sound of an approaching deer was encouraging. The trail camera photos of activity surrounding my "mock scrape" indicated that several mature bucks were visiting it with regularity, during early morning hours as compared to the other set ups that were active at varying times. Their curiosity and territorial urges kept them coming back to keep reclaiming the area as their own, but little did they know, their "competition" was one step ahead of them all the time.



A mature buck visiting an active scrape during the pre-rut phase.

For many hunters, the hunting over or in and around a whitetail scrape has been a futile attempt to put them in a strategic location to harvest a mature buck on their own turf. However, in a deer's world, a patch of soil unearthed by a rutting buck has more drawing power to other bucks and does than any other behavioral trait throughout the year.

For decades, scientists, biologists, hunters and writers have been trying to solve the myriad of mysteries surrounding the rutting behaviors of mature bucks when creating scrapes. As a hunter and conservationist who values the whitetail as the most challenging game animal in America, I set out to conduct a study over the course of five years to better understand the communication process between both sexes and varying age structures. Because I strictly bowhunt, the time frame for this endeavor would begin in mid-October and end five weeks later. During this time, with the use of several trail cameras, quality deer scents, scent elimination products and the knowledge of how to create these "mock" scrapes, the activity surrounding them would display a very distinct portrayal of true rutting behaviors.

Why do mature bucks create scrapes?



Evidence of scrape visitation from mature and subordinate bucks on the edge of security cover. (The 10 point and spike have visited the same scrape).

Whether out of frustration, competition, dominance or aggression, mature and subordinate bucks both make scrapes and due to varying age structures and body characteristics of mature bucks, they initiate the process when daylight levels decrease. With each passing day, the levels of testosterone increase and cause mature bucks to seek out prime areas within their core area and begin the pre-rut process. Mature bucks, 3.5 years and older – possessing broad shoulders, thick necks, deep chests and strong legs – can clear out a scrape with ease. The aroma of the soil under an overhanging branch would seem that's all that's needed to lure in a mature buck; however, with the addition of several glands and the scent emitting from them, obscures the process altogether for a hunter.



The creating of a "mock scrape" is done so with the use of a heavy, forked stick, to unearth the soil of leaves, sticks or plant growth.

The use of scrapes is a two-prong approach when communicating with other deer. Whether a mature buck is trying to attract receptive does to the location or alerting other bucks of his presence, the quality, strength and amount of scent deposited at each location causes them to return and continue to reclaim their territory as their own.

The Importance and Meaning of Glands

Several internal and external glands of the whitetail are being used at each scrape location that cannot be duplicated by a hunter to effectively attract deer during the season. With the use of the forehead, interdigital, salivary and tarsal glands, each scent is individually significant of one another.

Forehead glands of a mature buck, being situated between the buck's eye and antler base, is a multipurpose gland being used at both rubs and scrapes. It is an active gland that leaves an odor combined with the gland and the sap of the tree that was previously rubbed, essentially creating a distinct discoloration. As additional rubs are created, the gland becomes more active, thus generating a stronger scent. When this occurs, the scent can be transferred to the overhanging branch of the scrape.

The interdigital gland, located between all the hooves of a deer, discharges a waxy substance that seeps out with every step they make. The odor is recognized when leaving a scent trail or when mature bucks create or maintain a scrape. The scent from the gland aids the deer in finding one another rather easily.

Salivary glands are an important gland when scent-marking overhanging branches at scrapes. When bucks chew the tips of the branches and splinters the wood, the saliva, having a distinct scent, is absorbed into the fibers, functioning as a sponge. This scent is preserved until another visiting deer substitutes it with their own.

The tarsal gland of a deer is the most important and involved gland they utilize when communicating with other deer. Located on the joint of their rear legs, they signal to one another, at different times of the year, of what their age, sex and dominance statuses are.

When mature bucks "rub urinate" at scrape sites, the urine adheres to the elongated hairs, creating a noticeably dark stain. The principal gland underneath, that conceals a fatty substance termed a lipid, remains on the long hairs, creating each buck's unique odor that other bucks can recognize. During this process, the excess of urine that flows

over the glands will be deposited into the scrape. The message conveyed is one of dominance and antagonism, causing them to return to investigate.

Creating a "Mock" Scrape

By creating the illusion that an "interloper" buck has presented himself to the area, recreating the characteristics of an actual scrape must be adhered to.

The features include:

- A sizable scrape, 2'x3' in diameter, that appears to be freshly made;
- An overhanging branch;
- Debris free of any leaves, twigs or plant growth;
- Rich soil void of any large rocks;
- Level ground;
- Absence of human scent;
- Use of quality, natural lures.



Situating a mock scrape in a high traffic area, between a prime, natural feed source and quality cover, will elicit favorable responses throughout the pre-rut/rut.

In search of finding active scrapes within a mature buck's home range during the course of several hunting seasons, noting their construction, each location was virtually identical.

Scrape Size: With the onset of the pre-rut, the initial scrape opening session made by a mature buck will ensure that each passing deer notices them when they travel throughout the area. When positioned in a well-traveled area that consists of a balanced deer herd, the visits will increase. The size of the scrape is suggestive to the size of the deer that created it; the maturity and age also indicates that subordinate bucks lack the wisdom and physical power in creating such a scrape. As the scrape is continually used, it will increase in size.

Significance of the Overhanging Branch: It is the vital element of the entire scrape making process, that creates a visible attractant when communicating between mature bucks, in a given area. The overhanging limb is the catalyst that ultimately initiates the manner in which each scrape is repeatedly worked throughout the entire season; without the branch, the working of the soil underneath does not take place.

The stimuli of the various natural scents that are present encourage other bucks to endure future visitations from the apparent aroma that exists. Although hunters cannot smell these odors, to a mature buck, there are several indications that they do exist. Trying to duplicate and allocate the source of these scents is obviously an impractical undertaking as the basis of my research dealt primarily with the use of quality commercial urine-based scents deposited into the soil.

There are significant behavioral responses in how mature and subordinate bucks interacted with the overhanging branch of a natural scrape versus a mock scrape.

Type of Scent Used: The commercial market is inundated with a variety of scent products – liquids, gels and enhancers. Each type serves a distinct purpose; however, when dispensing scent into a scrape, there are only a few, reliable scents to use.



Scent granules are an effective tool when mixed with a quality ½ oz. dominant buck/estrous liquid scent.

The application of liquid scents in a mock scrape have proven to be ineffective and not cost efficient, as they wash into the ground more rapidly, lose their aromatic potency and have to be re-applied within 2-3 days. By doing so, additional human scent will contaminate the area and warn them of your presence. To properly utilize liquid scents, mixing them with a scent enhancer enables the granules to absorb the liquid as they are top-dressed onto the soil. Scent enhancers are time-released, won't evaporate, will not freeze and will not absorb into the ground. When initially creating multiple scrape sites during the pre-rut, I am able to deploy a limited amount of scent and capitalize on its effectiveness.

By applying a gel type, concentrated scent, consisting of quality urine, musk



A rub created on an apple tree by the 10-point within sight distance of an active scrape.

and glands mixed together, this formulation has afforded me to elicit the natural and sexual urges demonstrated by mature bucks during the rut.

Gel scents, like scent enhancers, do not wash into the ground and hold their aroma considerably longer than liquids. It is important to use gel type scents sparingly, as too much scent can be just as detrimental as not applying enough. Gel scents are the ticket to appeal to a mature buck's olfactory senses.

Elimination of Human Scent: In successfully attracting mature bucks to our "mock scrapes," the proper equipment and strict compliance are needed to eliminate our human scent. The use of knee high, rubber bottom boots and heavy duty kitchen gloves, coupled with washing and spraying down our clothes with scent elimination products, will ultimately keep our presence down to a minimum.

Any amount of human odor, in and around a scrape site, will render it useless and prevent any activity in that area. During the entries and exits to our scrape sites, it's important to avoid brushing up against any low lying brush or trees, as our scent can be transferred to their leaves and be used against us.

Scent Application: To persuade mature bucks to believe that another buck and an apparent estrous doe exists, the five scrape sites were treated with a variety of gel and liquid, scent-enhanced lures and each location was monitored with infrared trail cameras.

During the third week of October (20th), I initially opened each scrape with a less dominant buck gel, to elicit responses and prevent the intimidation from bucks that were in the area. I continued this procedure for approximately seven days and as a result, (8) lesser quality bucks (spikes-5 points) initially responded to the scent dispersed, walking by each one

Continued on next page

Mock Scrapes continued from page 33



Another mock scrape on the edge of a pear orchard that generated a considerable amount of activity.

and displaying no interest (lack of overhead branch work, pawing soil or rub-urination).

On October 27, the scrapes were refreshened with additional scent; however, as compared to years past (prior indications exhibited limited results, although there were multiple visits to the scrapes), I intentionally doctored two of the scrapes with the lesser dominant scent and combined the less dominant scent and a quality estrous scent to the remaining three.

Although scrapes are a good indicator for when the pre-rut begins, it was my desire to push the envelope, triggering my own "rut." The outcome was astonishing, as my findings revealed (11) lesser quality bucks and (4) quality bucks (6pt. or better) responded to most of the five scrapes, all at different times. Upon further observation, the (4) bucks consisted of (2) fully mature, heavy racked bucks that only responded to the buck/doe gel scented scrapes; each video and photograph discovered that they would visit these scrapes with regularity and work the overhanging branch, paw out the scent deposited, thus leave a limited amount of their own scent there. The plan had worked and by the frequent visits by one particular buck, I would continue my mock scrape regimen for weeks to come.

The third week generated even further positive results, as, for the first time, several curious does have visited most of the scrapes, without leaving any signs of their presence to my dismay. It was this week, just prior to the peak of the rut, that most of the activity occurred during the five-week study; (23) lesser quality and (5) mature bucks made visits. Multiple trail camera photos disclosed that the majority of the mature buck movement occurred at the later part of the morning through the first two hours of daylight, commencing again later in the afternoon.

The chemical signals being interpreted by these mature bucks were very gratifying, as one particular morning I harvested one of these bucks that was traveling to a "mock scrape" situated on the edge of an orchard.

As a result, the atmosphere changed with his removal from the herd. My 10-point buck was believed to be 5.5-years-old, a patriarch of these woods. The events that followed assured me of how important it was to manage a herd to acquire different age groups.

From observing the (23) lesser quality bucks a week prior, that number dwindled to just (7), lower than the initial number when I first started. The (5) mature buck sightings ballooned upwards to (9) and caused these younger bucks to disperse. The mock scrape, mature buck visits were compiling impressive numbers. Trail camera photos verified these findings, causing them to travel at all hours of the day.

By applying a more dominant buck lure, combined with the same estrous scent at the onset of week four, it was my expectation to further challenge each buck that was inclined to visit each scrape. Coincidently, the doe visitations ceased altogether and during the remainder of the season, their activity was influenced mostly at night.

Mature does, by nature, are less likely to travel greater distances from quality food supplies or cover during the later stages of the pre-rut/rut. By remaining within a fraction of their area they normally occupy, as a result, will attract a greater number of mature bucks. By applying and maintaining each scrape site with a quality estrous scent, the sightings wouldn't have been possible.

Starting off the fifth week, the sightings intensified. It is believed, as compared to the week prior, the bucks were searching for every available doe and were as visible as ever. With a doe tag burning a whole in my pocket, the flurry of activity witnessed was exciting!

The scent deposited during this week would end my research for the rest of the season. My objective was to document how effective the scent usage would be throughout the peak of the rut. It was evident by viewing the trail cameras pictures, that numerous bucks, mature (17) and subordinates (13), were walking within mere feet of each scrape to scent check the lure deposited. The activity at each location shocked me. It gave me the impression, that at one point, several bucks were lining up to visit one particular scrape that was located close to a sanctuary, created several years earlier.

I also noted that the majority of the activity was adjacent to the security cover, rather than the more open, field type locations bordering the orchards and food plots.

Ironically, of all the bucks that visited the scrapes, only (2) exhibited any resemblance of scrape interaction that was expected. It was my belief that the bucks were so frenzied in search of an estrous doe, the attention required to effectively obtain the information, the ritual itself lacked over-all importance. The time devoted to each visit was mere seconds. With proper wind currents, it was possible that each buck scent-checked the scrapes long before their arrival to assure themselves what they smelled was indeed an estrous doe.

Due to the lack of scent that is accustomed to the overhanging branch of natural scrapes, the overall response of the mock scrapes only recorded a mere fraction (27%) of true behavioral patterns.

Overall, my findings for this year's 5-week study reaffirmed my conclusion that the creation of mock scrapes, utilized within a well-balanced herd, will generate visits from a considerable amount of deer, in a given area, at different times. Coincidently, it was noted that during the height of the breeding, the visitations also intensified.

Mock scrapes are an effective tool to use during the pre-rut/rut phases to increase your odds of seeing and eventually harvesting a mature buck, whether within their home range or an "interloper" that was compelled to investigate.



A mature, 5.5-year-old 10-point buck harvested when approaching one of the mocks created.

SCRAPE ACTIVITY: 2009-2013
BASED ON 5 MOCK SCRAPES

BUCK INFO.	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
VISITS	120	89	93	78	86
NIGHT VISITS	88	56	74	55	71
% OF NIGHT VISITS	60%	63%	80%	71%	83%
URINATE IN SCRAPE	7	4	6	2	4
	5%	5%	7%	3%	5%
WORKED OVERHEAD BRANCH	39	28	33	26	29
	27%	32%	36%	33%	34%

DOE INFO.					
VISITS	27	16	14	19	11
NIGHT VISITS	20	13	10	12	9
% OF NIGHT VISITS	74%	81%	71%	63%	81%
URINATE IN SCRAPE	0	0	0	0	0
WORKED OVERHEAD BRANCH	2	1	0	0	2
	7%	6%	0	0	18%

TYPE OF SCENT USED					
WEEK OF:	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
OCT. 20 - 26	BKS	BKS	BKS	BKS	BKS
OCT. 27-NOV.2	BKS	BKS	BKS	BKS	BKS
NOV. 3 - 9	BKS/DES	BKS/DES	BKS/DES	BKS	BKS
NOV. 10 - 16	BKS/DES	BKS/DES	BKS/DES	BKS/DES	BKS/DES
NOV. 17 - 23	BKS/DES	BKS/DES	BKS/DES	BKS/DES	BKS/DES

BKS:	BKS/DES
BUCK SCENT	BUCK & DOE
DES: ESTRUS SCENT	ESTRUS SCENT

2012-13	PHOTO VIDEO
2009-11	PHOTO ONLY

NIGHT VISITS:
1/2 HR AFTER DARK - 1/2 BEFORE SUNRISE

THE 5 SCRAPES WERE PLACED IN THE SAME LOCATION FROM YEAR TO YEAR; NONE WERE ADDED OR TAKEN AWAY.

WEEK #	WEEK OF:	QUALITY BUCK VISITS	OTHER BUCK VISITS
1	OCT. 20 - 26	0	8
2	OCT. 27 NOV. 2	4	11
3	NOV. 3 - 9	5	23
4	NOV. 10 - 16	9	7
5	NOV. 17 - 23	17	13

Three Generations

by Jim Dovin



Three generations of Dovins had a once-in-a-lifetime experience while hunting the 2014 gun season. Starting out on opening day with my dad, Gene Dovin, harvesting his best buck in 61 years of hunting Pennsylvania whitetails. His buck was taken on opening day morning at 8:20am from his stand on leased property of the Richmondale Hunting Club in Lackawanna County. It had 10 scoreable points and a gross green score of 144.5 inches b.c. It had a live weight of 240 lbs and a dressed weight of 195 lbs and is estimated to be 4.5-5.5 years of age.



Then on the first Thursday afternoon hunt, I harvested a beautiful 9-point buck in Susquehanna County. The buck was taken at a distance of 200 yards and had a dressed weight of 152 lbs.; scored 115 inches b.c. and is estimated to be 3.5 years old.

Not to be outdone by her Pop Pop and Dad, my daughter Katelyn was able to score on her first whitetail in four years of hunting them. On the last Thursday afternoon hunt, Katelyn was able to place a 170 shot on a very mature whitetail doe that had a dressed weight of 108 lbs. Perhaps the best day was yet to come as the following afternoon hunt found Katelyn and me scrambling to get her off the bus and back into the stand for what would be Katelyn's final sit of the 2014 season as she had other commitments on the last Saturday of the rifle season. At 3:55pm, we were both settled back in our stand in Susquehanna County when at 4:25pm two buck emerged from the timber to feed – a yearling 4-point and a beautiful 2.5-year-old 8-point. Also multiple does and fawns were starting to enter the field as well. For three years prior, Katelyn had passed on many opportunities at bucks due to them being only 1.5-year-olds. (This was by her choice and not forced upon her by any means.) We both decided that if this 2.5-year-old presented a shot that she would take the opportunity and do so. As the buck continued to feed, a perfect broadshot shot was presented. I watched through the binoculars as she touched off a round from her Savage left-handed bolt action youth model 7mm08. The buck hunched up and snowplowed for 20 yards before coming to rest. To say we were both excited would be an understatement as the shot was from a distance of 223 yards! Katelyn's first buck, an 8-point with a live weight of 180lbs and a dressed weight of 138lbs was what we feel to be the perfect end to a perfect season for three generations of Dovins!



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