

Young hunters use bow, arrow

Justin Randles didn't wait for the opening of the firearms deer season to take his first Michigan white-tail buck.

Hunting with a bow for the first time this year, the 15-year-old Garden City resident dropped a beautiful 13-point, 170-pound buck on Nov. 10.

Hunting with his father Steve on some farmland in Sanilac County, the young Randles was hunting from a tree blind in a fence row separating a wood lot and an alfalfa field. Justin spotted the buck in the morning and moved to a stand from where he could hopefully intercept the buck in the evening. The strategy paid off and he shot the buck around 6 p.m.

"It's a real nice 8-point with five sticker points around the base," said Steve. "It has a 16-and-a-half-inch spread."

It was the second deer for Justin, who shot a doe last year during the firearms season. Steve also had a successful archery season this fall and took a doe, his first with a bow and arrow.

While we're on the topic of father and son success, the Wedge family from Oxford will be well fed with venison this winter.

Fourteen-year-old Chad took his first deer on Nov. 9 while hunting from a tree stand overlooking a standing corn field and a wooded lot. Chad was hunting with an Indian compound bow, Gamegetter II arrows and Razorback 6 broadheads. He caught the doe coming out of the corn at 7 a.m.

Chad's father Bill shot a doe with his bow on Nov. 2, then bagged a 6-point buck on opening day of the firearms season. All three deer were taken from the same farm in Oakland County.

If the above mentioned success stories aren't thrilling enough, how about three generations of the same family taking bucks on the same day? That's exactly what the Crandall family of Birmingham did while hunting at the Silverwolf Ranch in Alcona County.

Billy, the grandson, got the season started with a bang when he shot a 5-point buck at 9 a.m. on opening day of the firearms

season. Billy's father, Bill Sr., moved to his son's blind for the evening hunt and shot a 7-point at around 4 p.m. Meanwhile,

Billy's father Barney was busy tagging a 4-point buck, which he shot around 3 p.m. It was the 25th buck Barney has taken over the years from the same blind. (I bet I know where Barney will be next year on opening day!)

Those were eight hunters in camp at the Silverwolf—which is owned and operated by Mrs. Marilyn Plank of Franklin Village and her son David of Oscoda—and all eight hunters shot a buck on opening day.

If you, a family member or friend has experienced success give me a call or drop me a line and let me know about it. The address, fax number and phone number are listed at the bottom of this column.

Elk hunt approaches
Michigan's nine-day December elk hunt begins Monday and five area hunters will be among the 200 Michigan residents randomly selected to participate in the hunt. Of those 200 permit holders, 62 received a hunter's choice permit, which allows the bearer to take either an antlered elk or an antlerless elk. The remaining 138 hunters must take an antlerless elk. There were 42,387 eligible applications for the December hunt.

Stewart Gazley of Farmington and Terry Broemer of West Bloomfield both received hunter's choice permits.

Antlerless only permits went out to Edward Green of Troy, Elizabeth Aldenderfer of Bloomfield Hills, Gerald Wiebeck of Livonia, Brian Kendall of Clarkston, Christine Vanderlip of Walled Lake and David Gilley of Commerce. John Aulen of Westland, John Schol Jr. of Birmingham, Joseph Kryscio of Clarkston, Joseph Kripli of Lake Orion, Keith Spencer of Oxford, Kevin Scheck of Canton and Laura Schmidtke of Commerce also received permits to take antlerless elk.

The December hunt follows two September elk hunts in which a total of 220 permits were issued. Hunters took 150 elk over the course of the two hunts, including 64 bulls.

Anglers and hunters are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (810) 644-3314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (810) 901-2573.

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



BILL PARKER

ARCHERY

OPEN SHOOTING

Open shooting hours at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield are 7-10 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 4-9 p.m. Thursdays; and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call (810) 539-3030 or (810) 661-9610 for more information.

CHARITY SHOOT

Detroit Archers will hold a charity shoot on its walk-through course in West Bloomfield on Sunday, Dec. 8. Call (810) 539-3030 or (810) 661-9610 for more information.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Detroit Archers is offering a youth education league at its clubhouse in West Bloomfield. Call (810) 539-3030 or (810) 661-9610 for more information.

3D SHOOT

Royal Oak Archers will hold a 3D shoot on Sunday, Dec. 16, on its walk-through range in Lake Orion. Call (810) 693-8789 for

more information.

CLASSES

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY

The DNR Law Enforcement Division is offering a free home-study snowmobile safety course. Anyone who completes the course, attends a two-hour class and satisfactorily passes a test will earn a Snowmobile Safety Certificate. The two-hour class, including a review and a test, begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Lake Erie Metropark museum in Rockwood. Home-study packets are available by calling (313) 432-1285.

SEASONS/DATES

DEER

A special antlerless-only season runs through Dec. 8 on private land in all deer management units open to antlerless hunting in the Lower Peninsula and selected DMUs in the Upper

Peninsula. An unused antlerless permit is required to participate in the hunt. Archery season runs through Jan. 1. Muzzleloading season is Dec. 6-15 in Zone I and Dec. 13-22 in zones II and III.

ELK

The December elk hunt will be held Dec. 9-17.

GOOSE

Through Dec. 13 in the South Zone outside goose management units (GMUs). Check the 1996 Waterfowl Hunting Guide for GMU restrictions and open dates. A special season will be held Jan. 4-Feb. 2 in the Southern Michigan Goose Management Unit. Consult the 1996-97 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for additional details.

PHEASANT

An experimental late season hunt runs through Dec. 15 in southern Michigan. Check the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for details.

RABBIT

Through March 31.

RUFFED GROUSE

Through Jan. 1 in zones II and III.

SQUIRREL

Staterwide through Jan. 1.

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN

Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has rifle, pistol, muzzleloader and archery shooting facilities. Through Nov. 14, range hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; noon-sunset Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; 10 a.m.-sunset on Wednesdays. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenfield Rd. (three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills). Call (810) 814-9193 for more information.

PONTIAC LAKE

Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford has rifle, pistol, muzzleloader, shotgun and archery

See OUTDOORS, C4

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Wed., Feb. 19
Detroit Pistons vs Washington Bullets 7:30 pm - w/m Juwan Howard and Chris Webber

Fri., Apr. 11
Detroit Pistons vs Charlotte Hornets 7:30 pm - w/m Glen Rice

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