

Telling the tale of bagging the big one

FOR MOST DEER hunters, the 1989 hunting season is over. Muzzleloading season ends Sunday in the Lower Peninsula and only die-hard archers will brave the frigid temperatures to participate in the second archery season, which runs through the end of the month.

In case you missed it, Fred Trost's annual Big Buck Night aired last Thursday on Michigan Outdoors and there were some very, very big racks taken in the state this year. Although I didn't receive any calls on record book bucks, Observer & Eccentric area hunters did bag some nice trophies.

The most interesting story was called in by Don Navigato, of South Lyon, who explained how his son Don II, took his first buck with a bow.

Hunting from a ground blind in Livingston County, Navigato shot a 6-point on Oct. 26th at 5 p.m. Picking up the trail on the morning of the 27th, Navigato trailed the buck for three hours only to lose the trail at the bank of the Huron River.

The other side of the river was thick swamp and inaccessible by foot. The elder Navigato assumed

the buck was lost for good, but not his son.

Realizing he was already too late to take his family to the zoo, as he had promised, the younger Navigato convinced his wife to take a canoe trip with him down the Huron River. Renting a canoe in Milford, Navigato and his wife paddled up-stream to the spot where the buck had crossed the river. Thirty-yards into the swamp he found the buck. After field-dressing the buck, he loaded it into the canoe and headed for home with a satisfied smile. Now that's determination!

Other lucky hunters called in the following reports:

• William Sutherland, 34, of Westland, had a fantastic deer season bagging a total of three bucks during the early archery and the firearm season.

On Oct. 1, Sutherland arrowed a 3-point in Livingston County near Fowlerville. On Nov. 17th he shot a 180-pound, 8-point in Lenawee County and on Thanksgiving Day he took a 160-pound, 4-point, also in Lenawee County.

• Troy's Dan Gardner, 16, took



Bill Parker
outdoors

his first buck ever on Nov. 24.

Hunting in Rosecommon County, Gardner sat down in a friend's blind (the friend had gone in for lunch) and in less than 10 minutes he shot a dandy 4-point.

• Art Kannisto, 74, of Farmington Hills has taken a buck each of the last four years and he wasted little time filling his tag this season. Kannisto took a 170-pound, 8-point at 7 a.m., Nov. 15, while hunting from a blind in Alger County near Rumley.

• Bob Branton, 47, of Farmington Hills enjoyed a fantastic bow season bagging two nice bucks.

On Oct. 13, Branton arrowed a 150-pound, 7-point from a tree blind in Livingston County. On Nov. 12, the archer bagged a 140-pound, 8-

point from a tree blind in Lapeer County. He used a game tracker to find both deer.

On Sept. 25, Branton also shot a 150-pound, 6-point mule deer while elk hunting in Montana.

• Troy's Ryan Riddle, 17, took the second buck of his hunting career this year when he shot a spike-horn at 8 a.m. on Nov. 24. Riddle took the buck from his blind near Manistee.

• Dan Vandestein, 36, of Rochester Hills, harvested two deer in the span of about two hours on Nov. 18. Hunting from a blind near Caseville, Vandestein shot a 6-point at 8 a.m., took the deer to camp, then headed back to his blind. By 9:45 a.m. he had filled his antlerless-only permit and was dragging his second deer of the day back to camp.

• Jim Lukomski, 51, of Dearborn, bagged his first buck ever at 8 a.m. on Nov. 15. Hunting in Chippewa County, Lukomski took a 150-pound, 4-point. "In an area where my buddies said I might as well not hunt," he said.

• Bob Leonard, 60, of Farmington Hills, took a 130-pound, 6-point. Hunting in Montcalm County in Winfield Township, Leonard harvested his buck with a 30.06 from his blind in a fence row.

• Farmington Hills resident Thomas M. Bliznik, 21, a fourth-year student at Michigan Tech, shot a 5-point, 150-pound buck on Nov. 19th. Bliznik, a first-time deer hunter, bagged the buck in Houghton County with a 12 gauge shotgun.

• Mark Grodi, 34, of Auburn Hills took his second buck in two years. Hunting in Oakland County, Grodi downed an 8-point on the opening day of the firearm season.

• Jack Ross, 31, of Rochester Hills, took two bucks during the first week of the firearm season. Hunting near Capac in St. Clair County, Ross dropped a spike-horn on opening day and bagged a point on Nov. 18. Ross also arrowed a doe on the opening day of the archery season.

• Westland's Tom Lewis, 29, bagged a 140-pound, 3-point buck near Hale on Nov. 25.

• Livonia's Steve Ditchkoff, 19, took his first buck ever at 7:15 a.m. on Nov. 25. Hunting near St. Ignace, Ditchkoff bagged an 8-point, 150-pound buck.

• Greg Trolley, 27, of Rochester, arrowed a 7-point buck on Oct. 7 while hunting in St. Clair County.

• Bobby Stubbs, 18, of Garden City, downed a 185-pound, 5-point buck at 4:45 p.m. on Nov. 17. Hunting in his blind near Cass City, Stubbs saw the buck checking a scrape 60-yards away. He dropped the buck with one shot from his 20-gauge shotgun.

• Troy's Mike Wills, 43, took two bucks during the opening week of the firearm season. Hunting in Escanaba, Wills dropped a 120-pound, 35-point on Nov. 15th, then bagged a 120-pound, 4-point buck on Nov. 17th.

• Jim Ferrett, 47, of Troy, enjoyed a prosperous opening week. Hunting near Escanaba (with Mike Wills), Ferrett took a 180-pound, 9-point with a 20-inch spread on Nov. 16th. He followed that with a 140-pound, 6-point on Nov. 18th.

• Sheryl Sutherland, 32, of Westland, took a doe on Nov. 18 in Lenawee County.

• Joe Derek, of Farmington Hills, took a doe on Nov. 15 in Livingston County.

• Bill Edwards, 34, of Auburn Hills, took a doe on Nov. 18 in Oakland County.

• Last, but not least, my brother John has been tough to keep abreast with this year. On Nov. 15, the 34-year-old Oxford hunter took a 3-point buck in Lapeer County and on Nov. 25 he bagged an 8-point buck in Sanilac County. He also arrowed a doe on Oct. 9.

Through 15 years of hunting, only once have I been able to out-hunt my big brother. This year, although brother John has more venison in his refrigerator than I do, I have the bragging rights for 1990. Hunting from a ground blind, I took my first buck with a bow, a 180-pound, 9-point with a 20-inch spread, on Nov. 10 in Lapeer County.

outdoors calendar

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

• Dec. 15 — Muskies season closes on Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair and the Detroit rivers.

• Dec. 17 — Muzzleloading deer season ends.

• Dec. 26 to March 15 — An ice fishing contest will be held in Munuscong Bay. Call (906) 647-9131 for more information.

• Dec. 31 — Bass season closes statewide.

• Dec. 31 — Fishing season closes on certain trout streams open to extended fishing. (Check the 1989 Michigan fishing guide for the specific closures.)

• Jan. 1 — Northern pike and muskie spearing season opens.

• Jan. 1 — Ruffed grouse hunting season ends.

• Jan. 1 — Squirrel hunting season ends.

• Jan. 3 — Four Seasons Fishing Club will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Maplewood Center in Garden City. There will be demonstrations, refreshments, fishing reports and tips. Visitors are welcome and the membership is open to the

public. Call 477-3816 for more information.

• Jan. 6 — Special Canada goose hunting season opens in the Southern Michigan Goose Management Area.

• Jan. 12-21 — An ice fishing derby will be held in Bostwick. Prizes and trophies will be awarded. Call (616) 866-2000 for details.

• Jan. 20-21 and 27-28 — Tip-Up-Town U.S.A. Winter Festival will be held at Houghton Lake. Call 1-800-292-9071 for more information.

• Jan. 30-31 — White River Steelheader's Perch Festival will be held in Whitehall. Call (516) 893-4585 for details.

• Jan. 26 to Feb. 4 — Ice Fishing Festival will be held in Grayling. Festivities include ice sculptures and a polar bear plunge. Call (517) 348-2921 for details.

• Jan. 31 — Raccoon hunting season ends.

• Jan. 31 — Muskrat, mink and raccoon trapping season ends.

• Feb. 1 — Deadline to apply for a spring wild turkey permit.

• Feb. 1 — Sturgeon spearing season opens on non-trout waters.

• Feb. 24 — Perchville U.S.A. will be held in Tawas City. Call 1-

800-55-TAWAS for more information.

• Feb. 4 — Special goose hunting season in Southern Michigan Goose Management Area ends.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

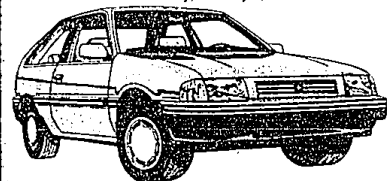
• Cross Country Ski Wax and Wear, a mini-class for adults in which participants will learn to wax their skis and learn tips on choosing appropriate clothing, will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, and 11 at Independence Oaks.

• Native American Trek, a nature program about snowshoes and the Native Americans who created them, will be offered at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Nature Center at Independence Oaks. The program also includes a walk on the Nature Center's snow shoes.

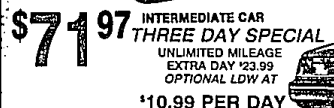
• Most Oakland County Parks programs require advanced registration. Call the Independence Oaks Nature Center at 625-6473 for more information.

"When You've Got Places to Go... and People to See..."

Budget just made it easier than ever to get away for the Christmas Holidays. Rates apply for this coming winter and also be valid Wednesday, December 20th, 1989 through January 2nd, 1990 with a minimum rental of three days. Also, refueling services, taxes and optional items are extra. Normal rental requirements apply. Offer not available with any other discount or promotion. Advance reservations required. Vehicles subject to availability. Car must be returned to rental location no later than Tuesday, January 2, 1990.



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