

SKULL



AN OUTITTER'S JOURNAL

A WHITE
ANTLERED
GHOST

EL BLANCO
JEREMY'S
231" BUCK

A SANDY HILLS HUNTING PUBLICATION

OCT 2021

EL BLANCO

The white ghost

THE LAST 4 YEARS HAVE BEEN NOTHING BUT PHENOMENAL FOR ME IN THE DEER HUNTING WORLD.

Whether it was guiding, hunting with my dad or personal hunts, I couldn't have asked for more. Between guiding hunters and hunting for myself those few days off, we managed to harvest 12 deer that were 190" or better, and 6 of those were 205" or better. I try to manage the deer I have access to as much as possible by only taking mature bucks to keep the resource healthy. Every summer I'm out trying to find giant deer, not only for myself but also for incoming clients.

The summer of 2014 was no different. As my dad and I were heading to work one morning in early July we stopped on a familiar hill to glass. We spotted four bucks about a mile away, feeding. The

first three lifted their heads, but they were nothing too impressive. We waited on the fourth to pick his head up, and when he did we immediately knew he was going to be a giant deer. Dad and I came back to our hill several times throughout the month, seeing the buck one time on July 28th. I thought I had better take a couple of pictures of him since the way it was going I didn't know if I would ever see him again. I saw him one last time in mid-August, and not knowing if I would get a chance at this deer, I had thankfully located a couple other big typicals in the area.

My family had hunted this place for 30 years. My dad worked hard to build relationships with people to ensure we always had a place to hunt just for ourselves. With that being said, mid-August rolled around and I was spending most of my time scouting for clients at that point. The funny thing



was that I thought I had found the biggest deer, but I was wrong. To my surprise, I found a group of three bucks hanging together. The smallest of the three was about a 195" typical! The next biggest was around 210", and the biggest was about 230". I looked through August and September, finding three more bucks that I thought would break the 190" mark.

I had a great client coming in for the October 1st opener, and I couldn't wait to tell him what I had seen. As opening day got closer the first group of three made it onto a property that didn't allow any hunting, so we went and tried to find one of the other bucks I had seen in September. We ended up taking a 194" buck on the second day. I had an awesome hunt with Todd; he is more like a friend these days than a client. Since we had killed out early I had a few days to see if I could try my luck at finding the big non-typical. I looked for 3 days only to come

up empty-handed. On the fourth day I decided to see if I could find one of the big typicals I had seen in August. I glassed and glassed but came up with nothing. It was about 10 am, and I was heading back to the house for lunch. I thought I would swing by "the hill" and look around a while. I got to the top, and the first thing I saw when I put my eye to the scope was a white bush. The heat waves were as bad as they get, but I thought to myself, "That looks weird. I don't remember seeing that before." I kept my eye on it, and in the blur of heat waves it finally moved! I knew right away it was the buck I had been looking for. The wind was perfect for a stalk, so I hurried around to give it a try. I got to 50 yards, then 30, and with the buck sleeping I was able to crawl to one last bush at 18 yards. I got all set up and waited for him to stand. As 2 hours passed and then 3 I thought that I was going to have to thread the arrow through the bush when he stood up. About



23 INCHES



95% of the time when deer get up from their beds undisturbed they stretch for a few seconds before moving. After 3 hours every possible thought goes through your head of what is going to happen at that moment. Well, like most times when you think you know what's going to happen, you actually don't. His nose was in the ground sleeping, and all at once his head popped up. I drew my bow, and he got up and immediately started walking to my left. This was actually to my advantage as I now had a clear shot of the vitals. I settled the pin and let it fly. The arrow hit near perfect. He went about 70 yards and tipped over. I was in disbelief of what had just happened. Three months of thinking about this

buck and it was over in 3 hours. I couldn't have been happier.

The buck ended up scoring 230 5/8" and was the biggest deer I had ever taken. The summer of 2014 had some of the best rainfall we had seen in 3 years. Everyone knows what that amounts to, cover and food. I can't wait to see what next year brings. If I had to make a prediction, I would bet it will be just as good as or better than 2014. The good news is I went out after all the seasons were over and saw several big bucks that made it through to see another year.