

The Prodigal

HUNTER

by Donnie Wood, Senior Lease Manager

"I'm sorry, Dad. I can't go this weekend. I've got to catch up on homework, study for some tests, and go to two meetings of clubs where I am an officer."

I heard this frequently from my daughter, Emma, during her junior and senior years of high school when I asked if she wanted to go hunting.

My little girl was growing up, and I guessed she had outgrown hunting. She had too many other things to do with friends, and she was impossibly busy with academics and service organizations. Besides, she didn't seem too concerned when her little brother brought one deer after another home from the woods. Still, hunting camp was not the same without the sparkle she brought to it.

As a youngster, she loved to fish. I can't remember how many times her mom or I would have to coax her out of the midday heat. "Fishing will be better this evening, when it is cooler," we would say. Just a few years later, she would join me under the shade of a

*Had my little hunter
outgrown our sport?*

tree on nearby dove fields. She loved the social component of dove hunting.

Conservation success story

Her first deer, at age 11, was taken with a crossbow. We'd sat in a blind in the shade of a sawtooth oak grove I had planted a few years before she was born. As we knelt next to the doe, Emma wrestled with the dual emotions of excitement and sorrow. She cried for taking a life but was proud that the venison fed her and her family. I considered that hunt a full-circle conservation success story. We harvested a deer under trees I had planted that would improve habitat for wildlife for decades to come, and we had just created a deer hunter.

Over the years, I was fortunate to be sitting next to Emma when she harvested most of her deer.

Maybe I was lucky, considering that she sat with her mom as much as with me. Even though she had her own rifle,



Donnie Wood hunting with his daughter, Emma, in 2014.

when we sat together she would often use mine, despite the bolt being on the "wrong" side for her. She had used my rifle to take her first buck, however, and she still considered it lucky.

An end to her hunting?

All these memories and others flooded my mind as we left her at college. She was excited to begin her college years and looked forward to attending college football games. I knew then that the next four years (at least) would see Emma at college most weekends, far away from our hunting lease. Besides, given her lack of hunting the previous

continued on page 3

and Oaks—Red, White, FOOD

ISTOCK

By Paul Durfield, Senior Lease Manager

Everybody loves a nice oak tree. Both ecologically and culturally, oaks are some of the most important trees in our forests.

Oaks seem to have unlimited uses ranging from quality building products, food for wildlife, and great firewood to nice shade from the hot summer sun. Over 300 species of oak trees grow around the world, with at least 80 species in the United States. While oaks are common throughout most of the country, they all fall into two major groups: red and white. Let's take a closer look at the difference between the two groups.

There are also differences in the bark. Red oak bark is usually blackish or gray and furrowed. White oaks typically have light grey bark that is often scaly or plated.



Red oak



White oak



Red oak leaf



White oak leaf

Different leaves and bark

The first noticeable difference is found in the leaves. While oak leaves can vary in size and shape, some distinct differences help determine the tree's subgroup. Red oak leaf tips and lobes tend to be pointed with small, soft bristle tips. White oak leaves are more rounded and smoother with no bristles on the tips. If this seems a bit technical, it's really not—just look at a few leaves the next time you're in the woods and you'll easily see these distinct leaf features.

Different wood

Another interesting difference between the subgroups is in the heartwood. Red oaks have porous vessels that allow the flow of liquid through the heartwood, while the heartwood of white oaks is quite dense. That's why white oak barrels are used for aging bourbon and why the U.S. Navy used live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) to build the early wooden battleships. The U.S. Constitution earned its nickname, "Old Ironsides," due to its strong hull made from live oaks.

Different acorns

As hunters we are primarily interested

in mast or acorn production. There's nothing like sitting in the woods on a fall afternoon and hearing acorns falling all around. Red oak acorns take two growing seasons to mature, making them a bit more unreliable as a regular food source. White oak acorns tend to mature in the same year, making them a trusted and desirable wildlife forage.

Most hunters would love to find a big white oak when the acorns are dropping. These can act as deer magnets since they have such tasty acorns. The acorns of red oaks are higher in

tannic acid, making them bitter and somewhat less palatable to wildlife. White oak acorns are generally larger and sweeter, a much-favored forage.

White first, red later

Although white oak acorns are the preferred choice, once they become scarce, deer will turn their attention to other food sources, including red oak acorns. You may have noticed in prior hunting seasons how plentiful red oak acorns are late into the season and beyond. That's because red oak acorns lie dormant longer after settling into the forest floor, unlike white oak acorns, which germinate much more quickly. Both provide important food sources for wildlife and together they provide an opportunity to extend the season hunting over acorns.

Hunter

continued from cover

two years, I worried her time away at college would likely mean the end of her hunting days. Sure enough, on opening day of dove season, Emma stayed at college for a football game. She missed a great opener. When she found out how good it was, she was upset.

"Hmmm," I thought.

Early that October, Emma called home to talk specifically to me. She seemed troubled, which raised my concern. Finally, she blurted, "Dad, I've come to realize that I am not going to make it home frequently enough this fall to do the hunting I would like to do. Will you ask Allen if we can hunt a few times on his place?" Allen is a family friend with property near the college.

A return to the campfire

At that moment, I thought I heard angels singing. The prodigal hunter had returned to the campfire!

The family spent two glorious weekends in November on this friend's property, and Emma had the good fortune to harvest her best buck yet. Being able to spend time in the woods in November on this property



I'm glad my prodigal hunter takes time off but keeps coming back.

with Emma was truly a gift I was not expecting.

Even more surprisingly, at Christmas she asked for a bow. I did not see that coming. As I write this article, Emma is making plans for the 2019/20 hunting season and is practicing with her bow. I'm looking forward to the coming season with renewed excitement.

When this newsletter reaches you, hunting seasons will be upon us in some states and fast approaching in others. I celebrate with you its arrival! I wish that each day in the woods will bring you a glorious sunrise, moments of surprise and awe, and spectacular sunsets. May every visit to your lease allow you to unplug from the stresses of everyday life and a

chance to truly connect with family and friends. If so, then your hunting season will be a success by the measures that matter the most.

Research has shown

that hunting participation drops for many people when they enter college. Away from home with nowhere to hunt (and with most universities not allowing residents to store firearms), many young hunters do not overcome this challenge. While most individuals return to hunting following college, some do not.

Make space for hunting every time your student comes home for the weekend. Otherwise, reach out to friends who live near your student to see if your child can hunt with them or if they can provide recommendations for a local hunting club the student could join.

Oaks

continued

We are blessed with many species of oak trees throughout the southern United States. The next time you do some pre-season scouting, look for a mature oak tree in the early fall, and hopefully you will find a deer driven by his stomach. If not, I'm sure there will be plenty of happy squirrels! Regardless of the game you seek, oak trees are a valuable piece of the habitat puzzle.

Common Oak Species

RED OAKS

Southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*)

Water oak (*Quercus nigra*)

Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Sawtooth oak (*Quercus acutissima*)

WHITE OAKS

White oak (*Quercus alba*)

Post oak (*Quercus stellata*)

Southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

Swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*)

Setting the

By John Drake, Recreational Lease Manager

Introducing a young person to the world of hunting can be very rewarding.

There are many hunters today who consider it their duty to be a mentor. I would go so far as saying that all experienced hunters should strive to introduce a youngster—or anyone for that matter—to the joys of hunting and the outdoors. The earlier we can introduce that young hunter to the sport, the better, before life's other distractions take hold.

Mentoring is more than just taking someone hunting, however. Being a mentor comes with great responsibility. It's a great opportunity to get someone outdoors and to start having discussions about hunting and the role it plays in wildlife conservation. With a steady decline in hunter numbers over the last five

meaning of being a good steward of all our natural resources.

As I begin to take my three young grandchildren out to the woods, I fully understand how this teaching evolves. Young people in a new environment are full of "why" questions. Answering these questions gives me, and my son, the perfect opportunity to transfer what we have been taught.

Ethical behavior and strong moral values aren't only for the hunting woods, of course. These life values

In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught. —Baba Dioum

years, the individuals you mentor today will play a large role in keeping our sport alive in the future.

Mentoring is also an educational tool. When we mentor a young person, we become the teacher and must understand "the earlier the better" for instilling the values of conservation and hunting ethics. The more time we can spend hunting with a youth, the more opportunity we have to be examples and show them right from wrong. When not hunting, simply spending time in the outdoors is an opportunity to show the

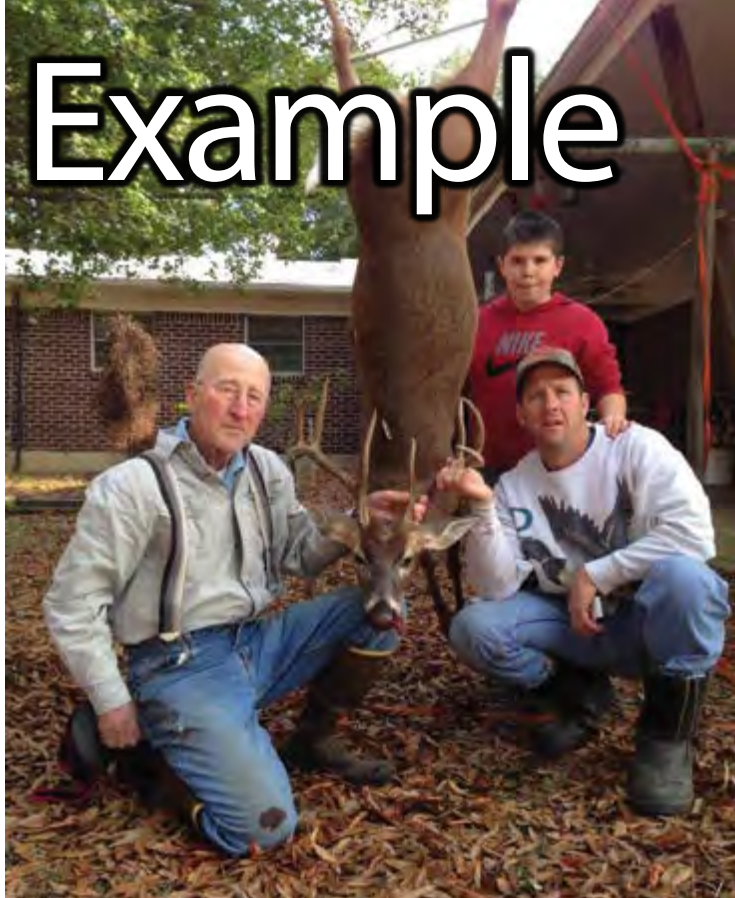


Kaylynn Drake getting a good start in the woods.

can be used every day, and I've witnessed them in my own kids as they have matured into adults. If you ever decide to mentor a young hunter, I imagine you also will see those mentored behaviors show up in other areas of the young person's life: at home, on a sports team, in school, and anywhere important decisions must be made.

I read somewhere that people raised in the outdoors are healthier, happier, stronger, and more intelligent. I can't vouch for the "more intelligent" part, but I do believe I have a different and happier outlook

Example



Passing knowledge between generations: Douglas (Pappy) Drake with the author (his son) and grandson Landen Drake

on life than I might've had without outdoor experiences. Being raised hunting and fishing by my father has shaped me into the person I am today.

Now, if you think being a mentor is easy, I can tell you first-hand that it can be frustrating at times. But I firmly believe the sport of hunting is absolutely one of the best ways to educate a young person on many important life issues. It's also the responsibility of all hunters to pass the legacy of conservation and ethics to the next generation. The goal is to get them started the right way, showing them how to have an enjoyable, ethical, and most of all safe experience.

If you have the opportunity, please take someone, especially a youth, hunting or just strolling through the woods. Who knows? We may meet somewhere, as I will be doing the same.

THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON ACT: Hunters Funding Wildlife

By Paul Durfield, Senior Lease Manager

Benjamin Franklin is credited with saying “In this world, nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes.” Hunters may be able to relate better to Mark Twain’s quote that, “The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.” Taxes are the unfortunate necessity of living in a wonderful country, but the pain of taxes is sometimes eased when those who pay it see exactly what their money is funding. The Pittman-Robertson Act created a tax whose funds are clearly benefiting the outdoors enthusiasts who provide the tax revenue.

More than 80 years old

At the turn of the twentieth century, wildlife populations were in a steady decline due to underregulated hunting and habitat loss. Sporting organizations and state wildlife agencies urged the United States Congress to pass the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act to create a funding source to address the challenges facing wildlife habitat and populations. In 1937, Senator

Key Pittman (D—Nevada) and Congressman Willis Robertson (D—Virginia) championed the Act, more commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act.

The Pittman-Robertson Act generates funds through an excise tax on guns, ammunition, and archery equipment. An 11 percent excise tax applies to long guns, ammunition, and archery equipment and a 10 percent excise tax applies to handguns. While the Act was originally intended to fund wildlife restoration projects, it was amended in 1970 to also provide funding for hunter education programs and for the development, operation, and maintenance of public shooting ranges.

Funds go to the states

The funds generated by the tax are deposited into the Wildlife Restoration Account managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS then apportions the funds to state wildlife agencies for wildlife restoration programs and hunter education. State agencies can use this money to cover up to 75 percent of wildlife restoration



Many states use the Act’s funds to help support hunter education as well as wildlife restoration.

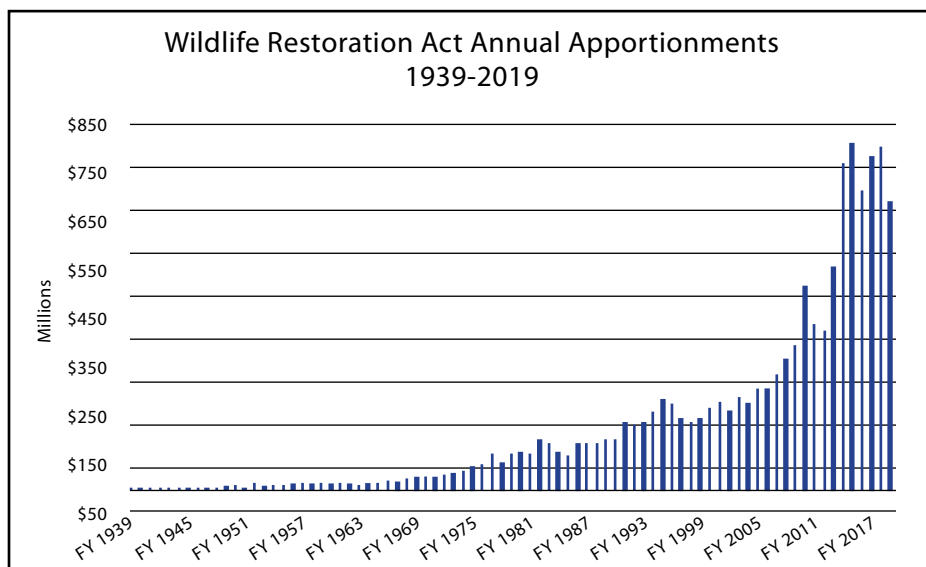
projects, with the remaining 25 percent paid by sales of state hunting licenses.

Though restoration and management of deer, turkey, and waterfowl populations receives much of the funding, Pittman-Robertson funding also benefits non-game wildlife and their habitats. As hunters and shooters, we can each be proud to be a big part of funding wildlife management across the country.

See your state’s spending

Want a better idea of how your state wildlife agency uses Pittman-Robertson funding? Many states highlight the funded projects on their websites. If you search for wildlife restoration projects in your state, you will likely see many great examples of how this money is being used for the benefit of all.

So the next time you purchase a gun, bow, or ammunition, rest easy knowing that your purchase is helping wildlife. It’s nice to know that by being active in our sport we help fund our own passion.



ACCIDENT REPORT

An ATV Rider Failed to Recognize the Risks at a Logging Deck

By Amy James, Recreational Lease Manager

Conditions:

On a fall afternoon in the South, a hunter who was riding down a woods road on an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) passed through an active logging deck.

Background:

The hunter was in his 50s and, ironically, trained and experienced in safety in another industry. He was wearing sunglasses, camouflage clothes, a hunter orange vest, and boots.

JETSTREAM4WD FOR ISTOCKPHOTO.COM



Unsafe act or conditions:

The ATV rider did not recognize the danger before he rode through the active logging deck. He passed a partially loaded log truck on the loader operator's blind side.

Incident:

The loader operator had just placed logs on the truck and was swinging the boom and grapple back toward the log pile when he noticed the hunter orange vest as the ATV emerged from behind the log truck.

Injury/Damage:

The logs were placed on the truck with no shifting or debris flying from the swinging boom and grapple, so there was no injury. However, if the logs had shifted and

rolled off the trailer or if debris had been thrown from the grapple, a serious injury could have resulted.

Corrective measures:

- Never enter an active logging area.
- While riding on forest roads, always yield right-of-way to all forestry machinery—such as large tractors, loaders, dozers, and tractor/trailer rigs—and all workers and pedestrians.
- Never ride past trailers being loaded or tended. Wait for an operator to motion you it is safe to pass.
- Always stay at least 300 feet from all operating machinery. If the entire operation is shut down and operators have left for the day, this buffer may be reduced to at least 100 feet.
- Always stay at least 100 feet from log piles and parked and loaded trailers.

- While forest management operations are active on the lease tract, always wear high visibility clothing (that is, hunter orange) whenever outside an enclosed vehicle. This applies to both club members and guests.

Reminders for a Safer ATV Ride:

- Get hands-on training.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Stay off paved roads.
- Never use alcohol while operating an ATV.
- Never allow children to operate an ATV designed for adults.
- Do not allow more people on the vehicle than it was designed to carry.

Whether in a vehicle, on an ATV, or on foot, stay at least 300 feet from all logging machinery.



DAVID HORNSBY

A nice photograph can help keep memories alive long after many details have faded away.

Sure, great taxidermy is perfect for preserving a trophy, but it's hard to beat a good photo for preserving memories. A few simple tips can help produce quality photos that help celebrate the thrill of the moment, the beauty of the animal, and the memory of the hunt.

Safety

Promoting safety is everyone's responsibility. Firearm safety is probably the most important thing to keep in mind when setting up a photo, but safety can easily be overlooked. Follow these simple guidelines to ensure a safe photo session and images that promote safety.

- Always make sure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction and not inadvertently pointed at anyone. Consider the angle of the muzzle, too; sometimes a perfectly safe situation can look unsafe in a photo.
- Make sure the firearm is unloaded and that the action is open.
- Always keep fingers off the trigger and away from the trigger guard.
- Continue to wear the appropriate hunter orange for the photo. This will not only celebrate a safe hunt; it's a great way to promote safe hunting practices to others.

Clean-up

Field dressing a deer can be messy, so that's probably not the best time to take pictures. A little pre-photo cleaning and preparation will help make the image better for display.



By Paul Durfield, Senior Lease Manager

- Always clean excess blood from the animal. Use a cloth or paper towels and water.
- Position the deer in a natural and flattering pose prior to the stiffening of rigor mortis.

Be prepared

Whether you use a nice digital camera or a phone, there are a few things to check before you begin.

- Check to make sure you have enough battery power and memory available to take and store the pictures.
- Know how to use the flash function. A flash can make a big difference in dark woods or as the sun sets.

Use good light

As with all photography, the light can set the mood.

- Photographers often call sunrise and sunset "the golden hours," thanks to their golden light, which is often available only for a short time. Look for opportunities to shoot your photo with a nice sunrise or sunset in the background.
- Though many prefer natural light in hunting photographs, a fill-in flash

can brighten the subject, filling in shadows without taking away from the natural light in the background. With some practice this effect can produce professional quality photos.

Pay attention to backgrounds and surroundings

An unsightly background can detract from any photo. Take advantage of your surroundings to help enhance your photos.

- Double-check your surroundings and the background to ensure nothing can shift focus from the main subject.
- If necessary, reposition the animal to allow viewers to focus on it and the foreground.
- The location of a hunt is one of its most memorable aspects, so include some of the landscape characteristics that may be unique to this hunt, such as a scenic view, a river, or the middle of a lush food plot.

With a little planning and practice, you'll be able to produce photographs you will be proud to display. Good luck on your next hunt and your next photo session.

How to Conduct a TRAIL-CAMERA SURVEY

by Lindsay Thomas Jr., Director of Communications, QDMA

Excerpted with permission from QDMA.com

A trail-camera survey is the most powerful deer herd monitoring tool

you can use that doesn't require the assistance of a wildlife biologist. On your own, you can estimate deer density, sex ratio, buck age structure, fawn recruitment and more—tons of information that will guide you in achieving quality deer management.

A trail-camera survey involves operating one camera per 100 acres over evenly spaced, baited sites for 14 days. Accurate results depend on how well you run the survey. To help, I compiled the following beginner's guide based on the original research conducted in 1997 by Dr. Harry Jacobson and input from other wildlife biologists. Find a more detailed version at QDMA.com.

We strongly encourage you to incorporate trail-camera surveys into your herd monitoring plan. Of course, local or state regulations that prohibit the use of bait, such as corn, prevent some hunters from conducting these surveys. Researchers are currently testing a non-baited method, which should be available soon. Stay tuned.

Before the survey

1. Conduct trail-camera surveys pre-

season, after antlers are completely grown but before acorns begin to fall, or post-season, starting as soon as hunting ends but before antler casting begins.

2. Avoid surveying when natural food sources, such as a heavy acorn crop, will compete with your bait. In general, shelled corn is the best bait.

3. If you hunt in an area with a traditionally late rut peak (late December into January), wait to survey until pre-season in October so fawns will be old enough to be mobile and appear in survey photos.

4. Follow all baiting and feeding regulations in your state.

5. On properties smaller than 1,000 acres, use one camera per 100 or fewer acres. On larger properties, use one camera per 160 or fewer acres.

6. Using a map or aerial photo of your property, mark off a grid that divides the tract into one block per camera needed. Select a camera site close to the center of each block based on ease of access and deer activity, including deer travel routes and forest roads.

7. Clear ground-level debris at each site to allow for clean images of deer. Face the camera north to avoid backlighting from sunrise or sunset.



Trail cameras are a key to better deer management.

8. Locate the camera 12 to 20 feet from the bait, with the bait pile in the center of the image. The precise set-up will vary with the camera model.

9. With digital cameras, set the delay for no less than 5 minutes to keep the number of images manageable.

During the survey

10. Run the cameras for 14 days. In research, 14-day surveys captured 90 percent of all unique deer.

11. Refresh memory cards, batteries, and bait as needed, but otherwise keep human activity to a minimum. Wear rubber boots and gloves and practice scent-control measures whenever you visit the sites.

At the survey's end

12. Collect the cameras and compile the images. Count the total number of bucks, does, and fawns captured. For this purpose, fawns are all deer under one year old, including button bucks. The total counts should include known repetitions of individual deer. Do not count deer you cannot identify as a buck, doe, or fawn.

13. Study the photos closely to count the unique bucks based



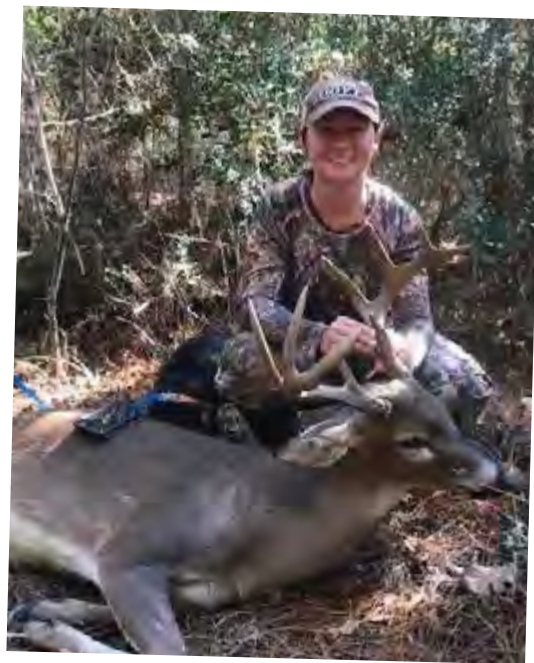
GAME ON!

Send Us Your Hunting Photos!

Did you harvest the deer of a lifetime? Or did your child recently take their first wild turkey? We would like to share your success in an upcoming *Weyerhaeuser Outdoors*. Please email photos to amy.james@weyerhaeuser.com, along with details surrounding the hunt. Your photo and story may appear in a future issue!



Kayla Milligan, Craven County, NC



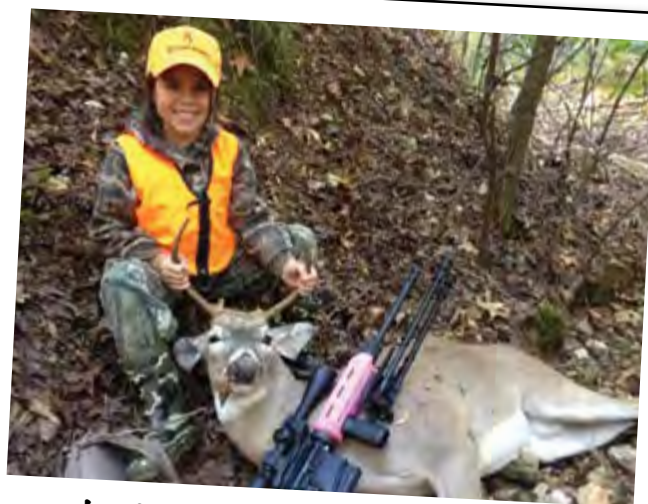
Ashley Boone Maddox, Winn Parish, LA

The daughter of Allen Boone, Ashley took this nine-point buck with an 18-inch inside spread in 2018. Allen notes, "I have never seen my daughter this happy. Thanks to Weyerhaeuser!"



Jordan Baker, Beaufort County, NC

Jordan is the 16-year-old son of Weyerhaeuser Greenville Lumber Mill employee Ray Baker.



Jessica Billy, McCurtain County, OK

Her first deer.



GAME ON!



McKenly Henshaw, Dallas County, AR
A five-point buck with a 14" spread. McKenly grew up hunting on the lease with her father, Ken Henshaw, and grandfather, Eugene Henshaw.



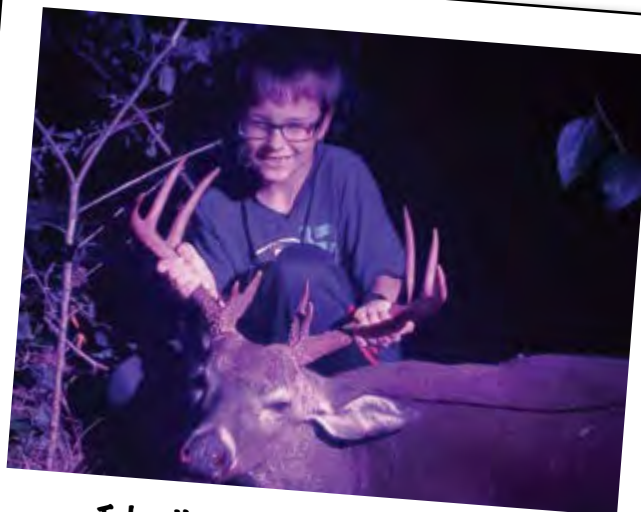
Jim Shurling, Washington County, GA
A nine-point buck.



Ashley and Brandon Havis, Lincoln County, LA
Ashley got a doe and Brandon's buck was an eight-pointer.



Rodney Moore, Pike County, AR
A muzzleloader hunter with his 200-pound buck.



Tyler Havis, Lincoln County, LA
First buck, 10 points.

Survey

continued from page 8

on recognizable antler or body characteristics. (Ask for second opinions from friends or a consultant for any tough calls). For example, you may have 100 total buck images of only 10 unique bucks. Your ratio of unique bucks to total bucks is therefore 1:10, or 10 percent (0.10).

14. QDMA has created a free computation form that makes the next few steps very simple. It's available at QDMA.com. Whether you use it or not, multiply your ratio of unique-to-total bucks by the total does and fawns to get an estimate of unique does and fawns. For example:

200 images of does x your 0.10 ratio of unique bucks = 20 unique does

15. Apply a correction factor to your

estimates. If you ran the survey for the full 14 days, multiply each of your buck, doe, and fawn estimates by 1.11 to adjust for deer you may not have photographed. The results are your adjusted estimates for your buck, doe and fawn populations.

16. Use this data to produce estimates of deer density, buck-to-doe ratio, and fawn-to-doe ratio. Sort unique bucks by estimated age to evaluate age structure. If you need help interpreting results to guide future management decisions, talk to a local wildlife biologist or private wildlife consultant.

17. Repeat the survey annually or as regularly as possible, using the same method, timing, and camera sites, so you can monitor trends.

This may sound more difficult than it really is. You also may have a lot

of questions as you work your way through your first trail-camera survey. If so, touch base with a local wildlife biologist or consultant. Many hunters find trail-camera surveys fun as well as valuable for hunting strategies.

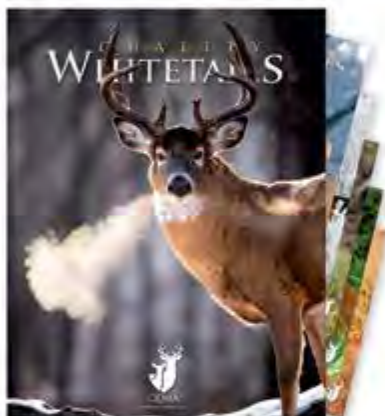
Good luck with your survey!

Lindsay Thomas Jr. is the editor of Quality Whitetails magazine. Visit QDMA.com for more information.



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FALL 2019

GAME ON!



Michael Chapin, Beaufort County, NC



Bob Hannah, Beaufort County, NC



Charlie Hart, Beaufort County, NC

Triple threat! All three hunters, who are neighbors on a nearby street, harvested these turkeys on the same road in their shared hunt club.