

EDMOND TEEN BAGS WHITETAIL

The deer season is history, but, like turkey and dressing on Thanksgiving afternoon, some leftovers are too good to pass up.

One of the most outstanding whitetail trophies of this year – or any year – was taken on opening day of the gun season in Pustmataha County by Lucas Young, a 14-year old from Edmond, Oklahoma. The non-typical buck had 26 scorable points with a 25-inch spread.



ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING WHITETAIL TROPHIES TO COME FROM OKLAHOMA WAS TAKEN ON OPENING DAY BY LUCAS YOUNG, A 14-YEAR OLD FROM EDMOND. THE NON-TYPICAL BUCK HAD 26 SCORABLE POINTS WITH A 25-INCH SPREAD.

The young hunter dropped the big buck with one shot from his .30-30 after doe scent and rattling horns combined to lure the animal within 25 yards. Lucas said he was hiding behind a rock in the Clayton Lake area.

The buck scored 202 points qualifying it for the Boone and Crockett All-Time Records Book.

— COVEY BEAN - OKLAHOMA

HUNTING WILL CONTINUE ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

No hunting programs on national wildlife refuges will be halted this fall, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director, Mollie Beattie said today.

"I wish to clarify this situation

for the many sportsmen and women who have become concerned by inaccurate reports that the Fish and Wildlife Service is planning to end hunting on national wildlife refuges," Beattie said.

"The Service must continue with its review of refuge funding and compatibility issues, but will not be making any final decisions until late this year," Beattie said. "Therefore we will not be halting any refuge hunting programs this fall. Any changes I propose to make in refuge public uses as a result of our funding review will be submitted to the Congress for review according to the rules of the appropriations process. In addition, we will involve the States and the affected public before proceeding on any decisions that affect public use of refuges," Beattie said.

"I want to emphasize that the Fish and Wildlife Service has not changed its long-standing policy of supporting compatible outdoor recreation such as hunting and fishing within the National Wildlife Refuge System," Beattie said. "Hunters and anglers have been in the vanguard of the wildlife conservation movement since its very beginning, and have willingly provided enormous financial support for wildlife management programs. There is no way we are going to turn our back on this vital constituency."

About half of the 499 refuges are open to hunting and fishing. For the 1993-94 season, the Fish and Wildlife Service opened eight new hunting programs and three new fishing programs on refuges.

—U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

SPORTSMEN WIN REFUGE ROUND ONE

The Senate Appropriations Committee has told the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to forget cutting hunting and fishing on the National Wildlife Refuge System. Acting on a subcommittee recommendation, the committee approved a Fiscal Year 95 budget amendment offered by Senator Thad Cochran, R-Miss., which added \$500,000 to the service's budget and directed

that hunting and fishing activities "must be continued unless it can be clearly determined and demonstrated that such activities threaten other refuge purposes." The amendment went on to state that "no actions should be taken without notifying the appropriate congressional committees." The amendment now goes to the full Senate. The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America led 20 other national conservation organizations in an effort to have Congress review the Service's intended cutbacks in refuge system hunting and fishing programs. WLFA Executive Director, Rick Story, called the vote a first-step victory for sportsmen and wildlife but cautioned that the Service is still bound by a legal settlement with environmental groups to review--and possible kill--refuge hunting and fishing programs by this October. "It is doubtful sportsmen will escape this situation with their heritage intact without legal intervention," he warned. "We fully expect to take some action on behalf of the conservation community through the Sportsmen's Legal Defense Fund."

—WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA

SEASON ATTRACTS NEW HUNTERS

In recent years, some experienced hunters have expressed dismay at the fact that youngsters aren't learning to hunt. But the Game, Fish and Parks Department says the news isn't all bad.

Last year for instance, nearly 2,400 hunters under age 16 took advantage of the South Dakota's Youth Deer season.

But better than that is the fact that for 1994, at least 140 of the kids that applied for Youth Deer licenses have never hunted before. Bill Shattuck, Hunter Education coordinator said, "We allow youngsters who plan to take the Hunter Safety course to apply for a license before they are certified. They then have to take the course in order to get their license. This year there were 140 young hunters who fit that category."

Shattuck also said that last year

In The News

NOTE: ALL STATES HAVE THEIR OWN TIP'S 800 NUMBERS, CONTACT YOUR FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT FOR INFORMATION.

more than 4,000 students took South Dakota's Hunter Safety course. While most states have seen declines in the number of youngsters being certified, South Dakota has been able to hold its own over the years.

"In fact," Shattuck said, "during the 1980's we were certifying fewer than 4,000 students a year. Then, during the 1990's, the number slowly climbed to more than 5,000 in 1992. Last year's number dropped to 4,063, but we're hoping to see continued good numbers of youngsters in the Hunter Safety program."

—SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS NEWS

WHY ETHICAL HUNTING IS IMPORTANT

Each year as the fall hunting seasons get underway, we read articles, or see segments on outdoor television shows on hunter ethics. But do these reminders really stick with us? Do they?

There are rarely any secrets, or little known facts given away in these kinds of stories to help us prepare for a season or become more successful. Articles on ethics don't discuss techniques, equipment improvements or anything else about our physical performance while we hunt. They address the hunter's frame of mind, and let's admit it, sometimes philosophical stories are less likely to gain our attention. The topic of ethics usually doesn't excite the senses as might an actual hunting experience retold. Yet make no mistake, the hunter who fails to realize the importance of learning, practicing and teaching youngsters sound hunter ethics, is more unprepared to go hunting than he or she would be leaving home without a gun.

Why is being a safe and ethical hunter so important? The biggest reason is because it is simply the right thing to do. Hunting is more than matching wits with a game animal and providing good food for the table. Hunting is more than the enjoyment of being outdoors and learning about nature and wildlife. It is an agreement and trust between hunters and land-

owners and hunters and the public. It is a good and productive partnership for all -- when treated as it should be.

In return for granting permission to hunt, landowners trust hunters to be safe, obey instructions and treat the land and property with respect. When landowners give their permission, it is a step of faith and trust and the hunter is expected to honor that trust. Anything less is unethical and intolerable.

Likewise, people who don't hunt have a trust with the hunting community to act responsibly, help care for wildlife and the environment and be the leaders in conservation. And while all people who enjoy wildlife should contribute and do their part for wildlife, the truth is sportsmen and sportswomen are relied upon as the primary caretakers of natural resources. When we act in an irresponsible, unsafe and unethical manner, we say to the world we are not worthy of being the stewards of wildlife. Wildlife deserves proper respect, as do landowners who practices sustain wildlife, as do those who support hunting in any regard.

In Kentucky, 75 percent of the population believes that hunting is an acceptable activity, even though only about 10 percent buy a hunting license. Public support for hunting is strong. It remains just as crucial, however, that we as hunters conduct ourselves appropriately so that the majority of people continue to think hunting is okay. You see, most people think hunting is fine and understand the good things being able to hunt provides. It's the hunters who can create dislike from poor behavior. Poor behavior erodes public support for any activity.

Remember that every contact we as hunters have with people, whether at a gas station, restaurant, or driving along to or from our hunting spot, is an opportunity. Each of us has the chance to make a favorable impression or an unfavorable one. We must be considerate, safe, respectful and courteous at all times. Hunters have done more good than anyone for wildlife and toward improving the quality of life for everyone who enjoys the outdoors.

Yet, as proud as we can be of our accomplishments, we must earn the respect that goes with the achievement every single time we go hunting. How? By doing things the right way — every time.

This season, let's be aware of how we act each time we put on our hunting clothes. When we travel, let's be extra careful and helpful on the roads. Give everyone you come in contact a reason to associate good things with hunters. People have forgotten who hunters are and what they do. Let's help them remember. The little things can make a tremendous difference.

—KENTUCKY AFIELD

BULL ELK POACHED

Rapid City — South Dakota's Turn In Poachers program is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons who recently poached a bull elk near Oelrichs in Fall River County.

The dead elk was reported to authorities on July 24. The reward is offered through the Turn In Poachers (TIPs) program of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

"This incident illustrates blatant disrespect for the animal," said Owen Meadows, conservation officer in Fall River County. "The elk was shot several times and then left to rot. With our fall seasons approaching, this animal could have been a trophy, but instead it has been wasted." Meadows is investigating the incident.

Anyone with information on this particular violation, or any other violation in South Dakota, should call the TIPs hotline at 1.800.592-5522. Callers may remain anonymous when making the report. Program coordinator, Bob Schuurmans said, "We consider the citizens who call TIPs with information on wildlife law violations an important part of our effort to control poaching. We appreciate their assistance and encourage anyone with information to call the hotline number."

—SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS NEWS