

DELMARVA 20 DEER REPORT 23



THE LAND GROUP

NON TYPICAL



PROVEN SUCCESS

By Danny Calloway

Fall is fast approaching and before you know it we will be making our ascent toward the tree tops or in our blinds in search of that buck we have watched grow all summer long. If you are someone who seeks out a particular deer and always seem to come up short then just maybe these simple guidelines will help you fill your tag on the one that always seems to get away. When I say "guidelines" I am referring to the key things that have proven successful for me time and time again over the years. I wouldn't call it tactics, I would lean more toward calling it self-control. First off, you cannot kill what's not there. You can own 1,000 acres but if you don't have the mature age structure and the sense of security that a deer needs to call that place his home then you're cutting your chance down to near zero outside a rut-crazed chance in November.

Keeping your footprint to a minimum on properties you hope to harvest that big old mature buck on is just one piece of the puzzle. I can't tell you how many times I've heard target practicing and ATV riding on a neighboring property throughout the year and they are always wondering why the big bucks are not there or showing only at night. Deer can tolerate a lot more than most people think. They will often stay on the fringes of an area you would never expect to find a mature buck calling his home. That deer would just so happen to be within a several hundred yard radius most of the season and they would not even know it. Any time you enter and exit your woods you should do so in a manner that "you were never there."

If you are someone who baits an area you hunt, do it on a schedule that puts you in the woods around the same time of day hours away from sunrise or sunset when deer tend to be more active. I know you got a picture of that big buck 30 minutes after you drove your 4-wheeler in to bait, but were you there when he was? Oftentimes, the deer know exactly when you are present and simply lay in wait for you to leave before deciding it's safe to get up and move about. Birds, squirrels and other animals will often make it known that something has changed in the woods as you stroll on through the property tipping your presence off to every ear in the woods unknowingly.

Size doesn't matter. Many people are under the impression I have hundreds of acres to hunt and this is simply not true. Most of my deer are harvested on properties less than 60 acres, most are less than 30



acres, which are surrounded by neighboring gun clubs and other hunters who pursue the same deer as I do. The key to getting close to these deer is easier than one would think. Provide them with everything they need and do so with as little as possible an impact to the property. Remember, a deer's world is from about chest height down. So clearing out and bush hogging down the area around where you hunt simply isn't as desirable to a wary old buck looking to travel the woods as a ghost. Make security cover when there is none. Hinge cutting* in the late winter is one of my favorite ways to create security cover in my woods. Deer will use these areas almost instantly from my experience. It allows sunlight to reach the forest floor which will produce green growth on the otherwise shaded forest floor throughout the summer months, creating browse and cover on a usually dead bed of sticks and dry leaves. All these things will help make your property more appealing for wildlife in general but do it in moderation during a time that will less impact on your herd. I prefer

the middle of March to do these things not a week before season sweating the woods up.

Another pillar I am constantly reminding myself of is to not fall victim to your cameras! I'm guilty as charged on this issue for I have sat out many a hunt because I was waiting to get a picture of the deer I was pursuing, only to find that most of the time the deer was there just not standing in front of the camera. I have taken several deer from stands with cameras and the deer never once walked in front of that camera while I was on stand the nights I saw or harvested that deer. I also try to keep the mindset that tonight may be the night I get the first picture of that big buck I've longed to see in my area, and guess what? I'll be there. If he does show for the first time because I didn't let the camera dictate my going or not going that day. Cameras can ruin a great hunter and cause an increase in missed opportunities you never knew you missed because you relied on that snapshot of only what's standing in front of it. They are awesome tools and I love every picture that I get, but don't fall victim to relying on a snapshot of an otherwise 360-degree view from your tree.

Patience and discipline are the key when you're hunting a mature buck. Don't go into the season with a goal to get a certain deer and then settle halfway through the season for something less because gun season is getting close and you don't want to eat a tag before the orange army hits the woods. Chances are that deer is big for a reason and he didn't become that way overnight. He is a survivor and a veteran who knows that woods as well as you know your own living room. He's learned the when's and where's of travel that are safe and if he's not been disturbed for the majority of the year and he's comfortable in your area he's more likely to roam it during daylight hours.

Next, give your does and 3-year old bucks a pass. Does are like the pillar of the woods, the more does you can carry on a property, the more likely the chance of a buck hanging around longer during season. Deer are very social animals and taking a few out of the herd to fill the freezer doesn't go unnoticed in the ranks of the population in and around your property. Being able to pass on does and younger bucks is a discipline that many can't find the strength to uphold throughout the season but doing so year after year will pay off big in the years to come. Letting young bucks and even a mature buck walk is not an easy pill to swallow when they come cruising by your stand and you have a pocket full of tags to fill, but in passing you are increasing your odds over time. Remember, Rome wasn't built in a day and neither will your herd be if you don't have the patience to let the numbers build up. Don't worry about the neighbors and what they are shooting. Yeah they might shoot

a deer you let walk but that is part of the discipline needed to be successful even if it doesn't always payoff. Remember to practice self-control and patience in the deer woods and also do a little sprucing up in those late winter months to improve habitat just before green up and I assure you it is all you need to be successful if you're trying to get that one that always seems to give you the slip.

**Hinge cutting involves cutting partially through a tree and laying it to the ground to create a living, horizontal habitat structure. Hinging can be used to enhance bedding areas through the establishment of screening cover, to block deer from using certain locations and trails, or to funnel deer towards a stand site.*

HUNTING LAND VALUE ANALYSIS

By Will Fehrenbacher and Dallas Harrington

In a study of land transactions on the public market between January 1st of 2022 to July 15th of 2023, 52 transactions were selected that represented a purchase for recreation (deer hunting) opportunity. The properties selected contained dominantly timber and little to no improvement value. A blended value (sale price-improvement value/total acres) was calculated from each sale. The values representative of each county were determined by a weighted average of all the sales selected for that county.

COUNTY	# OF SALES	PER ACRE VALUE
Accomack	7	\$2,219.05
Worcester	5	\$2,235.69
Dorchester*	10	\$3,781.50
Somerset	9	\$1,737.30
Wicomico	11	\$2,136.24
Sussex	10	\$3,372.82

(*Dorchester holds a higher number due to sika deer population)

YOUTH SECTION

A kid will never remember their favorite day of watching TV, but will always remember a day in the outdoors. Get your kids out there even if it's on a smaller scale or changes your hunting plans from time to time. They won't forget it!



DELAWARE

Delaware hunters harvested 16,848 deer during the 2022/23 hunting season.

Sussex County had the highest harvest with 8,986 deer, followed by Kent County with 5,235, and New Castle County with 2,627.

During the 2022/23 season, hunters harvested more females (does) than males (bucks), with 58.1% (9,789) does and 41.9% (7,059) bucks. The doe harvest was a new record, eclipsing a previous high set during the 2004/05 season.



MARYLAND

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported that deer hunters harvested 76,687 deer during the combined archery, firearms and muzzleloader seasons, from Sept. 9, 2022 through Feb. 3, 2023.

The statewide harvest included 29,682 antlered and 42,872 antlerless white-tailed deer, and 1,908 antlered and 2,225 antlerless sika deer. The harvest was 8% higher than the 2021-2022 total of 70,845 deer. The increased harvest is credited to more participation by hunters and favorable weather.

An outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) on the lower Eastern Shore, primarily in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, caused a decrease in the harvest there this year.



5TH ANNUAL WHITETAIL
OPEN WINNER:
Chris Boston



Check out
nontypicaloutdoorsupply.com
for information on this years 6th
Annual Whitetail Open!



VIRGINIA

During the 2022–23 deer hunting season, hunters harvested 184,968 deer in Virginia, down approximately 3% from the 190,582 deer taken during the same time frame the previous season. This year's total included 90,242 antlered bucks, 1,113 bucks that had shed their antlers, 11,921 button bucks, and 81,692 does (44%).



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they're playing in it!



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FEATURED LISTING

81 Acres in Berlin, MD



- 30 +/- acres cleared
- Remaining acreage in a hardwood/ pine mixture
- Primarily tillable soils Othello and Elkton Silt Loams
- Old homesite on tract that would be an ideal location for new construction
- Site has NOT been evaluated for septic
- No conservation easements

LIST PRICE: \$549,900

For More Information
Contact Doug Williams
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From all of us at The Land Group and Non Typical, we hope you have a great deer season. The hunting community continues to grow here on the Eastern Shore, and we love being a part of it. The opportunities we have here are endless, so get out there and enjoy them because we truly are blessed to live where we do. Good luck and shoot straight!

Happy Hunting,
The Land Group & Non Typical

THE LAND GROUP



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