

Mentor Hunt 2013

by Matt Schlueter



This fall was different at our house from last year, Josh considers him self a deer hunter after last year. And has even gone on a campaign to make sure nobody forgets he needs to take a hunter safety course so he can hunt as a youth next fall. At one point I was at work and he started campaigning to "Mom" so she would not forget either. When she told Josh he has his mentor tag this year and he is not even old enough to take the class this year, Josh told her it's one of those things he has just got to stay on top of getting done.

This last weekend I took my son Josh Mentor Hunting for his Antlerless Deer. We were going back to the same area where he had shot his deer last year. While we were driving to the area we planned to hunt, Josh told me he was the hunter and I was lucky enough to be going with him. It was all I could do not to laugh when he told me this as we drove down the road.

After we got to our destination and were walking in to set up our blind, Josh was in the lead with his new Youth Remington 700 in .243 Winchester and me brining up the rear with the Lawn Chairs and Ameri-Step G3 Ground Blind in tow. A doe exploded out of clump of brush like a race car leaving the starting line. Josh did not even have time to get the gun shouldered before she was through the trees and down into the draw heading north attempting to break some speed record for deer.

While sitting in the morning, we were in the same spot Josh shot his doe last year. This is a nice spot in a shelter belt and we have some cedar trees to set up in front of to help further break up the blinds shape. A flock of robins moved in and landed all around us. Some of them even tried to land on the blind which was funny when they bounced off the nylon shell. There were so many of them it turned parts of the ground black in the clearing around us. Josh was concerned they were too noisy. I pointed out to Josh the birds were not scared of us, and any deer that came along and saw this would think they were just feeding like they normally do.



After sitting all day until we moved to another spot to sit at till sunset. We did not use the blind and sat with our backs to some small trees to break up our outline. A big doe stepped out of some trees, at about 120 yards. Josh missed twice before she took off along with three others that were further back in the trees. Afterwards he and I talked about how she stood perfectly still which indicated none of his rounds had even been close to where she was standing.

Later Josh wanted to use my "Primos Can Call" and since the excitement had already passed, I did not see the harm in letting him try. I anticipated that the deer had all left the area but I was wrong. After calling, we were both surprised when out of

the same set of trees came two huge bucks. The first was an older buck with a nice 4x3 rack, with a lot of gray in his features. The second was somewhat younger with a 4x4 rack. I was surprised how curious they were, the older buck hung back more while the younger one came within about 70 yards or so of us. After they checked us out they moved back into the trees and disappeared. After sitting until sunset Josh told me he wanted to come back to this spot in the morning and stay here all day on Sunday.

On Sunday we came back and set up the blind in the same area we had been the evening before. After sitting most of the day, Josh was able to shoot a nice deer in the afternoon. He took it with one shot at about 90 yards, using his shooting sticks. When we went over to where it was we discovered it was actually a button buck that was not quite old enough to sport a set of antlers.

Josh and I field dressed out his deer, and drug it to the road to load into the pickup. While dropping off his deer at Renner Corner Locker to be processed, Josh was excited to tell his hunting story to employees and fellow hunters who stopped to listen. Josh is now impatiently waiting for our phone call for the deer sticks are ready to be picked up.

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