

SUMMER 2009



SPIKES

MAGAZINE

RAISE
BIG
BUCK\$

PLUS...

Go Fishin' This Summer



SPECIAL SPIKES EDITION
TEXAS DEER ASSOCIATION



Q&A

What is the difference between shotgun and rifle scopes?

Jason O.
Herman, Wis.

Power of magnification and something called 'parallax' are the two main differences between rifle and shotgun scopes.

A shotgun scope usually has lower power magnification than a rifle scope because it has a shorter effective range and is meant more for short-range deer hunting and for turkey. A fixed 2X power is fairly standard on shotguns, while most rifles used for deer hunting have a 3-9 scope.

The new Vortex Optics Diamondback 4-12x40 AO Riflescope by Vortex Optics is extremely versatile and ideal for small and big game as well as many shorter range uses. www.VortexOptics.com



A 3-power is low enough with the right light, and 9-power magnifies enough for longer shots. The 3 means the image in the scope appears three times (3X) closer than it does with your naked eye. The 9 means nine times (9X) closer. This is a 'variable' scope because the magnification can vary from three to nine.

Parallax is the difference between the straight line to the target from the muzzle of your firearm and the straight line to the target that you see when you look through the scope. Scopes designed for shorter ranges, like shotguns (and muzzleloaders), have a shorter parallax because the manufacturers assume that your shots will be in the 50- to 75- yard range. Most rifle scopes will have the parallax set at around 100 yards, or they will provide you with a means to compensate for parallax with an adjustable objective lens.

Hey Kids! Email your questions about wildlife, habitat and hunting to **SPIKES** at spikes@deerwildlifealliance.org, or mail them to **ADWA, 12885 Research Blvd, Suite 108A, Austin TX 78750**. Please include your name, age and the city and state where you live.

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SPIKES MAGAZINE

Spikes MAGAZINE



WHASCALLY WHITETAILS



GO FISHIN' THIS SUMMER

DEPARTMENTS

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ON THE COVER: The whitetail deer, High Roller, holds the world record for the largest rack of antlers. High Roller scored a 418 Boone & Crockett. High Roller is owned by the High Roller Whitetails ranch in Center, Texas. www.HighRollerWhitetails.com.

SPIKES Fun Fact

What is the heaviest fish ever caught?

(Great white shark, ocean sunfish, blue whale, grouper)

Answer on page 11.

WILDLIFE & WIDGETS

Hey kids, check with your parent or guardian before visiting any website.

Deer are No. 1

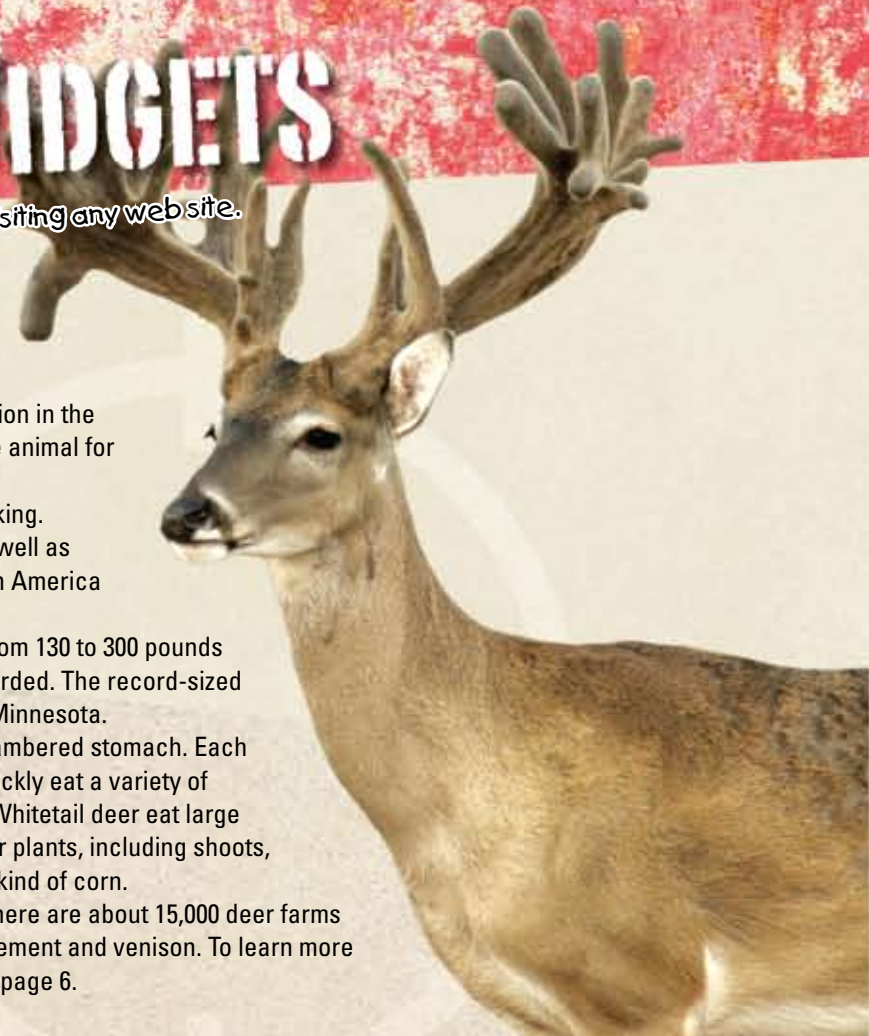
The most popular big game animal in North America is the whitetail deer. According to estimates, the whitetail deer population in the United States is around 30 million and whitetail is a favorite game animal for hunters across the country.

While there are other deer species in America the whitetail is king. Whitetail are native to all, but five, states in the United States as well as Canada, Mexico, Central America, and northern portions of South America as far south as Peru.

A male whitetail deer (also known as a buck) usually weighs from 130 to 300 pounds but, in rare cases, bucks in excess of 375 pounds have been recorded. The record-sized whitetail deer weighed more than 500 pounds and was found in Minnesota.

The whitetail deer is a ruminant, which means it has a four-chambered stomach. Each chamber has a different and specific function that allows it to quickly eat a variety of different food, digesting it at a later time in a safe area of cover. Whitetail deer eat large varieties of food, commonly eating legumes and foraging on other plants, including shoots, leaves, cactus, and grasses. They also eat acorns, fruit, and any kind of corn.

Many whitetail deer are raised on ranches and farms. Today, there are about 15,000 deer farms across the country which raise deer for genetic and herd management and venison. To learn more about raising deer, check out the story 'Whascally Whitetails' on page 6.



Candid Camera

Game cameras are great for scouting prior to hunting season. Monitoring the movements of deer and other game leads to success, and the Moultrie Game Spy I-45 digital camera features truly invisible infrared technology, a quick trigger and — best of all — it is part of Moultrie's new Game Spy Game Management System which offers complete access to your game camera via cellular network and Internet. So you can check out your game shots from your home computer. www.moultriefeeders.com



King's Hoodie

Introducing the cool kids hoodies from King's. Now you can wear a great pullover with a cool camouflage pattern. King's ShadowCamo hoodies come with elastic cuffs on the sleeves and waist and standard front pockets to keep your hands warm. www.kingsoutdoorworld.com



Who Nose Camouflage?

Animals rely on their nose just as much - if not more - than their eyes to spot trouble, so camouflaging your scent is just as important as your new camo clothing. Trophy Blend offers a wide variety of cover 'Scent Sticks,' such as cedar, pine, earth, juniper and sage, that effectively disguise your body odor and help you blend into your surroundings. www.trophyblend.com

Out on a Limb

The Limbhook Hanger is designed to ease the comfort of the hunter, fisherman or outdoorsman. This nifty tool can be used on any limb or tree from 1/2-inch to 7 1/2-inches in diameter at any angle thanks to its patent pending 'Swivel Lock Technology.' Use the Limbhook while hunting, fishing, at home or around the camp to hang bows, guns, lanterns, hunting bags or anything you can think of under 15 lbs. Great for camping too! www.mejiaoutdoors.com.



Blackbuck are Booming

Blackbuck antelope are among the fastest animals on earth - reaching speeds of up to 50 mph - and can out run almost any other animal over long distances. Their sharp eyesight and their speed are their natural defenses against predators, but they have not been able to outrun trouble in the native land.

Poaching and habitat destruction have made the blackbuck an endangered and protected species in its native countries of India, Pakistan and Nepal. However, thanks to the successful stewardship of wildlife ranchers, mostly in Texas, there are now nearly 19,000 blackbuck antelope thriving on Texas ranches and native populations overseas have been stabilized.

Male blackbuck are black (dark brown) on their upper body and white on their chest, belly, inner legs, and around their eyes. They have long, ringed horns that spiral with three to four turns and are up to 28 inches long. Males stand about 32 inches tall at the shoulders and weigh between 71 and 95 pounds. Females are smaller, beige or light brown and usually hornless. Blackbucks typically travel in herds of 15 to 20 animals with one dominant male. The males rut, or fight, year round although they rarely hurt each other.



SPIKES Fun Fact

What is the world record Boone & Crockett antler score for a whitetail deer?

(299.5, 371, 418, 547) Answer on page 11.

WHA?CALLY WHITETAILED

NOT ONLY IS RAISING DEER A LOT OF FUN, IT CAN BRING BIG BUCKS.



As a cartoon character, Elmer Fudd loved to hunt for that ‘wh-ascally wh-abbit’ but Elmer was missing out while messing with rabbits. Any sportsman can tell you it’s not rabbits that create true excitement. It’s really those whascally whitetail deer that are the most popular big game animal in North America.

While most everyone loves deer and other wildlife, there are some lucky people who get to be around deer all the time and raise deer on their property. They have a lot of fun caring for and watching the deer, plus they can make big bucks, both literally and figuratively.

PICTURED: The whitetail deer, Rold Gold, scored a 316 Boone & Crockett at 4-years-old. Rold Gold is owned by Sendero Whitetails in Lometa, Texas. www.SenderoWhitetails.com

Raising deer may not be as common as raising cattle, goats or other types of livestock, but it’s far from being a new trend. Deer farming has been around since 5,000 B.C. in China and raising (or breeding) deer officially came to North America around 1908.

Many deer breeders (aka deer farmers) were — and still are — avid sportsmen. They love deer, but spending only a few weeks in the wilderness watching them or hunting for them is not enough. By farming deer, they can enjoy bucks and does all year round. These deer breeders truly enjoy raising these animals and they work hard to help deer live longer, healthier lives.

According to U.S. statistics, about two-thirds of American farms lose money every year. Farmers are always looking for new ways to make money by using their land more efficiently. Sometimes drought can devastate crops or livestock prices can fluctuate so much that it becomes hard for a rancher or farmer to pay his/her bills.

But raising deer is different. Deer require less space than cattle; they are lower maintenance and they generate more ‘bucks’ (i.e. money) for the farmer than traditional livestock because they are worth more.

Some people simply raise deer as a hobby, just as others raise horses or dogs. Since deer require little labor and almost look after themselves, they are a good choice for a hobby-farmer.

If you or your family are already raising cattle, you already have most of what you need to raise deer. You have the land, equipment and some of the facilities and you know how to handle and look after animals. Deer do well on smaller tracts of land and the quality of the land does not have to be as good as when raising cattle.

Deer also require less work than the same number of cattle. Still, you must be sure the deer have adequate food and water every day. Deer are relatively self-sufficient and disease resistant,

but they will need to be handled occasionally for veterinary purposes.

Deer do not require expensive structures for shelter. Wooded areas next to pastures can provide cover and security. However, some specialized equipment and facilities are needed to control deer when they must be worked and handled. It is also necessary to have sturdy, woven fencing to keep predators out of the deer’s area.

While raising deer can be fun (and some work) year-round, there are two particular times of the year that are really exciting — early summer and fall.

Early summer is fawning season for whitetail and mule deer. Young fawns are usually easy to handle the first few days but they quickly learn to walk and it’s not long before they are running, jumping and playing.

As with most young animals, fawns need a lot of special attention. Working with them can be a great experience. Fall is another great time for raising deer. This is the time of year that you can see really big bucks...and the not the ‘bucks’ as in dollars— bucks as in ‘big deer with big antlers.’

The best way to get bucks with bigger antlers is to provide them with good nutrition and allow them to live long enough to grow them.

Unfortunately, neither of these usually happen for deer in the wild. Drought and poor vegetation prevent them from getting good nutrition and the average age of a buck killed in the wild is only 1.5 years old. However, farm-raised deer most often live long healthy lives and they produce giant antlers.

If you or your family is interested in raising whitetail or mule deer, see if there is a deer breeding association in your state or contact the Texas Deer Association (www.TexasDeerAssociation.com), the nation’s largest state deer association. They will be glad to help you get started raising those whascally whitetails.



Photos courtesy of Sendero Whitetails. www.SenderoWhitetails.com



Go Fishin' This Summer

Summer is the perfect time to grab a rod, a reel, some bait and toss a fishing line into the water. Here are some tips for the ultimate summer fishing trip.

Fishing Tip #1- Stay Cheap

All you need is a cheap rod and reel, some fishing line, some plastic bobbers, hooks and a tackle box. You (or your parents) can probably get all this at a hardware or discount store for less than \$40.

Fishing Tip #2- Catch Your Own Bait

You can buy minnows or night crawlers at any bait shop but it's way cooler to catch your own. You may have thought about sticking your younger sister on the end of a fish hook, but you'll get in less trouble, and catch more fish, by digging up worms or crickets yourself.

Fishing Tip #3 - Be Ready

Get your fishing gear and bait together the night before so you're ready to go the next morning. Practice your casts the day before. Use an open area where there are no trees or powerlines and aim for a target about 25 feet in front of you.

Fishing Tip #4 - Location

Ponds are your best bet if you don't live near the ocean. Most ponds are loaded with some kind of fish. Even if they are not worth eating, they are still fun to catch.

Lakes and rivers, especially the mouth of a river, are also fishing hot spots. Rivers act as the spawning grounds for many fish, so this can be perfect place to cast your line.

Many fishermen don't like to share info on their favorite fishing holes but if you talk to someone at a local outdoors store, they may give you some tips on the best lakes and rivers in your area.

If you live near the coast, try fishing from large rocks or off a pier. Fish like covered

areas, so try casting around heavy weeds, rocks or logs. Also, if fishing on rocks, be aware of the tide schedule. You don't want to get stuck on a rock in the middle of high tide and have a lifeguard rescue you - you will look like a pansy.

Fishing Tip #5 - Be Patient

You may go hours without even getting a bite and you could go home without catching anything. Don't worry. You can always make up a story about how you caught a really big fish and decided to throw it back.

Fishing Tip #6 - Don't Get Eaten

Watch where you step and wear a life jacket if you are going near really deep water. Bring along mosquito repellent, sunscreen and a first aid kit. If a big fish with giant teeth jumps out of the water and tries to attack you, run away and scream.

Fishing Tip #7 - Bring a Friend

Fishing is a lot more fun when you do it with someone else. Always go with a buddy. They can help you out if you are just learning to fish and can help carry your catch home.

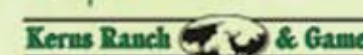
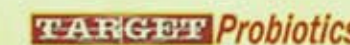
Fishing Tip #8 - Know the Rules

Many parts of the world require you to have a license to fish in certain areas. If you don't have a license you could face a fine and lose your fish.

If you go on a fishing trip this summer, tell Spikes Magazine about it and send pictures to spikes@deerwildlifealliance.org.



SPONSORS



spikes STORIES



Laser Action Education

What's more fun than hunting? How about shooting lasers while you're learning about hunting? The American Deer & Wildlife Alliance and Laser Shot are now providing new 'Virtual Hunter Education' for children.

The virtual education course utilizes Laser Shot's proven projection and laser detection technology to give students the experience of shooting firearms and to receive instruction in safety, proper ethics, and the responsibilities of gun ownership.

The laser arcade games are a lot of fun too!



Turkey Call

Jaxon Mulloy (8) of Burleson, Texas, enjoys a turkey hunt by Young Hunters Unlimited.

Young Hunters Unlimited, a Christian-based group introducing American youth to hunting and the outdoors.

Who Let the Does Out!

The PAX 96 Ranch & Whitetail Center in Colorado City, Texas, recently donated a youth hunt to the Lubbock Cooper FFA. Participants Cole and Dustin Dominey both enjoyed harvesting a doe but may have had even more fun with Charleigh, the deer tracking bloodhound.



Courtesy Lisa's Photography, www.viewlisasphotography.com



Bearly Bagged

Max (12) of Eagle, Id, bagged his first bear. Literally... 'bagged.' The 73-inch-long, 250 lb. bear was shot with a .270 and transported within a Trophy Bag Cooler and four bags of ice to get it home perfectly preserved for the taxidermist.

GET OUTSIDE

Summer is filled with fun games and sports. Be sure to get outside and enjoy them all.

ACROSS

1. Game for 'boys of summer'
6. Archery buffs need one
9. Sport for breaststroke
10. Sport is a good racket
13. Don't fall off these or you're all wet
15. Game for drivers
16. Catch your fill in this sport
18. Robin hood's sport
19. Game for ringers

DOWN

1. Two wheeler
2. Wave rider uses it
3. Watersport necessity
4. Big mouth catch
5. Wilderness sleep-overs
7. Rod's partner for walleye
8. Mariner's life saver
11. Walking the trail
12. Vessel that moves with wind
14. Campers' shelter
17. Motorcycle for water

BRAIN BOOSTER



spikes SOLUTIONS

ANSWERS from Brain Booster, above



ANSWERS from Spikes Fun Facts

What was the heaviest fish ever caught?
Ocean sunfish weighing 4,928 lbs.

What is the world record Boone & Crockett antler score for a whitetail deer?
(The whitetail deer, High Roller, scored a 418 Boone & Crockett. The see the world's largest whitetail deer antlers, see the front cover.)

HEY KIDS



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