

ALABAMA

Winter 2024 | Volume 2 | Issue 4

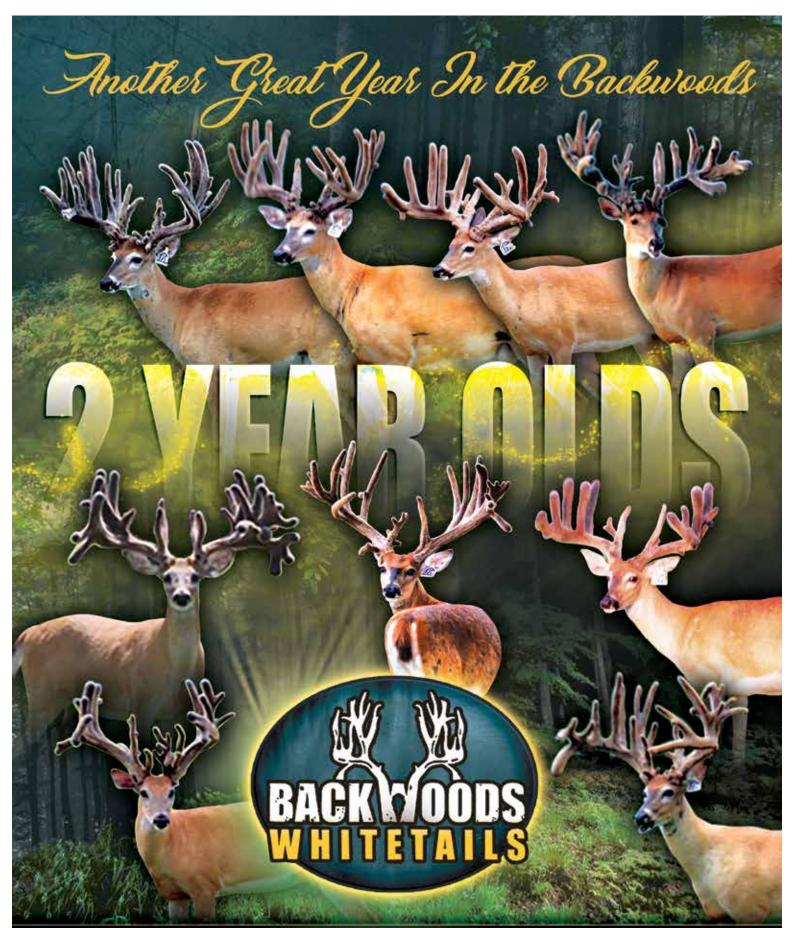




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JANUARY 2025 | WINTER

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Executive Directors Message

WINTER 2024-25



Χ





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EVENT FLYER

HERE

WHO: ALABAMA DEER ASSOCIATION
WHAT: 2025 SPRING AUCTION AND TRADESHOW
WHEN: FEB. 21
8AM BOOTH SET UP
5PM TRADESHOW OPENS
6PM LITE SUPPER
6:30 BINGO
8PM POKER GAMES

FEB. 22 8AM TRADESHOW OPENS 11:30 LUNCH

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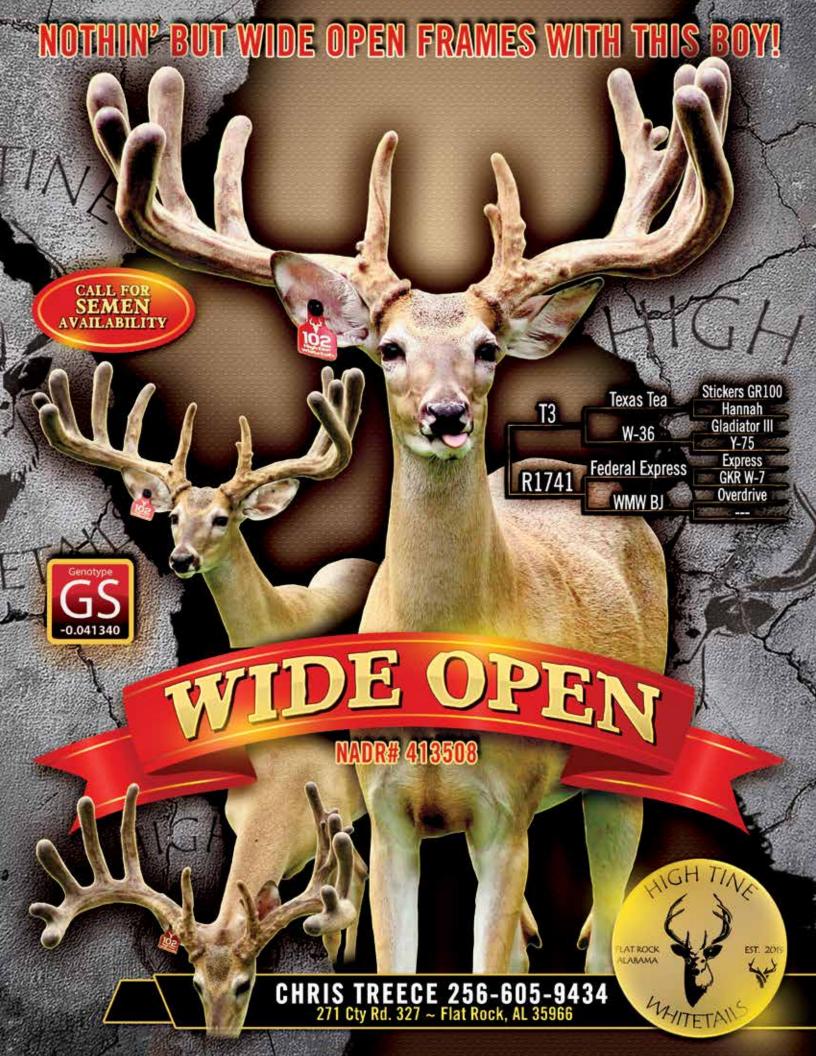


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A WORD OF SINCERE APPRECIATION FROM CO-FOUNDER CAROL CLARK

By: Carol and Rick Clark & Gail Veley

ou could see the excitement in the eyes of young Rhett Pfluegar last November, when he took triumphant aim at a "whopper" of a buck at Duck Springs Plantation in Duck Springs, Alabama. Earlier that day, Rhett's parents had pulled him out of school for what turned out to be the surprise of his life. Kidz Outdoors had been told he was a good shot, and he sure didn't disappoint us as this giant buck "bowed up" and might have gone 20 yards before he went down for the count. Having hunted since he was seven years old, Rhett was calm, cool yet thoroughly amazed when he walked up to his treasure.

While Duck Springs Plantation is owned by Chad and Erika McMichael, they were out of town and our group was hosted instead by Chad's parents Bernie and Jane McMichael as well as Trey Mink, Billy Norris and his lovely wife Rachael. We appreciated how well they fed us, and how welcomed and at home they made all of us feel. Kidz Outdoors is so grateful for the support of every member of the Alabama Deer Association for helping dreams for a boy like Rhett to be realized, and at such a beautiful location, too.

Just nine months before his once-in-a-lifetime hunt, Rhett had undergone surgery to remove two tumors from his spine. He still has two tumors and a future surgery remaining. He will be going to St. Jude Hospital every three months for imaging and to meet with an oncologist. Pray for him and Kidz Outdoors. We thank God every day for the chance to touch the lives of deserving children like Rhett and for the way they touch ours. We feel very blessed to be able to provide experiences that will remain in their hearts, and for the stories and memories long shared by their families.

If anyone knows of a child in need, please feel free to call us at 205-410-3779 or email Rick and I at rcclark107@yahoo.com. Thank you and best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2025.

> **Donations can** be submitted at: kidzoutdoors.org

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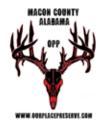
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MOBILE-FRIENDLY, WEB APPLICATION GMS NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH NADR

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by the Iowa Whitetail Deer Association

anaging a deer herd has become abundantly easier through the introduction and availability of a new and improved GMS software program unveiled in April of 2024 by the North American Deer Registry (NADR). Originally created by fellow deer breeder Mike Owens in 2004 (and subsequently owned by NADeFA for several years) the GMS program was purchased by NADR in the fall of 2023. While the new system still essentially offers the same reliable features, it is now also mobile-friendly and web based which allows breeders to utilize technology, to create a more efficient process from sample submission to the receiving of results.

"We have around 75 users so far (and counting) that have purchased or migrated to the new software," shared NADR Software and Support Specialist Sara Bohannon. "New GMS clients include both new and long-time breeders of whitetail deer and other cervid and exotic species. In addition, all existing GMS clients have been invited to demo and migrate to the new version. Like the original GMS system "this is a breeder's personal and private database that can be used as sparingly or as abundantly as you'd like," Bohannon added. "Conveniently, the new GMS system also allows for a much faster input of herd data, because of the immediate link to NADR. For existing NADR registered animals, you can import full lineage and

genetic data directly from NADR."

It also offers the heavily requested "Dream Deer" feature which answers the question 'What If?' "It allows you to create a visual representation of a dreamsimulated pedigree. "Breeder feedback has confirmed this tool plays a crucial role in making good breeding decisions," Bohannon said.

The new system also allows the user to transfer phone pictures into the appropriate GMS data section to display on lineages and track annual antler growth or other events. "You can also input animals from any pedigree source and build their own lineage page by assigning a sire and dam for each generation without depending specifically on NADR information," Bohannon said. In addition, deer farm and preserve owners and their employees could all have congruent access, with their individual phones to this information through a single shared sign-on password. "We may add a feature in the future allowing for different levels of information sharing or limited rights to employees or others," Bohannon explained.

Overall, the new system, the only one of its kind, allows for a more specific tracking of animals for the purpose of state reporting. "In every state that allows deer farming it's crucial to have your records maintained properly and to be able to reconcile them as quickly and accurately as possible," Bohannon said.

"NADR continues to work hard to provide the very best tools and the most valuable information in our GMS software program and genetic registry," said NADR Executive Director Gary Cook. "We are ever continuing to seek ways to use technology to provide knowledge and state of the art services to our customers." You may reach NADR staff by calling 405-513-7228, faxing them at 405-513-7238, sending an email to nadr@deerregistry. com or visiting their website at www:deerregistry.com. NADR is located at 1601 Medical Center Drive, Suite 1, Edmond, OK, 73034.

The New GMS System Features:

Herd Inventory -

Track all aspects of a herd, including tags, names, State I.D., birth weight, sires, dams, etc. Track pen assignments, display unlimited pictures and record medications of each animal.

DNA Submittal & Retrieval -

Online submittal requests for DNA testing can be created with just a few clicks. When the specimen has been processed, retrieve the lineage and DNA information back into GMS.

GEBV/Codons -

Receive and store GEBV scores and Codon values from NADR for each animal.



Dream Deer -

Input Details here to simulate potential breeding outcomes. Create a visual representation of a dream pedigree including detail such as scores, genetic profile and custom comments. An estimated bloodline percentage calculation is displayed along with breeding history for both the sire and dam. Sire and dam pairings can be saved as good matches for future reference and reporting.

Lineage/Pedigree -

The fully interactive lineage screen displays lineage and pictures for each animal. Optionally, you can display the GEBV score.

Doe Line -

Customizable field for each animal to record anchor doe detail to display on reports or grouping.

Pen and Group Management -

Create and assign as many pens or groups as desired. Pen and group detail included in inventory reports allows for sorting and reviewing animals by pen or group.

Reporting:

Several reports are available such as Herd Status, Removal History, Pen and Group reports, Medication History as well as Doe Line. A customizable Animal Search Report will filter and sort on any data fields associated with an animal. These reports can be printed or exported to excel or PDF.

Designed for All Species -

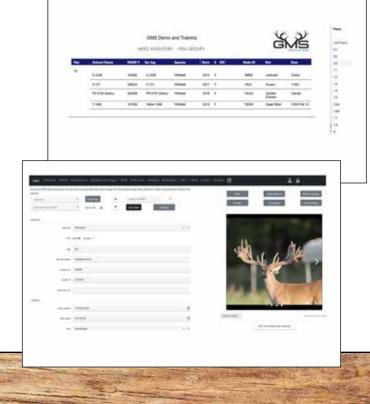
NADR has spent countless hours with people in the industry to develop a program that will work for all Cervid species as well as Exotics.

More to Come! -

NADR will be rolling out more features in the coming year such as Animal Transfers, Customizable Reporting and Email Notification of updates.

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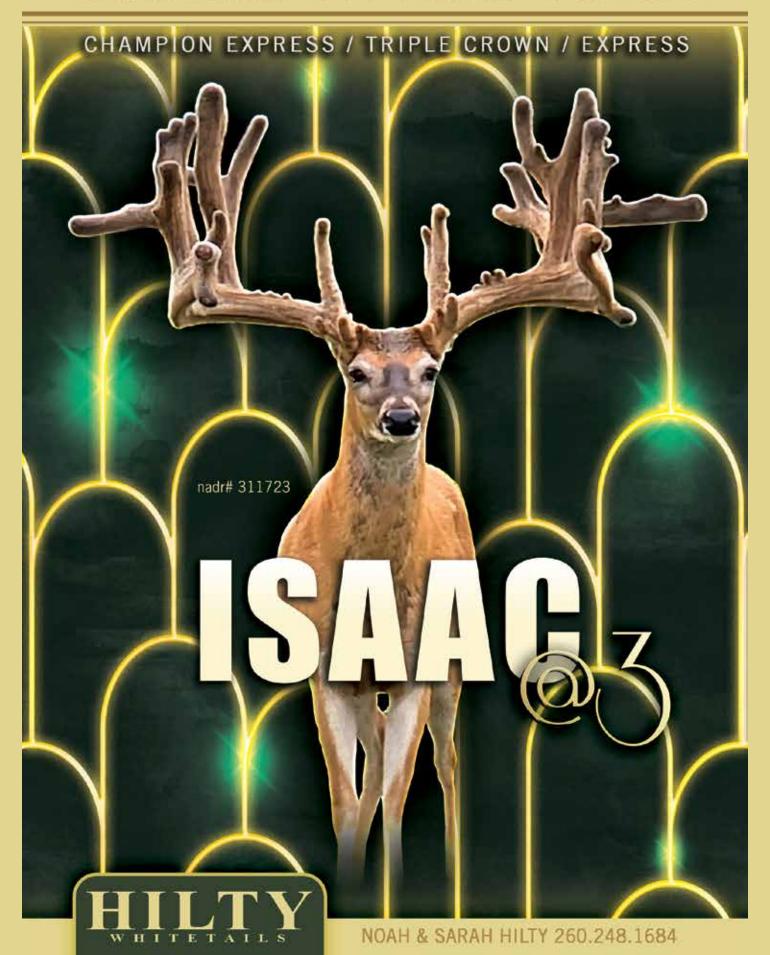
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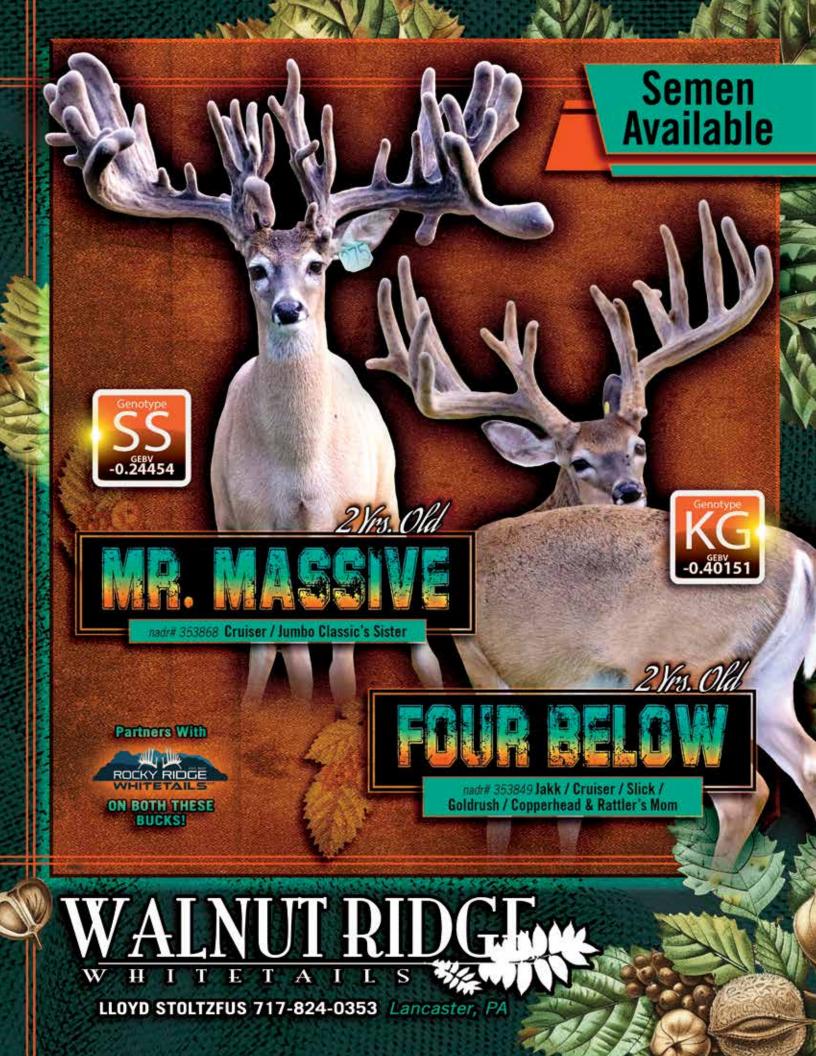
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CAPITOL HILL REPORT

HOW TRUMP'S VICTORY SPARKS A UNIFIED REPUBLICAN AGENDA IN THE 2024 ELECTION

2024 ELECTIONS

2024 Elections

The 2024 election is widely regarded as one of the most pivotal in modern history. Republicans have gained control of both the White House and the Senate, and have secured their majority in the House of Representatives. This marks the first unified Republican government since 2017. They plan to leverage President-elect Donald Trump's unexpected and decisive victory to push through as many of their legislative priorities as possible before the 2026 midterm elections, where they will likely face a challenging fight to retain their congressional majorities.

Presidential

On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, former President Donald Trump (R) and Ohio Senator JD Vance (R) defeated Vice President Kamala Harris (D) and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz (D) in the Presidential election, securing the 270 electoral votes required for victory, with the final tally being 312-226.

Senate

With all races called, Republicans will control the Senate with a 53-47 majority. Republicans gained control of the Senate by flipping seats in Ohio, Montana, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Although Democrats lost the majority, they retained key seats after several high-profile retirements in Maryland, Michigan, and Arizona. Additionally, as Sen. JD Vance (R-OH) will become Vice President and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) is set to be the next Secretary of State, their respective Governors must appoint a replacement.

House

As of Friday, November 15, the House will have 59 new members, 30 freshman Republicans, and 29 freshman Democrats. House Republicans defended their majority with the current tally being 218-209. With 8 outstanding races,

these numbers are expected to change. On November 13, Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) resigned from Congress, triggering a special election for his open seat.

Trump First 100 Days Priorities

President-elect Trump has voiced ambitious policies that are set to be enacted on Day 1 of his second term, especially with a Republican trifecta. These include:

Immigration

President Trump is expected to quickly implement mass deportation of illegal immigrants, a key promise since his first term and during the campaign trail. The Trump administration will be seeking to undo Biden-era executive orders (EOs) that reversed some of his first-term policies such as the Remain in Mexico policy on asylum seekers and halting the flow of migrants

through the Darien Gap from South America, in which negotiations with Panama are needed. President Trump announced Tom Homan, his former Acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director to be Border Czar and be in charge of the Southern border and has made Stephen Miller, an immigration hardliner, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy. President Trump has also discussed invoking the Alien Enemies Act, a law from 1798 that allows the President to deport anyone who is not an American citizen and is from a country that the U.S. has "declared war" on matters of national security.

Tariffs

On his most recent campaign trail, President Trump promised to impose notably large tariffs; 20% on all foreign goods and 60% on Chinese goods. As President, he will be authorized to do so without Congressional consultation through a 1977 law that allows duties in cases of "unusual and extraordinary threat."





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CAPITOL HILL REPORT CONTINUED

Tariffs are expected to launch at varying times, targeting specific countries and goods. There is speculation that he may utilize the threat of tariffs as a point of negotiation with competitors. Though his position on the subject is clear, opinions within his administration may differ.

Taxes

Taxes remain a key priority for President Trump as he looks to extend expiring provisions from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). President Trump plans to extend all personal income tax cuts and further reduce the corporate tax rate, as well as lift the cap on State and Local Tax (SALT) deductions, which paid for the TCJA bill. Additionally, on the campaign trail, he promised to eliminate taxes on tips, overtime, and social security checks. Tax reform will require Congressional approval, and a Republican trifecta will aid President Trump as he pursues his tax proposals.

Conclusion

Congress has about five legislative session weeks remaining before the Christmas break, with several key policy issues to address in that time. Upon returning to Washington, lawmakers will face two critical pieces of legislation: the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a government funding package, and an extension of the current Farm Bill. Amidst this looming uncertainty, CHCG will remain engaged and continue to advocate for support of NADeFA's priorities in the coming 119th Congress.





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6	7	8 Alabama Deer Association Winter Deadline	9	10	11
13	Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio Winter Deadline & West Virginia Deer Farmers	15 W	TOS	P 3	- North
20	Association / New York Deer 6 Elk Farmers Association Winter Deadline	Quest for Michigan's Best Winter Deadline	23	24	25
27	28	Upper Midwest Winter Deadline	30	31	
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February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Spring Quarter Starts Today!
Groundhog Bay	3	SETDA Spring Deadline	5	6 COS	VOO.	8 South Annual Convention
9	10	IDEFA Journal Spring Deadline	12	13	Valentines Days	15 IWDA Winter Banquet
16	17	18 Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association Spring Deadline	19	20		KEDA Convention ng Auction KALA Annual Fundraiser ion and Fundraiser
23	24	25 Whitetails of Louisiana Spring Deadline	26	27	28	

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2	3	Alabama Deer Association Spring Deadline	5	6	THE REAL PROPERTY.	ring Fling! onvention!
s <u>pring</u> 💍	10	11 Tri-State Associations Spring Deadline	12	13	14	15
16	St.P. Tricks	18	٠ ,	ANNUAL CONFEREN RCH 19-22, 2025 • F FRENCH LIC	RENCH LICK RESO	
23	24	West Virginia Deer Farmers Association / New York Deer & Elk Farmers Association Spring Deadline	26	27	28	29



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OHIO CHRISTIAN AID MINISTRIES SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by the Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio

lhe Whitetail Deer Farmer's Association of Ohio (WDFO) is well-known for two things, putting on a memorable annual event and choosing a worthy organization each year to receive a donation from event proceeds. In 2024, the ODFA donated \$20,400 to Christian Aid Ministries (CAM), a national volunteer search and rescue organization with a team based out of Millersburg, Ohio. "It's extremely helpful to us to receive this donation," said Ohio CAM Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator Marcus Miller. "We don't receive grants and so we rely heavily on donations from churches, individuals and a bit from businesses to keep us going."

Levi Miller, Executive Director for the WDFO, recommended CAM to receive a donation after a northeast Ohio family recently lost a loved one due to drowning. After everyone else had essentially given up, CAM stepped in and found them, Levi said. CAM's search and rescue organization has been helping families reunite or recover loved ones since 2016. There mission isn't only to save individuals who have been physically lost, but to assist them spiritually as well.

The Ohio CAM SAR team, comprised of 30 members many of whom are Amish and Mennonite, were chosen based on their faith and passion to help others. "We don't take just anyone off the street who's looking for an adrenaline rush," said Marcus Miller, who also teaches the CAM Search and Rescue class. "Our volunteers are put through many

rigorous hours of training and make a huge commitment to be available when we need them." Training courses include, for example, land navigation, boat operation, radio communications, crime scene preservation, wilderness first aid, rope and knot tying and fire starting. Current Ohio CAM SAR team members range in age from 19 to 56. "We wouldn't turn anyone down who might be older," Miller shared. "There's always something we can find for them to do."

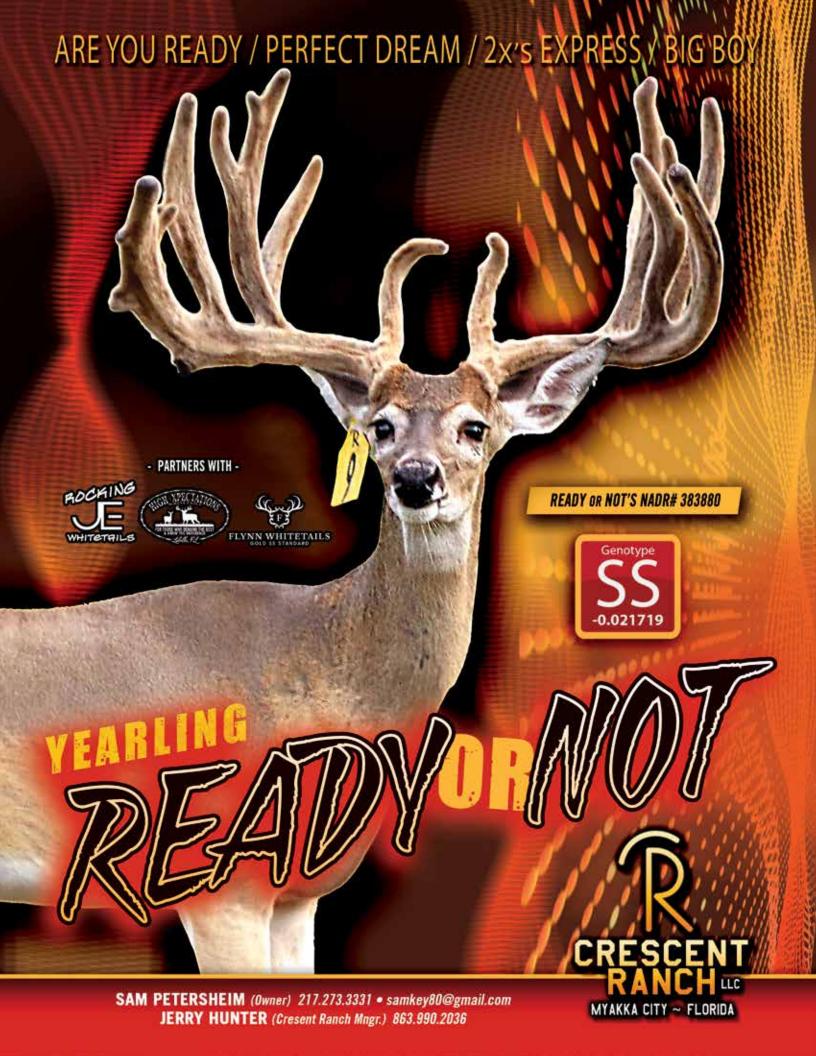
Although while every SAR team member is hopeful for a successful outcome, it doesn't always turn out that way. "I think we can all relate to how terrifying it is when a child goes missing," Miller said. "We've found the bodies of children who've drowned. Consoling the parents is the toughest part and something we

make a point of doing. We also seek to bring those we help closer to a spiritual belief as part of their healing."

Perhaps one of Miller's favorite rescue stories involved a young man who had run away from home. "We had no location on him, and we were concerned he may have been picked up by someone," he said. "But we found him sleeping in the woods, got him back to camp and warmed up and counseled him on ways to cope better with life. We really enjoyed our time with him."

When rescue situations appear to be risky or dangerous, law enforcement officers typically work alongside CAM, since CAM team members do not carry firearms. CAM teams are also located in Arkansas, Illinois, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Virginia, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania. Depending on the time of year, teams could receive up to four calls per week asking for help. "Sometimes a whole month goes by and nothing," Miller said. "Spring through mid-fall are the busiest times. Sometimes calls come in at very inconvenient times like Christmas Day or right in the middle of a family gathering. But this is what we signed up for. This is what we committed to, and we are more than glad to help anyone who needs us."







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Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 small red or yellow onion, diced (about 1 cup)
- 4 large cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon dried tarragon
- 1 pound ground venison
- 1/2 pound ground pork
- 1 egg, or flax egg
- 1/4 cup oat flour or breadcrumbs



RUNNINGTOTHEKITCHEN

Instructions

- 1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
- 2. Add olive oil to a skillet over medium heat. Once hot, add onion to the pan and cook until slightly softened, about 4 minutes. Add balsamic vinegar, garlic, herbs, salt and pepper and cook an additional 2 minutes. Turn off heat and let cool for a couple of minutes.
- 3. Meanwhile, add the remaining ingredients to a large mixing bowl. Add the cooled onion mixture and using clean hands mix together until thoroughly combined.
- 4. Using a medium cookie scoop, roll the mixture into balls and place on the baking sheet.
- 5. Bake for 22-25 minutes until the meatballs are cooked through and golden brown.
- 6. Use as desired or freeze for use at a later date.

Send us your recipes! We want to hear your favorites!

(Recipes don't need to include venison - cookies, salads, breads, etc. are all welcome!)

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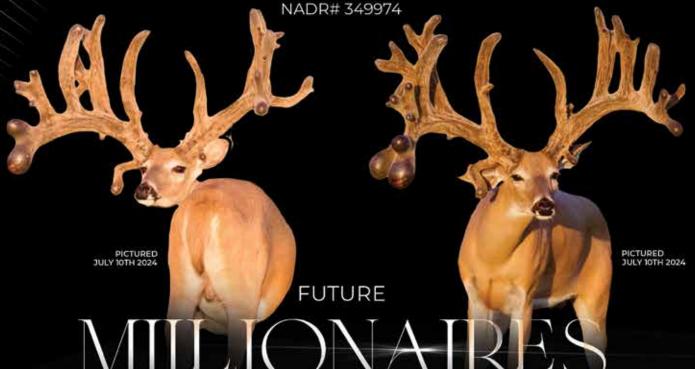
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MELANISTIC DEER SHOWING A PRESENCE ON DEER FARMS

By: Gail Veley • Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association

t was a beautiful cool May morning this past spring, when Adam Lindsey casually walked past the pen of a doe who had just given birth at his farm Size Matters Whitetail, in Bronson, Michigan. He glanced over and immediately stopped to refocus on the new fawns, still wet, pure black and glistening, curled up on the ground. Holding his breath, he couldn't stop staring. Literally blown away that their breeding efforts had come to fruition, he then ran to his wife Ashley to announce the great news. They now had two melanistic fawns, one buck and one doe.

"We were proactively trying and that was our hope and dream to have melanistic fawns," Lindsey said. "But we'd never had one born before then." Melanistic deer, first discovered and recorded in 1929, are the rarest known form of whitetail deer. Their morphologically dark bodies contain a high deposition of the dark pigment known as melanin, caused by specialized cells called melanocytes responsible for producing the darker pigmentation. A rare genetic recessive gene mutation can produce a melanistic deer, with a believed average of

a one in every 10,000 chance. In addition to melanistic whitetails, melanistic fallow deer and mule deer have been spotted in the wild. And unlike albino deer, whose life spans tend to be shorter, melanism is not believed to hinder a deer's lifespan, nor do melanistic deer appear to be more susceptible to typical whitetail ailments.

Melanistic whitetail deer have been found in states such as Mississippi, Michigan, Virginia, Texas, South Carolina and Pennsylvania. In a quest to add to their uniqueness, Mick



and Mike Goodman of Goodman's Whitetail Haven in New Stanton, Pennsylvania, are creating their own melanistic piebald deer herd. "I always loved piebald," Mick said. "About 10 to 12 years I really started pushing them and wanted to breed the melanistic deer into them. After a lot of effort, we now have melanistic piebalds."

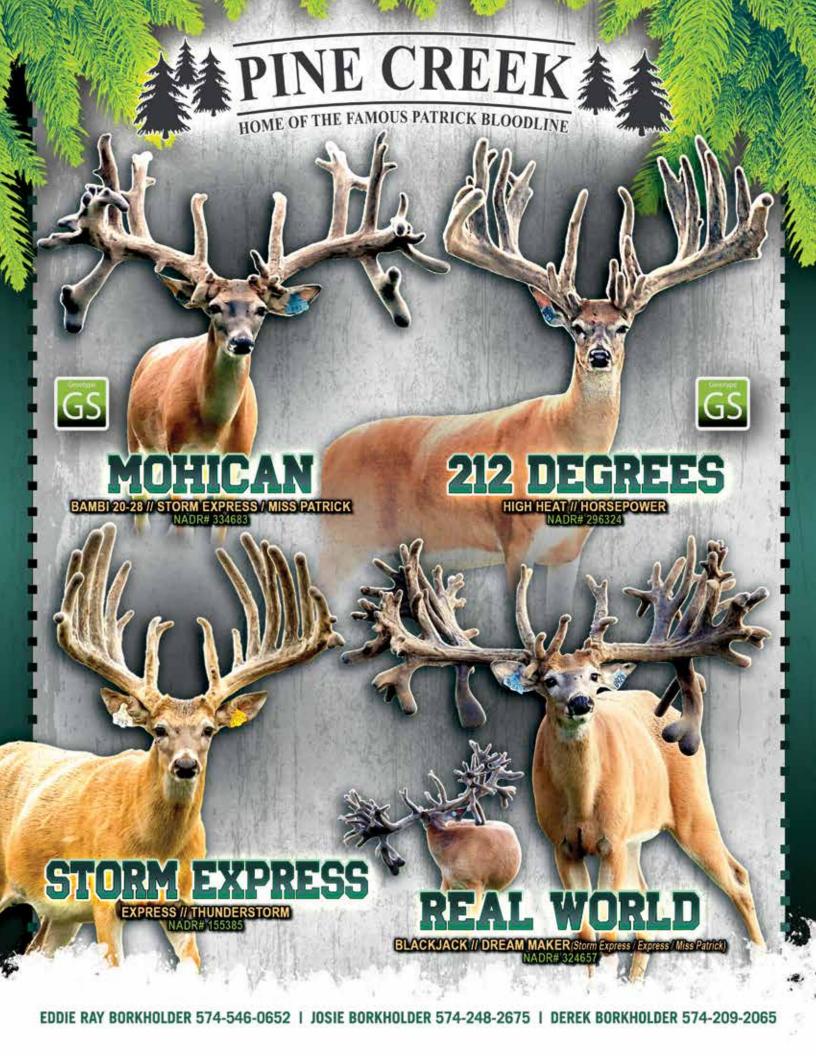
The Goodman's and Lindsey credit Bob Rosebrock of Rosebrock Whitetails in Lott, Texas for allowing them to follow their dream. Goodman subsequently produced his breeding buck "Black Velvet,"



their very first melanistic piebald. While melanistic deer can be every bit as hardy and substantial in terms of frame as their brown and white pelage counterparts, piebalds can be smaller bodied. Goodman's future breeding plans include breeding "Outstanding," one of the top piebalds in the country right now, whose 317" and 7 x 7 typical main frame includes a little extra, in order to continue producing piebalds who are every bit as large and hearty as brown whitetails.

"Looking ahead, I feel the market should be really good for melanistic deer," Lindsey said. "I have had a lot of interest in people wanting to buy those babies. Both are "SS" with negative GEBV values. That will be a plus side for the industry. But you can't necessarily get more melanistic deer just from breeding them to those that are melanistic. As we predictably breed, we can increase those chances over time. At our farm, the goal in to breed for 75 percent brown deer and 25 percent melanistic."

Goodman feels that while the market for melanistic deer has yet to be officially established, it looks very promising. "Never give up on your dreams," he said. "Although it may be more difficult to produce melanistic deer, we went after what we wanted and are very happy with the results. We look forward to more success."





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Answers to puzzles will be available in the next issue, or can be found on our website:
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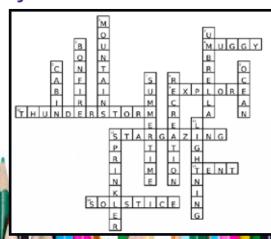
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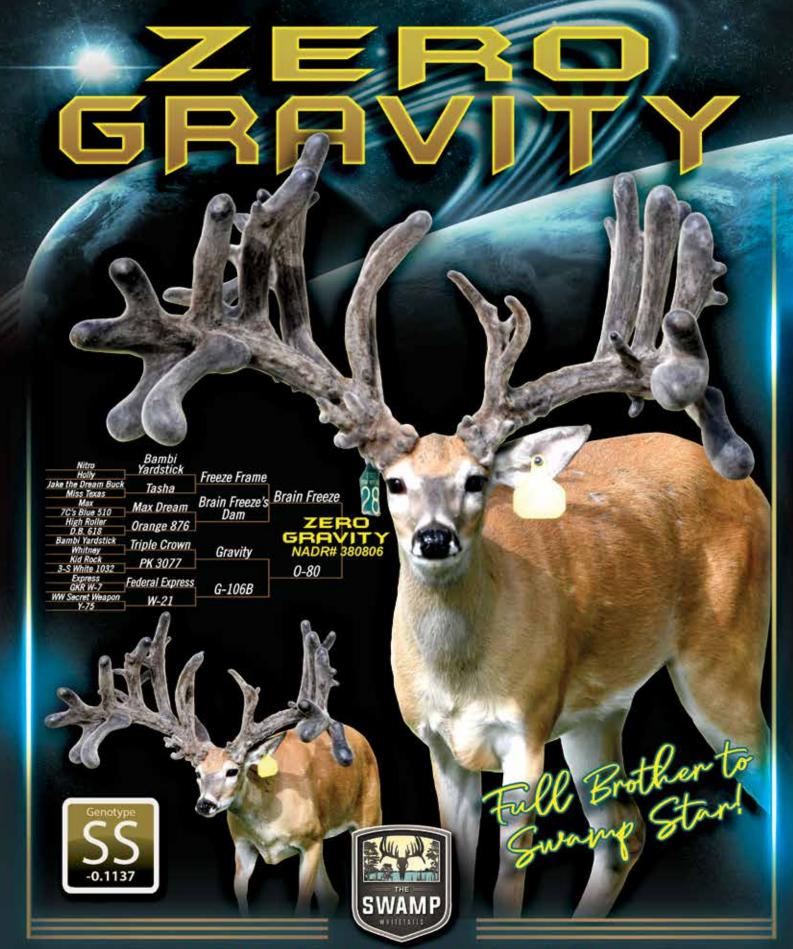


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