

Double Trouble

by Jeff Murphy

I knew coming into election week that the deer hunting was going to become really good, but I didn't realize just how good it was going to be. I had seen a lot of deer hit on the roads and had a few close calls myself when headed to the deer woods.

I had been out archery hunting a couple of times, but I really hadn't seen a lot other than a few does and fawns. Dave and I had been doing some work around his house and would hit the woods early morning and evening. Dave had seen a couple of does and small bucks and one really big buck, but couldn't get a shot.

Saturday November 1st I hunted in the morning at the edge of a retention basin. We have seen deer walk by this spot in the morning and evening. I had a doe and her 2 fawns come through early. All I could see when they came by where silhouettes. They spooked a little and then slowly walked away. Later Dave told me they spooked when he walked up on them while heading to his stand. Later in the morning I got down and found some scrapes about 75 yards away from the stand. I decided I needed to put a stand in that area as well.

In the afternoon I picked up Jake at church from a youth group activity and headed to a different stand. He wanted to try to video a deer hunt with me, because someday he wants to video for TCO. On our way to the stand we kicked a big deer off the trail. As we got closer I could tell by the musky scent that it was a buck. As we got into the stand I saw a doe not too far away from the stand. We got settled in it didn't take long before we started seeing does and a buck chasing a doe in the brush. The evening ended fairly uneventful, but Jake got to here a live buck grunting. That is something a lot of hunters have never heard. On our way home I drove over to shine my headlights in the field where I found the scrapes and here was a decent 8 point laying in the field watching some does and a smaller buck.

I decided to come back Sunday and put a stand near the scrapes. When I pulled down near the trail the scrapes were on at 12:00 here was the 8 pointer standing. I sat in my truck and watched as he slowly walked away. As I watched I noticed his right front leg was crippled. After I was sure I wouldn't spook him I went in and hung my stand.

Monday morning I decided I would hunt that buck. When I pulled in there were 2 does standing in the parking lot. As they turned to walk away I noticed movement through some pine trees. It was the 8 point. He was hanging with about six doe. I worked around to the other side of the parking lot and quietly got ready and headed to the stand. I didn't see anything else that morning. About 8:45 I got a call from Dave and he needed my help. You can read his story.

That evening I decided to head to the stand where Dave had seen the big buck. I took a back leg from Dave's buck to put the tarsal gland smell out. When I got down to the stand I saw a scrape 10 yards from the stand, so I hung the leg in the bush above the scrape along with some Tinks 69. After I climbed up into the stand I decided I would grunt and doe bleat every half hour. It was now 2:30. At 4:30 I started to grunt. I grunted 3 times and checked for movement. As I looked over my left shoulder I saw a deer through some brush out about 50 yards. As I closely scanned I could see it was a buck, but I wasn't sure if it was one of the small bucks Dave had seen or not. I grunted 2 more times and did 2 deer bleats. That was it he started coming to look for the buck and doe. I stood up and as he got closer I could tell he was a shooter buck. He stopped and checked the air a few times and scanned beyond my stand. He stopped at 8 yards just to the left of the scrape. As I drew my Golden Eagle bow back he looked right up at me. I focused on my mark and let my Easton arrow fly. As the arrow went in he snorted and turned and ran back the direction he had come from. As I watched I noticed what I thought was an 8 point was a 9 point. He ran about 70 yards and I watched him collapse.

I quickly called my wife Deb to tell her and Jake what just happened and then called Dave to let him know that I would need his help. I got down walked over to the buck and realized that he was a 10 point. Dave and I had not seen this buck before. November 3rd ended with Dave and I both taking really nice bucks, hence the title double trouble.