

Deer Hunting: The Country Boy Adrenaline Rush

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## Deer Hunting: The Country Boy Adrenaline Rush

On the subject of deer hunting, one thing is for sure; you must think like a deer. I quickly picked this up during my time spent with deer hunters. I also learned a few other interesting concepts; deer are very clever creatures; just as brilliant as the hunters who hunt them. I have learned both the hunter and the deer fall short due to weaknesses, such as deer possessing a short memory and the hunter catching a case of buck fever. I can differentiate a button buck from a spike, and give you a point scale of its rack when it becomes a trophy. I doubt I can control my burst of buck fever. I can prepare a tasty venison dish with the meat of a slickhead. I have come a long way.

### **THE HUNTERS**

Every hunter has his or her own unique motivation to hunt. My informants are a perfect example. After spending time with everyone, I compared his or her similarities and differences. Each person had a different motivation and technique for hunting deer. An abundant source of helpful information was given. As my informants educated me, I began to focus more on the hunter and his or her way of doing things rather than the hobby as a whole. It was not until I listened to my recorded interviews days later that I realized that I should have sought more information about deer rather than deer hunters. A few of my informants made it clear to me that you cannot be a hunter if you don't understand deer. It is after you understand the motivations of the deer that you can understand the hunter.

Rob is my favorite informant. He projected the richest vision of the Southern

Kentucky deer hunter. He painted deer hunting as being nature at its most beautiful.

“I’m a basic kind of hunter. I just use a few things and that works. What works is good” (Rob 2010). When Rob was 13 years old, he attended his first hunt with his father in Nigger Die, Kentucky. He didn’t shoot a deer that day, but he did see one. He has killed hundreds of deer in the few moons that he has been hunting. The biggest deer he ever shot had about a 130-140 inch spread on the rack “if it had been scored” (2010).

Rob enjoys hunting because it is something he was brought up doing. Nature relaxes him. He enjoys watching animals interact in nature. “Red tail hawks love squirrels... You see things deer hunting that you won’t see nowhere... Deer do amazing things... You ought to see them pick an apple” (Rob 2010).

Rob was only one of the people led me through the folklife of deer hunters. Among the other informants were Lora Beth Harp, my co-worker; Matt Houghtaling, my long time boyfriend; and Dr. Les Neville, my employer. Each of these people were very different in their strategies, motivations, and outlooks on deer intelligence, behavior and personality.

Lora Beth Harp’s first hunting trip was with her father at age 16 on a knob in Hardyville, Kentucky. Hunting is the way she bonds with her father. “I hunt just for sport.” Lora Beth explained. “That’s mine and my Dad’s time. We always go together. Normally we don’t take anybody else.” She has killed two to three deer in her time hunting (2010).

Matt Houghtaling hunts for a combination of food, sport and relaxation. His first hunt was in Michigan with his father when he was 12 years old. His father taught him

how to field dress and process a deer. Matt butchers his own deer and prepares delicious venison dishes. “I love venison so I’ll keep [the deer]... I want the back straps and the inside straps. That’s the best meat on a deer... I normally have [the legs] made into jerky.” During his time, he has estimated killing a couple dozen deer (Houghtaling 2010).

Dr. Les Neville went on his first hunt between the ages of 12 and 13. The hunt took place in Hart County, Kentucky with his father. Like Matt, Dr. Les, as he is called at his practice, also enjoys hunting as a sport and form of relaxation. However, Dr. Les does not always eat the meat. “Sometimes we give the meat away.” He stated in his interview (Neville 2010).

### **THE HUNTED**

Deer are intelligent creatures. Most of their intelligence comes from having a superior sense of hearing and smell. Deer are colorblind and do not see very well, however they can easily detect visual movement. They also know every natural sound in the woods and can distinct the sound of a hunter’s footstep from the sound of a squirrel hopping around. During his interview, Rob illustrated why it is important to be quiet and blend in:

They can hear noises in their environment that don’t belong. You can be sitting there watching them and there’ll be squirrels dropping things and turkeys scratching and you’ll hear a big limb break or metal or something bang and they’ll go to looking to see what’s happening. They’ll get a bad smell and they’ll go to looking. They depend on their senses (Rob 2010).

Deer are very sensitive to movement. Perhaps this is to compensate for being visually handicapped. During her interview, Lora Beth spoke of a time when she lost a deer due to movement:

The only thing that they go by is movement... I was hunting and I was up in my stand and I went to move and the deer took off. They can't see you but they can... automatically tell when you're moving (Lora Beth 2010).

According to all of my informants, deer are colorblind. To compensate for this, deer are very sensitive to movement. In return, the hunter must compensate; this is done by using a deer blind and some sort of windproof, scent blocking mechanisms. Deer know what a human smells like. Some innate behaviors can put a deer in a vulnerable state; a buck is defenseless when he is making a rub. The act of rubbing the antlers, the sound and rubbing, causes them to be virtually temporarily blind and deaf (Moore 2010).

Deer are creatures of habit, which makes them predictable. This is an advantage to the deer for survival, but a bigger advantage to the hunter who stalks it. Rob prefers to watch his deer during the preseason, which is the two to three months before deer season. Rob says:

[Deer] are pretty smart animals... deer are predicable animals. You can almost set your watch by them... You watch the same deer over and over every week. It's just a pattern. They get into a pattern and they run the same pattern. A deer is born, raised and will die usually within a mile of where it was born (Rob 2010).

### **WHAT IS DEER SEASON?**

To put things simply, the purpose of deer hunting is to control the deer

population. When a hunter shoots a deer, whether or not it is on the hunter's own property, they must 'tag' the deer and 'call it in'. The tags are purchased from anywhere a hunting license can be obtained, such as any hunting goods store such as Gander Mountain or Nats. Wal-Mart also sales deer tags. An orange card is required to hunt, but not every hunter has one. A person can kill so many deer a season; a specific number of doe and buck each. Hunters are required by law to tag and call in a deer in order to monitor the population. The population number also dictates whether the season will be shorter or longer.

As I began to add in this section about the reason for deer hunting, I realized that I did not ask the hunters much about deer season itself. I realized that I had no clue why hunting was made into seasons and why one could only use certain weapons during certain seasons. Matt Houghtaling filled me in with his knowledge. He could not give me any information on tagging a deer because he never does.

Rob touched on a few reasons why deer season is during the time that it is. Killing the deer, helps manage the herd; a hunter hunts the weak, smaller deer first. After they are all picked off, the healthy, strong big bucks, or the trophies, are hunted (Rob 2010).

Also, as I write this section, Matt Houghtaling educated me on the order of the seasons. First is modern gun season, second is archery season, third is crossbow season and last is muzzleloader season. This is the same every year. He does not know why this is the order.

Hunters can arrive and depart from their stand whenever they please. Some

decide to come in and leave when it is dark so they do not disturb the deer. The appropriate time for using weapons is during ‘shooting light’. At dawn when shooting light begins, [in some counties] a siren is sounded, letting the hunters know it’s time to hunt. At dusk, the same siren sounds again, signaling that shooting light is over and it’s quitting time (Rob, 2010).

### **POINTS**

Some hunters hunt for the sport of it. These guys go straight for the trophies. Each fork on the antler is a point. If a point is an inch long or longer, it counts towards points (Neville 2010). The distance between the spread of the antler also increases point value. During deer seasons, competitions are held to see who can score with the biggest buck. Lora Beth Harp is familiar with these competitions. “I actually know somebody who... entered a competition and he was talking about how he had let so many deer pass by because that wasn’t the right one,” she explained, “and it’s like a \$500.00 prize for the second to the biggest and it was \$1,000.00 for the biggest” (Harp 2010).

### **TERMINOLOGY**

I will take you through the terminology that I learned from the hunters:

**Buck:** A male deer. Also called ghosts and swamp donkeys.

**Doe:** A female deer. Also known as a slick head.

**Fawn:** Young deer.

**Button Buck:** A young buck that has antlers less than three inches tall.

**Spike:** A buck that has antlers more than three inches tall.

**Rack:** Set of antlers.

Big Buck: Buck with a large rack.

Rut: Deer, buck and doe, in heat.

Venison: Deer meat.

Nontypical: Buck with an abnormally large rack.

Blind: A tent-like mechanism used to block wind and hide hunter from deer.

Stand: A chair-like mechanism used for sitting in trees; for hunter to sit in and hunt from above ground.

Field dress: The process of slitting the deer from one point to the other and removing the innards.

Process(ing): Removing the meat from the deer.

Mount(ing): Putting a deer head on a wall mound.

Tracks: Evidence of deer using the land [i.e., hair on fence post, rub marks].

Bait Pile: Pile of a deer's favorite food [carrots, corn, nuts, etc.]; used to lure deer into the area.

Rubs: Spot on tree where wood has peeled off due to buck attempting to shed antlers by rubbing them on the tree.

I learned that bit of information from Matt Houghtaling, Rob and Lora Beth Harp (2010).

## **THE GAME**

Deer are simple minded. They are thinking of one of two things; food or sex. The time of the year dictates what the deer is thinking. A hunter must learn as much about “why deer do what they do, and when they do it” (Moore 2010). When we begin to

understand what they do, we pick up on what they need. Providing them with what they need not only keeps the deer coming back to the site, but also nourishes the deer, inside and out. All of my informants used corn to feed the deer. Rob feeds his deer corn to put weight on them. He nourishes his deer during the preseason, which is the beginning of fall. During this time, he provides them with salt minerals. Salt minerals help the deer grow healthy bodies and antlers. He also made a point that he does not shoot the deer over a bait pile because it “messes [them] up” (Rob 2010). As a student studying psychology, I understand his reason for this; the deer must have a positive association with the bait pile. They must want to come back to it-- they must find it rewarding. If a deer were to hear a gun shot while grazing at a corn pile, they would more than likely avoid the corn pile for some time. If a gunshot were accompanied by their presence at a corn pile several times, that behavior could become extinct, meaning the deer would not come to the corn pile. If this occurred at different corn piles, conditions are favorable for a deer to avoid all corn piles. It’s all about positive reinforcement. I wonder if B.F. Skinner was a hunter.

A hunter must know where to look for deer. In addition to scouting and noting the daily routes of the deer, the hunter must know of other places to look. Deer like to sleep on banks or hills where the sun is shining. This keeps them warm (Moore 2010). This is evident in Rob’s statement, “They like to sleep on sunny banks where the sun hits and where it’s thick enough that they don’t get seen, but they can see what comes” (Rob 2010).

Lora Beth Harp explained the way she and her father get on a deer’s track. They

search for tracks and rubs:

Tracks is where you can see exactly where the deer are going through. They normally move every night or early in the morning. Rubs is where a buck has took its rack and has tried to shed part of the rack by scratching it on a tree and it makes a rub spot and it will peel the wood off of the tree... you can look for-- when they jump the fence, a lot of times their hair will get caught on the fence and it will pull it and you can see it there too (Harp 2010).

### **PREHUNT RITUALS**

The way a hunter begins their day is simple: wake up a while before the sun rises, get rid of human scent, put on camouflage, load up equipment and weapons into vehicle, load gun, go to blind, and watch. These rituals varied between my informants.

Rob begins his hunting trips simply; he loads his guns and scent block suit into his truck, loads his gun, goes to the blind, puts on his scent block suit, and sits and waits.

Matt Houghtaling has a different ritual to get ready for a hunt:

I'll take a shower without any soap, just mainly water-- rinse yourself off really good, try to get your hair-- just get any scent, shampoo scent, human scent off of you and then I got deer urine that I will spray on-- I try to keep it on the lower part of my leg, that way, you know-- if you have any human scent coming off, that deer urine will not only hide the human smell, but attract a buck or, you know-- more deer to come in. Especially if you use doe urine. You're going to have a buck to come in smelling the doe because hunting season's normally when the... doe are in heat and the bucks are looking for the does (Houghtaling 2010).

Matt uses a bib overall camo that does not block scent and is very heavy. I know this because I have smelled it and worn it, but not with deer pee on it-- or so I hope.

Lora Beth Harp has a simple hunting routine. She simply gets up, puts on her never been washed camo [she stores it in a trash bag away from scents after each use], loads up the truck, loads her gun, gets to the site, and watches and waits. She explains:

Normally, you get up in the morning before daylight because then they are still... they haven't started moving yet, or you can go in the afternoon. Some people stay all day, some people don't. You normally come out right at dark, but you get everything together, you get your gun together, you get your gun loaded, you get whatever vehicle you're taking, put on your camo, you get everything you need and just go on (Harp 2010).

## **EQUIPMENT**

### *Camouflage (Camo)*

When I think of hunting apparel, I think of camouflage. I did not know there were so many different types of camo. I never knew how sophisticated some of the suits were. Rob was the only informant I spoke with who used a Scent Lok suit. Rob brought out his Scent Lok suit while I was taking pictures of his display of guns and ammunition. He told my boyfriend to put on the suit so I could take a picture. "I'll do it!" I chimed. I picked up the suit from the couch and proceeded to stretch my foot through the pant leg maze. That day I learned it is impossible for me to stand and put pants on. The suit sort of reminded me of some type of swamp monster. Rob then provided me with the facemask that accompanied the suit, so I put that on too. His stepson handed me a set of

rattlers and a gun. I forget how we ended up outside. The guys took pictures of me in the hunter attire out in front of a tree in Rob's front yard. I don't think they stopped laughing for about five minutes. As I took off the suit, I commented on how much lighter it was, compared to my boyfriend's coveralls. Rob explained that Scent Lok suits and deer blinds are used to prevent the wind from carrying scent to the deer, so deer cannot smell the hunter. The Scent Lok suit is its own wind barrier. The suit is made from carbon materials that lock in human scent. It is easy to take care of; it can be washed like a normal garment and hung to dry. After it is dry, it will smell like the outside air (Rob 2010).

Orange vest are also used during deer season. During bow season, orange is not required, but during gun season, orange is not only required but is a must. Lora Beth Harp explained the significance of orange vest:

They say that a bow won't go as far as a bullet. A lot of times you don't have to worry about it, but the reason for orange in gun season is you have more people who hunt with guns than you do bows and it's a safety precaution (Harp 2010).

### *Calls and Lures*

Calls and lures only need to be used when the deer are in heat, or as a hunter would say, when the rut are moving. Otherwise, calls and lures are pointless. According to Rob, hunting with calls and lures is a completely different type of hunting:

You must be extremely lucky and talented because a lot of times scents will drive a deer away instead of bring them in-- depends on how the ruts working... and this year, with the heat and rut not working right, the scents and rattling, all

that did was run them off... they wasn't in the mood for all of that. Those noises, sounds and scents drives them off" (2010).

When cold weather hits and the rut is "going hard", the use of calls and lures, such as deer urine, is feasible. On a hot year, the rut is here and there and unpredictable. When this happens, this type of hunting is not feasible (2010).

When calls and lures fail, the hunter needs to make an ambush site. This is when a hunter sits in a deer's future path and waits for it. When they meet, the deer becomes meat (Rob 2010).

Deer urine is used to either call in a buck or a doe. Assuming all deer are heterosexual, doe urine attracts bucks and buck urine attracts does. This should only be used when both genders are in heat. Otherwise, as Rob stated above, the urine could work as a deer repellent.

The most interesting call/lure I discovered was Rob's set of rattlers. Rattlers are the buck's horns with a string tying them together. The horns are hit together quickly to simulate bucks fighting. The buck will come with intentions of joining the fight.

Lora Beth Harp was the only informant to discuss dummy deer:

People use dummy deer, which, I guess, that's not really what they're called... they're an actual deer but it's fake and they put them out and a lot of them come to that. A lot of people use doe for that because the bucks come into that (2010).

### *Food/Bait Piles*

Deer love to eat corn, carrots, apples, and almost any type of nut. Acorns are the easiest to obtain, especially if your Matt Houghtaling and have several acorn trees in your

yard. Matt sits out a bait pile of either corn or crab apples. In his home state of Michigan, baiting deer with food is illegal:

Here in Kentucky they still allow you to bait your deer. Up in Michigan, where I'm from, they passed a law where now you get fined if you got a bait pile. You cannot bait for a deer whatsoever up in Michigan because, actually the rotten apples and carrots have made the deers have diseases and they started losing deer because of the disease of the rotten apples-- the rotten food (Houghtaling 2010).

### *Blinds and Stands*

The purpose of a deer blind is to disguise the hunter's movement. However, this does not help the hunter be any quieter. Rob uses a ground blind, which is a blind used on the ground. Blind used in a tree are called tree blinds. However, tree stands are also used for hunters to sit in a tree, but does not hide them from the deer's site. When interviewing Matt Houghtaling on the subject of deer blinds, he mentioned a 'bunker' he had created before. He describes it as, "... A C-shaped bunker out of sticks and logs and stuff... kinds of a home made blind" (Houghtaling 2010).

Lora Beth Harp and her father have also made a 'home made' deer blind. She described it as made from straw with a gun rest. She also mentioned that there were "so many different things that you can use; there's no way anybody could name them all off" (Harp 2010).

### *Camera/Tree Cam*

Some hunters use deer cameras to watch the deer traffic in a specific area. Some hunters like to place bait in front of the deer camera. Dr. Les Neville is a deer camera

user. He explained to me that deer cameras are used to see what is going on at the deer stand “to see if there are any food deer around” (Neville, 2010).

Matt Houghtaling is another deer camera user. He prefers to use the camera in the preseason, accompanied by a pile of bait. The bait gets the deer to come back, like house cats to their food bowl:

I like to set the deer camera out a little early before hunting season. That way I’ll have my bait pile out early so the deer get used to where their feeding ground is. It’s just like your animal in the house; they know where their food dish is... same way with deer. If you make a bait pile, they’re going to comeback to that bait pile because they know there’s food there (Houghtaling 2010).

Rather than use a deer camera, some hunters would rather scout for deer personally. Rob physically observes his deer from the first to middle of September up until Muzzleloader season. “I can’t see investing that kind of money in watching deer. I’d rather do it myself” (Rob, 2010).

### *Weapons*

During deer season, hunters use bows, rifles and muzzleloaders. I asked my informants which weapons they possessed and which of those they preferred. Matt Houghtaling explained that his favorite is the 12-gage shotgun:

Me, personally, I prefer a 12-gage shotgun. I think it’s more fun than using a high-powered rifle. A lot of people that shoot high powered rifles, they’ll shoot a deer from a long distance away-- 300 yards-- and to me that ain’t no fun. I want

to see how close I can get that deer to me and normally with a 12 gage, I get them between 20 and 30 feet from me... sometimes I hunt, you know-- in a tree or on the ground, but [usually] I'm on the ground (2010).

Lora Beth Harp is excited about getting her muzzleloader this winter. Currently, she and her father hunt with a 30-30. "It's a type of shotgun; it has a scope on it. You can load it with three bullets and you have to reload the chamber each time... this is the only thing I hunt with." (Harp 2010)

Rob uses/owns several types of guns; a muzzleloader 50 caliber with an interchanging barrel that converts to a 270 Winchester and a 30-30 Winchester. Her prefers anything with a center fire cartridge. He has shotguns "all the way up to 458 H&H Magnum. His likes the 30-30, but has acquired a liking to the 270.

[It's a] all around food deer hunting rifle. Got all the takedown power you want and good out to about 150 to 200 yards-- just a real good deer rifle, but I've been shooting a 270 for so long that I like the way that [the deer] don't run very far. I don't have to look for them with it... I don't like looking for them (2010).

Dr. Les Neville prefers a rifle. When asked what type he preferred, he remarked, "One that goes 'boom'" (Neville 2010).

Although no one mentioned having a knife, I'm sure they carry one with them. What else would they use to field dress a deer?

### **FIELD DRESSING**

When a hunter field dresses a deer, they slit the deer open from below the ribcage to between the back legs. Then, they pull all of the innards out, being careful not to

disturb the 'stink sack'. Disruption of the stink sack will ruin the meat. I found that it is important to field dress a deer because blood will ruin the meat.

Rob explained why the stink sack must be avoided:

A lot of people take the glands off of their legs and you don't want to cut the urine sack because urine in a buck deer-- it stinks. I mean, they actually stink. You can smell them walking through the woods and if they get close enough and the wind is just right, you can smell a buck deer (2010).

The urine smell so strong because it is what attracts a doe to a buck.

### **MATERIAL FOLKLORE**

Deer hunters are also master arts and crafts people. Deer antler can be used to make many deer hunting necessities, such as rattlers and gun racks. Three of my informants, namely Rob, Lora Beth Harp and Matt Houghtaling mentioned these items as things they have seen or used before.

Matt Houghtaling was the first to mention material folklore among deer. He has seen knives and rattlers made from deer antlers (2010). Lora Beth Harp has seen gun racks made from deer antlers. "A whole lot of people keep the legs off of them... they put them on their mound and make like a gun rack" (2010).

Deer antlers are not easily found in the wild because of rodents. Small and big rodents chew on them in order to cut their teeth. If you were lucky enough to come across a set, they would probably be chewed up. More than lucky Rob possesses four sets of antlers, undisturbed, which he found in the woods. He made rattlers out of one set and mounded the others for show (2010).

## **BUCK FEVER**

Sometimes when a hunter comes across a big buck with a huge rack, they get buck fever. Buck fever is “when you get too excited to shoot straight” (Rob 2010). James Swan, a Psychologist, calls buck fever a form of performance anxiety. Hunters feel so pressured to successfully perform during the moment that they see everything that could possible go wrong, therefore disaster is a self fulfilling prophecy. Swan says hunting is a time when the hunter needs to stop thinking and just do. He suggested hunters master buck fever by channeling into it; “master it before it masters you.” When buck fever is mastered, it is known more positively as the ‘hunter’s high’ (Heavey, 2010).

## **FOODWAYS**

I love venison, although I have only had it in the form of tenderloin and jerky. I can imagine it being tasty any way it is prepared. Venison can be added to any recipe as a meat. It can be substituted for ground beef used to make hamburgers; it can be substituted as skirt steak used in a fajita. When cooking with venison, the sky is the limit. “You can cook deer meat any way you want to” (Rob 2010).

The best meat to eat is from doe. Buck meat is tough and has a “buck smell taste” to it. This is due to the buck’s meat absorbing the smell of his body. The sweetest, tenderest meat is from the fawns (Rob 2010). Matt Houghtaling explained the correlation between size and meat:

Normally, the bigger the deer is, the tougher the meat. Normally, the smaller the deer, the more tender the meat will be... I’ll shoot a medium size doe just for the meat (2010).

Matt Houghtaling's favorite venison dish is tenderloin. He has eaten a variety of dishes with venison as the main course. His mother used to prepare venison tenderloin with mushroom gravy and egg noodles. I believe this was my first venison dish. It is one of Matt's favorites. I was never too keen on the mushroom gravy. I have been fortunate enough to eat some of Matt's venison dishes, such as tenderloin and jerky. "When you're making jerky it really don't matter how tough the meat is because you're grinding it up (2010)." Matt has made some delicious jerky before.

Dr. Les Neville sometimes prepares venison tenderloin. He has had a variety of venison dishes, such as steak, hamburger, tenderloin, and others. His favorite is tenderloin.

Rob made my class and I a bag of fresh venison jerky just for this project. To be completely honest, it is the best jerky I have ever had in my life. The taste and texture are consistent- and perfect. Rob is the Martha Stewart of venison, but I don't think he wants to put it that way. He has prepared venison in many different ways, such as steaks, jerky, sticks, hamburger, salami, bologna, brats, sausage, roast, barbeque, and stew. I'm sure there are several other ways that he didn't mention. I plan to try the stew someday. When Rob was asked what his favorite type of venison dish was, he replied, "Deer meat". Rob taught me that the secret to cooking venison is by adding fat. "You have to add just a little fat because there's no fat in deer meat- it is a lean meat" (2010).

Rob also processes his own meat:

I take the meat off the bones and just leave the whole carcass and take the meat. I process it myself. I do all my own smoking, cooking. I go get the spices and

ingredients and cure and season and just do it myself. It's a lot cheaper. it's a mess and a lot of headache, but it saves you about three dollars and a half, a pound, processing (2010).

To my secret surprise, not all of my informants agreed that venison makes such a delicious dish. Lora Beth Harp admitted that she has never tried venison and does not intend to (2010).

### **IT GETS IN YOUR BLOOD**

Rob said to me, "Deer hunting... gets in your blood... it's an adrenaline rush that is out of this world" (2010). When I first heard that, I thought of Rob as being very passionate about hunting. Now I see that he is right. There is definitely something about deer hunting that creates an addiction. It's the rush. I don't understand how anyone could get a rush out of stalking an animal, but it is something I am willing to try. I can't deny that since spending times with these people, I have had an urge to try deer hunting. Now that I understand how the mind of a deer works, I see that hunting them is a challenge because they are so smart. Perhaps outsmarting the creatures is what fuels the rush. I would love to try to hunt one day. I would use the approaches Rob uses.

At the end of each interview, I asked my informants if they had any stories to tell or if they had learned anything over the years. No one did, of course except Rob. His lesson was very insightful - it really inspired me to try hunting:

I've learned enough people don't hunt. There's not near enough hunters. A lot of people will hunt wrong ways. They don't have any ethics, too. When they hunt, they just hunt to be hunting-- to shoot something.. I like deer hunting because it's

something my daddy taught me how to do (2010).

I guess it is almost safe to conclude that deer hunting is hereditary, therefore Rob is right; deer hunting does get in your blood.

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