

Trophies of Grace Whitetail Deer Hunt – Count Me In!!!

I just got home from my second Trophies of Grace Whitetail Deer Hunt and I must say I had a great time. The week-long hunt I experienced both years was a time of hunting in excellent whitetail habitat where there are some Pope and Young Trophies. Better yet, it was a time together with Christian men and women who are as gracious and giving as any I've ever met.

Tar Hollow State Park in Ohio is a rugged and steep piece of land that is managed as some of the best forest resources to provide cover and food for whitetails. The hunting is such that you can go out and anticipate seeing deer from your stand. The hunt is timed to coincide with the beginning of the annual rut, so that also adds to the deer activity and excitement. The State Park facilities function well with the rustic cabins for sleeping and the fireplaces adorned lodge for food, hunter interaction, hunt planning, and good Christian fellowship. The food is down-home delicious and abundant. The kitchen staff is friendly and helpful with any special dietary concerns addressed. Meal times are set to provide for the best archery hunting by serving well before first light and after last light. If you attend this hunt, you will be impressed with the home cooked food and the skill and graciousness of the kitchen staff.

The Lord of the Harvest Archery Club sponsors this hunt and the Club members are incredibly skilled at meeting the needs of new hunters and those experienced hunters new to the area. These guys will take you out to their favorite stand and let you hunt it. They have in-depth and long-term knowledge of the area and the deer habits, and share it graciously. If you are successful, you will be joined in celebration by each member of the Club.

As good and delightful as the hunt is, the real blessing for the week is the focus on sharing the Gospel of Christ. Each Club member and most of the attendees are open to share their faith through both words and action. Everyone seems to just step up to help with any trailing, butchering, cleaning the lodge, or anything else that is needed. Each evening after the meal there is a time of sharing the Gospel with music and testimony of God's work in lives. Camp Chaplain "Tennessee Tom" Langston shares the bad news and the good news with the clarity and power of St. Paul himself. For me, just hearing Tom preach is worth the drive. The Club always invites special speakers to come in to share hunting and faith stories and how each has contributed to their life. This year we were treated to hear Brad Jerman's story of how he took the biggest buck in Ohio. Mike Hubert and his guitar were again a treat. Merle Fredericks and Mike Peters shared the vision and our need to share the vision of Christian bowhunters as witnesses of our faith. "Gator" told us how God saved him from his 357 Magnum when there was no reason he should be saved. A special heart-felt message this year on Thursday, just after the national election, from Dick Williamson helped all of us hunters keep our perspective by reminding us that God is still on the throne, and that we need to focus on that fact and always be prepared to share the source of our hope and faith.

If you are looking for a great archery hunt for potential trophy whitetails with a group of folks who you will be pleased to get to know, this hunt is for you. If you are a Christian who has archery buddies who should have more of God in their lives, bring them to this hunt. If you are a Christian who enjoys bowhunting and likes being with fellow Christians as well as hearing challenges to better share your faith, you should come to this hunt. If you come and the Lord is willing, I will see you there next year.

A Christian Pennsylvanian bowhunter – Harry Foltz