

“THE PRETTY RIDGE BUCK”

By Chad Annon

Have you ever just had that feeling? I mean a strong feeling, one that gives you goose bumps, one that makes you slow down, stop and imagine what has walked the same place before you.....I got that feeling one foggy morning April 8th 2014, as I stepped foot on one of the prettiest laid ridges I have ever been on. The ridge ran North to South and was 80 yards wide. The South end turned to thicket and the North end led to a food source. The West side went into a big bowl and the East side dropped off steep into a pond. As I scouted the area, scrapes were still visible from the previous year’s rut. It was a perfect set up. A recipe for success, and I knew right then and there I had found that special place.



Late August I made my way back to place that I nicknamed “Pretty Ridge” with my climbing sticks and Stand. I placed the stand on the East side of the ridge in a low gap that could barely be noticed. Once I cut a few shooting lanes, I sat perched in the Millennium stand and had no doubt that my chances of success would be good, but only when the time was right.

The first cold snap in November I was back to spend the next few full days perched 20 feet up on “Pretty Ridge”. I had been seeing plenty of deer activity with the temps in the high teens at first light, and the daytime highs were a chilling 25 degrees. On the third day at 12:05pm I heard the all so familiar sound of heavy foot step coming from behind me. The wide 10 was on the love march cruising for a hot doe. This was the last time he would ever come down “Pretty Ridge”.



I would like to add a few things that were key in being successful. Late winter and early spring are ideal times to be in the woods looking for sheds and finding the right area that gives you “that feeling”.

During November hunts I believe that you must sit all day. Your success will be much higher with a lower number of all day sits than they will be with a higher number of morning and evening only sits. Mature buck activity is not uncommon at mid day during the rut phase, checking scrapes and looking for bedded does will get them on their feet. I prefer to hunt based on weather over moon phases. Remember does come into heat over a period of time, not all at once. The rut cycles such as chasing, lock down and cruising overlap making the entire rut period an awesome time to be in the woods. If you only have a week to take off from work I recommend centering it around November 12th!

Good luck and happy hunting!

