

Derrell Siau's Favorite Pass Time

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Blanchard hunter nabs trophy

Derrell Siau gets 23-point whitetail in Minnesota hunt

By Jimmy Watson

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Blanchard's Derrell Siau was sitting on a deer stand on an idyllic fall day recently when the deer of his dreams walked out.

The buck stopped to nibble at a food plot laden with clover, then stared up at Siau's stand with a look of unconcern. Siau raised his 300 Weatherby Magnum and dropped the huge buck where it stood.

The massive whitetail had 23 points and was officially scored at 230 3/8 after being harvested at the Autumn Antlers Ranch near Long Prairie, Minn.

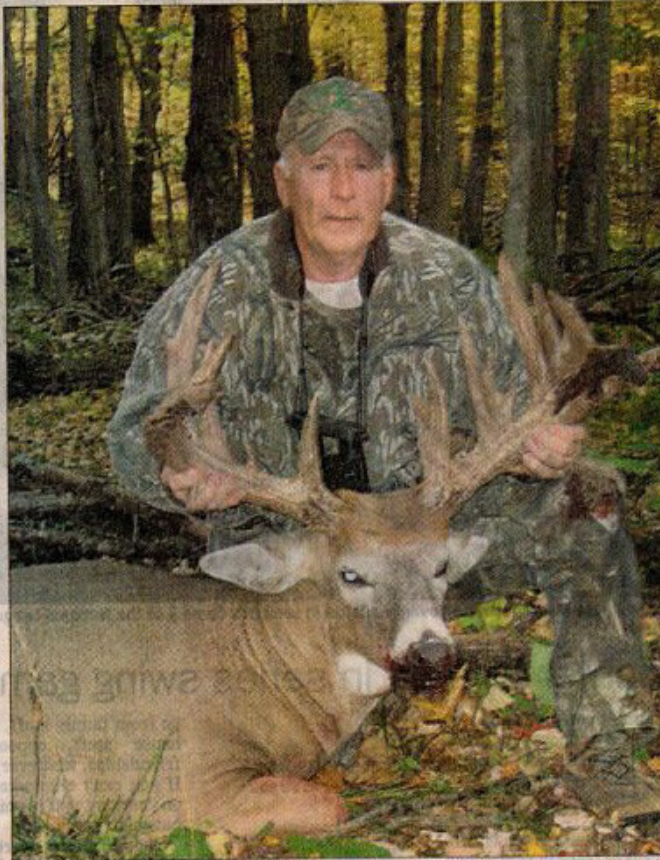
"My hands were shaking. The adrenaline was rolling. I was pumped to the max. That's why we go deer hunting," said Siau, an engineer with Brammer Engineering, Inc., in Shreveport.

"I wound up taking a pretty nice deer. He turned out to be more of a deer than I thought after we got down there and I got my hands on him."

Siau was invited to attend the hunt with three friends at the five-star ranch, which offers a range of hunt-worthy animals including elk, red deer and pheasants.

The preserve is located in central Minnesota approximately 130 miles northwest of Minneapolis.

Trophy hunts through the management of genetics, herd size and nutrients, are combined with



Derrell Siau poses with the 23-point buck he harvested recently at the Autumn Antlers Ranch near Long Prairie, Minn. The deer was officially scored at 230 3/8.

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gourmet meals to make the trip one of a lifetime.

"This hunt just came up. Deer season with guns doesn't open here until (Oct. 29)," Siau said.

"There was an opportunity to take a trip and get in an early hunt. I've hunted just about everything, except African."

Because of Siau's suc-

cess, he nabbed the first Braggins' Corner spotlight of the 2011-12 hunting season — even though he had to go to Minnesota to get it.

Siau had been sitting on the stand for a couple of hours on Sunday, the middle day of his three-day trip, and had seen a few doe and some small bucks wander within shooting range.

It was about 10 a.m. when his trophy buck appeared in an opening.

"I've been hunting for 35 years and this was the biggest deer I've ever harvested," said Siau, who has a number of elk, hogs, antelope, deer and sheep mounts in his home and barn near Northwood Country Club.

"I have a house and a barn full."

His current record take is being mounted in St. Cloud, Minn.

Siau said it was hard not to enjoy the trip after enduring temperatures running 40 to 70 degrees.

"They do have bad weather there but it was perfect while we were there," he said.

On Monday, the final day of the trip, Siau and his traveling party were taken on a pheasant hunt at the preserve.

"We got about 40 pheasants," Siau said chuckling.

"They had rows of sorghum on the side of it and the dogs would go through it and flush the pheasants. We had a good time. The guide said he never saw pheasants get killed like we did. We told him Louisiana boys were raised on shotguns. He said, 'Y'all put the hurt on 'em.'"



Big Whitetail - 23 Points - Weighed 307 lbs. - Scored 230 3/8











Red Stag-18 points. It is a silver medal stag

