

FREE

To Do(e) or Don't?



Midwest **HUNTING** & **Fishing**

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016

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Lake of the Woods

Early Days

**Late Season
Pheasant
Hunting**



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Note from the Editor

This is the time of the year we all wait for. Every day is filled with choices, go fishing, shoot a pheasant, hunt deer, or call in some ducks or maybe a combination. It doesn't get any better. Check out the Late Season Roosters story, now is the best time of the year to hunt pheasants. Check out the story on winter fly-fishing, we have some fantastic trout fishing right in our backyard. As the weather gets colder and the lakes begin to freeze, it is time to get the ice fishing equipment out. We have a great guide to booking a Lake of the Woods ice fishing trip. Have a great and safe hunting season and be safe on the early ice. Enjoy the issue. ~ Paul

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3,100 (3) 100

Jason Dumas
BHP Staff

Do you hunt for does?

This question can spark a wide variety of opinions

Typically, these opinions are formed from a long standing family rule or the dreaded "We don't shoot does, because that's the way we've always done it" mentality. While traditions are a good thing, not learning from the millions of dollars of research and game studies is irresponsible. Contrary to popular belief, harvesting does under the right circumstances, can actually have a very positive effect on your deer herd. Almost everyone reading this would fit into the criteria of the certain circumstances where harvesting a doe will undoubtedly help your deer herd. In fact, in some states, it's required to harvest a doe before you are permitted to harvest a buck.

Along with helping the herd, it's actually very challenging and can be a very rewarding experience. What I've done in the past is keep tabs on my local deer herd and find out what doe meets my criteria for harvesting. After that, it's just like chasing your "hit list" buck and off you go! I look for certain criteria before pursuing just any doe. First, I tend to look for an older, more mature doe, which may be beyond her years of reproducing. Secondly, if for any reason you suspect a doe may be injured and suffering or "dry," meaning she cannot produce milk, these circumstances make excellent criteria for pursuing.

Harvesting a mature doe or any doe that you decide meets the criteria you choose, can be extremely challenging. It's as if, when you decide on the doe you want to take, the doe becomes harder to hunt. Just like chasing a mature buck, does have their own unique traits and hunting challenges that can make harvesting them tough. They must be approached much differently than a mature buck. If you're after a mature doe, they are uniquely smart and tend to make very few mistakes. Seeing these mature deer isn't always hard but getting these witty does within shooting range is a challenge.

Too often, deer outsmart us with their noses. Mature does will always use the wind to their favor. Often times, these does are the signaling deer groups. So when pursuing, always take into consideration wind direction, much like you would on any hunt but with extra attention to detail. How many times have you had a deer blowing and scaring off all of the deer in sight and never seeing the deer that was blowing? Odds are this was a mature doe, out of sight signaling to the group.

Outside of their noses, they have an unwavering ability of knowing when to avoid your set up. They are often on high alert when coming into your set up. The extra alertness allows the doe to react to the sound of a bow string. Too often, I've had these cautious does jump my string and duck my arrow. Even with the speed of today's bows, these does can drop and dodge your arrow in a fraction of a second.

These unique challenges give a young hunter an excellent opportunity to learn. With that being said, if you have a doe that needs to be harvested, allow a young hunter to pursue. The young hunter can gain valuable knowledge making them a much better hunter while gaining respect for the sport. Another opportunity is when you have filled your buck tag and you still have a portion of the season remaining. Going after a doe can reignite your reason to be in the field after a successful buck harvest.

So, now that I've outlined why I think that harvesting does is not only good for the herd but also good for the hunter, go out and give it a try. I promise you will see the benefits first hand! Always remember to, check local game rules and regulations before pursuing in your area.

Good luck & happy hunting! ©

Right: Jason Dumas harvests a doe.
Photo credits: Jason Dumas



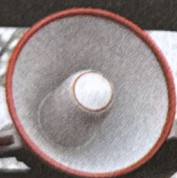


There are plenty of reasons to try and self-film your own hunts. The first being, how many of your friends actually want to spend their time in woods filming you, making to self-filming your only option.

So, you want to be a
STAR?

Directed by
**JAMES
NOTEBOOM**
BHP STAFF

DIRECTOR



First, and most importantly— **THE CAMERA**

This will be the biggest investment you will have along with your bow (and property). There are some great cameras out there. For around \$400 you can grab a camera that will do the job. When I self-film, I use a Cannon 70D. Auto focus is a top priority. There is no way to range a deer, set your 1-pin sight (if you use one) then focus in on the deer. Being able to point and click and have your camera ready is an absolute must. Deer come in and move fast. I usually have my 1-Pin HHA Kingpin set at about 30 yards and have landmarks already ranged, so that I can move it quickly, or if need be shoot with the pin at 30 and adjust my shot.

Photo credits: James Noteboom, BHP

Second, to have a video record of your hunts so you can watch and remember them for the rest of your life, show your friends and maybe get your foot into the outdoor film industry.

Third, maybe you are challenging yourself. Self-filming, especially with whitetails, is probably one of the most difficult things you can do. I will discuss some of the things we at Bowhunterplanet use that have worked in the field that could possibly help you get out in the woods and become a "Star" yourself.

Along with the camera, the next most important thing you need is a **good camera arm**. I use a Lightning Camera Arm. It is quiet and smooth, with 3 hinges making it very simple to get all angles quietly. The next thing we use on our hunts are Go-Pro cameras. These little things can hook to absolutely anything and provide awesome angles and back up to your main camera. I like to put one above me to get an overhead shot when drawing back and one on the ground where I think a deer is most likely to give me a good shot. Some guys run 4 or 5 Go Pros and it makes for great video when edited. Of course, that is not an option for most people as it can get expensive. The best thing about the Go Pro is the remote control, where you can turn on all of your cameras with the push of a button. ➡



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Now that we have all the camera gear taken care of, how can you

best set yourself up for a successful shot on film?

Here are some self-filming tips:

- Try to be able to move the camera and shoot sitting down. This makes it more comfortable when shooting, and less likely to be seen by the deer.
- Set out your bait/decoys where it provides the easiest shot for you. It never happens that way, but if it does you will already be set up for success.
- This should actually be number one, but make sure all your cameras are charged the night before. And that your memory cards are empty—and bring extras. Double check everything before you get to the stand. There's nothing like getting all setup and not having the correct gear. Just like a release, I always bring an extra for emergencies.
- Take some short films and practice editing pieces together—it doesn't even need to be hunting related. We use programs such as Corel Video Editor and Final Cut. They are very easy to navigate, but as with anything, the more you practice, the better you will become.
- Once you have put your video together, share it on YouTube and Facebook. Enter contests, And of course, submit your videos to the Bowhunterplanet "My Hunt" Series.

These are just some quick tips to get you heading in the right direction.

Self-filming isn't for everyone and can make hunting a whitetail just that much harder. Like with anything it is all about practice, finding what works best for you and getting comfortable putting it all together.

So, go grab a camera, even if it is just to watch back and see where your arrow hit. Of course, it could turn into something much bigger... you could be a "Star"! ★

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