

Game Trails

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Oak Creek Whitetail Ranch

FOUR BUCKS, PLEASE

When Jerry Bang of Fredericksburg, Texas, asked his son Jason what he wanted for his 21st birthday a few years back, Jason said he would think about it and get back to his Dad. Jerry was thinking maybe Jason might ask to take a few friends to Las Vegas for a weekend or for a new car.

A few days later, Jason called his Dad back and what he asked for floored Jerry.

“He told me what he really wanted was for the two of us to go somewhere and hunt really big-bodied white-tailed deer,” said Jerry, “I was shocked, but I was pretty excited just the same.”

Jerry and Carrie’s son Jason was attending college at Texas A&M at the time and could not take time away from his studies until after exams, which pushed his available hunting dates into January.

Jerry and Carrie kept looking for the right outfitter and eventually met Donald Hill from Oak Creek Whitetail



The family hunt at Oak Creek Whitetail Ranch netted four great bucks in 2008 –(left to right) Jason with his huge 218, Maggie with her outstanding 224, and Jerry with his very nice 217.



Carrie caught a case of whitetail fever as well, taking a tall, 184-inch buck to round out the family whitetail extravaganza on the next to last day.

Ranch. They talked with Donald and were told they could hunt big northern deer in Missouri, so Jerry and Jason hunted with Oak Creek Whitetail Ranch for the first time in 2007 and took two huge 200-class whitetails. When the boys returned home and showed the big racks to Carrie and sister Maggie, things got interesting very quickly.

One look at the horns and Maggie said, "I want to shoot a big deer like that." Then Carrie decided she wanted to shoot a big whitetail as well, so the Bang Family booked four hunts for the following December, and it became a family affair.

Jerry and Carrie have taken their children hunting with them from a very young age. "My son started hunting with me when he was only three years old and Maggie since she was five," said Jerry, "and investing that time with your children makes a big difference. I was going to buy into a lease when my son was six years old and I told the guys that I wouldn't go into the lease unless my son and daughter were allowed to come and hunt anytime I was there. It was okay with everybody,

so Jason and Maggie hunted with me all the time."

The Bang Family hunt in 2008 at Oak Creek Whitetail Ranch was what might be called a resounding success. Jerry took a fine 217-inch buck while Jason, now 23, shot a handsome 218 that had a lot of character. Sister Maggie, now 21 and a senior at the University of Texas, hammered a superb 224-inch buck for family-bragging honors. She said she wanted to shoot a big deer and Donald Hill fulfilled that wish. Not to be outdone, Carrie, who has also



Donald Hill (right) joined Larry Weishuhn (left) when he took this 200-inch monster with a handgun, qualifying it for the new No. 1 typical handgun whitetail.



hunted all of her life, tipped over a very nice 184.

Oak Creek Whitetail Ranch, in Bland, Missouri, is home to some of the most spectacular big-bodied, huge-framed typical and non-typical whitetail deer in North America. Each year for the past four years, Oak Creek has taken some of the largest typical and non-typical deer in the world. Given its second-to-none habitat and trophy management program, Oak Creek takes 20 to 30 whitetails in the 200-plus class every year, several with inside spreads of up to 30 inches.

Oak Creek Whitetail Ranch is consistently home to the largest whitetails in North America for one reason: Donald Hill has put in the time to develop the largest whitetail deer you are ever going to see. Donald's carefully selected genetics and tightly controlled breeding program is far more intricate and productive than natural selection. It's been Donald's lifetime ambition to develop the finest whitetail deer as "humanly possible."

Management of the incredible 1,800-ranch habitat creates a realistic hunting experience that Mr. Whitetail, Larry Weishuhn, enjoys. Larry took a 200-inch buck, the

new No. 1 handgun deer, at Oak Creek in 2009. "I was impressed with Oak Creek. It's fabulous for producing and hunting big deer," said Weishuhn.

Donald Hill, owner and CEO, said, "This year, we hope to take a couple of dozen 200- to 250-inch deer off Oak Creek, and several 300- to 350-inch bucks should be taken in during the course of our season. Big deer are taken throughout our four and a half month season, not just during the

first two weeks. It's no fluke – the big deer are here."

Hill donated a "first week of the season" hunt to Dallas Safari Club at *Drumbeats*, affording the winning bidder first shot at the largest deer he could find. The hunt sold for an unprecedented \$32,000. Oak Creek Whitetail Ranch stepped up again at *First Light*, and provided the opportunity for one lucky hunter to come and harvest the largest mature buck of his or her choice on the property.

"Auction donations fund our conservation, education and advocacy for hunter's rights missions and programs. Great members and exhibitors like Oak Creek enable DSC to fulfill its mission, and we are grateful for them," said Ben Carter, Executive Director, Dallas Safari Club.

To learn more about Oak Creek Whitetail Ranch, contact Donald Hill, 573-943-6644, email oakcreekranch@earthlink.net or check out its website, www.oakcreekwhitetailranch.com.

(left to right) Jerry and Jason's first hunt at Oak Creek. Jerry's buck scored 205 while Jason took a 199.

