



A BOBBY WARNER CHARITABLE YOUTH FOUNDATION

Winter 2017

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What Determines A Buck's Antler Color

Every rack is a unique identifier for a buck. Size, shape and points can all change from deer to deer. Racks differ from year to year, and sometimes differ within the same year. One of the overlooked features of a rack is its color. Some deer can have a pristine white rack while others can be as dark as coffee. What causes this variation in color?

GENETICS

Some deer are just going to have darker racks. Just like one buck has the genetics to be a trophy, another will have the genetics for a chocolate rack. Rack genetics are very tricky, too, as 70 percent of a buck's antler genetics actually come from the mom.

LOCATION

As with everything in hunting, location is a key factor as well. Regional differences alter the color of a buck's antlers. In the Midwest, bucks tend to have lighter racks, whereas a deer that's been basking in the Texas sun will probably have a darker rack.

RUBS AND MINERALS

The minerals a deer eats throughout the year can alter antler color, and the trees that a deer rubs on can darken a rack. Rubs can affect color, as the blood left in the velvet can stain a rack. The chemicals in the rubbing plant could also potentially stain a rack.

AGE

Age is probably the most critical deciding factor to antler color. As a buck gets older, its antlers will darken. Also, as it gets older and more dominate, the buck will rub more, resulting in a theoretical darkening of its rack. A deer's rack will bleach out as it is exposed to the elements throughout the year.



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Quick Tips for Cold Weather Hunting

CLEAN YOUR FIREARM

The first step to prepare for cold weather hunting starts before you leave home with a thorough cleaning of your gun. Having a clean gun is key for a successful cold weather hunt. If your gun isn't clean, it can lead to a malfunction. The reason for this is that in the cold everything expands, making all the actions a little tighter. This includes gun oil, wipe it clean. If you add in dirt and grime to extreme cold weather that causes expansion, before you know it, the action is sticking and you have a malfunctioning firearm. So the number one rule in preparing for a cold weather hunt is no lubrication.

DRESS WITH LAYERS OF CLOTHING

The first rule of dressing for the cold – dress in layers. You will start the day very cold and warm up as you move and the day warms. You should have a base layer to move moisture away from the skin (wicking), a mid-layer for insulation and retention of heat and a top layer for added insulation. If it is really cold, you'll want a heavy insulated coat. Layers allow you to remove or add clothing to control your body temperature as the conditions change. Invest in high performance fibers for maximum effectiveness, lightness and providing agility for freedom of movement. Cotton kills, particularly denim (jeans) as it soaks up the moisture and can cause serious problems staying dry, which is crucial for safe hunting in cold weather.

PREPARE FOR THE EXTREME

Check the weather report and be prepared for the worst. Safe hunting in cold weather requires you to be over-prepared: know the weather, have a survival kit and make sure someone knows where you are hunting and when you will return. Three factors to consider for a survival kit: fire, shelter and signaling. Number one, have a way to start a fire. And not just matches as the possibility of them becoming wet is high. Have a fire starter with you and something to use as tinder such as cotton balls soaked in petroleum jelly or dryer lint mixed with paraffin. Carry your cell phone, but have a compass as backup. You may be out of range and batteries drain much quicker in the cold. Leave a hunt plan with someone. Tell him or her where you'll be and when you will return.



LISTEN TO YOUR BODY

The biggest detriment to safe hunting in cold weather is the danger of hypothermia. Hypothermia is the process of cooling to the point of death when your body temperature drops below 98.6 degrees and stays there for an extended period of time. It is most common when someone has become wet and stays wet. That is why survival instructions always focus on layering your clothing in order to keep yourself dry—therefore avoiding a drop in body temperature. The first sign of hypothermia is shivering. If you start to shiver or one of your hunting buddies, add layers, start a fire and get warm. You can deteriorate fast in the cold so you must act quickly. Rather than trying to teach you all the ways to deal with hypothermia, just remember, if you are shivering or observe someone else shivering, add warmth and get to shelter as quickly as possible.

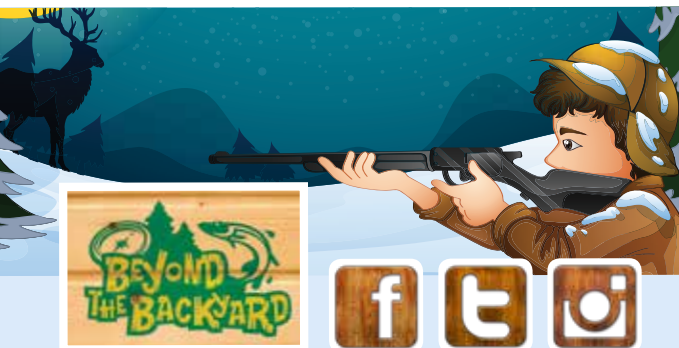
Remember ACTT

While you are in the field remember the basics of a safe hunt as taught in your hunter education training: ACTT

- Assume every gun is loaded
- Control the muzzle. Point the gun in a safe direction.
- Trigger finger. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.
- Target. Be sure of your target and what lies beyond.

Winter hunting can be fun and allows you to hunt different species than the fair weather hunter. To ensure a safe hunt requires being smart and being prepared. You learn the basics in hunter education, but if you are serious about cold weather hunting, consider extra training and research to be well prepared.

Enjoy the hunt!



Become a Fan To Stay Up-To-Date.....

Beyond The Backyard is asking all of its members to become a fan of our organization at www.facebook.com/beyondthebackyard. This is a great way for us to share stories and photographs of our outdoor adventures. This also allows us to keep all of our members up-to-date on events around the Mountain State. We also post all of our hunting and fishing adventures on Twitter and Instagram. Find us at twitter.com/beyond_backyard and instagram.com/beyondthebackyard

Support Beyond The Backyard This Holiday Season

Did you know that you can show your support for Beyond The Backyard simply by shopping at Kroger and on Amazon this holiday season? Follow the instructions below and a percentage of your total purchases will be given directly to us!



Kroger Community Rewards

- Sign in, or create your account at www.kroger.com/communityrewards
- Update your Community Rewards under your Account Settings
- Search for "Beyond The Backyard" and select it to complete enrollment



AmazonSmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

- Sign in at www.smile.amazon.com and use your regular Amazon login email address and password
- Enter "Beyond The Backyard" and select "Search"
- Choose "Beyond The Backyard A Bobby Warner Charitable Youth Foundation"
- Each time you go online to shop you must log-in through www.smile.amazon.com

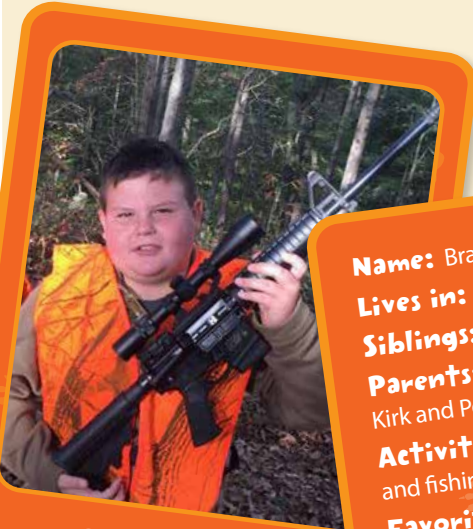
Did You Know?

Eleven species of animals and four species of plants found in West Virginia are listed as endangered. Four species of animals and two species of plants are listed as threatened.

Member Spotlight

Would you like to be the next kid featured in our member spotlight?

Sign up at: beyondthebackyard.org



Braden Kirk

Name: Braden Kirk
Lives in: Charleston, WV
Siblings: Carter and Mckenzie
Parents: Jason and Samantha Kirk and Penny and Chris Lewis
Activities: Football, hunting and fishing
Favorite Food: Hot wings
Favorite Hobby: Football
Favorite TV Show: Outdoor Channel and football



Word Find

Can you find them all?

Using the list below, find the words that are hidden in the jumble.

BLIZZARD	BOOTS	CHILLY	COATS
FIREPLACE	FOG	FOOTPRINTS	FROST
HOCKEY	SLIDE	SLIPPERY	SNOWBALL

I	N	P	U	M	U	E	R	H	F	Q	M	B	W	K
Q	W	K	Y	C	F	S	Y	E	K	C	O	H	C	K
E	F	L	E	P	H	G	I	Y	P	T	Y	K	F	S
C	O	X	Z	D	U	N	R	M	V	K	W	F	L	G
H	O	K	I	N	I	E	C	K	X	G	O	P	I	W
T	W	A	P	F	P	L	M	J	D	O	W	S	B	O
S	W	L	T	P	M	V	S	F	T	Z	N	H	O	A
O	K	E	I	S	M	Q	M	P	X	O	Y	Z	O	A
R	J	L	W	G	Z	F	R	D	W	V	V	I	T	I
F	S	E	M	E	T	I	I	B	Y	P	F	G	S	E
V	F	L	V	P	N	Q	A	I	F	L	C	O	G	E
B	G	N	Y	T	N	L	M	E	Q	I	L	F	Z	Z
Q	E	L	S	V	L	X	T	L	C	X	G	I	I	J
C	B	L	I	Z	Z	A	R	D	X	Z	L	D	H	C
R	H	E	X	V	F	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	C

Be sure to fan our Facebook page, where you can receive news and enter contests too!

Check us out online at beyondthebackyard.org to volunteer, donate, join, or tell a friend!



Excited about a recent outdoor adventure and want to share with other members? Send us your photo with a brief description and we will add it to our trophy room. Email the picture and description to tbartlett@beyondthebackyard.org. You may also post them to our website and Facebook page.

Congrats to all!



Zailee Roberts



Avery Bowles



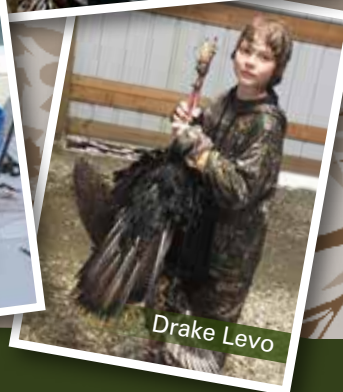
Kyndell Stone



Jackson Caudill



Levi Kessler



Drake Levo

Visit Us At BeyondTheBackyard.org

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