

'Huntin and Killin':

Western bow season to open this month

by Zach Browning
Sports Editor

The mornings are a bit chilly and the sun has been setting just a little earlier every day. Fall is definitely on its way. In fact, it won't be much longer before everyone will be wearing pants and light jackets. To some, fall is just a season packed with football and family holidays—and, of course, raking those annoying leaves out of your yard. But to others, fall means so much more.

The first day of Bow season in Western North Carolina is September 11, and to some, is the equivalent of a national holiday. Bow Hunting offers the hunter several advantages over his rifle-toting counter-

part, namely safety. Theoretically, the reason that bow hunters are safer to be around is that arrows don't travel very far. Successful bow hunters have to lure their prey into a very close "kill zone" because their weapons aren't very effective beyond about thirty yards, whereas the rifle hunter can fire cartridges capable of traveling a mile or more.

Another advantage to using the old "Indian Stick" is that the hunting pressure is usually lighter, which can be very advantageous to you. Deer of either sex can be taken during the entire Bow season. The last and perhaps greatest benefit of using primitive weapons is that you are hunting in the pre-rut time. Bucks are leav-

ing their summertime bachelors groups and venturing off in search of a mate or two. During this time bucks will become very aggressive, marking their territory with urine and scrape marks on trees, which are also called "rubs." They will not hesitate to fight off an intruder, regardless of size.

This is the best time to use scents and calls to attract that monster buck that's lookin' for some lovin.' There are several on the market, and I imagine that one works just as well as any other, although lately I haven't tried any myself. Your scent, however, is a very important issue. There's nothing more frustrating than losing a monster buck at the last minute because he catches wind of

your funky self.

As with attractants and calls, there are several on the market— here's what I do: to fool a deer's super keen sense of smell, I go to the spot where I plan to hunt and fill a trash bag with leaves (I shake it to make sure there are no spiders or anything else I don't want). Then, I put my hunting clothes in the bag and let it sit in my tool shed for a day or so before the hunt. This puts the smell of the woods on me, an effective and inexpensive way to fool the deer.

Whether you bow hunt for the sport, the solitude, or the challenge, it is an excellent way to see some beautiful wilderness and sharpen your skills as an outdoorsman.



BC prepares for a game.

photo by John Billingsley

***BC
football
fell to
Shorter
College
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Sept. 2***