

People

CLOSE-UP

Hunter relishes the thrill of the wild

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Each year Howard Anderson anxiously awaits the fall season. Like an expectant parent, he marks off the days until he can get back out into the wild -- until the day that hunting season officially begins.

Anderson is a hunter and pursues his hobby with devoted passion. He doesn't just hunt to pass time -- Anderson loves the challenges of hunting. Just as an athlete works year-round to keep in shape for the season of his sport, Anderson spends his off-season studying the nature and habits of animals and honing up on the latest in hunting equipment.

Proper preparation apparently has paid off for Anderson and he has managed to bag several prize catches during his 13 years as a hunter. One of his living room walls is lined with a few of the trophies from his jaunts into the woods in pursuit of deer, antelopes, bears and other wild game. One year Anderson killed four bucks, an animal he calls a "fine animal to hunt."

"There are not many people in the whole United States who kill four bucks in a year," said Anderson, who began hunting when he lived in Maryland. "A buck is unlike any other animal. He's a loner. He's hard to catch. You don't just go in the woods and say 'I'm going to hunt a deer with a gun.' You've got to do your homework. The buck is cunning and smart. He's a challenge."

Anderson's 'homework' includes video tapes of deer habits, how they move, when they move and how they react to various situations. He religiously reads hunting magazines and literature and, before going into the woods to hunt, plots out a map of where the deer bed, where they go for water and which trails they take. The average age for death for a buck is 18 months. Anderson said that the older the bucks get the more difficult it becomes to catch them. He said a buck that lives to reach the age of three has his "master's degree in evasive tactics" and becomes nearly impossible to snag.



Howard Anderson, a local hunter who has snared some of the top deer prizes, shows off two of the large bucks that he said are among his best prizes. Anderson hunts in locations along the east coast, Wyoming and in Canada.

"I'm very dedicated to hunting and I respect the game that I hunt. If I miss a bear or a deer, I say 'That's good for him. He lives to play another day.' If I hit him, that's the end of the game," said Anderson.

Although some would argue the irony of Anderson's belief, he insists that hunting is little more than sport and, in fact, often helps preserve a balance in nature.

"Good sportsmen, people who obey the hunting laws, are helping to bring the deer back into perspective. Man killed the wolves that used to hunt deer and keep the population stable. With the wolves decreasing, the deer population has gotten too big. There is no shortage of deer in the United States. There are more than ever. They are over-populating," he said. "I respect these animals and you can never underestimate them because you're in their world. They know every escape route and they know how to avoid man. He's programmed to survive."

Anderson is a long-time member of the Pioneer Rod and Gun Club, an Afro-American hunting club with headquarters in Maryland. The 50-member club has members from states across the country including New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and North Carolina. Anderson became involved with the club before moving to Winston-Salem four years ago.

"I used to rabbit hunt in Maryland and I met this guy who took an interest in me and we spent some time together. He was a hunter," said Anderson, who is a local painter. "He took me off the streets and gave me something to do. I started learning all about hunting. I studied it for four years before I was really able to hunt properly."

The Pioneer Rod and Gun Club takes an annual hunting trip to Canada, where members hunt various game. Just recently, Anderson "harvested" his first bear, a moment of great jubilation in hunting circles. Bear hunters, Anderson said, never used the term "kill" when referring to bears, preferring instead to say that they "harvested" a bear. It took him seven years to snare his bear, and weeks after the big event, he still wears a smile when talking about his bear. His big prize is away at the taxidermist being stuffed, but Anderson has photos galore of his more than 200-pound, over six feet bear. And he already has removed and stored the bear meat for a barbecue meal at a later time.

Anderson said that members of his club are required to study various safety courses and are expected to abide by the basic rules of good sportsmanship.

One of the basic tenets, he said, is that hunters should not be "gun happy." If a hunter goes out specifically to hunt deer, then that's all he should hunt, Anderson said.

"You don't shoot songbirds and rabbits when you're out to hunt deer," he said.

Members of the Pioneer Rod and Gun Club are required to pass the Hunter's Safety Course before they are approved for membership. Also, any applicant who has been convicted of a felony or of a violent crime is denied membership in the organization.

And, judging by the membership of the Pioneer Rod and Gun



A display of Anderson's most cherished prizes occupies one of the walls in the living room of his home.

Club, everyone hunts. Anderson said that the occupations of members in his club include doctors, lawyers, teachers, subway drivers and legislative delegates.

With hunting season rapidly approaching, Anderson is putting the finishing touches on his "off-season training." He has studied his videotapes and read about the latest techniques in hunting deer. This year, he has one goal that he promises he will fulfill.

"There's a big deer down in Halifax County that we see every year but no one's been able to catch him. He's a big buck and a large part of him is gray so that sometimes all you can see is this big gray mass," Anderson said. "We call him 'Ol Gray.' I'm going to get him this year. This is the year I'm going to get 'Ol Gray.'"



Howard Anderson spends time doing his "homework" by watching part of his video collection on the latest in deer hunting techniques and methods.

But hanging in his living room, Anderson has the heads of two bucks and two antelopes. They are what he calls his prize kills. But Anderson maintains that although he hunts animals, he still has the utmost respect for them and for the environment in which they live. Along the same line, he said, the most important thing is not to catch the prize animal at any cost, but to maintain the element of humanity when killing an animal.

"You always want to make a clean, humane kill. You don't want an animal to suffer," said Anderson. "You have to put your bullet where it's supposed to be. You put it in the lung or in the heart. You don't shoot at the biggest part of the animal and you've got to know where your bullet is going. You don't shoot at bushes, or at anything that moves. You have to make sure that you can hit him in the lungs or in the heart or else just don't shoot. Let it pass by. That's the humane thing to do."

Hunting is not something that can be taken for granted or carried out in a casual manner, Anderson said. And he stresses that the good hunters and sportsmen will know when they have been defeated.

National Honoree

Minnie Ervin, a local beautician, recently was recognized by the National Beauty Culturist for her contributions to the profession. Mrs. Ervin received the recognition during the league's 69th Annual Convention and Trade Show recently held in Atlanta. She is the operator of Ervin's Beauty Services.



photo by Mike Cunningham

SOCIAL NOTES

National Beauty League pays tribute to Minnie J. Ervin

Minnie J. Ervin was honored recently with a surprise tribute at the 69th Annual Convention and Trade Show of the National Beauty Culturist League.

Mrs. Ervin was recognized for her contributions of outstanding service to the organization.

Mrs. Ervin is president of the National Youth for Beauty Department, a unit which picks future leaders of the organization.

The tribute was underwritten by Summit, Clairol Co. A decorative money tree was only one of the many contributions and testimonies presented

from across the United States, Nassau, Bahamas and Barbados.

Mrs. Ervin was appointed chairman of the Education Committee of the NBCL. She also serves as education director of Region IV for Continued Education. The region includes seven states: North Carolina, South Carolina,

Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Nassau, Bahamas.

Mrs. Ervin serves as state sponsor for the Youth Department of North Carolina and is the vice president of Local Beauticians Chapter #2, where she is also membership and workshop chairman.

Roseboro family members, friends travel from near and far to attend 34th annual reunion in the Twin City

The 34th reunion of the Roseboro family was held Sunday, July 31, at Martin Luther King Recreation Center.

The family attended a worship service at New Light Baptist Church.

Special recognition was given to several members of the family during the reunion events. Family members recognized included the

oldest member, Mrs. Zeola Reid, 84 years old; the youngest member, Virginia Ashley, 6 weeks.

Mrs. Ruth Roseboro was crowned Queen for the day.

A family dinner was served at 3 p.m.

Organizers of the family reunion noted that several specific characteristics have kept the family together over the years. The family

reporter noted, "Time and circumstance, crisis and decision, failure and success, war and peace, cowardice and courage, and above all love, have been the molding of keeping this family together."

Family members and friends from out of town attending the reunion included: Ms. Thailia Griffin, Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Louise Young,

Detroit; Mrs. Pollie Jackson, Society Hill, S.C.; Mrs. Patricia Byrd, Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Lincoln, Mr. Tommie Smith, Society Hill, S.C.; and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Roseboro, Langhorne Pa.

Approximately 150-200 people attended the annual family reunion.