

Hunter Bags Buck In Yard Of Spring Creek Home

By RUTHIE PIPKIN

James Arrington of Haywood County couldn't believe it.

Since deer season opened, he'd been chasing the granddaddy of the bucks. But now, on the last day, just like the year before, it seemed the whitetail had won.

"I'd been there hunting him that morning," Arrington said. "I was fixing to come on home."

Out of the woods, Arrington returned to base camp, the house of his brother-in-law, who lives 12 miles outside of Hot Springs, near Spring Creek. While in the woods, they'd seen the 12-point whitetail several times that season. "I'd done shot at him twice and missed him," Arrington said.

But back on his own turf, Arrington found a surprise. Not more than 50 yards from the house, there stood the deer. "He started to cross the highway, and then the dog barked, and he stepped back toward the house," Arrington said.

While the deer was debating directions, Arrington, a sportsman for more than 20 years, jumped back inside and grabbed his .300-caliber Winchester Magnum, took aim and bang! He had bagged his deer.

His shot hit the noble creature in his left rump and, as he started to run off, he crumpled, falling into the creek. It

wasn't until Arrington went over to drag him out that he realized what a trophy he had: The buck boasted a 21-inch spread and had scored a 162-7/8 on the Boone and Crockett scale.

Boone and Crockett measurements were started years ago by the Boone and Crockett Club (named for Daniel and Davie), to help push big-game hunting in North America into the forefront. The measurements are made based on symmetry, comparing the antlers and points in circumference and length. To qualify for the Boone and Crockett record book, a deer must measure 170.

That's happened in North Carolina only once, that time with a Granville County deer, said Jeffrey Brooks, wildlife biologist for District 9 of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

"It came awfully close," Brooks said of Arrington's deer. "You really don't realize how many millions of whitetail deer have been harvested in North America each year, and how (few) score 170, or even 160. Last year was the first one ever (at 170) of the thousands that have been harvested in North Carolina. So you see, that one that fellow has is a real trophy in itself."

Arrington was thrilled. "I couldn't believe it had such a rack on him until I saw it," Arrington said. A native of Saunook in Haywood County, Arr-

ington grew up roaming the mountains. But he says he's never seen a local deer that compares.

Arrington has bagged whitetail in

Virginia, but was in the habit of giving them away. But not this one. As of last Tuesday, it claimed the prized position over the mantle in the Arr-

ington's living room.

"I've always like the outdoor sports, and enjoyed collecting guns," he said. "So I always hunted. But I

never really expected to kill one that big."

Especially not while standing in the shadow of the front porch.

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Marion Bull Photo

James Arrington of Haywood County shows off the 12-point whitetail deer he shot last winter just 50 yards from his brother-in-law's house in Spring Creek.

Forest Service Proposes Changes In Appeal Process

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing changes in the process that allows the public to appeal decisions made by national forest officials.

"We reviewed the current regulation and found that we needed to streamline, expedite and eliminate confusion in the appeals process," said F. Dale Robertson, chief of USDA's Forest Service.

The proposal separates appeals on permits with the U.S. Forest Service to use or to occupy National Forest system lands from appeals involving objections to land and resource management planning and project implementation decisions.

Currently, all appellants use the same process — they can obtain review of a forest officer's decision at two higher levels of authority. For example, a district ranger's decision can be appealed to the forest supervisor and then to the regional forester. The decision can be changed at either of the levels.

Under the proposal, both types of appeals would be given a streamlined, one-level review at the next ad-

ministrative level, with discretion for further review at one more level. Appeals involving special use permits would retain many of the features of the current rule. Contractual disputes would not be subject to either rule.

"Our appeals process is a valuable way to review key decisions, but it has been abused and has become too slow and too costly a tradeoff that impeded land and resource management activities," Robertson said. The proposal encourages comment regarding the payment of filing fees to discourage abuse of the appeals process, he said.

If the proposed rules are adopted, the U.S. Forest Service will monitor how well deciding and reviewing officers meet deadlines and prompt action will be taken to remedy excessive delays in processing of appeals, Robertson said.

The proposal was published in the May 18 Federal Register. Comments on the proposal must be received in writing by July 15 and should be sent to F. Dale Robertson, Chief (1570), Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C., 20090-0090.



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