

# SASKATCHEWAN'S TOP WHITETAIL FOR 2010

BY BRYAN EBERLE

*Bryan Eberle of Spalding, Saskatchewan, will certainly remember that fateful November 20, 2010. On that particular day, he harvested the highest scoring typical whitetail taken in the province that fall. If you like mass, no need to look any further as this monarch has that and more. Here are the impressive numbers on this king buck. Main beams have length indeed as they reach out to 28 2/8 and 28 3/8 inches. Brow-tines go 6 2/8 and 6 inches, and G-2s run 13 1/8 and 12 3/8. G-3s are dead even at 12 inches per side. There are also no deductions on the G-4s, which are both 8 4/8. Although this buck has one G-5, it luckily only lost 1 2/8 inches. Getting back to the mass, this big brute has six-inch bases and the rest of the circumferences go well over five inches and up to six solid inches. After 13 1/8 inches of deductions, Bryan's buck still nets 191 3/8 typical points.*



Bryan's whitetail has an inside spread of 22 inches and grosses a whopping 214 1/8 inches. This buck ranks in the 28th all-time spot in the Saskatchewan record book out of the 749 typical whitetails that are over the 170-inch mark. This happy hunter will have a hard time getting a bigger whitetail, but there's a good chance you will see him holding another monster in this publication in the future.



After months of waiting for “Muzzy,” my big Saskatchewan whitetail, he was finally lying at my feet. To say I was excited would be an understatement!

It all started late last summer when I built myself a treestand on my family’s farmland. It was in an area where I knew lots of bucks passed through, because I had seen them before while hunting during rifle season.

After building the stand, I wanted to try archery hunting as this would give me a greater challenge and allow me more time to hunt. I purchased a bow and bought a trail cam in order to see the bucks that were frequenting this area.

In late August 2010, I set up my trail cam and cleared a path of trees from my stand to the feeding site of grain and apples that I had set up. Within the next few weeks, the camera

captured plenty of pictures. There were a number of nice bucks, but nothing that really caught my eye.

Almost every night after work and on the weekends I would head out to my stand and wait for a big buck to appear. Nothing came near my stand except for a few does and some small bucks. However, I did see two larger bucks that were still in velvet. They would come out night after night towards the middle of the field, but neither of them would come near my stand. I therefore decided to purchase a ground blind and set it out on the fenceline in order to intercept the two bucks and try to get a shot at one of them. I got my blind set up and sat out there every evening for a week, but the two bucks never returned to that part of the field.

After not having much luck seeing a buck worth harvesting,

my luck finally turned when I spotted a large buck on my trail cam in mid-September. This buck was the biggest I had ever seen in this area in my many years of hunting. With thick beams and long points, he was an awesome-looking animal. Looking through my photos, I realized he was one of the bucks I had seen out in the field in the past few weeks still in velvet. However, by now, most of his velvet had been rubbed off. My goal was to get this buck with my new bow!

I went out to sit in my treestand after work and on the weekends to wait for him, but he never came. I would see him on my trail cam pictures every once in awhile, but it was usually during the early morning hours or in the middle of the night.

Unsuccessful with my bow, I decided to purchase a muzzleloader to increase my odds of shooting the big buck I had been dreaming about ever since seeing him on my trail cam. This is actually how my buck got his name; thinking I was going to shoot him with my muzzleloader, I named him "Muzzy."

Again, I patiently waited in my treestand for Muzzy to come by, but he never did. By now, Muzzy was not even showing up on my camera. With rifle season coming soon, I hoped that no one else would spot him, and I would have a chance at him again next year during archery season.

My friend and I always hunt together during rifle season. We head out after work and on weekends, looking for a big buck to shoot. It was the end of the first week of rifle season when my luck finally changed. On the morning of November 20, we went for a drive to see what we could find. Hunting was very difficult as the roads and fields were so muddy due to a wet fall. While cruising around, all we saw were a few does, fawns, and some small bucks. We ended up getting the truck stuck in a field, so there we sat, waiting for someone to find us and pull us out. We ended up phoning a neighbour for help. We were so disgusted with how the morning had gone that we decided to head back to town.

Later that afternoon, we opted to try again, hoping this time would bring better luck, and to our surprise, an adventure was about to take place. We returned to my treestand area around 4:00 p.m. Half an hour later, my friend and I spotted a large buck standing with two does at the end of a treeline. I wasn't exactly sure how big the buck was, but I knew he was big enough to take a shot at.

I got out of the truck and entered a clearing through the trees. I took my first shot, but with my heart pounding, I missed him. The buck was startled by the shot and started to run off, but he wasn't sure where the noise had come from and ended up stopping broadside and just standing there. I was nervous and my adrenaline was pumping as I quickly took another shot. I made this one count, and watched through the scope as the buck dropped to the ground.



Here is the image that Bryan got on his trail camera. A sight like this could really increase your heartbeat.

At around 5:00 our search began. Upon approaching the big buck lying by a tree, I saw that he had thick beams and long points. This buck was none other than Muzzy! At the time I had pulled the trigger, I didn't realize who my target was. But now, I was so happy and excited, and couldn't believe I had just shot the buck of my dreams! He was definitely a dominant buck and a fighter, judging by his cut ear, broken brow-tine, and many scars.

I skinned out Muzzy, ensuring everything was done properly as I wanted to get a shoulder mount done of my deer of a lifetime. Dave Atamanchuk from Humboldt, Saskatchewan, did a super job of the mount and I am very happy with the result.

In the spring of 2011, I was invited to the Henry Kelsey Big Game Awards in Nipawin, where my amazing Saskatchewan whitetail took first place in the province for 2010 with a final net score of 191 3/8 typical points.

Shooting Muzzy has been an adventure of a lifetime for me. What an awesome experience, and one I hope to repeat! 🍖