



THE FLINT HILLS KING

Jon Massie of Randolph, Kansas, holds truly colossal whitetail sheds found in that state. They gross 255 non-typical points giving them a 17-inch inside spread. Big matching sheds like this are very rare, and these are some of the finest I've ever seen. Jon Massie owns Booners Guide and Outfitting, and he can be reached at 1-785-313-0981. Text by Garry Donald. Photos by Mike Charowhas.

BY MIKE CHAROWHAS

Back in the summer of 1996, a Kansas dove hunter went to retrieve a dove that he had shot. When he approached the area where the bird had landed, there lay a GIANT left shed with an amazing row of typical tines. When the surprised hunter picked it up, he knew he hadn't found just any antler! He desperately looked for the other side, but the task wasn't quite that easy, and the other side wasn't found, that is, until . . .

Later that year, while the hunter was trailing a wounded deer that he had shot, as fate would have it, he found the other side. The wounded deer had actually dropped a spot of blood on the antler. Picking the shed up, the hunter knew right away that it was the matching side. It truly amazes me how some of the biggest sheds in the world are picked up much of the time by accident. It makes me wonder if we true shed hunters try too hard, or is it just luck being in the right place at the right time.

I live for finding big sheds and can't seem to get enough of them. Each one is in a class of its own. They're kind of like people; we all have the same overall shape, but we come in different sizes and character. After 12 years of knowing about

these incredible sheds, I was finally able to add them to my Kansas collection.

Let me share some of the outstanding measurements with you. With a 17-inch spread, the typical 8x7 frame grosses around 215, and the total gross score is 255 non-typical points. One of my own personal measurements I like to take is from the tip of the G-2 to the end of the main beam. This lets me know how big the side profile is. On the left antler, this one measures a staggering two feet, which is the most I have ever measured on a whitetail deer. Replicas of this monster, along with the sheds on page 66 of the fall issue, are available at 1-785-263-5217. ❖



Bill (left) and Mike Longman with the great bull elk they took in northeastern Saskatchewan in September of 2007. One morning they heard a few shots and soon a herd of elk came charging by them. They spotted a 5x5 bull and both of them fired at the same time, and with two direct hits the bull was down for the count. Garry Donald photo.