

*Brent Saukarookoff of Kelowna, British Columbia, harvested this incredible whitetail in that province. British Columbia is famous for huge mule deer and elk, but over the years it has also produced some outstanding whitetails. You can now add another Boone and Crockett whitetail to the list, and this one is a real pleasure to look at.*

*Brent was hunting a property surrounded with grapevines, and I guess you could say what he found was sweeter than wine. The impressive antlers have excellent tine length and extra abnormal points everywhere. The 9x8 grosses 204 2/8 and nets 197 1/8 non-typical points.*

It all started when I helped my buddy's dad plant grapevines in his vineyard last summer. We planted 4,500 vines, and instead of being paid for my time, I asked if I could hunt their property for deer in the fall. He kindly gave me permission, which turned out to be the best pay I ever received!

I had always dreamed of hunting deer on this property as over the years I've seen many big bucks and numerous other deer come off the Crown land to feed on this large tract of land. They come down from the mountains to feed at night, and in the morning they head back up into the bush above the open land. The property runs far enough up that the deer remain unattainable unless you have the coveted permission, which in my case, I did!

I scouted the area a month before hunting season with my buddy Adam (his family's property). We saw lots of deer, including a huge buck he had told me about. This buck had split brows and was a 6x6 that I figured would score 170 to 180 – this thing was huge!

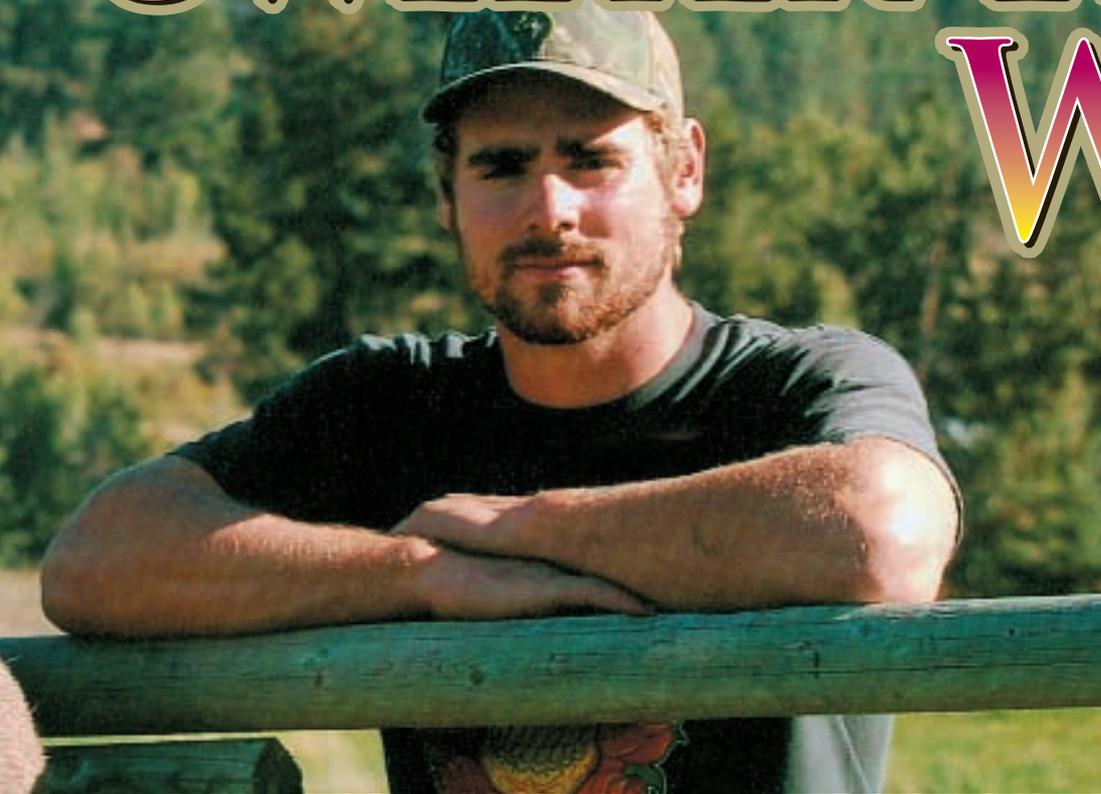


**BY BRENT SAUKAROOKOFF**

September 11 found me out at 6:00 a.m. We met at Adam's house and headed out. I saw 20 whitetail and 15 mule deer does with a spike buck. They ran into a nice 3x3 mule deer buck that stood 15 yards away as I crossed the hill. We jumped two big 4x4 mule deer bucks shortly after seeing the 3x3, but they were on the run and offered no shot. We decided to go back to where we had seen all the does and head up from there.

We soon spotted a small 4x4 whitetail about 130 yards down the bank, but opted not to take him. I went up to the top of the road and came back down, intending to take the 4x4 if he was still there. It's a good thing he wasn't, because out of the

# SWEETER THAN WINE



Brent's whitetail ranks fairly high in the non-typical section for British Columbia. It will be in the top 20 to 25 bucks ever taken in that category. Longest main beam on Brent's buck is  $25 \frac{3}{8}$  with the brow-tine running  $5 \frac{1}{8}$  inches. Best G-2 is  $11 \frac{3}{8}$ , G-3 is  $10 \frac{5}{8}$ , and G-4s are very good at  $7 \frac{4}{8}$  and  $9 \frac{1}{8}$  inches. After  $7 \frac{1}{8}$  inches of deductions, the grapevine buck nets  $161 \frac{4}{8}$  inches. Adding the impressive abnormal this buck grew, the final score is  $197 \frac{1}{8}$  non-typical points.





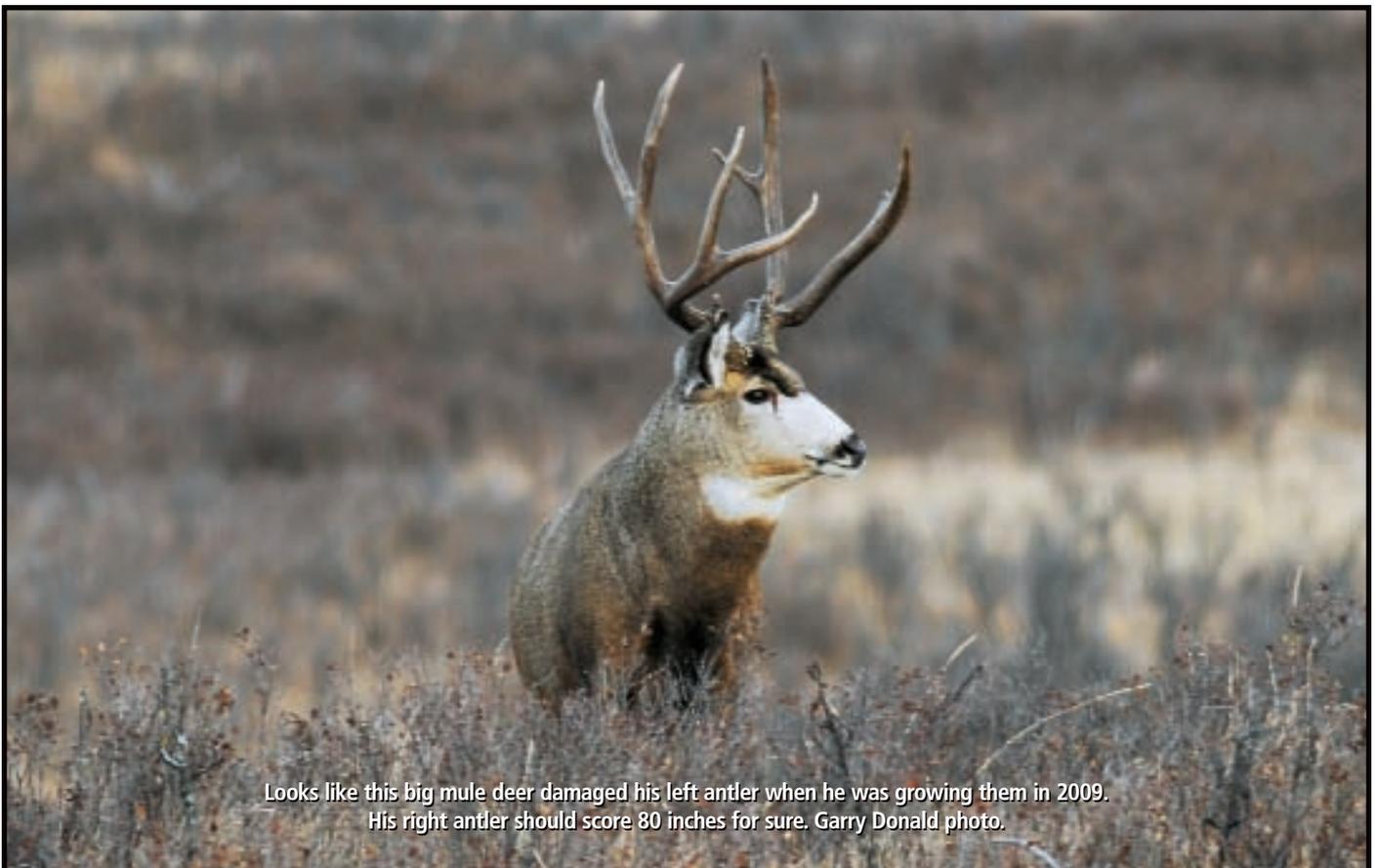
corner of my eye I saw a huge deer behind some brush. I got a bit further ahead of him and could see the split brow-tines! Knowing it was the big 6x6, was my heart ever pounding! He put his head down, and I took the shot.

After waiting a couple of minutes, we went down to where the buck had been standing when I shot. I looked up and there was a big 5x5 whitetail that he had been with, just standing there and looking at my deer running through the bush.

We followed the blood trail and caught up to my buck. He was something else! I couldn't believe the points and realized it wasn't a 6x6 but a 9x8 with triple brows on the left and double on the right. The bush was so thick that I hadn't been able to make out the non-typical points at first. I could see the huge frame, and when looking through the scope, I could also see the split brows. I quickly made the shot as he was ready to take off.

It was an unreal hunt seeing so many deer that morning, having the opportunity to take some nice deer, and then having the incredible luck of taking a buck bigger than the one I was hunting for. 🍖

**Another look at the trophy buck and the beautiful country where it lived.**



Looks like this big mule deer damaged his left antler when he was growing them in 2009. His right antler should score 80 inches for sure. Garry Donald photo.