

# The Duke

BY GARRY DONALD

During the 2008 hunting season, I photographed and took video footage of a few good mule deer bucks. One particular buck walked the same turf as another big buck called "Majestic the Second." This buck was run off by Majestic and I put the footage on my DVD *Where Legends Roam #2*. Bill Longman and I figured this was still a young buck that could be a real dandy in the future. I was pretty excited to find his sheds in April of 2009 lying only 30 yards apart. He net scored 194 non-typical points.

The winter proved to be a tough one in this area, and when the summer and fall of 2009 rolled around, I noticed that many of the mule deer bucks had receded in the antler department. When we found the buck we now called the "Duke," he didn't look like he had expanded too much on his headgear either. Still, he was impressive and now had a big flyer point on his right antler.

I saw the Duke many times in the fall of 2009 and got more video and photos of him. When Majestic the Second was poached by an individual after the hunting season, the Duke disappeared for three weeks and I feared he had been shot, too. Then I spotted him in a friend's pasture and was relieved that he had survived the poachers and earn-a-buck hunters.

In late April of 2010, I returned to where I had found his sheds the previous year. On a deer trail, a mere 25 yards from where I had found his sheds in 2009, was the Duke's left antler. For the next two weeks, I searched hard for the other side. Lack of success there prompted Bill and me to check another area over half a mile away. Unbelievably, Bill scooped up the right antler for me. The sheds now netted nearly 200 inches in the non-typical category. It will be interesting to see what he looks like this fall. 🍂



*Here is the mule deer we called the "Duke" in all his glory. As you can see by the photo above, he grew a neat flyer point off his right antler in 2009. Along with the many pictures I have of this trophy buck, I also have his sheds from 2008 and 2009. Garry Donald photo.*

Marie Kohler of Edmonton, Alberta, holds the sheds from the Duke that I found in the spring of 2009. They net 194 non-typical points. Garry Donald photo.



Marie Kohler with the Duke's sheds that were found in the spring of 2010. Notice the neat flyer point on the deer's right antler. The sheds net 199 2/8 non-typical points. The Duke has provided Garry Donald with a lot of entertainment in the last two years. Jeff Schlachter photo.

