



WORTH THE WAIT

BY LARRY WARANTZ

Ted Dooley and his granddaughter Kayla Dooley of Hartney, Manitoba, are all smiles after taking these impressive whitetail bucks in the 2010 rifle season. Ted's 7x6 buck grew long tines and big main beams and ranks high in the record book. Here are the numbers on this classy whitetail. Main beams are both over 25 inches with the longest brow-tine reaching 5 7/8. G-2s are both 10 6/8, and the longest G-3 is 12 5/8, G-4 goes 10 2/8, and G-5 is still good at 5 7/8 inches. Ted's buck grosses 193 7/8 and nets 186 6/8 typical points. Kayla was very happy for her grandfather, and then she ended up taking her first whitetail a few days later that nets 148 6/8 typical points. This was a wonderful experience for Ted and his granddaughter, and they will always remember this special moment. Taxidermy by Brad Minshull, Prairieland Taxidermy. Photo by Larry Warantz, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

Every so often you come across young hunters who put a lot of time and effort into this sport, come up empty-handed, and start to lose interest in it. This is not the case with Kayla Dooley of Hartney, Manitoba. While spending a wonderful afternoon with her and her grandparents, Ted and Darlene Dooley, I could tell from our conversations just how much she respected her grandfather and listened to his every word about

the art of hunting big whitetail deer. This is a story about two whitetail hunters who share a common interest and were both successful in their quest.

PART ONE:

Ted's hunt starts off with scouting prior to the rifle season. This gives him an idea where some of the big whitetails are roaming on his property. Ted has hunted on this property for

over 35 years and has hosted many other hunters from all over Canada for archery, rifle and black powder hunting for whitetail deer. Three years ago a pair of hunters from Quebec shot a 21-point buck locked together with another mature 5x6 whitetail. Many memories have been made during the 35+ years of hosting hunters on their property.

Ted recalls the day he shot one of his largest whitetails. It starts off early one morning with his brother, Henry, arriving from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and enjoying a hot breakfast and a couple cups of coffee before heading out. The two hunters part from home in anticipation that they will be successful in their quest. Ted usually knows where the big whitetails hide on his property.

For the first part of the morning, the two hunters chase a few bluffs but come up empty-handed. Around 10:00 a.m., they sit in the truck to plan another tactic that will hopefully produce a good buck. After a quick cup of coffee and half a sandwich, the pair is off to another bush. Ted decides to walk the first strip of the bush. This push takes about 10 or 15 minutes and again nothing comes out. Ted is about to head to the next bush, when Henry says he's getting a little cold so he wants to walk through it.

After Ted gets set up on the far side of the bush, 10 minutes pass and a large doe comes out. She stops and looks back. Sure enough, a heavy-bodied whitetail buck is following her at a good pace. Ted shoulders his .308-calibre Husqvarna with a 150-grain bullet chambered. Lowering the magnification to 3X on his Tasco 3x9x40mm rifle scope, the loud crack only puts the buck into high gear. A second round is chambered and Ted fires again. The buck is out about 90 yards, and the solid "thump" is heard by Ted, indicating a solid hit. After all the smoke clears, Ted knows the buck is his.

Ten minutes later, Henry comes into the opening and asks Ted how he did. Ted replies, "I got a good hit on him," and the two brothers walk over to where Ted figures the big whitetail fell. A few minutes later, Henry finds some blood and it isn't long before they are looking at a trophy-class whitetail deer with a high, even rack.

They enjoy the moment as Henry congratulates his brother and offers to field dress Ted's buck. Ted thinks this is a great idea!

When the pair of happy hunters drives up into the yard, they are greeted by some of the hunters from Manitoba and Ontario who are staying in one of Ted's cabins. Some photos



Kayla shows us the giant typical whitetail that her grandfather took in 2010. Just look at the length of the G-2s, G-3s, and G-4s. The province of Manitoba keeps on producing amazing whitetails. The fall of 2012 will be the first year that hunters will only be able to take one deer. Prior to that, they could harvest one with archery, one with muzzleloader, and another with rifle. Looks like hunters there will start seeing more trophy bucks with that new policy. Larry Warantz photo.

are taken and the celebration begins. The guests want to know every detail of how Ted got his magnificent whitetail.

The next day Kayla comes over to her grandfather's place to see his big whitetail. She is so happy for him. Kayla will be going out hunting in a few days, and seeing the big deer gives her the determination to hold out for a good buck.

PART TWO:

Kayla's grandfather is a big influence in her life. The plan

on this hunt is for Kayla to be set up in an old abandoned cabin overlooking an alfalfa field. Kayla is using Ted's .308-calibre Husqvarna rifle. Target practice throughout the fall has Kayla feeling confident in her weapon of choice.

Kayla no sooner gets settled in when she catches a glimpse of an animal moving through the woods. Within five minutes, the large-bodied whitetail emerges from the cover, and Kayla's heart skips a beat. She remembers all the long talks with her grandfather about waiting for the right shot and waiting for the "buck of a lifetime." She knows now it has been "worth the wait" as she carefully watches the big whitetail come even closer. When the buck stops to check the wind only 75 yards away, Kayla knows in her heart this is the one. She carefully places the crosshairs just behind his shoulder and slowly squeezes the trigger. The loud crack scares the heck out of her! She hears the loud "whack" and watches her trophy drop to the ground.

Soon, Grandpa arrives on the scene. "Grandpa, I got a good buck!"

The two hunters walk over to where Kayla's trophy lies. "This is a good buck!" Grandpa says. The 5x5 later net scores



In this photo, Kayla's grandmother, Darlene, gets into the action. I think it's so wonderful when young teens spend quality time with their grandparents. These moments will be cherished and remembered forever. Text and photo by Larry Warantz.

148 6/8 inches, not too bad for a first deer!

AUTHOR'S NOTE: A special thanks to Prairieland Taxidermy for doing a great job on Ted's "Manitoba Monster."