Hunting for venison in Illinois brings rewards beyond the table: in a state legendary for monster whitetails, deer hunters also strive for bragging rights.

Big Buc

Since 1956, when the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Illinois Natural History Survey began conducting surveys of Illinois hunters, trappers and residents, many things have been learned about what white-tailed deer mean to the people of Illinois.

We know residents enjoy watching Illinois' state animal and largest mammal near their homes, in rural areas and in state parks. Hunters enjoy the pursuit of white-tailed deer and the sustenance their meat provides to family and friends. Information like this, gathered through user-group surveys, allows state biologists to account for the expectations Illinoisans have to observe, hunt and interact with deer when herd management decisions are made.

Whereas most deer hunters cite their desire to spend time outdoors as motivation for hunting deer in Illinois, many hunters also report hunting deer to provide meat for their families and to socialize with their family and friends. A considerable number of Illinois deer hunters are motivated by the chance to harvest a trophy buck, and this issue of *Outdoor*-Illinois provides the chance to recognize hunters who fulfilled that dream. Congratulations to everyone who got out there to enjoy Illinois's natural resources last fall, and especially to the following hunters who submitted records to the Big Buck Recognition Program in 2006.

The Big Buck Recognition Program honors deer hunters annually. Qualifying deer taken by firearm and archery hunters are scored by certified measurers after 60 days of drying, with standards set by the Boone and Crockett Club. To qualify, deer taken by firearm must have a minimum score of 140 for a typical rack and 160 for a non-typical rack. For archery and crossbow hunters, the minimum score is 115 for typical and 130 for non-typical antlers. For a list of measurers, visit www.dnr.state.il.us/events or call (217) 785-5091 for more information about the Big Buck Recognition Program.

The following records are for deer submitted during 2006.

White-tailed deer provide hunters and wildlife watchers opportunities to spend quality time outdoors.

Submitted by Allen and Jarrod Albers, the highest-ranking buck in the 2006 firearm typical category scored 192 7/8 points.

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Firearm Typical

Allen & Jarrod Albers	192 7/8	1991	Williamson
J.C. Linson	180 4/8	2004	Wabash
Dennis Swinford	175 7/8	2004	Mercer
Marc Anthony	175 0/8	1995	Schuyler
Martin Vrstal	171 6/8	2005	Jo Daviess
Jerry McVaigh	171 0/8	2005	Edwards
Lee Pulliam	170 2/8	2005	Sangamon
Clinton Warren	168 7/8	1997	Stark
Tom Hill	168 0/8	2005	Macoupin
Robert Simpson	167 0/8	2005	Clay
Scott Carr	166 5/8	2004	Franklin
J.L. Hargis	166 1/8	2001	Randolph
William Ragland	166 1/8	2005	Christian
Jim Watson	164 2/8	2003	Bureau
Gary Johnson	163 7/8	2004	Pike
Casey Brunenn	160 5/8	2003	Adams
Richard Heiken	160 3/8	2004	Woodford
Loren Holland	160 3/8	2005	Clay
Daniel Hyett	159 6/8	2005	Mercer
Nicholas Koch	159 5/8	2005	McLean
Clay Curten	159 4/8	2005	Randolph
Matt Krull	158 7/8	1994	Grundy
James Isles	158 1/8	2004	Wayne
David Lillie	158 0/8	2001	Knox
Bob Cook	157 4/8	2004	Knox
Doug Hettinger	157 4/8	2005	Iroquois
Joe Flanigan	157 2/8	2005	Moultrie
Judah Howell	156 6/8	2006	Logan
Ryan Lewis	156 3/8	2005	Peoria
Zach Waibel	156 2/8	2000	Menard
Floyd Barbee	155 7/8	2005	Richland
Scott Spray	155 7/8	2005	Livingston
Justin Fowler	155 6/8	2004	Henry
Ron Ballard	155 2/8	2004	Fulton
John Ranken	154 4/8	2005	Lee
Cassy Hasara	154 2/8	2005	Macoupin
Scott Lewis	154 2/8	2003	Williamson
Patrick Rotramel	154 1/8	2004	Edwards
Robert DeHaven	153 6/8	2003	Peoria
Kyle Fuess	153 3/8	2004	Sangamon
Coady Miller	153 3/8	2005	Shelby
Jonathan Hoffman	153 2/8	2005	Edgar
Gary Fryrear	152 6/8	2005	Henderson
Craig Hoffman	152 4/8	2000	Will
Dale Van Etten	152 2/8	2005	Menard
Jim Watson	151 6/8	2001	Bureau
Justin Simpson	151 4/8	2005	Randolph
Tom Bryant	151 3/8	1999	Logan
Jeffrey Cowan	151 3/8	2005	Logan
Charles Graham	151 3/8	2005	McLean
Tony Pressor	151 1/8	2005	Richland
Dan Ferris	150 5/8	2005	Iroquois
Shawn Wilken	150 5/8	2004	Menard
Allie Lymenstull	150 3/8	1957	Adams
Kerry Kehrer	150 1/8	2005	Hamilton
Douglas W. Musser	150 0/8	2005	Kendall
Dave Parker	149 2/8	2005	Rock Island
Derek Tipsword	149 1/8	2005	Knox
Harvey Leighton	148 6/8	2004	Jo Daviess
Thomas Rilea	148 6/8	2006	Pike
Adam Gutshall	148 5/8	2004	Peoria
Chris Nichols	148 5/8	2004	Randolph
Zachary Wood	148 5/8	2005	Montgomery
Barry Wetzler	148 3/8	2001	Monroe
Tyson McDeniel	147 2/8	1991	Pike
Roger Kimmel	146 7/8	2005	Wayne
Steve Kuhlig	146 2/8	2005	Richland
Steve Pingsterhaus	146 1/8	2005	Marion
William Salvatore	146 0/8	2005	Union
Tom Headrick	145 7/8	2002	Saline
David Herbolshemier	145 7/8	2004	Bureau
Cody King	145 6/8	2005	Cass
Kyle Malen	145 6/8	2005	McLean
Leo Novacek	145 6/8	2005	Adams
David DeWolfe	145 4/8	2005	Stark
Devin Stowe	145 3/8	2004	Knox
Larry Brumm	145 2/8	2002	Menard
Mark Conour	145 2/8	2004	Macoupin
Blake Hall	145 1/8	2004	Jefferson

Using his great-grandfather's 16-gauge Browning shotgun, Daniel Larson harvested a Bureau County non-typical buck scoring 218 4/8 points.

Matt Wallbring	145 1/8	2004	Adams
H. David Bullard	145 0/8	2004	Wayne
Bruce Simpson	144 6/8	1995	Whiteside
Darrell Keller	144 5/8	2005	Champaign
Charles Foht	144 3/8	2005	Jo Daviess
Benjamin Golden Jr.	144 3/8	2005	Clay
Patrick Hunt	144 2/8	2005	Macon
Robert Twente	144 0/8	2005	Pulaski
Larry Devolder	143 7/8	2004	Knox
John Halley	143 7/8	2004	Vermilion
Darren Murphy	143 7/8	2005	Alexander
Ken Sharp	143 7/8	2005	McLean
James Stout	143 6/8	2005	Carroll
Josh Roop	143 3/8	1990	McLean
Martin Williams	143 3/8	2004	McLean
Charles Gilmore	142 3/8	1990	Mason
Scott Leveling	142 3/8	1999	Pope
Lyle Gilbreth	142 1/8	2000	Jefferson
Michael Clendenny	142 0/8	2005	Pike
Chris Korando	142 0/8	2005	Jackson
Steve Sarti	142 0/8	2005	Macoupin
Daniel Ducey	141 6/8	2005	Montgomery
Jeff Potter Jr.	141 6/8	2004	Livingston
Carl Smithpeters	141 4/8	2005	Cumberland
Shawn Issacs	141 1/8	2005	Franklin
John D. Grosboll	140 7/8	2005	Menard
Richard McDonald	140 7/8	2004	Brown
Terry Paul	140 7/8	2004	Bond
Dean Schwengel	140 7/8	2005	Adams
Geremy Trumpy	140 6/8	2004	Ogle
David Nelson	140 5/8	2005	Knox
Robert Crowe	140 1/8	2005	Champaign
Dean Gross	140 1/8	2004	Randolph
Carl Harvey	140 1/8	2004	Mason
David Lillie	140 1/8	2005	Knox
Athel Patterson	140 1/8	2005	Winnebago

Firearm Non-Typical

Daniel Larson	218 4/8	2005	Bureau
Troy Dickens	202 3/8	2003	Lawrence
Phillip Carrico	202 0/8	2005	Washington
Mark Hopkins	200 4/8	2005	Morgan
Aaron Stach	192 2/8	2005	Henry
Lee Wollenberg	190 4/8	2005	Will
Robert DuFrenne	189 7/8	2005	Randolph
Scott Silverthorn	187 7/8	2005	Crawford
Michael Tyler	185 1/8	2005	Adams
Neil Cushman	183 1/8	2005	Gallatin
Larry Derringer	183 0/8	2004	Randolph
Cary Scott	180 1/8	2005	Warren
Jerry Wilson	176 5/8	1991	Alexander
Brody Prater	172 7/8	2005	Vermilion
Scott Stanton	170 0/8	2005	Christian
Nick Pierson	166 2/8	2005	Macoupin
John Massey	163 6/8	2005	Piatt
James Elftmann	162 7/8	2003	Coles
Tyler Donsbach	162 3/8	2005	Richland
Drew Lohman	161 5/8	2003	Washington
Greg Beuligmann	161 0/8	2003	Edwards
Don Kincheloe	161 0/8	2005	Saline
Stephen Uhrina	160 7/8	2005	Cook
Alexander Zabuski Jr.	160 6/8	2005	Sangamon
Steve Geiler	160 1/8	2005	Perry

Archery Typical

Derek Burns	176 0/8	2005	Jefferson
Kerry Huff	173 3/8	2005	Macoupin
Joe Beach Jr.	172 0/8	2002	Tazewell
Terry Setterlund	170 4/8	2005	Peoria
Adam Mellen	164 7/8	2005	Marshall
Dennis L. Griswold	158 4/8	2005	Livingston
Jeff Weller	157 5/8	2005	McDonough
James Arco	156 7/8	2005	Winnebago

At 202 0/8 points, Phillip Carrico's Washington County buck was the third largest non-typical buck submitted in 2006.

Todd Hogan	156 5/8	2005	Marion
Rod Minor	156 3/8	2005	Menard
Michael Kauffman	156 0/8	2005	Cumberland
Doug Vines	156 0/8	2005	Cook
Rick Richno	155 2/8	2005	Sangamon
Norman Eggleston	154 2/8	2005	LaSalle
Alan Pierson	154 0/8	2004	LaSalle
Steve Nelson	152 0/8	2004	Kankakee
Kevin Reiter	151 5/8	1989	Adams
Jim Jackson	151 3/8	2005	Ogle
Duane N. Eby	151 0/8	2005	Champaign
Kirk Redenius	149 2/8	2004	Iroquois
Marc Brumbly	148 1/8	2002	Ogle
Brandon Williams	147 7/8	2005	Richland
Johnnie Richardson	147 6/8	2005	Piatt
Mike Angel	146 4/8	2005	Rock Island
Darren Wiggs	146 3/8	2003	Williamson
Dave Irvin Jr.	146 1/8	2005	Livingston
Allan Simons	145 4/8	2004	LaSalle
John Heinlen	145 1/8	2005	McLean
Tim Haut	144 6/8	2005	Kankakee
Kevin Boyer	144 4/8	2005	Clark
Gordon Gabelmann	144 4/8	1997	Lee
Brian Crockett	143 2/8	2005	Edgar
Jerry Wilson	143 0/8	2003	Macon
Ben LeCroy	142 6/8	2006	White
Ryan Culvey	142 4/8	2005	Boone
Eric Seidler	142 2/8	2005	Monroe
Billy Newman	141 3/8	2005	White
Gregory A. Bowers	140 7/8	2004	Bureau
E. Virginia Ernst	140 6/8	2005	Clark
Gary Brown	140 3/8	2005	Greene
Marc Anthony	140 0/8	1996	Schuyler

Earl Immormino harvested this 201 1/8 buck in Grundy County to earn top place in the non-typical archery category.

Marc Anthony	139 4/8	2005	Woodford
Kevin Reiter	139 2/8	2001	Adams
Brandon Jones	139 0/8	2005	Washington
Carl Komora	138 3/8	2005	Washington
Austin Ridgely	137 2/8	2005	Richland
Jack Toms Jr.	136 3/8	2004	Vermilion
Gordon Gabelmann	136 1/8	2005	Lee
John Brown	135 3/8	2005	Randolph
Mark Kezler	135 3/8	2002	Clark
Eldon Broster	134 5/8	2005	Logan
Mike Angel	134 3/8	2005	Henry
Kevin Couch	134 3/8	2003	LaSalle
Jeremy Stevens	134 3/8	2005	Knox
Donald Johnson	134 0/8	2004	St. Clair
Allan Simons	133 7/8	2005	LaSalle
Jeff Peterson	133 5/8	2005	Winnebago
Mike Remsburger	133 0/8	2005	Pope
Jeffrey Oscepinski	132 6/8	2005	LaSalle
Melvin Linder	132 5/8	2003	Adams
Jason Rushing	132 5/8	2003	Jackson
Mike Lamb	132 2/8	2005	Richland
Jerry Dunn	131 6/8	2005	Lawerence
Cliff Elwell	131 4/8	2005	Peoria
Eric Nuttall	130 6/8	2005	Richland
Brian Huston	129 5/8	2004	Schuyler
Jerry McVaigh	129 0/8	2005	Richland
Mark Swanson	128 4/8	2003	DeKalb
Doug French	128 1/8	1997	Hamilton
Don Westerhold	128 0/8	2005	LaSalle
Marty Quest	127 7/8	1993	Lee
Marvin Longnecker	126 3/8	1994	Winnebago
Jeff Toms	126 1/8	2003	Vermilion
Steven Helms	126 0/8	2004	Alexander
Marvin Longnecker	125 3/8	2000	Ogle
Brandon Williams	125 3/8	2005	Richland
Thomas Peterson	124 3/8	2005	Fulton
Robert F. Keith	124 2/8	2005	McLean
Dustin Molitoris	123 7/8	2003	Dewitt
Barry Wetzler	123 4/8	2002	Monroe
Ron Brandel	122 7/8	2004	Woodford
Bob Dowdy	122 3/8	2005	Crawford
Mike Waller	122 1/8	2005	Clark
Bruce Thompson	122 0/8	2005	Hamilton
Tom Oquendo	121 5/8	2005	LaSalle
Gregory A. Bowers	121 2/8	2006	Bureau
Randall Ballard	120 6/8	2005	Mason
Roger Woodcock	120 1/8	2005	Champaign
Daniel Renner	119 3/8	2005	St. Clair
Owen Enke	118 7/8	2004	Jo Daviess
Melvin Linder	118 5/8	2005	Adams
Rocco Gibala	117 6/8	2005	Brown
Scott Spray	117 6/8	2006	Livingston
Alan Stout	117 4/8	2005	Brown
Verl Tryor	115 5/8	2005	Coles
Robert Twente	115 5/8	2005	Pulaski
Mike Lamb	115 4/8	2005	Richland

Archery Non-Typical

Earl Immormino	201 1/8	2005	Grundy
Gary Blanco	182 7/8	2005	LaSalle
David Gibbons	179 6/8	2005	Kane
Steven Malatia	179 3/8	2004	Marshall
Jerry Golgin	178 7/8	2005	Bureau
Francis Kelley	175 7/8	2004	LaSalle
Tony Smith	174 4/8	2005	Carroll
Clayton Wehmhoefer	172 6/8	2005	Ogle
Keith Craig	170 2/8	2005	Richland
Marc Sheffer	169 0/8	2005	Alexander
Jim Koniak	166 6/8	2005	Macoupin
Kurt Vanderostyne	166 4/8	2004	Knox
Kurt Vanderostyne	161 6/8	2005	Knox
Gordon Gabelmann	161 3/8	2005	Lee
Melvin Linder, II	142 0/8	2002	Adams
Windell Milner	140 3/8	2005	Menard
Warren Fehrenz	136 5/8	2005	Randolph
Nicolas Huber	135 3/8	2005	Peoria
Reece Ellerbusch	133 3/8	2005	Massac

Crossbow

Ronald Hall	155 4/8	2005	Madison
Dana Hyson	152 5/8	2000	LaSalle
Kent Satterlee	144 1/8	2000	Montgomery
James Werner	138 3/8	2005	Henderson
Timothy Mayer	128 7/8	2005	Champaign
Jeff Ellis	125 2/8	2001	Woodford
Michael Wilson	124 0/8	2005	Warren

Unique brow tines and a score of 179 6/8 garnered a place in the top three in the archery category for the buck harvested by David Gibbons.