

A Sweet November Surprise

The Dusty Gerrits Buck

By Zachary Randall

It was the cool, crisp morning of November 6, 2012. There was a front coming through, and all the animals that call Fond du Lac County home were on their feet. So was thirty-year hunting veteran Dusty Gerrits from Waupun, Wisconsin. Gerrits knew that animals would be active because of a cold front approaching, which would make for a great day of hunting. Gerrits was in the woods for one reason; he was after a ten-point buck named Tiny, who was anything but. This buck had been on Gerrits' and his hunting buddy's hit list this season as his hunting gang had several trail cam photos, and a lot of history with this dandy buck on their 180-acre parcel of managed land.

He arrived at his stand site, set his bow down and started his ascent. As he reached the top, he started every hunter's routine, strapping in, checking the wind, and pulling up his bow. After Gerrits was prepared for the hunt, he sat down silently in the cool, dark and beautiful November morning. He sat as an outsider, listening to the birds chirp in the trees above and to the sound of two squirrels chasing each other up and down trees. He knew that if he made a noise, all of this natural beauty would disappear, so he sat, without making a noise, without moving.

The sun began to rise, slowly lifting the frost that crusted the leaves. Gerrits watched as a small eight-pointer approached his stand. The buck came to an active scrape near his stand, and began to work it. Carefully scanning the area, Gerrits caught movement from the south. After being assured that he would not get busted by the young deer at the scrape, he began to get ready. As the buck got closer, Gerrits convinced himself that the tall-racked buck was Tiny, as he had been photographed at the scrape the prior morning.

The buck slowly and meticulously walked through the woods, as he was in sync with the wind blowing through the trees. Gerrits' heart was racing as he slowly stood up and grabbed his bow.



With his eyes locked on the approaching buck Gerrits realized that it was not Tiny, and to his pleasant surprise, it was a lot bigger. The buck circled the eight-pointer once, and the young deer surrendered to the majestic buck, which was still in the brush, preventing Gerrits from getting a shot off.

The buck turned as if to walk away. For a second, Gerrits was worried. Hundreds of "what-ifs" ran through his mind. The buck turned again, easing Gerrits' mind. Gerrits silently drew back his bow and calmed himself for the shot. The buck stepped out from behind the bushes at approximately twenty-two yards. Gerrits took aim and released. The arrow sliced through the early November air. With a few leaps, the buck disappeared, back into the beautiful forest from which the massive buck came.

With his heart pumping with adrenaline, Gerrits found the patience to wait an hour before recovering the deer. The track job was easy and Gerrits found the buck, which he now calls Big Surprise, a mere seventy-five yards from where he shot it. Words could not describe Gerrits' feelings as he looked at the massive buck lying before him.

After the sixty-day drying period, Gerrits' buck was panel scored by Wisconsin Buck and Bear Club members at 189-7/8. This beat the previous state record set by Brian Inda in 2011 by 2-2/8 inches.

Wisconsin Buck & Bear Club

Method of Harvest (check one)

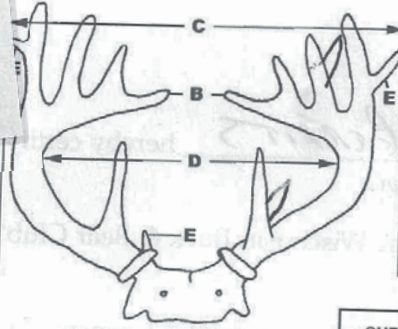
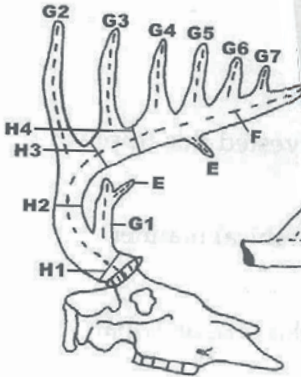
- Archery Firearm
 Special Permit Non-hunting

Gerrits Buck

Typical Whitetail Deer

Minimum Entry Scores

Archery & Handicap 125
 Firearm & Non-hunting 150

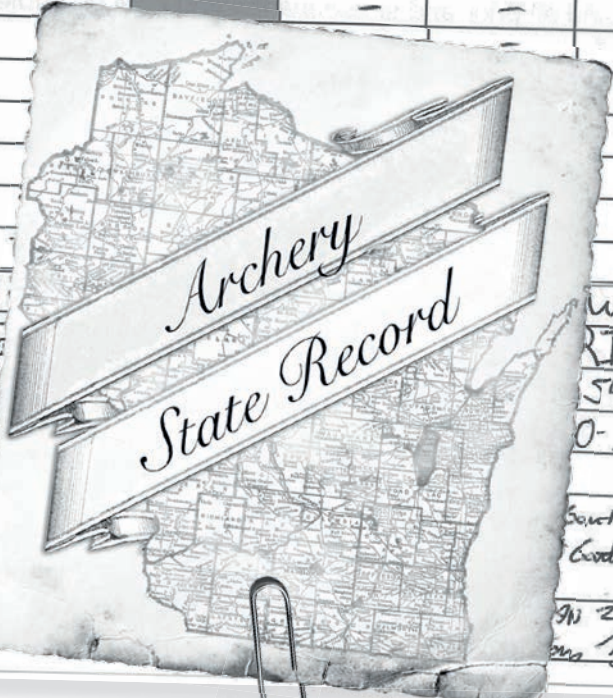


Abnormal Points	
Right Antler	Left Antler
1 5/8	-
2 0/8	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

SUBTOTALS	3 5/8
TOTAL TO E	3 5/8

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF SHEET

		COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 4		
A. No. Points on Right Antler	8	No. Points on Left Antler	6	Spread Credit	Right Antler	Left Antler	Difference
B. Tip to Tip Spread	12 9/8	C. Greatest Spread	24 3/8				
D. Inside Spread of Main Beams	20 3/8	Spread Credit-May Not Exceed Longer Antler		20 3/8			
E. Total Lengths of Abnormal Points							3 5/8
F. Length of Main Beam							1/8
G-1. Length of First Point				27 5/8	27 1/8		-
G-2. Length of Second Point				6 2/8	6 2/8		1 1/8
G-3. Length of Third Point				8 1/8	9 1/8		7/8
G-4. Length of Fourth Point, if Present				12 1/8	11 3/8		3/8
G-5. Length of Fifth Point, if Present				8 7/8	9 2/8		2/8
G-6. Length of Sixth Point, if Present				4 4/8	4 6/8		-
G-7. Length of Seventh Point, if Present				-	-		-
H-1. Circumference at Smallest Place Between Burr and First Point							2/8
H-2. Circumference at Smallest Place Between First Point and Second Points							1/8
H-3. Circumference at Smallest Place Between Second and Third Points							-
H-4. Circumference at Smallest Place Between Third and Fourth Points							-
ADD	Column 1	20 3/8	County: Fond du Lac	Column 2	87 7/8	Date Killed: 11-06-13	7 7/8 6 5/8
	Column 2	87 7/8	Date Killed: 11-06-13	Column 3	88 3/8	Hunter's Address: N	WI
	Column 3	88 3/8	Hunter's Address: N	Subtotal	196 4/8	Email: DOSTYG	RITS
	Subtotal	196 4/8	Email: DOSTYG	SUBTRACT	Column 4	6 5/8 7 7/8	54963
	SUBTRACT	Column 4	6 5/8 7 7/8	Owner & Owner's Add			0-3504
FINAL SCORE	189 7/8	Remarks:					Southier JR. Cootner JR.



Date: 01/06/2013 Official Measurer