## The Inda Buck

## By Zachary Randall

Information provided by Brian Inda and Craig Carpenter.

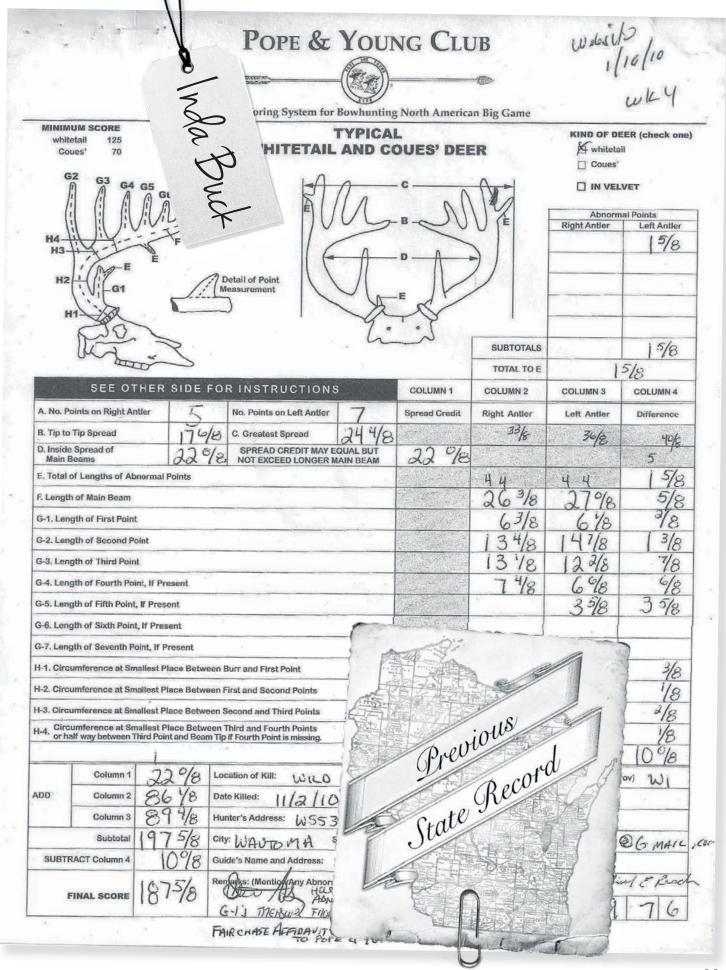


Brian Inda and Craig Carpenter, self employed carpenters from the Wautoma area, had heard a rumor about a big buck just southwest of Wild Rose in Waushara County in the fall of 2009. The following spring of 2010, permission was received to shed hunt in the vicinity of where the big buck had been seen over the last few years. The massive sheds from the buck were found within the first 45 minutes of searching by Chris Inda, Brian's brother.

Later that summer they brought the sheds to DeerFest in Oshkosh, where I first got the opportunity to view the sheds in person. The impressive sheds were scored by an official W.B.B.C. measurer, and with an estimated spread of 21 inches, would push the deer to the 190-inch Typical mark. Brian and Craig realized then that if the deer remained the same or exceeded that year's growth, he would be a new state record contender.

Unfortunately, the land that the sheds were found on was already being leased out for hunting as well as the surrounding properties. As fate would have it, they were working on a remodeling job for a guy near Wild Rose, who was in charge of caring for and leasing a lot of the old Christmas tree land in Waushara and surrounding counties. One day he told Brian and Craig that he had just gotten a call from some guys that had decided not to renew a lease with him. They asked where the property was located: he told them just west of Wild Rose. They knew immediately that the property was just a quarter-mile away from where the giant sheds had been found. They asked him, if they could lease the land from him and after a few days he responded with a "yes".

Now with a long-term lease signed, they immediately scouted the new property, put trail cameras out and hung stands in preparation of the archery season that



was opening in only three weeks. Being an abandoned Christmas tree farm it was a very difficult piece of property to hunt. It is a 119-acre parcel with less than 20 acres of woods to hang stands. Going into opening day of the 2010 archery season they had not seen or gotten any pictures of the big buck, but they had heard rumors that he was still in the area. Six weeks into the season they still had not seen or gotten pictures of the brute until October 30. Earlier that week a strong wind storm forced them out of the hunting woods for a few days. On Saturday, October 30, they headed out to the lease to check on a ground blind that they feared might not have held up too well in the storm. Sure enough when they got to the spot where they left the blind, it was gone. Over the short amount of time that they had the lease, they noticed that the deer were often bedding in the tall grass among the Christmas trees that had not been harvested, and when you drove a vehicle past them they didn't seem to spook like they would if you walked past them. Brian and Craig decided to drive slowly through the grass and trees to see if they could spot their ground blind. As they were coming up over a small crest in the field, the giant buck got up 50 yards in front of the truck and ran off. Craig said, "It was very exciting to see the monster on our lease but at the same time it was unnerving to see him spooked out in that manner."

The next few days the winds were wrong for all of the stands. Then came the afternoon of November 2; Craig and Brian were working together five miles from the lease and the afternoon winds were southeast, perfect for both their setups. They cut out of work a few hours early and headed to their lease. Brian had asked Craig which stand he wanted to sit in, and they decided that they were both comfortable with the stands they had been in the past few sits. They wished each other good luck and joked that if one of them was lucky enough to shoot this buck they would let out a howl and throw their bow out of the stand.

They headed out and were both settled into their stands by 4:15 pm. The first hour passed by with no deer sighted by either of them. To pass the time they would text each other to see what's going on from one end of the property to the other. At 5:15 pm, Brian thought he heard a deer walking in the leaves just south of his stand. He pulled out his grunt tube and gave a few calls. A few minutes passed, but he didn't see or hear anything. He was scanning the area when he saw the monster buck emerge from the tall grass and evergreens about 60 yards in front of him.

Brian and Craig had made a mock scrape 30 yards in front of Brian's stand on the day they were looking for the ground blind. The buck went straight for it. He had his ears back posturing as he tore the scrape open and worked the overhanging branches. He left



the scrape and took a trail back into the woods that led 15 yards past Brian's stand. As the giant buck stepped into an opening, Brian put the sight pin on his vitals and touched off his arrow. He was confident that he had made an ethical shot. The buck spun to his left and ran to the east, back into the bedding area that they had nicknamed, "The Sanctuary." In the eight weeks they had the lease Brian and Craig had never gone into that area. Brian believed that he heard the buck go down just out of his sight. After a long two-hour wait they headed in to trail the big buck; after five minutes and a seventy yard trailing job, the monster buck was recovered.

Wisconsin had a new state record archery typical, the Inda Buck. The Inda Buck was officially panel measured by the Wisconsin Buck and Bear Club on January 15, in Berlin, Wisconsin. It scored 187-5/8 inches. The deer had a typical 12-point rack with five points on the right antler and seven on the left. The longest tine on the rack was the left G2, which was 14-7/8 inches in length. It had an inside spread of 22 inches, with the main beams measuring 26-3/8 inches on the right antler and 27-0/8 inches on the left. The rack had a typical gross score of 197-5/8 inches. The deer was estimated to be a 7-½-year-old. The Inda Buck held the archery typical state record in Wisconsin from January 15, 2011, until January 6, 2013, when beaten out by 2-2/8 inches by the Dusty Gerrits Buck of Fond du Lac.

"What an awesome blessing to be able to harvest a record book buck like this, and to be able to share it with my family and friends is priceless. So many things had to fall into place for this to ever happen. It just makes my love for my family, friends and the outdoors even stronger," Brian Inda said.