



Colby Fox (age 9) 8 point buck – Shot in Tinmouth Vt

My name is Colby Fox. I am 9 years old. I got my hunting license April 2011 and I was a very lucky hunter this year. I got a turkey and two deer.

This spring with beginners luck and my dad's calling and my uncle's guidance I was able to bag a 20.7 pound tom turkey with an 8 inch beard. I loved hearing the turkeys gobble and watching them strut. I couldn't believe I actually hit him when I shot.

My dad said if I earned good grades in school I could get a new gun. I did and couldn't wait to take my new 7mm08 hunting. I was really looking forward to my first Vermont youth day hunt. Sometimes it is hard to find a place to hunt. A lot of land is posted. My dad asked one landowner if we could hunt on his land and he said no. I was upset because my dad has hunted there before and shot deer but my dad said we had to respect his decision and go somewhere else. I am lucky because my dad's friend and my uncle both have land that I could hunt on. My dad made me ask my uncle if we could hunt there and of course he said yes. We also have some land across from our house that I can hunt on, this is where I got my big buck.

The first day of youth weekend we woke up at 5:00 and went up across from our house. We didn't see any deer but my dad said we would have better luck that afternoon. So that afternoon we went to a friend's farm where I saw a lot of doe but wanted a chance at a buck so I didn't try to shoot any of them. Around 4:30 I saw my first buck and I was able to bag him. He was a 107 pound spike horn. My dad's friend came up and picked up the deer with his 4 wheeler. Later that night we had a huge dinner celebrating my first buck.

During the 16 days of the fire arm season I hunted with my dad every time he went. Every time we went hunting he would teach me something. I learned how to track deer, what buck rubbing and scrapping looked like, and how to walk quietly in the woods. My dad also made sure we were as safe as we could be by wearing orange, keeping the gun barrel pointed in a safe direction at all times, and always keeping the safety on until we were ready to shoot.

My dad got a 7 point 160 pound buck the first weekend but he still took me hunting very chance we had. Over the thanksgiving break we also hunted with my uncles and my grandpa. I liked hunting with my family and I liked listening to what everyone saw during the day.

On the last Saturday of the season my dad and I were in our blind. Around 11:00 I saw a deer coming. I told my dad I see a deer and it's a buck. The buck saw us but gave me a shot at his neck when he stopped to look at our blind. My dad said "take the shot when you're ready". I made the 40 yard shot and he dropped in his tracks. My second Vermont buck was a 158lb 8 pointer. My dad and I celebrated for a long time and took lots of pictures. I don't think that I will ever forget this year.

Deer hunting is important to me because I have watched my dad, his friends and my family deer hunt since I was little. Everyone would always get so excited for the first day. Even my mom who doesn't hunt would get excited and make sure she bought plenty of snacks for my dad and grandpa to bring into the woods to eat. When someone got a deer they would always call and let us know and we would go and see it. I like doing this because they always told the story of how they got the deer and I liked hearing all about it.

I would always run to see my dad when he got home from hunting on the days I didn't go to see if he got anything. Dad would sometimes have a deer or turkey but most of the time he wouldn't. I asked him why he didn't get anything he would say it's not all about getting something it's about having fun and enjoying the woods. I love to walk to in the woods and seeing the different tracks and finding animals so I guess that's why I also like hunting.



Colby Fox (Age 9) first deer on youth weekend – Shot in East Wallingford Vermont

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