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March 24, 2008

BuckTracker: Tribute to a Trophy

I've decided to devote extra blog spots to Iowa deer hunting, simply because there are too many great stories coming from the Hawkeye State to ignore. The latest fell in my lap when I was at the '08 Iowa Deer Classic and ran into wildlife artist Larry Zach. I'd interviewed Larry several times over the phone, but this was our first personal meeting. He is wonderful guy; talented painter, devout bowhunter, and dedicated conservationist.



Anyway, Larry was displaying his latest project at his Deer Classic booth; a painting of the Brian Andrews buck. Trophy nuts will recall the Andrews whitetail, a monstrous nontypical shot by the then-16-year-old Brian in the fall of 2003. The 26-point buck had a B&C score of 253-1/8" and became the new state record bow-killed nontypical. Heady stuff for anyone, but nearly unbelievable for a teenager!

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100 Top Public Lands

Field & Stream reporter Steven Hill spent two months interviewing state game agency officials, deer biologists, and whitetail experts to identify the absolute best public whitetail hunting grounds in the nation.

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Unfortunately, barely six months after experiencing whitetailing as good as it gets, Brian experienced crushing disappointment. On June 19, 2004, thieves entered the Andrews home and stole his trophy mount. The taxidermy has never been recovered. Fortunately, antler artist Tom Sexton was able to construct a nearly-perfect replica of the rack, and this year, Zach completed a painting of the deer in a natural setting. I've always been a huge fan of Larry's art, but I felt this was one of his best whitetail pieces. He combines wonderful color, strong composition, and a world-class deer. It's a fitting tribute to an amazing deer and a sad story. For more information on Larry Zach's wildlife art, visit his [website](#).

March 24, 2008 in [Scott Bestul](#) | [Permalink](#)

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thieving bastards. may they rot in hell. at least the kid has a replica an the animal is forever captured in art form for the rest of us.

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Posted by: tom | [March 24, 2008 at 10:18 PM](#)

It would be cool to have had a chip hidden in the head.....
Might be a good idea for other people...



Posted by: u.p. mich. | [March 25, 2008 at 12:09 AM](#)

I have not had a chance to meet Larry Zach, however my business partner was a close (In Proximity) neighbor of Larry's and has always commented on how good a guy he is. My business partner has since moved to St. Charles, Missouri. He has a series collection of his paintings and I can't help but study them every chance I get!! I am no art collector, but if I became one, it would be Larry's that I would collect! The work is Amazingly Georgeous!! jm

Posted by: J-MO Kansas | [March 25, 2008 at 12:34 AM](#)

What a shame that some gutless wonder would steal such a prize from a "kid"! I say "kid" with tongue in cheek, for apparently the young man is a "kid" chronologically only! Hopefully, he lives long enough to finally have his original head returned to him.
How can anyone feel good, bragging about something stolen!?

Bubba

Posted by: Bubba | [March 25, 2008 at 09:15 AM](#)

agree with all of the above, may they never know peace again.
don

Posted by: don m. | [March 25, 2008 at 11:17 AM](#)

Except at Christmas. Everyone deserves a little peace at Christmas.

Posted by: John D | [March 25, 2008 at 03:23 PM](#)

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