

JUNIOR ESSAY -- SECOND PLACE

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THE LAST HUNT

On December 31, 2014, my dad and I went on our last hunt of the year in Woodville, Mississippi. It was 30 degrees. I decided to hunt by myself this hunt. My dad walked me to one of our best stands. Once he left I started hearing scratching in the stand, and I couldn't tell where it was coming from because it was so dark. Minutes later I called my dad on the walkie-talkie.

He wasn't in his stand yet. I told him I thought some rats were in my stand, he said shake the stand some, and get your light and shine it down low to see what it was making that noise. I shined my light down and saw a rat's tail. I tried to get the rat out by shaking the stand, but it just wouldn't leave it seemed. I called my dad again and told him to come back to my stand.

By then he was already settled down in his stand, but he came about 5 long minutes later. My dad made it to the stand about 15 minutes before daybreak. It was daybreak at about 6:30 AM. We didn't see anything at all and it didn't seem like we were going to see anything. I decided to take a nap, and told my dad wake me up if he sees a deer. He didn't see anything he told me once I woke up about 30 minutes later. It was about 9:30 AM now, but then 30 minutes later it all happened.

My dad said all of a sudden, "Trey get your gun a buck's coming!" in a low whisper, so I got my gun while the buck was walking down a hill while his head moved back and forth with every step it took. I accidentally made a little bump with my gun. I had the gun halfway out the window when the deer turned and looked directly at us. I froze with my gun in mid-air for about 30 seconds, but it felt like a lifetime. He finally looked away, and I was able to get my gun settled. When I found him in my scope and aimed right behind his behind his shoulder and squeezed the trigger. At the crack of the gun the buck bolted up a hill. My dad said "Trey I think you missed him." We waited 30 minutes and went to where the buck was standing when I shot. There was blood everywhere. It was an easy trail to follow, and we trailed him about 60 yards. Then, I found my buck.