

A Dream Fulfilled

An Elk Come True

By Dan Toner

Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County, Oregon

He proudly says he got him at No-Telling-Creek, down yonder Mystery Mountain.

After near misses in New Mexico and Grant County, Grant Union High School freshman Stuart Mosier's lifelong dream of bagging a big elk came true on Sept. 3 when he dropped a six-point from 496 yards.

"I can't even remember what I was thinking when I held my gun up there, I was so nervous," said Mosier. "My dream has been fulfilled. It was an awesome experience."

The dream began when Mosier, diagnosed with renal failure at the age of 7, became the 2006 Make a Hunt Happen (MHH) recipient. Founded in 2004 by Church on the Hill, each year MHH grants one child with a physical disability or life-threatening illness the opportunity to pursue a big-game animal of his or her choice.

MHH is inspired by Proverbs 13:12 of the Bible (NLT), which says: "Hope deferred makes a heart sick, but when dreams come true, there is life and joy."

Coming home empty-handed from the first two trips, MHH guide Phil Wirth stayed true to the program's promise of sticking with each kid until they get their dream animal. The third trip turned out to be a charm. "I had a feeling we'd get something this time," said Mosier. "Phil is a good guide and I knew there would be enough elk around that I'd come home with something."

And that he did, on the third

day of the expedition, which according to Mosier, was no coincidence.

"Well, 33 is my lucky number, and the day I shot the bull, September 3rd, was the three-year anniversary of my transplant," He said. "Plus I got him on our third hunt."

The morning hunt was unsuccessful on Sept. 3 and Mosier had almost decided to pack it in for the day when MHH guide Rick Robinson of McMinnville, who had been spotting for the expedition, informed him that he'd seen a trophy-size elk earlier that morning. Robinson estimated the bull might enter through the timber into the open meadow directly below their ground-blind later that evening.



Mosier, who had been practicing hitting targets up to 400-yards in days prior, decided to wait it out with Wirth, his Mom, Brenda and Wirth's kids—Matt, William and Nicole.

As the cloudless hot summer



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day turned into a cool evening, a herd of elk came through the patchy timber. Mosier, spotting the big bull at about 400 yards away, picked up his Benelli, took aim and fired too high, scattering the elk.

"At first I thought I had hit him," said Mosier with a smile. "But Phil told me to keep my eye on two trees in the distance because he had run off, but Phil said he would be back."

Wirth was right. The six-point bull took off through the meadow in a dead sprint and Mosier took aim again, this time at 496 yards, and didn't miss.

"That was a difficult shot even for hunters who have been at it for more than 30 years," said Wirth. "I'm proud of the way Stuart held it together. He focused and did it all himself."

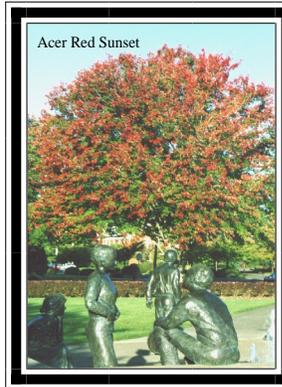
And in the end, while Mosier fulfilled his dream, he also taught Wirth sometimes it is more important to have hope than it is to have your hope fulfilled.

"In our previous two hunts when he didn't get anything, he didn't get down. He just kept saying 'That's okay.' He never gave up."

Wirth will accompany another young hunter to New Mexico next year.

"Just like Stuart's hunt, we'll be anticipating that awesome moment when hope and hope-fulfilled meet," he said.

We at Robinson Nursery support the Make a Hunt Happen Foundation.



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Acer rubrum Red Sunset®

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Nursery Sayings

Our friend Joe C. was recently heard to say "Those who persevere will be those who persevere." A profound statement?...or not! Lyle Brooks once picked up a root-stock behind a friend saying "They won't grow on the floor." Now that is profound. There is one old saying that makes a lot of sense right now. "Plant when no one else is planting."

We are seeing a downturn in the economy and frankly, sales are slow. The old-timers who have seen a few of these cycles have it figured out. They know if they don't plant now, they will miss sales in three years when the market is hot again. We would suggest that it is wise to take the long view and plan for inventories well in advance of need.

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