

The Hunt of Her Life: Local girl overcomes disability to experience successful deer hunt

- By Stephanie Stanley Assistant Editor



Audrina Penwell, 9, of Piketon, smiles as she looks upon the 13-point buck deer she harvested while hunting with her father, Britton, left, on Saturday, Dec. 30. Using special equipment, Audrina was able to experience the successful hunt, despite having cerebral palsy.

A local girl overcame her disability this weekend to experience the hunt of her life with her father.

Audrina Penwell, 9, of Piketon, suffers from cerebral palsy, but that didn't stop her from taking to the woods on Saturday (Dec. 30) and ultimately harvesting her first deer, a 13-point buck scoring 156 3/8 inches.

"She was all smiles. Her dad took a picture of her right after she shot it," said Audrina's mother, Christina Penwell. "I'm so proud I could cry. Thanks to everyone who puts so much time and money into helping kids with disabilities be able to be in the outdoors. This is a memory Audrina will always remember with her dad."

The hunt was sponsored by USSA (United Special Sportsman Alliance), a "non-profit, wish-granting charity that specializes in sending critically ill and disabled youth and disabled veterans on a free outdoor adventure of their dreams", and Dominant Buck Outfitters LLC., of Uhrichsville, Ohio, a "family-owned and operated business that specializes in trophy whitetail deer, big buck hunts, and world-class hunting."

Audrina's father, Britton, recently purchased an iScope for Audrina that allows her a clear view of her hunting target.

"It shows her what she would see if she looked through a scope," said Christina. "He also found a tree pod that holds her gun, and he mounted it to a piece of plywood so she can drive right up on the plywood. When she went turkey hunting, they had a Sip-n-Puff, which is basically a straw that she sucks on and it pulls the trigger, since she has motor difficulties. We are working on getting her one of those and a track chair that can go through the woods easier."

Christina says her daughter "puts so much time into hunting," and is supported by her father each step of the way.

"Audrina is so lucky to have a dad who takes her to do so many things and has put his hunting on the backseat so that he can teach her," she said. "There aren't many guys like him."

Britton says he is "so proud" of his little girl.

"She went out in the cold and waited to get her deer," he said. "She finally got it done, and she is so happy and proud."

Email at sstanley@newswatchman.com; follow on Twitter @StephRStanley.