

# BLUE Creek WHITETAILS



**B**illy Oehmig, owner of Blue Creek Whitetails, spent his childhood in South Georgia having the rich tradition of hunting passed down from his father. His dad didn't just teach him how to hunt, but also taught him respect for the animals he hunted. That respect included learning about the animals he pursued along with doing the hard things that come with the harvest and eating what you kill. Over time, he developed a love of hunting and the great outdoors. Eventually one animal rose to the top; the mighty Whitetail Deer. There's just something special about being in the fall woods and pursuing the craftiest game animal on earth, especially with your dad.

As Billy got older, the Oehmig family moved back to Tennessee,



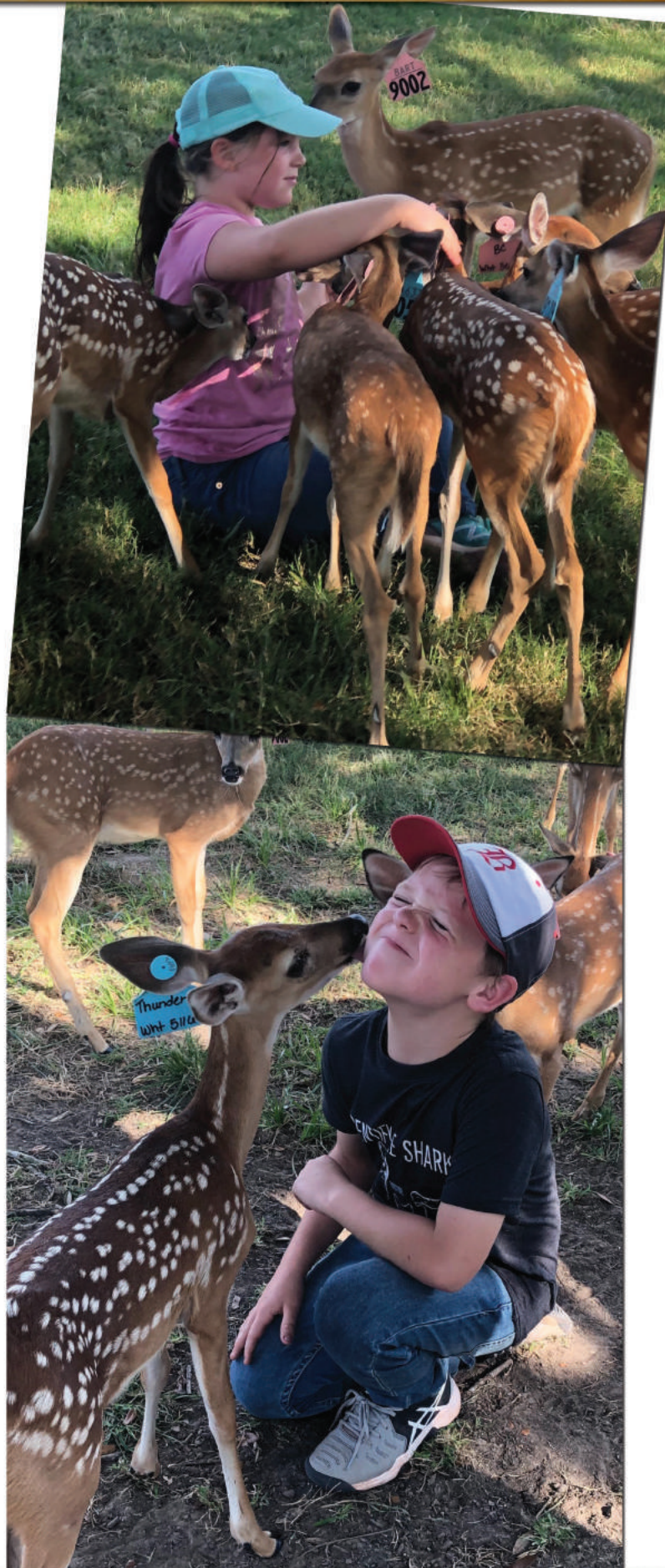
## Feature Breeder - Blue Creek Whitetails

where his father was from, and that's when he became a banker. In today's terminology, Billy had a Private Equity Business. He continued his love for the outdoors and with time and a lot of hard work became a successful business man. He spent some time hunting in Texas and eventually bought a ranch near El Campo, Texas in 1993. That ranch became Blue Creek Whitetails, which began on just a little less than 10,000 acres.

Billy had always loved duck hunting as well as deer hunting and Blue Creek Whitetails had some of the best of both in the state. He knew that the deer on his ranch were not capable of producing the amount of antler that he was looking for and wanted to do scientific research to develop a plan that would help him reach his goals. This plan would include 4 different pastures with a different strategy for each. One pasture would be left untouched, one pasture would have great nutrition but no genetics introduced, one pasture would be a combination of new and old genetics with great nutrition and one pasture would be all new genetics and great nutrition! Basically, he offered his property and finances to the state to get valuable information on genetic improvement, stocking rates, herd management and genetic crosses for animal sustainability over a 10-15 year period of time at no cost. We all know how the government operates and no one seemed to want the information as much as Billy. At the time, he was Chairman of the board for Purina and understood a lot about the nutritional needs of animals. Even with a tremendous amount of political connections, he couldn't seem to get anyone onboard.

Billy had learned that his deer were the Avery Island subspecies of whitetail (*odocoileus virginianus mcilhennyi*) which survives well in coastal areas and isn't known for the size of their antlers. There was no fix to his situation through nutritional enhancement or management. He had to change genetics and there was only one way to fix a broken whitetail herd and that was to call some deer breeders and get some big, healthy, large antlered deer with great genetics to mix with his nutritional knowledge and put viable whitetail on the ranch. In 1996, he bought his first deer and he readily admits that he never dreamed he would end up with a breeding facility with 900 deer in it! His goal then and now remain the same, "raise the best quality bucks possible that hunters will want to hunt!"

For a guy that started out to stock a ranch with great deer for himself, I would say he has jumped many hurdles to reach the plateau that Blue Creek Whitetails sits on today. Recognized across the nation as one of





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premier breeders in the entire industry, Blue Creek is known for their customer service, which means giving more than someone expects to get. He started with 2 things that top his list for doing business, honesty and ethics.

Over the years Blue Creek has built a doe herd that is second to none and the bucks they produce prove it out. Big, wide, heavy symmetrical deer that hunters desire to hunt. He partnered on some huge, beautiful bucks that have perfect pedigrees and are known nationwide. Big Sir (Sudden Express/4M Moab/Free Agent/Hero), Big Tush (Sudden Express/Ranger/Hardcore/Shadow/Rolox/Maxbo Sister) and So Fine (Blue Chip/Express/Shadow/Big Guys Wombmate) are bucks everyone in the nation knows! They also produced one of the best looking bucks in the industry with the paper to match! Dillon is big and beautiful and sports one of the best pedigrees around (Triple Crown/Free Agent/2028/Big Bob). If you are looking for deer, Blue Creek can meet the demands of any producer with semen, open or bred does, stocker bucks and breed bucks with marketability.

Billy had a father that not only took him hunting, but taught him respect which enters each area of one's life. He was taught to be a man who lives his life with respect for others. These character traits played a tremendous role in Billy's respect for our military men and women. Before there was a Combat Marine Outdoors or the DBC to promote them, Billy went to DU to round up veterans that were home on leave to take hunting on his ranch. He has been a big contributor to the CMO at the DBC events. We share a passion and a love for the service members who sacrifice in ways we can't imagine, in order to allow us the freedoms that are still available to Americans today. In Billy's words, "We could never do enough".

What started as a passion for hunting has transpired into many other avenues. His newest favorite thing outdoors is watching his 9-year-old twins, with his wife Alice, interact with the deer on the ranch. He loves taking them hunting and teaching them the same respect, knowledge and love of the great outdoors that his dad taught him. Alice helps with training the twins William Jr. and Margaret to develop an enthusiasm along with the responsibility that comes with the harvesting of animals. William got his first buck at 7 and mom required him to dress the animal. There's a 'books worth' of lessons in that one simple act. Hopefully, with people like the Oehmig family, teaching others and youth about hunting, we will stop the slide of falling hunter numbers across the nation.







In Billy's words, "To pass along the hunting heritage is a requirement of all adult hunters! Everyone of us has a requirement to share what was shared with us, pass on what was passed on to us and teach the lessons that were taught to us while we were growing up. It's imperative to the survival of not only hunting but to our Country as well!"

That's why he participates in youth programs in Tennessee and at Blue Creek Whitetails in Texas. He resides in Chattanooga, Tennessee and is involved in their Wildlife Association and their tremendous complete youth programs. The Oehmig's are doing their part. Let's all step up to the plate and help!



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*- Billy Oehmig*