

South Carolina Deer Antler Records 2023

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Introduction and Background

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is the premier big game species in the United States and annually, millions of sportsmen take to the woods in pursuit of the deer with a flag-like tail. Curiously, white-tailed deer hold some fascination for most people regardless of whether they actually hunt deer. This fascination may stem from the importance of deer in the development of our country or maybe it is due to the animals' shy nature and overall beauty. In either case, humans are always impressed to catch a glimpse of a white-tailed deer.

White-tailed deer are members of the cervid family which is represented in the United States by four genera; *Cervus* (elk), *Alces* (moose), *Odocoileus* (mule deer and white-tailed deer), and *Rangifer* (caribou). In the modern form, white-tailed deer originated in America perhaps 8-12 million years ago and currently the species' range extends from southern Canada through the United States and Mexico and into northern South America. In pre-Columbian times it is estimated that there were approximately 30 million white-tailed deer in the United States and although deer numbers had declined a great deal by 1800 there was still an abundance of deer. However, during the period 1800-1900 heavy commercial exploitation of deer for meat and hides coupled with habitat destruction, poor land use practices, and an ever-increasing human population caused deer numbers to plummet to around 500,000 by the turn of the 20th century. Thanks to legislation in the early 1900's that provided protection for wildlife and funding for wildlife management, white-tailed deer numbers have again increased to over 20 million nationwide. Deer hunting represents a significant recreational as well as financial resource in many states.

History of White-tailed Deer in South Carolina

In pre-Columbian times much of South Carolina's landscape was composed of mature hardwood and longleaf pine forest habitats. Deer were statewide in distribution, but their overall densities could best be described as moderate. These moderate densities resulted from the lack of optimum habitat diversity for deer that was associated with historic, mature forests. Also, predators like the cougar, red wolf and American Indian helped to keep deer numbers regulated. Higher deer densities occurred in areas where disturbance created early stages of ecological succession. These disturbed areas provided an abundance of new, succulent growth close to the forest floor and within reach of browsing deer. Deer became locally abundant in areas where disturbance opened the forest canopy and allowed sunlight to penetrate and stimulate new growth. Natural disturbances that opened the forest canopy included lightning fires, tornadoes, and hurricanes. The impact of a storm like Hurricane Hugo on

pre-Columbian forests would have created an immense area suitable for an abundance of deer. Similarly, the native American Indians understood this relationship and used fire frequently to create habitat suitable for larger numbers of deer.

The coming of the colonists had little immediate negative impacts on white-tailed deer. Although firearms facilitated the harvest of greater numbers of deer, clearing of land for small communities and farms created habitats that allowed for increased numbers of deer. Overall, during the early colonial period there was a general equilibrium between the colonists' (and Indians') use of deer and the benefits that deer populations received. However, by the 1800's the value associated with deer, improvements in firearms, extensive agriculture, and unrestricted market hunting began to severely limit deer and herds declined drastically in South Carolina. Domestic use of deer hides was great and in addition, annual exports of deer hides from Charleston approached 150,000 during the mid-to-late 1700's. The terms "buck", "doe", and "skin" persist to this day as monetary references reflecting the historic value of deer in our heritage.

The early 1900's marked the low point for deer in South Carolina as it did across the country. However, due to public concern for conservation things began to change in a positive direction for deer. The Lacey Act was passed by Congress in 1900 placing regulations on the interstate trafficking of wildlife and, in 1923, South Carolina passed the buck law which prohibited the harvest of female deer. In 1937, Congress passed a sweeping piece of legislation called the Wildlife Restoration Act or Pittman-Robertson Act. This act, named for the senator and congressman who sponsored it, authorized the setting apart of a tax on sporting arms and ammunition to be used in cooperation with states in wildlife restoration projects.

Also important to the recovery of deer in South Carolina were widespread changes in habitat that benefited deer. Although clearing for agriculture was greatly responsible for low deer numbers by 1900, the habitat began to change for the better in the 1920's. Years of significant drought and the impact of the cotton boll weevil were devastating to farming. With this reduction in farming came a trend of people leaving farms prior to and especially after World War II. Mills began to operate in many parts of the state and a large amount of agricultural land began reverting to forest land. So at that time there were laws that offered protection for deer, funds to implement wildlife management and research, and habitat improvements all of which set the stage for the recovery of white-tailed deer in South Carolina.

Although delayed by World War II, restocking efforts began in earnest in the early 1950's. At that time, deer were virtually non-existent in the piedmont and mountains of South Carolina and there was little if any deer hunting in those areas. Fortunately, good residual populations remained in the river swamps of the coastal plain and these strongholds of deer became the source for restocking. The fact that all restocking that took place in South Carolina used native deer as stock places South Carolina in a unique position with respect to genetic integrity. The characteristics of native South Carolina deer evolved due to environmental, behavioral and genetic pressures exerted for millions of years and we are lucky to have only native deer in South Carolina. Most, if not all, other states that had restocking programs received deer from other states.

In both the central and western piedmont, where deer were rare, wildlife biologists restocked approximately 100 deer during the early to mid-1950's. Deer numbers rapidly increased and by about 1960 the first deer hunts were held in these areas. In each case, the first hunt was a 3-day buck only hunt and in each case 1 buck was harvested. In contrast, the combined deer harvest from the Central and Western Piedmont Hunt Units in recent years has been approximately 75,000 deer annually. In much of the coastal plain, deer numbers were sufficient to allow hunting even when there was no hunting in the mountains and piedmont. Today, the statewide deer population is approximately 700,000. Hunttable populations exist in all 46 counties in South Carolina and the annual statewide deer harvest is approximately 190,000.

South Carolina White-tailed Deer Antler Records Program

The South Carolina White-tailed Deer Antler Records Program began in the spring of 1974 and since that time, 8,171 sets of antlers (7,845 typical and 326 non-typical) have officially been entered onto the list. Initially, measuring sessions were only conducted a few times each spring, but since 1987 antler measuring sessions have been scheduled throughout the state. Each year SCDNR wildlife biologists and wildlife technicians measure approximately 500 sets of antlers. Generally, only about one-third of the antlers that are measured make the Antler Records List with the bulk of entrants falling short of the minimum scores.

The purpose of the Antler Records Program is two-fold. First, because of the increased interest in deer hunting exhibited by sportsmen, it is a way to recognize outstanding white-tailed deer taken in South Carolina. Second, it provides management information that allows SCDNR wildlife biologists to identify areas that produce quality deer. When particular areas stand out it is

important to attempt to recognize the underlying characteristics that produce outstanding animals.

As deer populations have grown in South Carolina, it has become more apparent that deer herd density in a given area is related to the production of large deer. Typically, areas of the state that are known to have large numbers of deer do not produce as many large antlered deer as those areas with fewer deer. Even areas that have exceptional habitat can only support a certain number of deer before the quality of the animals begins to decline. During much of the 1980's, the statewide deer population and annual deer harvest were perhaps two-thirds of what they are today. However, a tremendous number of deer were harvested that made the records list. In fact, the period between 1982 and 1992 accounts for approximately 25 percent of all records even though the list contains records that date to the early 1900's. Similarly, as deer populations have moderated over the last decade record entries have soared with another 25 percent of all-time entries occurring just since 2012. The good old days are now!

This addition of *South Carolina Deer Antler Records 2023* is based on activities conducted during score year 2023. Antlers from deer that are taken in the fall are typically measured the following spring. For example, antlers from deer taken in the fall of 2022 were measured in the score year or spring of 2023. Antlers taken in other years may also be included in this publication since they were measured in 2023.

Measuring System

The state's antler measuring system is the same as that utilized by both the Boone & Crockett and Pope & Young Clubs which are recognized as the national organizations that record exceptional North American big game taken with firearms and archery equipment, respectively. The measuring system is based primarily on antler size and symmetry and includes measurements of the main beams, greatest inside spread of the beams, circumference measurements at certain designated locations, and the number and length of the points. To be counted as a point, a projection must be at least one inch long and it must be longer than it is wide at its base.

Deductions are made for points that arise abnormally from the main beams or from other points and for symmetrical differences between corresponding measurements on the right and left antlers. For non-typical antlers, abnormal points are added to the score rather than being deducted as in the typical

category. A set of antlers is classified as typical or non-typical based on its general conformation, the number of abnormal points, and a determination as to whether it will rank higher in the typical or non-typical category. Current minimum scores for the South Carolina Antler Records List are 125 typical points and 145 non-typical points. All antlers must undergo a minimum 60-day drying period before they can be officially measured. If a set of antlers meets the minimum score the record is added to the list and a certificate is issued recognizing the outstanding white-tailed deer taken in South Carolina.

About the Records List

The reader will notice that this publication contains a number of separate lists. The first two lists contain the records for typical and non-typical antlers that were documented during 2023 only. Although most of these records represent deer harvested during the fall of 2022 hunting season, some records were taken in previous years and were not officially measured until 2023. Separate rankings are presented for the score year (2023) and for all-time. These rankings reflect the position of the antlers compared to the other antlers measured during the year and as compared with all historical records.

The third and fourth lists contain the top 100 records for all-time in the typical category and the top 50 records for all-time in the non-typical category. These lists reflect the upper portion of all historical entries and each set of antlers is ranked as compared with the other antlers in the category.

The final list provides information related to the all-time entry of antler records by county. The list is broken down by typical and non-typical and provides the rank for each county based on total number of historic entries, as well as the county rank based on the number of entries in relationship to the size of the county in square miles.

The South Carolina Antler Records List is continually undergoing revisions and editing. Due to the size and nature of the list mistakes are inevitable. If you become aware of mistakes associated with the records list, please contact Antler Records, P.O. Box 167 Columbia, SC 29202 in writing. Proposed corrections will be considered after reviewing the original score sheet that is on file.

Comments on Score Years 2023

The most recent round of white-tailed deer antler measuring conducted by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources revealed 200 new records, including two Boone and Crockett Club qualifiers. A total of 534 sets of antlers

were measured during the 2023 cycle and the 200 that met the minimum score for entry on the state records list included 195 sets of typical and 5 non-typical sets of antlers. Although all the records were not taken during the 2022 deer season, 138 were taken during the 2021 or 2022 seasons.

The top typical buck was a 166 2/8-inch Chesterfield County buck taken by Donald Craig in November of 2020. Craig's buck is a new Chesterfield County record, number 14 on the all-time South Carolina typical list, and qualifies for the Boone and Crockett Club's three-year awards period. Tanner Herndon took the number two typical buck for the 2023 scoring period in August of 2022, a 161 0/8-inch Dorchester County deer that is a new county record, number 32 on the all-time typical list, and also qualifies for Boone and Crockett's three-year awards period. Leading the non-typical category was a Williamsburg County buck netting 157 0/8-inch taken by Ty Tilton in October of 2022 and a 156 0/8-inch buck taken by James Cassell in Colleton County in December of 2022.

Aiken County led the way with 20 record entries, followed by Orangeburg County with 18, Greenville with 16 and Lexington with 12. As far as all-time leaders at the county level, Aiken County remains at number one with 579 entries followed closely by Orangeburg County with 574. Rounding out the top-5 are Anderson 320, Fairfield 318, and Williamsburg with 283 entries. On the other hand, if you account for the size of the county the top counties per unit area of record book bucks are Anderson, Aiken, Orangeburg, Abbeville, and Calhoun.

Although some of the top counties have relatively high deer populations, some of these counties have more moderate numbers. It is important that hunters and land managers understand how the density of deer in an area affects the quality of the animals. Areas with fewer deer typically have better quality animals because natural food availability and nutritional quality is higher. Good nutrition is important in producing good antlers, but deer reproduction, recruitment and survival are also directly tied to nutrition. South Carolina's deer herd is in good condition, and after many years of rapid population growth the herd stabilized in the mid-1990s followed by a decreasing trend between 2003 and 2015. Since 2015 the population has been stable to slightly increasing. Statewide population estimates put the deer herd at about 700,000 animals with an estimated harvest of approximately 180,000 each of the last few years. Although the total deer harvest in South Carolina may have trended down over the last decade, indications from the antler records program are that deer quality

remains good. This would make sense because fewer deer in the population would benefit from increased nutrition.

South Carolina hunters should recognize that harvesting potential Boone and Crockett bucks is not a common occurrence anywhere in the country. This is particularly evident if you consider that there are only about 17,000 white-tailed deer records listed by Boone and Crockett, which includes entries dating to the 1800s. Similarly, the harvest of deer in the United States in recent years has been about 6 million per year. Essentially, the average hunter stands a better chance of being struck by lightning in their life than harvesting a Boone and Crockett deer. On the other hand, over the long-term about one in every 700 white-tailed bucks taken in South Carolina makes the state Antler Records List.



South Carolina Typical White-Tailed Deer



Entries for the 2023 Scoring Periods
Minimum Score: 125

Score Period Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken	All Time Rank
1	166 2/8	Donald T Craig	Chesterfield	11/02/20	14
2	161 0/8	Tanner A Herndon	Dorchester	08/29/22	32
3	155 3/8	Randy B Munsch	Richland	10/18/21	90
4	152 2/8	Garfield Boyd	Laurens	11/03/80	155
5	147 6/8	Found (Tony M Sistare)	Fairfield	10/01/22	337
6	145 7/8	Joel T Stapleton	Barnwell	10/01/19	442
7	145 4/8	Tommie L Welch	Barnwell	08/15/20	478
8	145 3/8	James Clinton Busbee	Aiken	12/09/21	492
9	144 6/8	Ryan D Bowles	Berkeley	09/22/22	544
10	144 2/8	Everette J Livingston	Orangeburg	11/10/22	588
11	144 1/8	Larry M Spivey	Fairfield	10/18/21	601
12	143 6/8	William E Moore	Union	12/05/21	635
13	143 2/8	Found (Samuel L Bagwell)	Aiken	10/01/81	690

Score Period Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken	All Time Rank
13	143 2/8	Evan H Varnadore	Lexington	10/28/22	690
15	142 5/8	Bob E Gore	Aiken	10/24/21	778
16	142 1/8	Norman E Pfeiffer	Orangeburg	10/17/21	849
16	142 1/8	Charles D Lancaster	Greenville	12/03/22	849
16	142 1/8	Michael C Rushton	Saluda	11/03/22	849
19	142 0/8	Cody D Poore	Anderson	11/04/21	871
19	142 0/8	Edward B Southerland	Laurens	10/01/80	871
21	141 7/8	Edward B August	Orangeburg	10/27/21	886
22	141 6/8	Aidan M Hunt	Darlington	10/20/22	907
23	141 3/8	Landon Candler	Greenville	09/15/22	949
24	141 1/8	Dustin W Durham	Spartanburg	10/22/16	994
25	140 7/8	Everett A Hazel	Pickens	12/26/20	1033
26	140 4/8	Colby M Bryan	Lexington	09/26/22	1097
26	140 4/8	Ferris C Thackston	Greenville	10/24/16	1097
28	140 2/8	Zachary W Boswell	Chesterfield	11/26/21	1141
29	140 0/8	Tim J Parker	Chester	11/08/86	1180
30	139 6/8	Paul H Wright	Aiken	11/22/22	1221
31	139 5/8	Brian Yarborough	Lexington	11/01/19	1242
31	139 5/8	Wade Sumner	Aiken	11/23/19	1242
33	138 7/8	Jesse A Whitmire	Greenville	11/16/19	1392
34	138 4/8	Parker M Gaddy	Fairfield	10/17/21	1468
34	138 4/8	Justin J Mackey	Lancaster	11/08/22	1468
36	138 0/8	Jason Price	Dillon	11/24/22	1577
36	138 0/8	Taylor J Baumgarner	Anderson	11/08/22	1577
38	137 4/8	Roger D Brownlee Jr	Dorchester	10/13/22	1699
38	137 4/8	John A Teague	Lancaster	10/24/22	1699
38	137 4/8	Kip L Carter Jr	Dorchester	08/30/22	1699
41	137 3/8	Glenn Dubose	Barnwell	11/16/22	1729
42	137 2/8	Chris R Blackwell	Lancaster	11/13/22	1769
43	137 0/8	Matthew W Clark	Orangeburg	11/07/21	1829
44	136 5/8	Branden Harrelson	Spartanburg	10/23/21	1918
45	136 4/8	John E Sloan	Orangeburg	11/25/21	1955

Score Period Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken	All Time Rank
45	136 4/8	Vince A Sims	Fairfield	11/21/22	1955
45	136 4/8	Mike R Houseman	Fairfield	09/16/22	1955
48	136 3/8	James R Anderson	Greenville	11/10/21	1985
49	136 2/8	Neal Risinger	Greenwood	10/01/21	2018
49	136 2/8	Claude R Hooper	Oconee	10/07/17	2018
51	135 7/8	Faith Graham	Florence	10/24/22	2133
51	135 7/8	Justin E Stroud	Georgetown	11/18/18	2133
53	135 5/8	Joseph F Polite Jr	Aiken	10/24/22	2204
53	135 5/8	Robert H Stone	Horry	09/07/22	2204
55	135 2/8	Andrew J Nickles	Abbeville	10/01/19	2303
55	135 2/8	Hank Axson	Greenville	11/17/21	2303
57	135 1/8	Charles H Mullinax	Spartanburg	11/25/22	2337
58	135 0/8	Drake E Brunson	Clarendon	11/01/19	2372
59	134 6/8	Matt S Willoughby	Marion	09/27/22	2456
59	134 6/8	Reagan K Foreman	Aiken	09/27/22	2456
61	134 5/8	Mitchell Austin	Kershaw	11/19/88	2505
61	134 5/8	Bobby J Pitts	Aiken	10/01/20	2505
63	134 4/8	Jeff C Kirkley	Marion	11/08/22	2546
63	134 4/8	Casey D Price	Fairfield	11/15/21	2546
65	134 3/8	Daniel R Morrell	Bamberg	10/27/21	2588
66	134 2/8	Matt W Broughton	Lancaster	10/23/22	2631
67	133 6/8	Kimberly M Hayes	Greenville	12/16/22	2810
68	133 5/8	Dana A Rawl	Aiken	10/19/22	2862
68	133 5/8	Dink Melton	Spartanburg	10/24/94	2862
70	133 4/8	Richard M Hughes	Orangeburg	10/29/22	2920
70	133 4/8	Wesley English	Aiken	08/18/22	2920
72	133 3/8	Dyson H Dantzler	Orangeburg	12/28/20	2974
73	133 1/8	Michael R Cooper	Beaufort	10/11/22	3078
74	132 7/8	Walter J Knight	Greenville	10/30/21	3175
75	132 6/8	James D Williams	Spartanburg	11/22/22	3230
76	132 5/8	Lucas Scott	Sumter	11/17/22	3287
77	132 2/8	Wayne Lingerfelt	York	09/17/14	3452

Score Period Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken	All Time Rank
77	132 2/8	Justin Durr	Orangeburg	10/08/22	3452
79	132 1/8	Douglas S Dooley	Lexington	10/17/20	3504
79	132 1/8	Jason R Sullivan	Pickens	11/13/15	3504
81	132 0/8	Romley B Wallace III	Calhoun	09/16/22	3556
81	132 0/8	David M Johnson Jr	Laurens	10/16/22	3556
81	132 0/8	Kaylon R Meetze	Lexington	10/15/22	3556
84	131 6/8	Branden C Woods	Lexington	10/11/22	3659
84	131 6/8	Zachary K Mcree	Richland	10/30/22	3659
84	131 6/8	Randall D Elrod	Richland	10/15/21	3659
84	131 6/8	Timothy R Chandler II	Hampton	11/04/21	3659
84	131 6/8	James E Hopkins	Lancaster	10/22/22	3659
89	131 5/8	Tommy Lombard	Oconee	11/14/20	3733
90	131 4/8	David P Hammond	Orangeburg	11/09/22	3795
90	131 4/8	Gary W Gregory	Darlington	10/21/21	3795
90	131 4/8	Jackson C Ward	Union	11/19/22	3795
93	131 3/8	Branden Woods	Orangeburg	09/16/22	3873
94	131 2/8	Gerald W Bonnette	Orangeburg	08/16/22	3920
94	131 2/8	Ken Ellis	Berkeley	09/16/21	3920
96	131 1/8	Dustin J Sheppard	Anderson	09/15/21	3986
97	130 6/8	William L Glenn	Greenville	12/29/21	4179
97	130 6/8	Mark A Miller	Greenville	10/07/22	4179
97	130 6/8	Landon B Edwards	Pickens	10/23/22	4179
100	130 5/8	Jacob E Patsourakos	Colleton	11/24/21	4248
100	130 5/8	Matthew T Woods	Greenwood	10/15/22	4248
102	130 4/8	Johnathan T Sullivan	Mccormick	11/11/21	4296
102	130 4/8	Robert E Bate	Pickens	09/20/18	4296
104	130 3/8	Jeremy E Talley	Mccormick	11/09/21	4369
105	130 2/8	David C Carson	Abbeville	10/12/19	4428
105	130 2/8	Bruce A Gilbert	Aiken	11/18/22	4428
105	130 2/8	Roger D Brownlee Jr	Dorchester	11/10/06	4428
105	130 2/8	Bill Gramling	Orangeburg	09/21/18	4428
105	130 2/8	Mitchell Montgomery	Lancaster	11/27/22	4428

Score Period Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken	All Time Rank
105	130 2/8	Jeremy A Patty	Spartanburg	10/16/21	4428
111	130 1/8	Jason P Holliday	Williamsburg	11/26/22	4505
112	130 0/8	Jacob N Robbins	Union	12/26/21	4574
113	129 7/8	Bryan D Holmes	Fairfield	11/22/22	4634
113	129 7/8	Jimmy D Kirkland III	York	10/01/21	4634
115	129 6/8	Marvin E Sturdivant	Bamberg	11/29/19	4693
115	129 6/8	Brett Rutland	Spartanburg	11/24/04	4693
117	129 5/8	Terry S Gosnell	Orangeburg	10/16/21	4762
117	129 5/8	Evan James Fulmer	Lexington	10/25/22	4762
119	129 4/8	James R Mathis	Aiken	09/26/22	4819
119	129 4/8	Steve Wolford	Aiken	11/08/20	4819
119	129 4/8	Robert K Powell	Pickens	11/07/22	4819
122	129 3/8	Jack R Wilkes III	Edgefield	10/28/20	4888
123	129 1/8	H L Powell Sr	Berkeley	10/01/70	5013
124	129 0/8	Brian K Watson	Aiken	11/04/19	5079
125	128 7/8	Found (Corbin J Knight)	Lancaster	11/01/20	5149
125	128 7/8	Matthew W Clark	Lexington	10/24/18	5149
125	128 7/8	James D Buchanan	Greenville	10/18/19	5149
128	128 6/8	Lauren E Center	Abbeville	12/12/13	5231
129	128 4/8	Greg W Nichols	Oconee	11/27/19	5383
130	128 3/8	Ron D Galloway	Anderson	11/22/19	5463
131	128 2/8	Devlin Curl	Florence	09/16/22	5524
131	128 2/8	Helena Watkins	Lee	10/19/22	5524
131	128 2/8	James M Campbell	Laurens	11/13/21	5524
134	128 1/8	Scott L Duke	Clarendon	11/16/22	5601
134	128 1/8	Jordon D Long	Orangeburg	10/20/21	5601
136	128 0/8	Jamal Reynolds	Aiken	08/25/20	5667
137	127 7/8	James Keith Hucks	Horry	11/16/22	5744
137	127 7/8	Shawn R Smith	Orangeburg	10/01/21	5744
139	127 6/8	Tommy Benfield Jr	Union	12/01/22	5825
140	127 5/8	Britton Knotts	Calhoun	10/11/21	5903

Score Period Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken	All Time Rank
140	127 5/8	Curtis D Wengerd	Aiken	10/18/19	5903
140	127 5/8	Cody Lemere	Oconee	12/02/19	5903
143	127 3/8	Brandon Helmuth	Aiken	12/26/22	6072
143	127 3/8	William Gallaher III	Richland	09/25/21	6072
143	127 3/8	Tommy Lombard	Oconee	12/02/95	6072
146	127 1/8	William D Ellison	Laurens	11/21/22	6242
146	127 1/8	Michael R Cooper	Beaufort	09/24/19	6242
146	127 1/8	William J Rickenbaker	Orangeburg	12/14/22	6242
149	127 0/8	Jim N Boatright	Darlington	10/30/21	6314
150	126 7/8	Jonathan G Miles	Fairfield	12/24/22	6402
150	126 7/8	Brian L Pilgrim	Abbeville	11/25/22	6402
150	126 7/8	James D Shupe	Hampton	10/21/22	6402
150	126 7/8	Jason S Jennings	Spartanburg	11/12/05	6402
150	126 7/8	Bennet C Mitchum	Dorchester	10/11/21	6402
155	126 6/8	Jared R Kauffman	Greenville	12/10/22	6490
155	126 6/8	Jesse A Bickley	Lexington	11/14/19	6490
155	126 6/8	William A Johnson Jr	Sumter	10/21/22	6490
155	126 6/8	Michael R Ham	Darlington	09/09/14	6490
159	126 5/8	David N Broome	Greenville	11/02/21	6582
160	126 4/8	Dexter S Durham	Anderson	11/19/22	6654
161	126 3/8	Nicholas C Oswald	Lexington	09/04/22	6738
161	126 3/8	Jamie E Corley	Bamberg	12/17/22	6738
161	126 3/8	Ricky G Mills	Greenville	11/08/22	6738
161	126 3/8	Jonathan Wayne Hampton	Newberry	11/20/20	6738
161	126 3/8	Stephen H Eleazer	Spartanburg	10/26/20	6738
161	126 3/8	Thomas D Walton	Greenwood	10/29/03	6738
161	126 3/8	Robert K Powell	Pickens	10/18/17	6738
168	126 2/8	Dillon C Moore	Lexington	08/27/22	6831
168	126 2/8	Michael Johnson	Dorchester	10/01/17	6831
168	126 2/8	Robert Lowery	Lee	11/15/22	6831
168	126 2/8	Adam Wilson	Greenwood	10/13/22	6831

Score Period Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken	All Time Rank
172	126 1/8	Pat S Gaston	Lancaster	10/08/22	6919
172	126 1/8	Robert T Porter	Greenville	12/04/22	6919
174	125 7/8	Austin W Jordan	Kershaw	11/02/22	7106
174	125 7/8	Morgan L Kline	Pickens	12/19/22	7106
174	125 7/8	Jordan Finley	Greenwood	11/14/21	7106
177	125 6/8	Charles H Mullinax	Spartanburg	11/15/20	7188
177	125 6/8	Joshua C Way	Dorchester	11/13/17	7188
177	125 6/8	Clayton R Sharpe	Richland	08/29/22	7188
177	125 6/8	Jamison C Cox	Greenville	11/21/22	7188
181	125 5/8	Jason Rentz	Abbeville	11/03/20	7281
182	125 4/8	Keith B Sandifer	Barnwell	12/02/22	7355
182	125 4/8	Austin Moore	Florence	09/05/22	7355
184	125 3/8	Christopher T Starnes Jr	Lancaster	11/25/21	7439
184	125 3/8	Rivers Cribb	Williamsburg	11/02/20	7439
186	125 2/8	Danny R Griner	Dorchester	08/25/09	7530
186	125 2/8	Conway K Green	Aiken	10/22/22	7530
186	125 2/8	John Dickerson	Florence	09/09/22	7530
186	125 2/8	Clarence A Compton	Edgefield	11/02/21	7530
190	125 1/8	Jackson A Hoskins	Aiken	11/30/22	7629
190	125 1/8	Perry G Thomas	Colleton	10/01/22	7629
190	125 1/8	Neal R Donovan	Aiken	11/10/21	7629
190	125 1/8	Benji T Burgess	Spartanburg	11/22/21	7629
190	125 1/8	William C Rollins	Pickens	10/01/21	7629
195	125 0/8	James K Honeycutt Jr	Darlington	12/14/20	7721

Total Typical Records Entered for 2023 Score Period: 195

Total Typical Records Entered All-Time: 7,845



South Carolina Non-Typical White-Tailed Deer



Entries for the 2023 Scoring Period
Minimum Score: 145

Score Period Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken	All Time Rank
1	157 0/8	Ty Tilton	Williamsburg	10/23/22	125
2	156 0/8	James F Cassell	Colleton	12/13/22	139
3	152 0/8	Charmin L Gleaton	Orangeburg	09/01/22	201
4	150 1/8	Benjie Gray	Orangeburg	10/28/18	232
5	145 2/8	Roger W Price	Lexington	10/24/20	322

Total Non-Typical Records Entered for 2023 Score Period: 5

Total Non-Typical Records Entered All-Time: 326



Top 100 All-Time South Carolina Typical White-tailed Deer



Minimum Score: 125

All Time Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken
1	176 0/8	Wyatt William C	Pickens	12/24/1994
2	173 7/8	Hoffman Randy	Calhoun	8/15/2003
3	172 0/8	Dillard Danny T	Anderson	10/23/2009
4	170 5/8	Gaskins A Hugh	Williamsburg	11/11/1998
5	169 7/8	Dover Richard K	Marion	11/29/1996
6	169 2/8	Elrod David	Pickens	10/01/2008
6	169 2/8	Shuman Steve	Hampton	8/27/1987
8	168 1/8	Underwood David	Laurens	10/26/1989
9	167 6/8	Ledford Todd C	Sumter	11/15/2001
10	167 5/8	Woody David Swaney	Anderson	12/19/2015
11	167 3/8	Dubose Tristan A	Saluda	11/02/1993
12	166 6/8	Dillard Danny	Anderson	10/28/2014
13	166 3/8	Hicks Eddie	Newberry	12/14/1974
14	166 2/8	Donald T Craig	Chesterfield	11/02/20
15	165 7/8	Blanton Tommy John	Saluda	11/01/2009
16	165 2/8	Ashley Avery	Greenwood	12/15/1990
17	164 0/8	Dillard Danny T	Abbeville	12/15/2011
18	163 7/8	Owen Charles W	Anderson	11/23/2006
19	163 6/8	Found-Smith Sammie D	Anderson	10/1983
20	163 0/8	Jacobs III Jesse	York	12/25/1985
21	162 7/8	Walls Gary A	Orangeburg	12/01/2009
22	162 4/8	Wise David A	Calhoun	9/12/2009
23	162 3/8	Found-USFS/SRS	Aiken	10/05/2005
24	162 1/8	Gladden Loran L	Lee	11/16/1979
25	161 6/8	Davis Chuck	Georgetown	1920
25	161 6/8	Edwards Frank	Colleton	12/1982

All Time Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken
25	161 6/8	Meadows Dennis	York	12/1983
28	161 5/8	Found-Freeman Cary	Abbeville	
29	161 2/8	Jordan William Larry	Saluda	11/22/1991
29	161 2/8	Found-Moore John E	Orangeburg	2001
31	161 1/8	Found-Carver Judy	Oconee	10/28/1993
32	161 0/8	Tanner A Herndon	Dorchester	08/29/22
33	160 5/8	Burdette Scott	Anderson	12/21/1989
33	160 5/8	Mock Hunter	Allendale	10/13/2010
33	160 5/8	Sox Jay	Orangeburg	10/12/2002
36	160 2/8	James D Sims	Fairfield	11/30/2018
37	160 0/8	Found-Renaud Faye L	Lexington	10/28/1996
38	159 4/8	Chastain Dennis	Pickens	11/12/1991
38	159 4/8	Found-Prince Larry E	Spartanburg	1985
40	159 3/8	Brooks Ricky B	Laurens	10/22/2012
41	159 2/8	Walters Iii Hugh	Dorchester	10/1971
42	159 1/8	Fulton Wendell	Williamsburg	10/19/2012
43	159 0/8	Byrd Jr E Thomas	Williamsburg	11/10/1980
43	159 0/8	Lewis Billy Lee	Colleton	10/18/1984
45	158 7/8	Found-Davis Wadie A	Saluda	
45	158 7/8	Strickland Clyde	Colleton	11/05/1993
47	158 3/8	Rivers John W	Chesterfield	9/18/2008
48	158 2/8	Sheffield Johnny W	Hampton	10/1975
49	158 1/8	Waller Vandy	Fairfield	11/15/1986
50	158 0/8	Davis Kent	Greenville	10/20/1990
51	157 7/8	Polk Ned	Chester	10/18/1986
52	157 6/8	Smith Mark	Laurens	10/21/1995
52	157 6/8	Claud Robertson	Greenville	07-Nov-16
54	157 5/8	Dreher John	Richland	9/03/1982
55	157 4/8	Mcgee Mac M	Anderson	11/05/1994
56	157 3/8	Freeman Ray	Anderson	11/07/2009
56	157 3/8	Huntley Rex R	Lancaster	10/22/1991

All Time Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken
58	156 6/8	Crews Carl H	Aiken	10/1970
58	156 6/8	Dubois Brett	Jasper	11/24/2006
58	156 6/8	Dunn G David	Aiken	11/13/1993
58	156 6/8	Lesesne Frank	Williamsburg	1960
58	156 6/8	Smith Rick	Aiken	11/05/2009
63	156 5/8	Hardee J B	Williamsburg	9/21/1978
63	156 5/8	Found-Herndon Henry H	Bamberg	1975
63	156 5/8	Shipman Wayne	Laurens	11/1975
66	156 4/8	Bartlett Frank J	Fairfield	11/14/1996
66	156 4/8	Brown William H	Spartanburg	11/15/2012
66	156 4/8	Kambeitz Carl L	Kershaw	9/30/2003
66	156 4/8	Wyatt Bill	Anderson	12/11/2013
70	156 2/8	Campbell Jr Harvey Rusty	Lee	11/1998
70	156 2/8	Driggers Rocky	Aiken	10/14/2006
72	156 1/8	Boyd Garfield	Laurens	11/03/1980
72	156 1/8	Cockrell Jacky	Edgefield	10/05/1988
72	156 1/8	Haney Mitchell	Abbeville	10/1991
72	156 1/8	Smith Thomas C	Chesterfield	11/17/2007
72	156 1/8	Van D Van Quinn	Chester	11/6/2003
77	156 0/8	Found-Gaillard Ronnie	Newberry	
77	156 0/8	Moulton Marvin	Barnwell	11/08/2007
77	156 0/8	Tristan A Dubose	Saluda	10/31/2015
80	155 7/8	Roof George S	Unknown	1979
81	155 6/8	Crosland James E	Orangeburg	10/1966
81	155 6/8	Hutto Kenny	Colleton	9/25/1982
83	155 5/8	Dillard Danny T	Edgefield	10/24/2013
84	155 4/8	Bishop Michael E	Jasper	10/10/2000
84	155 4/8	Burrows Otis	Williamsburg	11/1984
84	155 4/8	Crenshaw Earnest	Lancaster	11/18/1988
84	155 4/8	Hannah Ronnie W	Greenwood	10/01/1976
84	155 4/8	Still Cannie	Barnwell	10/09/1983

All Time Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken
84	155 4/8	Winchester Brent	Pickens	11/18/1995
90	155 3/8	Dickerson John W	Jasper	10/13/2000
90	155 3/8	Mccutcheon Hermas	Florence	11/06/1976
90	155 3/8	Randy B Munsch	Richland	10/18/21
93	155 2/8	Norris D H	Saluda	10/1976
94	155 1/8	Rochester Terry	Oconee	12/15/2007
95	155 0/8	Chapman Darryl	Edgefield	12/26/1985
95	155 0/8	Porth Donnie	Calhoun	11/01/1988
97	154 7/8	Dillard Danny T	Anderson	11/04/2012
97	154 7/8	Found-Jones Wade	Union	10/1977
97	154 7/8	Smith R David	Lexington	11/10/1995
100	154 6/8	Bell Thomas	Anderson	10/22/1988
100	154 6/8	Boozer S Wyman	Jasper	9/27/1991
100	154 6/8	Russell Porter	Mccormick	11/23/2018
100	154 4/8	Wyatt Bill C	Anderson	12/30/1995
100	154 4/8	Glenn A Durant	Aiken	10/22/1992
100	154 4/8	Wirtz Jeremy	Oconee	12/19/2014
100	154 4/8	Wyatt Bill C	Anderson	12/30/1995
100	154 4/8	Glenn A Durant	Aiken	10/22/1992

Total Typical Records All-time = 7,845



Top 50 All-Time South Carolina Non-Typical White-tailed Deer



Minimum Score: 145

All Time Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken
1	217 7/8	Danny T Dillard	Edgefield	10/13/2016
2	208 5/8	Wood John W	Beaufort	10/1971
3	205 4/8	Means Bradley E	Edgefield	10/29/1994
4	194 4/8	Sears Billy	Mccormick	10/1973
5	187 7/8	Found-J Mixson & A Mole	Berkeley	11/20/2010
6	187 5/8	Lusk Manning	Mccormick	12/17/2004
7	187 4/8	Eargle Erwin	Lexington	9/13/1989
7	187 4/8	Roe Delton	Anderson	10/28/2004
9	184 2/8	Coombs Evin	Lexington	11/20/2009
10	181 1/8	Justin Hodges	Mccormick	11/11/2016
10	181 1/8	Lewis R Hemingway	Williamsburg	10/18/2019
12	180 7/8	Huntington Mark S	Anderson	10/31/2002
13	180 4/8	Doremus Jason M	Orangeburg	10/19/2000
13	180 4/8	Morton Randy	Chesterfield	11/22/1993
15	180 3/8	Found-Scwmrd	Marlboro	1930
16	179 2/8	Robertson Jr Charles E	Colleton	9/21/1981
17	176 5/8	William Thomas George	Hampton	11/1975
18	176 3/8	Ellis Doug	Mccormick	12/1973
19	176 1/8	Herring Mickey	Orangeburg	9/31/1997
20	175 2/8	Jacob D Buckner	Aiken	10/31/2017
21	173 3/8	Found-Johnson Michael	Oconee	11/05/1988
22	172 6/8	Zeigler Harold A	Orangeburg	11/05/2007
23	172 4/8	Ledbetter Danny	Berkeley	11/24/1983
23	172 4/8	Purgason Michael T	Chester	10/27/2007
25	171 0/8	Lee Lloyd	Bamberg	12/12/1987
26	170 6/8	Fulbright Chris	Calhoun	11/04/2011
27	170 5/8	Gaskins Hugh	Williamsburg	10/30/2003
27	170 5/8	Shealy Donald	Kershaw	10/10/2003

All Time Rank	Score	Hunter	County	Date Taken
29	170 1/8	Wilson Wade	Allendale	11/08/1997
30	169 6/8	Oneal Clark	Edgefield	10/30/2001
31	169 3/8	Bruce Hinton	Greenville	11/25/2019
32	169 2/8	Railey Eldridge	Lancaster	11/05/1984
33	169 1/8	Kirkley Jere	Anderson	10/13/2012
34	168 6/8	Ledford Todd C	Sumter	11/01/2001
35	167 6/8	Jonathan D Anders	Greenville	11/8/2015
36	167 5/8	Morris William G	Calhoun	8/15/1992
37	167 4/8	Blackwell Tony D	Oconee	12/14/2013
38	167 3/8	Fairey John L	Orangeburg	10/1961
39	167 1/8	McCoy Steve	Darlington	10/02/2009
40	167 0/8	Schaffer Danny	Colleton	9/1974
41	166 7/8	Johnson Jr Wilburn N	Chesterfield	12/03/1983
42	166 6/8	Cromer C S	Newberry	
42	166 6/8	Eric M McGee	Chesterfield	11/22/2019
44	166 5/8	Rebecca R Pelletier	Orangeburg	11/2/2015
45	166 4/8	Posey Kenneth	Aiken	11/1972
46	166 3/8	Ard Richard L	Williamsburg	9/01/1976
47	166 2/8	Douglas Jeff A	Fairfield	10/20/1986
47	166 2/8	Matt Dagenais	Allendale	10/17/21
49	166 1/8	Dempsey Clyde	Calhoun	10/1970
49	166 1/8	O'Neal James B	Edgefield	11/29/1996
49	166 1/8	Wood Dale	Greenwood	10/25/1983

Total Non-Typical Records All-time = 326



South Carolina County Totals All-Time Typical and Non-Typical



County	Typical	Non-Typical	Total	Rank	Rank/ Square Mile
Abbeville	234	12	246	9	4
Aiken	565	14	579	1	2
Allendale	204	14	218	10	6
Anderson	314	6	320	3	1
Bamberg	175	6	181	17	7
Barnwell	247	6	253	8	8
Beaufort	39	1	40	45	38
Berkeley	129	8	137	30	41
Calhoun	182	15	197	13	5
Charleston	50	1	51	43	45
Cherokee	30	5	35	46	42
Chester	116	6	122	34	34
Chesterfield	182	10	192	15	26
Clarendon	120	5	125	33	32
Colleton	262	19	281	6	22
Darlington	102	2	104	35	35
Dillon	47	0	47	44	43
Dorchester	138	9	147	27	28
Edgefield	130	7	137	30	23
Fairfield	308	10	318	4	9
Florence	160	2	162	23	33
Georgetown	62	4	66	40	46
Greenville	174	6	180	18	19
Greenwood	132	4	136	32	16
Hampton	173	3	176	19	25
Horry	152	8	160	24	37

County	Typical	Non-Typical	Total	Rank	Rank/ Square Mile
Jasper	96	5	101	36	36
Kershaw	269	9	278	7	10
Lancaster	172	10	182	16	14
Laurens	204	10	214	11	15
Lee	139	5	144	28	17
Lexington	151	13	164	21	20
McCormick	91	7	98	37	30
Marion	94	1	95	38	31
Marlboro	60	1	61	42	44
Newberry	190	10	200	12	18
Oconee	189	8	197	13	13
Orangeburg	548	26	574	2	3
Pickens	160	3	163	22	12
Richland	170	3	173	20	27
Saluda	139	4	143	29	11
Spartanburg	143	9	152	26	21
Sumter	151	7	158	25	29
Union	65	1	66	40	40
Williamsburg	276	7	283	5	24
York	70	4	74	39	39
County Unknown	41	0	41	NA	NA
Totals	7,845	326	8,171	NA	NA

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEASURING TYPICAL WHITETAILED DEER

All measurements must be made with a 1/4 inch flexible steel tape to the nearest one-eighth of an inch. Wherever it is necessary to change direction of measurement, mark a control point and swing tape at this point. (Note: a flexible steel cable can be used to measure points and main beams only.) Enter fractional figures in eighths, without reduction. Official measurements cannot be taken until antlers have dried for at least 60 days after the animal was killed.

- A. Number of points on each antler: to be counted a point, the projection must be at least one inch long, with the length exceeding width at one inch or more of length. All points are measured from tip of point to nearest edge of beam. Beam tip is counted as a point but not measured as a point.
- B. Tip to tip spread is measured between tips of main beams.
- C. Greatest spread is measured between perpendiculars at a right angle to the center line of the skull at widest part, whether across main beams or points.
- D. Inside spread of main beams is measured at a right angle to the center line of the skull at widest point between main beams. Enter this measurement again as the spread credit if it is less than or equal to the length of longer antler; if longer, enter longer antler length for spread credit.
- E. Total of lengths of all abnormal points: Abnormal points are those nontypical in location (such as points originating from a point or from bottom or sides of main beam) or extra points beyond the normal pattern of points. Measure in usual manner and enter in appropriate blanks.
- F. Length of main beam is measured from lowest outside edge of burr over outer curve to the most distant point of what is, or appears to be, the main beam. The point of beginning is that point on the burr where the center line along the outer curve of the beam intersects the burr, then following generally the outer curve of the main beam to the tip of the beam.
- G. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 Length of normal points: normal points project from the top of the main beam. They are measured from nearest edge of main beam over outer curve to tip. Lay the tape along the outer curve of the beam so that the top edge of the tape coincides with top edge of the beam on both sides of the point to determine the base line for point measurements. Record point lengths in appropriate blanks.
- H. 1-2-3-4 Circumferences are taken as detailed for each measurement. If brow point is missing, take H-1 and H-2 at smallest place between burr and G-2. If G-4 is missing, take H-4 halfway between G-3 and tip of main beam.

FAIR CHASE STATEMENT FOR ALL HUNTER-TAKEN WHITETAILED DEER

To make use of the following methods shall be deemed as **UNFAIR CHASE** and unsportsmanlike, and any deer obtained by use of such means is disqualified from entry.

- I. Spotting or herding game from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for pursuit;
- II. Herding or pursuing game with motor-powered vehicles;
- III. Use of electronic communications for attracting, locating or observing game, or guiding the hunter to such game;
- IV. Hunting game confined by artificial barriers, including escape-proof fencing; or hunting game transplanted solely for the purpose of commercial shooting.
- V. Hunting or taking game on lands without permission or consent of landowner.

I certify that the whitetailed deer scored on this chart was not taken in **UNFAIR CHASE** as defined above. I further certify that it was taken in full compliance with South Carolina game laws.

Date: _____ Signature of Hunter: _____

09-6461

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEASURING NON-TYPICAL WHITETAILED DEER

All measurements must be made with a 1/4 inch flexible steel tape to the nearest one-eighth of an inch. Wherever it is necessary to change direction of measurement, mark a control point and swing tape at this point. (Note: a flexible steel cable can be used to measure points and main beams only.) Enter fractional figures in eighths, without reduction. Official measurements cannot be taken until antlers have dried for at least 60 days after the animal was killed.

- A. Number of points on each antler: to be counted a point, the projection must be at least one inch long, with the length exceeding width at one inch or more of length. All points are measured from tip of point to nearest edge of beam. Beam tip is counted as a point but not measured as a point.
- B. Tip to tip spread is measured between tips of main beams.
- C. Greatest spread is measured between perpendiculars at a right angle to the center line of the skull at widest part, whether across main beams or points.
- D. Inside spread of main beams is measured at a right angle to the center line of the skull at widest point between main beams. Enter this measurement again as the spread credit if it is less than or equal to the length of longer antler; if longer, enter longer antler length for spread credit.
- E. Total of lengths of all abnormal points: Abnormal points are those nontypical in location (such as points originating from a point or from bottom or sides of main beam) or extra points beyond the normal pattern of points. Measure in usual manner and enter in appropriate blanks.
- F. Length of main beam is measured from lowest outside edge of burr over outer curve to the most distant point of what is, or appears to be, the main beam. The point of beginning is that point on the burr where the center line along the outer curve of the beam intersects the burr, then following generally the outer curve of the main beam to the tip of the beam.
- G. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 Length of normal points: normal points project from the top of the main beam. They are measured from nearest edge of main beam over outer curve to tip. Lay the tape along the outer curve of the beam so that the top edge of the tape coincides with top edge of the beam on both sides of the point to determine the base line for point measurements. Record point lengths in appropriate blanks.
- H. 1-2-3-4 Circumferences are taken as detailed for each measurement. If brow point is missing, take H-1 and H-2 at smallest place between burr and G-2. If G-4 is missing, take H-4 halfway between G-3 and tip of main beam.

FAIR CHASE STATEMENT FOR ALL HUNTER-TAKEN WHITETAILED DEER

To make use of the following methods shall be deemed as **UNFAIR CHASE** and unsportsmanlike, and any deer obtained by use of such means is disqualified from entry.

- I. Spotting or herding game from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for pursuit;
- II. Herding or pursuing game with motor-powered vehicles;
- III. Use of electronic communications for attracting, locating or observing game, or guiding the hunter to such game;
- IV. Hunting game confined by artificial barriers, including escape-proof fencing; or hunting game transplanted solely for the purpose of commercial shooting.
- V. Hunting or taking game on lands without permission or consent of landowner.

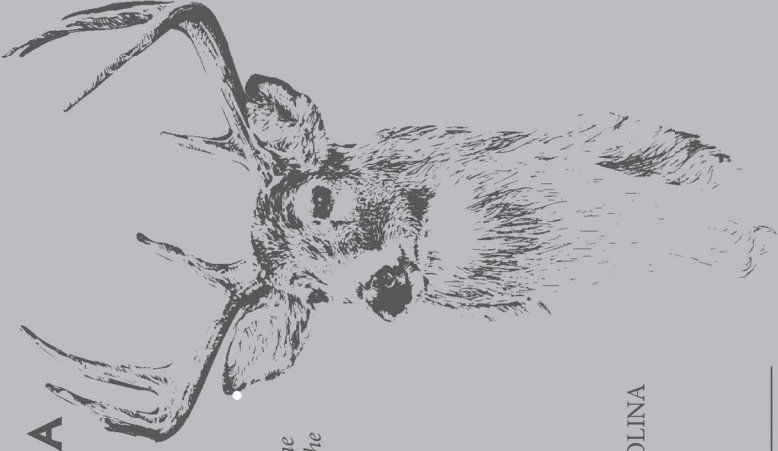
I certify that the whitetailed deer scored on this chart was not taken in **UNFAIR CHASE** as defined above. I further certify that it was taken in full compliance with South Carolina game laws.

Date: _____ Signature of Hunter: _____

09-6461

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

WHITE-TAILED DEER ANTLER RECORDS PROGRAM



This certificate is awarded in recognition of an outstanding white-tailed deer that has been measured according to the Boone and Crockett system by an official SCDNR scorer and has met the minimum state record criteria and merits recognition on South Carolina's Antler Records List.

OFFICIAL SCORE HUNTER CATEGORY
DATE TAKEN OWNER COUNTY

REVIEWED AND VERIFIED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



DEER RECORDS COORDINATOR DATE

