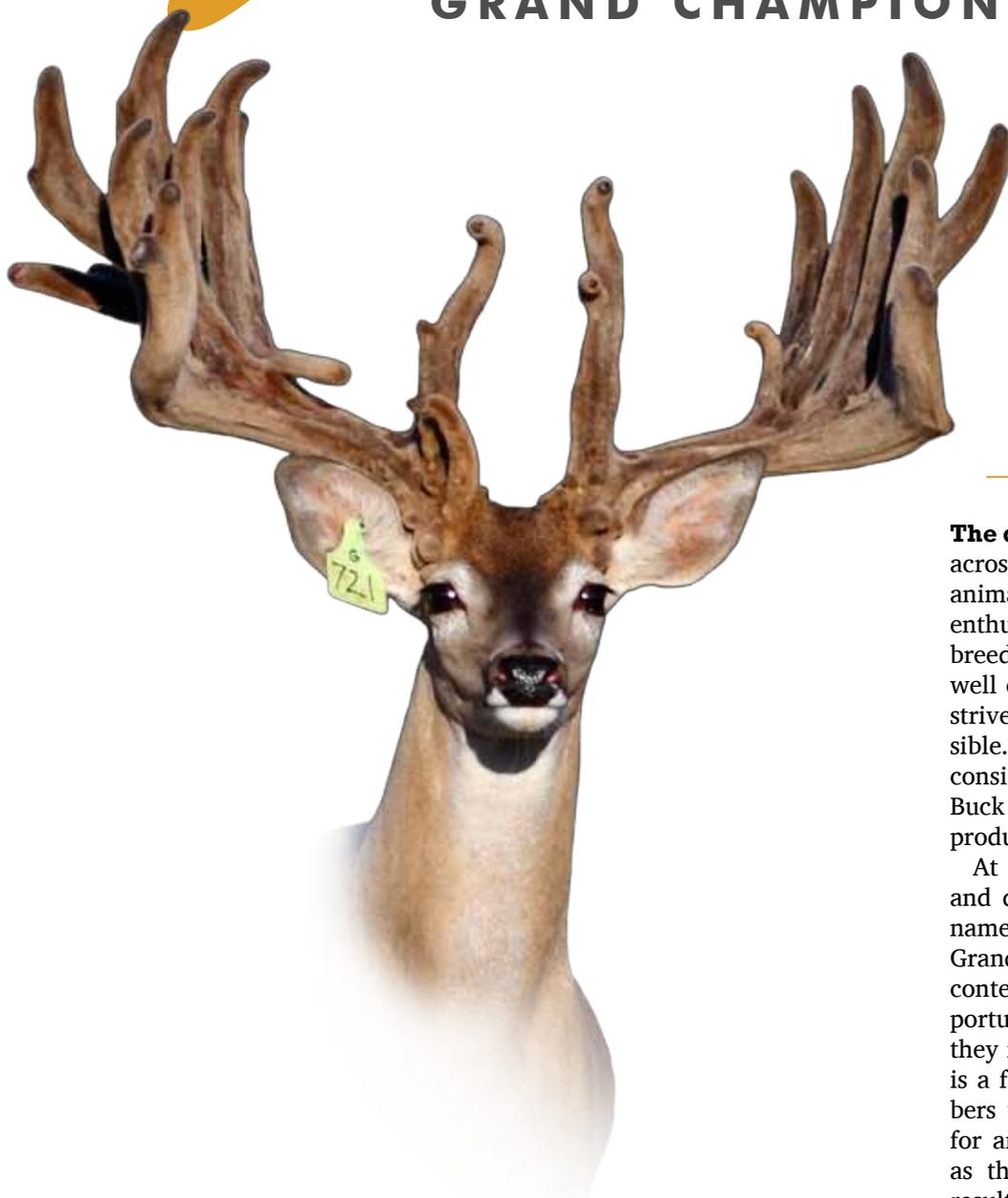


THE  
*Golden Buck*  
 GRAND CHAMPION



**HEISMAN**  
 DOUBLE DIME WHITETAILS  
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The deer industry continues to thrive across the nation each year, producing animals that exceed owner and deer enthusiast expectations. Today, deer breeders are educated, resourceful and well equipped for the industry as they strive to produce the best deer possible. It was with careful thought and consideration that the 2011 Golden Buck Grand Champion, Heisman, was produced.

At the 4th Annual DBC Convention and deer auction in Conroe, the DBC named Heisman the new Golden Buck Grand Champion. The Golden Buck contest gives all DBC members the opportunity to vote on whichever deer they feel best represents the contest. It is a fair, honest opportunity for members to pick a buck to represent DBC for an entire year. Heisman ascended as this year's winner, and he is the result of a life long passion for Texas whitetails.

Doug Smrekar fell in love with the Hill Country when he visited a friend's ranch while in medical school in San

**1-YEAR-OLD**

Antonio in the early 1980s. After being raised in Dallas, Doug was instantly enamored with the rugged Llano terrain. His dream to own a piece of land in Llano came to fruition when he purchased land on Riley Mountain in 1987. The family named the land the “Double Dime” because it is exactly 1,010 acres in size. For years, this land served solely as a hunting retreat for family and friends. It wasn’t until 2005 that Doug and his son, Jordan, saw the potential to expand and enter into a new business venture.

When Jordan was a sophomore at the University of Texas, he and Doug attended a Texas Deer Association auction at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. They had heard about the deer business, and were eager to learn more about it. After attending the sale, the Smrekars were certain that they wanted to become involved with the deer business. That decision got the ball rolling, and the next year was a whirlwind of preparation. Countless hours were spent studying pedigrees, visiting other breeders’ programs and eventually building a working facility and deer pens. Jordan spent a lot of time traveling around the state visiting other farmers and learning about the industry. After much thought, the Smrekars decided to start their foundation herd with genetics from Robert Williams and Lee Wheeler.

**2-YEAR-OLD**

The original foundation does were selected out of some of the best producing does that the Wheeler line had to offer. Soon thereafter, cover bucks and a handful of additional does were purchased from Robert Williams to complete the herd. Double Dime started with only a handful of deer. The Smrekar’s initial plan was to have a small breeding program and AI every doe to the best genetics available. It was important to them to have quality over quantity. Today, Double Dime continues to focus on having a small breeding program made up of only the best genetics in the country. Their AI program has utilized many great sires, but the most notable have been Gladiator and Shadow. Utilizing Lap AI allowed the Smrekars to gain an early jump on a large percentage of the industry.

**4-YEAR-OLD**



Doug Smrekar accepting the 2011 Golden Buck Grand Champion trophy.



A glimpse of Double Dime Whitetails Ranch.

Doug, who has been practicing medicine since 1980 in the field of obstetrics and gynecology, seized the opportunity to care for his does in the same manner that he has helped so many others over the years. Specializing in reproduction, Doug was eager to test his skills in the deer industry. After all, the does seemed to complain a lot less than some of the hormonal clients he had over the years. Using a Stryker laparoscope, the same equipment he had been using in the OR for so many years, he began artificially inseminating the does on his ranch. His attention to detail and sterile awareness ensured the highest level of quality and safety for his new patients.

The Smrekars make a great team because they ideally balance each other. While Doug provides a scientific background, Jordan is constantly researching and planning. He reads every auction catalog cover to cover, attends events all over the nation, and travels to numerous other deer breeding operations every year. It was because of his studying that Jordan selected Gladiator as an AI sire in 2006. Doug AI'd one of their favorite Wheeler does to this super sire, and thus Heisman was born. Heisman's mom was, in fact, the fourth deer that Doug ever inseminated.

Heisman was born at Double Dime Whitetails in 2007, and was a product of the first generation of fawns the Smrekars ever raised. The next summer, as soon as their first crop of yearlings started to grow out, it was evident that Heisman possessed the qualities that Double Dime Whitetails was striving to produce.

As a yearling, Heisman scored 148" as a big framed typical, but Jordan noticed one of his best features for a yearling was his 6" brow tines. At the time, this was a trait that was not commonly seen in Texas, especially not in yearlings. Heisman was a beautiful buck from day one, with long tines, great brows, and the look that every whitetail enthusiast seems to love. He has continued to grow consistently every year, adding inches and a few non-typical points without sacrificing his unique look. Heisman possesses all of the traits that the industry desires: tine length, mass, width, and a great frame. The Smrekars feel truly blessed to have a deer like Heisman in their pens and appreciate all the DBC members who voted for him as the Golden Buck.

The Smrekar family considers the white-tailed deer one of the most glorious creatures in existence. Double Dime expanded their herd by entering into the Northern Market in 2008. This year they were one of the top five finishers at the Whitetail Sales Select 30 Sale, automatically qualifying them to be in the Top 30 in 2012. The Smrekars are drawn to every aspect of the deer business and look forward to witnessing their herd evolve and grow for years to come. Business aside, the Smrekar family will always continue with their passion for raising deer and watching them roam the Texas hill country. •

