

# King Ranch deer

This magnificent South Texas Ranch -- some 825,000 acres -- has long been heralded for its impressive wildlife. Lampasan Scott Harton has studied the whitetail deer on a free-range, low-fence lease. His photos offer a glimpse at what he sees in his work.



**This mature buck -- estimated to be 6 1/2 years old or more -- yawns as he pauses to take a break after chasing does. A "straight-up, perfect" 10-point buck, he scored 153 Boone & Crockett points. "He's an old, tired buck," said photographer Scott Harton, who noted the depth of the deer's body from the back to the brisket "is quite significant and pronounced" and that the buck sports a potbelly.**



**A 10-point buck with two kickers, or abnormal points, had been walking in the morning, and he passed through the woods under a tree and picked up a spider with bugs in its web. The spider and bugs came to rest in the deer's antlers (top center background). Roughly 5 1/2 years old, the buck had a gross Boone & Crockett score in the mid-130s.**



**In September 2008, Harton snapped a photograph of this post-mature deer. "He's a neat, old deer," Harton said. "He kind of hangs around our camp." But, Harton added, "He's gone downhill this year." The buck probably was a 6x6, or 12-pointer, two years before this photograph was taken, with a gross Boone & Crockett score in the mid-140s.**



**Harton was lying on the ground when he photographed this main frame eight-pointer with a drop tine. "This is where the (100-400-mm zoom) lens really pays off, because I was probably 75 yards from him," Harton said. The deer's thicker neck is characteristic of a buck in the middle of rut, and this 5 1/2-year-old's hoof is raised as he marks his territory.**

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