

The Tale Of Two Ducks

**Wanderings
from the
Woods
& Water**

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“The Tale of Two Ducks” is about two banded mallard ducks that were harvested a few days ago in Estill County.

A banded duck is a duck that has a metal band around its leg; also known to duck hunters as ducks wearing jewelry. Once a banded duck is harvested the hunter calls in the number on the band and gives the information of when and where the bird was killed. This helps biologist track migration patterns of waterfowl. When a duck or goose is banded, the biologist records the estimated age of the bird and the location it was banded.

A banded duck or goose to a waterfowl hunter is equal to a trophy buck. Most waterfowl hunters put the band

around their call lanyards. The very first thing every waterfowl hunter I know including myself looks at after shooting a duck or goose is the legs for a band. It is always an awesome surprise when you see that jewelry on the leg! I have hunted now for 15 years and have only killed 4 banded birds. So it's rare to get a band; especially when you hunt in a non-major migration flyway.

Early morning, a few days ago, my adopted boys, Kelby Browning and Matthew Plowman shot two banded ducks in Estill County. These two ducks come in together and died beside each other. One of the banded ducks was from Ontario and the other was from South Dakota. I

can say with certainty that the odds of person hitting the Powerball 10 times in a row are much greater.

I was immediately sent the picture of the bands! (Thanks for the invite) They told me where the birds were banded and how the hunt went down and this got me to thinking. I wondered how many decoy spreads these two ducks avoided over their life; How many times they escaped a hunter's guns. I wondered how many predators they have avoided. I can only imagine the ground they have flown over to get to Estill County.

Without a doubt these ducks were sent by God to my adopted boys to harvest so I could write a story about them. You see, after I heard the story of the two banded ducks, God laid a message on my heart to write. I love when this happens because it makes writing a column much easier.

These ducks were destined to go on the dinner plate to nourish the body. We have a lot in common with the ducks. Some of us might have escaped dangerous situations. Some of us might have lived a charmed life. Some us have gone through unimaginable hardships. The thing we have in common with the ducks is, we all will have a point and time when our life ends. We all have one of two destinies after death; Heaven or Hell. I believe with all my heart and soul both Heaven and Hell are real. I also believe that Jesus is the only way to be saved from Hell. No matter the struggles and turmoil you are going through Jesus will be there. Know Jesus, Know Peace! No Jesus, No Peace. I want to encourage folks in 2014 that don't know Jesus to get to know him. I want to encourage folks that know Jesus to work towards strengthening your relationship with him in 2014.

Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation!



TOP: Matthew and Kelby with banded ducks. BOTTOM: Corey Stringfield after a good day of duck hunting. AT RIGHT: A closeup of the bands from a duck.

Patriots Fall In Double Overtime to Rockcastle Annual ECMS “White Out” Set For Next Tuesday

Going into the fourth quarter with a 13-point lead would not be enough to hold off an impressive comeback by the Rockcastle Rockets on Thursday night in Irvine, as they would defeat the Estill Patriots in two overtimes by a score of 53-51.

Rockcastle would hold Estill to a one-point 4th quarter, and it took a buzzer put-back by Lane Doty of Estill to force the second overtime. “Rock made some excellent defensive adjustments going into the fourth quarter and we just didn't adjust quickly enough or handle it well at all,” said Coach Jimmy Bonny. “We will use it as a learning experience and will not let it happen to us again.”

Estill played the majority of the two overtimes with three starters fouled out of the game. Rockcastle also defeated Estill's 6th and 7th grade teams.

On Wednesday night, playing a make up game due to inclement weather on Tuesday, Estill Middle

would defeat all three teams at Model Lab. At the halfway point of the Commonwealth Conference regular season, Estill's 8th grade team is in second place behind Foley Middle of Berea with a record of 6-2. The Patriots 7th is posting a record of 5-3.

The Patriots want to invite everyone to come to its 2nd annual “WHITE OUT NIGHT” as Estill will host Foley Middle on Tuesday, January 21, starting at 5:30

p.m. with the 6th grade game. ECMS students will have free admission and the ECHS pep band will be performing throughout the night.

“This will be a critical game for us as we prepare for the conference tournament coming up in February and we are hoping for a huge crowd to be there, fired up and ready to go!” remarked Coach Bonny.

Everyone is encouraged to wear a white “ESTILL” shirt for the game.



Joe Benton, in the background, and Caleb Bonny



Left to right: Kevin Richardson, Dylan Evans, Will Burkhart, Caleb Bonny.

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