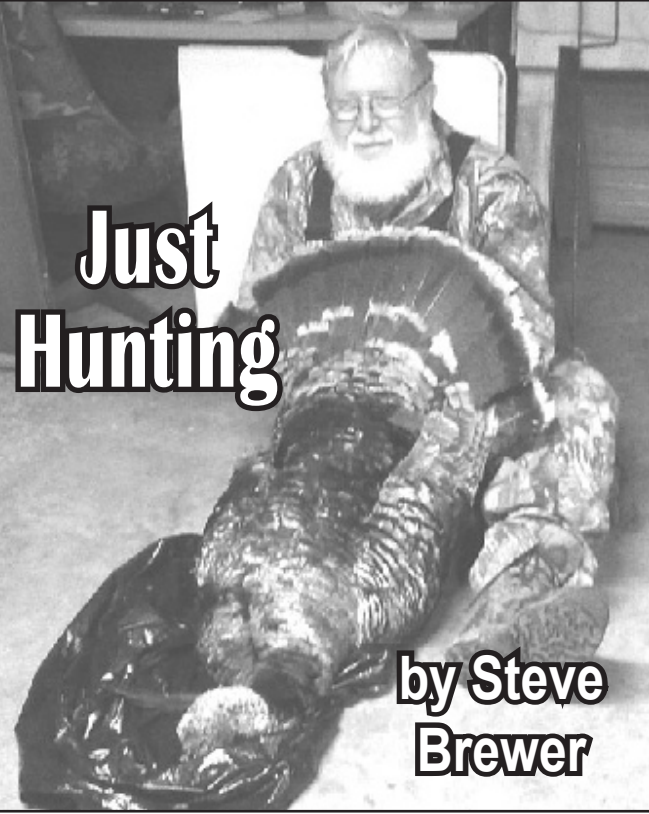


Brewer bags his Kansas 'long beard'



two, just outside of St. Louis, and got a room for the night; then took the 7-hour finish on Monday to the hunting lodge. No traffic, just clear sailing.

I met up with "Doomsday" Harper at the lodge. I missed him at the ranch, I got there a little before him and was scouting when he arrived. By the way, he got back his \$500.00 blind that was carried away in the wind two years before because he never had it staked down.

Opening day is always a hassle, trying to get it together, because of not knowing. Not knowing what time to get the outfitter to get you up; not knowing what time you need to leave the lodge for the 22-mile ride to the ranch; just a lot of unknowns.

It was a picture perfect opening day; it was 36 degrees with a 25-mile-an-hour wind. I set my decoys and made myself home in my new house, my blind, for the next few hours. Just before daylight I heard the big boys let out their gobblers. There was, the best I could figure, 8 long beards. I gave them until 9am our time and hit my calls. The hens had left the gobblers, and the gobblers were looking to play. We went over that in Just Hunting, in case you remember.

By 10am they were within my sight, but they had other plans. It seemed that I had put my blind and decoys about seventy yards from their strut zone. They would look at my Jake and hens decoys, but would not even think about leaving their strut zone. There were four big long beards, but I followed my own plan and waited them out. After about 2 hours, they left; then I went into action, I moved my blind to the strut zone. I was in their living room and knew they would return the next day.

The next morning it was an even better day, somewhat warmer, and less breezier. I heard the big boys open up right before daylight, game on. I hit my first call at 8am their time, and by 9am, all four was in the strut zone. I picked me out a nice big tom and pulled the trigger. He never fell like I wanted him to, so I threw him more lead. My bad, in Kansas you can hammer down on ever how many tags you have, all at the same time. When I took the second shot, it gave the other toms time to react and move farther out. I made either a hit or miss shot at another long



Steve Brewer shows off his "long beard" turkey from a Kansas hunt. Steve's next adventure will be to Mexico to hunt the Gould's turkey.

beard, at about 60 yards; but in Kansas, with the stiff wind, that is an almost impossible shot. I missed.

I headed to the ranch house to take pictures with my guide, and learned that for some reason, "Doomsday" had checked out and was heading back home. I said my 'good-by' to the guide, went back into the field, got my things, and headed to Kentucky. It was, as usual, a great trip. Now on to Mexico next month, to hunt the Gould. Wish me luck.

You can email Steve Brewer at <Steve@EstillTribune.com> and message is automatically forwarded.

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