



Hunting trophies decorate the basement at Shad and Penny Sheldon's home near Goodland. The deer head is Penny's. Shad hunts wild turkeys with the bow and the stuffed bob cat is arranged to look like he's doing some hunting of his own for stuffed quail.

— Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

# Season longer for bow hunters

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*  
slcorcoran@nwkansas.com

Bow hunting requires getting up close and personal with the game, and one area hunter says he enjoys that more than the easy kill of rifle hunting.

Shad Sheldon of Goodland said he started rifle hunting at age 12 and bow hunting at 22, and hunts for turkey, deer, elk and antelope. He owns land to hunt on in Sherman County and goes to Colorado to hunt as well.

Sheldon, 43, said he prefers bow hunting for the longer season and the greater difficulty.

You can do it three months of the year instead of a week, Sheldon said, and with rifle hunting for deer, it's like shooting a cow in a pasture. You have to get close to the animal with bow hunting, he said, adding that once he was within 15 feet of a deer. That's pretty cool, he said.

Sheldon also enjoys shooting antelope with a bow and arrow. You go out with decoys, he said, and have to do a lot of sneaking and spot them from 100 feet. When you put up the antelope decoy, though, he said, the real antelope will charge it, sometimes running right into it. That's exciting, he said.

Sheldon said friends got him started bow hunting, and he still hunts with friends, but also hunts on his own sometimes and with his wife Penny. She bagged her first turkey two years ago, he said, and now she's hooked.

His daughter Courtney, a senior in high school, hunted with him when she was younger, and his son Kade, also a senior, deer hunts sometimes. He's more interested in his music, Shad said.

Kade sings and plays bass guitar, plays football and wrestles, and Courtney is a cheerleader and plays basketball. Both are in 4-H.

"They didn't take to hunting like I did," their

father said.

He and Penny own Shap's Beaver Creek Ranch, a hunting lodge with 385 acres in the north part of the county. It's already booked up for deer season, he said, adding that guests staying in the lodge hunt on the surrounding land, and he shows them where they are likely to find deer.

And he hunts every chance he gets but says it's not as often as he'd like.

"I'll have a lot more time when the kids graduate," he said. "There are a lot of wrestling tournaments on weekends during hunting season."

While bow hunting for turkey this spring, Sheldon said, he found the remains of two deer that had locked horns while fighting.

They fell in the creek and died, he said, adding he had the skulls and interlocked horns mounted.

Other trophies mounted in the Sheldons' basement include the head of Penny's first deer, a turkey head and feathers, a bobcat and a couple of quail. Sheldon said his hunting stories are too numerous to tell, but he said he has a lot of memories of packing elk out of the mountains. It's a lot of work carrying the meat out a quarter at a time, he said.

He says he has to wait until after fall harvest, about the first week of November, since deer and antelope hide in corn, milo and sunflower fields, and then he'll be in a hurry to get a deer before rifle season starts Dec. 1. The deer are easily spooked after that, he said, and it's hard to get close to them.

Sheldons also own Shad's Electric, and Penny is Goodland's postmaster. Shad has played in several bands in the past, including Exit 17. He hasn't had time for that recently, he said, but sometimes plays a couple of songs with Pieces of Eight.

## Area's Leading Dealer in Firearms & Accessories



Buy • Sell • Trade  
www.greatoutdoorsgunshop.com

785-626-9100

Liberty Safe Beretta Benelli  
Sig Sauer Glock CRKT Knives

KS Hunting Licenses Available

Just East of Hwy 25 & US 36 Junction  
Atwood KS 67730



**LIBERTY SAFES**

## COLBY GLASS TINTING

AUTO COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

- Reduces Heat, Glare & Fading
- Cuts Air Conditioning & Heating Costs
- Improves Safety, Security, & Privacy
- Professional Installation
- Lifetime Warranty



*Cal Spa*

CHANGING THE WAY YOU FEEL.  
AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR FOR:  
The World's Largest & Best Spa Company

- Spas
- Gazebos
- Pool Tables
- Barbecues
- Bars
- Chemicals
- Saunas
- Tanning
- Beds

Rates #1 in Customer Satisfaction & Best Buy!  
• FINANCING AVAILABLE •

If you own a garden hose, you can own a Cal Spa!

**ANDY & DIANE KARLIN - owners**

785-462-8350 • 1200 W. 4th • Colby, KS 67701

# COLBY WAL★MART®

Save Money • Live Better

**SUPER CENTER**

115 W. Willow Street • Colby, KS

• Open 24 Hours •



**Welcome Hunters!**

**Let us take care of  
your hunting needs!**

*All Hunting Licences Available In State  
and Out of State Licences*