

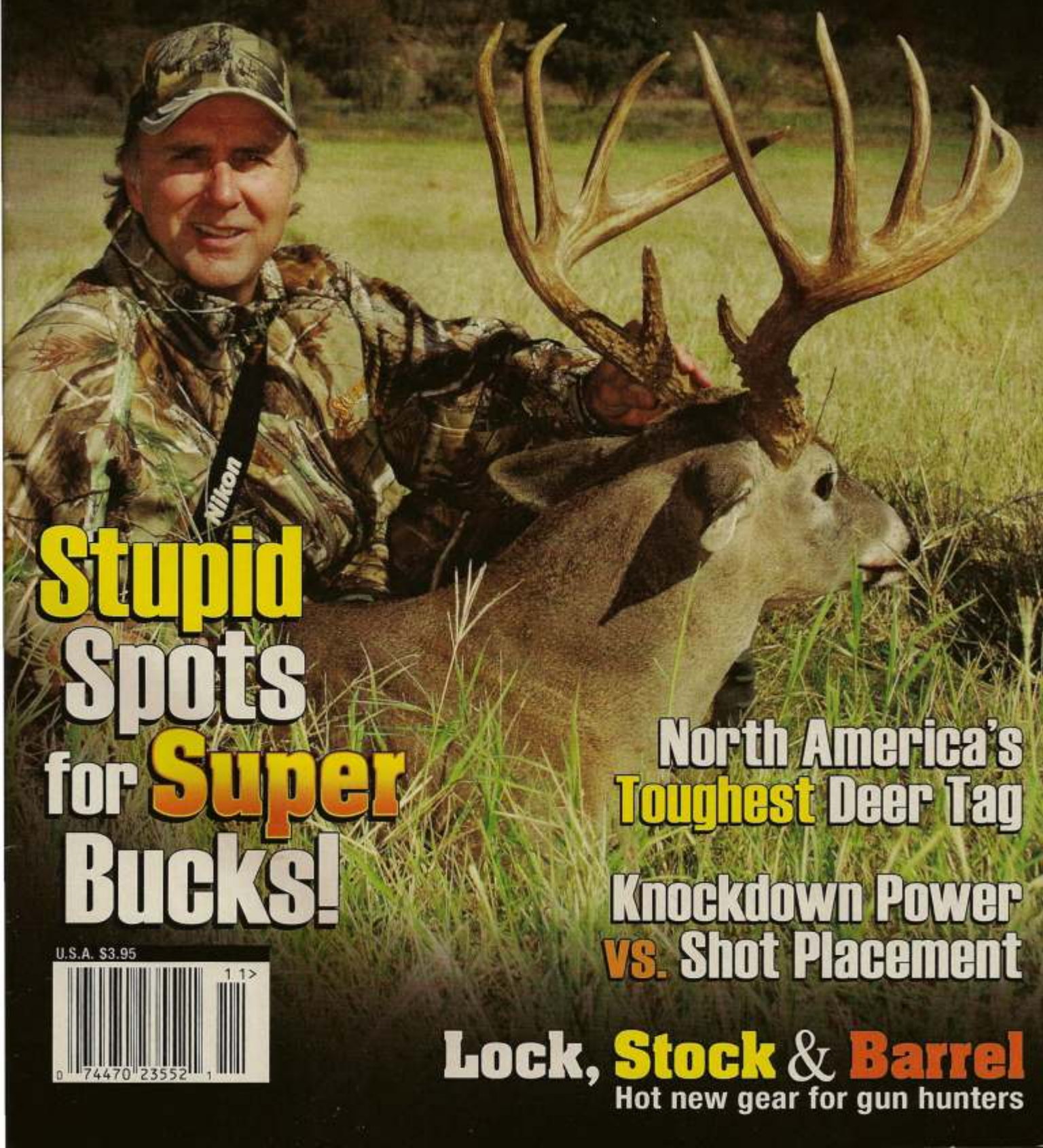
What's YOUR Best Option for a Deer-Dedicated Slug Gun?

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He Can Talk to the Animals

Whether for hunting or companionship, dogs are pretty popular with hunters. Although none of us wants a misbehaving dog or self-adsorbed companion, that's what we end up with under many circumstances. We eventually condition ourselves to accept whatever behavior the dog has developed.

God gave each of us the gifts we were meant to have. Special talents are part of the plan for some, and the lucky ones discover those blessings and use them to make their lives richer. Bill Matney is one of those people.

I heard Matney on the radio as a guest of the Rick and Bubba Show. His gift? Talking to dogs!

Matney created his own company, How to Talk Dog, and tours the country giving seminars and selling products that instruct others to do the same. "In order to talk to a dog, you have to learn to think like one," Matney said. "Dogs are simple creatures that communicate with all of their senses. Being pack animals, establishing dominance is a key element in dog ownership and behavior training."

Knowing who he was, I was caught off guard when Matney called me one day a few years ago. After seeing the disabled hunter's program on Buckmasters, Matney was inspired to help and offered his hunting property in Greensburg, Ky., for a BADF Life Hunt. Since then we have worked with him on several occasions, offering hunting opportunities and dog shows for our challenged participants.

Matney takes a light-handed approach to training and establishing dominance with his dogs. He teaches subtle tricks that train the owner to teach the canine who's boss and who calls the shots.

For example, at feeding time, Matney tells people to put their dog's food in a

corner. Next, block the dog from getting to the food with your legs or wheelchair. Eventually (maybe after several minutes) your dog will sit in a submissive position, look you square in the eye and express, "Okay, I know you're the boss, and I'll eat my food when you say I can."

Establishing dominance with your dog isn't an ego trip; it's completely in the animal's best interests. When you call the shots, you take your dog out of competitive mode. It will then comfortably follow your lead in all things, ensuring safety as well as mental and physical health.

Matney can take a misbehaving dog of any breed or age and, in just a few minutes, have it behaving like a different animal.

Through his company, Matney goes out of his way to help those with disabilities train their pets. He's completely open to helping people with any disability adapt his techniques to create a healthy owner-dog relationship. He also sells training DVDs, and there's a book in the works, too. "It's a dog owner's manual," he told me.

In addition, he's establishing training centers around the country. For more information, visit www.howtotalkdog.com or call (270) 932-4097.



Canine expert Bill Matney (facing) helps people of all abilities learn to communicate with their dogs.

Vanish with a GhostBlind



The new GhostBlind can help challenged hunters vanish into their surroundings.

BADF Disabled Services is the most comprehensive source on adaptive gear for challenged hunters, and we like to spread the word when we find a good product. We recently discovered a new product made for the mainstream hunting market that is a perfect fit for our patrons.

GhostBlind even calls their new idea "adaptive" technology. This paneled blind sets up in seconds and can literally make you vanish. With mirrored panels that angle toward the ground, the GhostBlind becomes part of its surroundings.

GhostBlind offers two models, the Phantom and the Predator. A more portable shoot-through model is in production and will be available by the time this article is published. It will have aluminum panels, making it lighter and stronger. For more information, visit www.ghostblind.com, or call (740) 374-6766.

