



Photo submitted by Ross Korpela

**10-point buck:** Kettle River resident, Ross Korpela shot this 236-pound, 10-point buck near Cromwell. The deer earned him a first place prize of \$300 in the 2004 Trolley Big Buck Contest.

## Being a part of the tradition

**Ross Korpela now has a story to tell like his grandfather, Hans Korpela and his father Dennis Korpela**

By John Grones

Over the years, Ross Korpela has listened to the stories of the two biggest bucks shot in the family. His grandfather Hans Korpela once shot a 272-pound buck. His father Dennis shot his buck of a lifetime, a 263-pounder. Now Ross has a story of his own and a \$300 check from the Trolley for winning the Big Buck Contest in Cromwell.

The contest was extremely competitive this year. There were 11 bucks registered that weighed over 200 pounds. This year's winner, Ross Korpela of Kettle River sat down and shared his story about persistence and patience.

Ross is an avid hunter and each year he enjoys hunting with family and friends. Their hunting tradition takes place in the Cromwell area near Swede Lake. His family often hunts with the Anderson gang.

The story began on opening morning. The location is

what Ross referred to as the low lands. "I stationed myself in the canary grass," he said. "That morning, I saw a doe pop out at about 7:45 and another one came out that appeared to be longer and taller." Ross knew it was big, but it was tough to tell, based on how far away it was and the glare of the sun. At any rate, Ross remained patient. They were too far away.

"Then behind it, another 8-pointer came out. This one was within range, but I passed on it," he added.

Ross never did get another glimpse at what he thought was the big one that day. He wasn't sure he would get another chance until he returned

Thurs., Nov. 11 to that same spot. Sure enough that same 8-pointer came out again. "I'm thinking I'll probably have to shoot him and then off to the left I hear another deer."

Once Ross adjusted his gun to eliminate the glare on his scope, he recognized the big deer. "I didn't want to focus on the antlers too much," he said.

Once the kill was complete, Ross called his uncle Cary Korpela to help him with the deer. "We both got on the tailgate and struggled to get him in the truck. The deer was so big, it filled the entire box of the truck."

From this point on, it was high fives, sharing the story and waiting to see if he had won the contest. His 10-point buck weighed in at 236 pounds. "I spent the whole day in Cromwell. I couldn't get out of town. Everyone wanted to see him."

"It was a neat experience,"

concluded Ross. "When I saw him opening day, I never thought I'd see him again... then to see him six days later and complete the ethical hunt."

"It's just fun to be a part of the tradition."

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— Ross Korpela