

Better To Be Lucky Than Good

Jay R. Wolfenden ■ 325-3/8 Woodland Caribou ■ Middle Ridge Pond, Newfoundland ■ 2005

Jay Wolfenden has put his time in, and has very much earned most of the game he has come by. For that reason, he has no reservations about laughing at the ease with which his hunt went for what is the biggest woodland caribou entered so far in the 26th Awards Program.

Wolfenden had booked a woodland caribou hunt in Newfoundland. Upon his arrival, he found that the outfitter had been short one guide, and so had found a new person on short notice to come in and help. That didn't bother Wolfenden; he was there for the experience and still had confidence. The interesting part, though, was that as hunter and guide left to find caribou, neither had ever seen the area before.

They left camp, crossed a body of water on a boat, and were beginning to survey the area. It was generally a slightly corrugated country, full of bogs and small ponds, with scrubby-looking 15-foot-high spruce. There were no major landmarks, just small knobs dotting the landscape.

They began to climb to a knob, where they ran into another guide with a client. As they stood there deciding who would go where, Wolfenden looked over and saw what looked like the flash of a white pickup moving through the trees about 600 yards away. Then it hit him; they were far removed from the nearest road, and the flash was no pickup!

Wolfenden looked over at his guide and said, "How about that one?"

Wolfenden's guide, who had never guided for caribou before, thought it looked plenty good enough. They quickly ducked out of sight and began the stalk. They were able to eventually get to 100 yards and make a good shot, which Wolfenden performed with his 7mm Weatherby.

Jay notes with a smile that there really wasn't much to it but blind luck. Either way, he says, they were still back to camp with a big caribou and having coffee by 9:30 a.m.!

Wolfenden's caribou is a prime example of what a great trophy these smaller, more compact caribou are. With great shovels and great mass, they are unique and intriguing trophies.

Wolfenden's woodland caribou is the biggest entry so far in the 26th Awards Program – scoring 325-3/8 points.

