



Courtesy photo

Wood River High School junior Bodie Bennett is an avid fisherman.

BODIE BENNETT

Loves outdoor adventure

BY JONATHAN KANE

Bodie Bennett loves the outdoors.

A junior at Wood River High School with a 3.87 grade point average, Bennett is a member of National Honor Society and Compassionate Young Leaders and participates in 4-H. He also plays lacrosse and basketball. His classes this year include a heavy load in Advanced Placement courses, including U.S. history, macro and micro-economics, language and composition, and psychology.

But he says hunting and fishing, which he has done since he was a young child, are his greatest passions.

"I started as soon as I could walk," Bennett said with a laugh. "I could bugle like an elk before I could say Mom."

Bennett started by accompanying his father elk hunting.

"My earliest memory was of calling in a bull when I was 5," Bennett said. "It was very exciting, and at that point I could make cow and bull calls with my voice."

"On this occasion I used a bull call, which can draw a bull in, thinking another bull is after his cows. It was really exciting because he was only 30 yards away. To see something that big and powerful up that close is really something."

Bennett said he's been fishing "for as long as I can remember," starting at 2 years old.

He both fly fishes and uses a spin reel, but mostly used a reel as a young child and then transitioned to a fly rod.

"I'll use whatever works," Bennett said.

He caught his first fish at age 3.

"My dad used to fly fish and when he caught one I would reel him in," Bennett said. "One memory was of reeling in a 5-pound bull trout. I had never seen one that big."

Bennett said he also enjoys black bear hunting in the spring in the Stanley area.

"We use a method called 'spot and stalk' when the bears come out really hungry and try to get at that first grass to eat," Bennett said. "You go to the faces where the sun is shining, then you sneak up and get close enough for a shot."

"It's the hardest animal to judge for its age. You can look at the size of its head and the creases in its forehead or by the way it walks."

"Afterwards, you skin them out because the meat is very good," he said. "I made a rug out of the hide of the first one I got and then bleached the skull for a trophy."

"Hunting is a great sport. You are getting out into beautiful places and the animals are really magnificent creatures and it's really cool to observe them in their natural state. Also, people don't realize how much hunters contribute to conservation."

"Hunters want to see the animals out there probably more than anyone else."

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Editor's note: Anyone who would like to recommend a local student for The Weekly Sun's "Student Spotlight" feature should contact Jonathan Kane at jkjonkane@gmail.com.

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