

Something Like THAT

IN 1992, I FIRST hunted bears in Alberta with Mike Ukrainetz. Mike had done some guiding for other outfitters, but this was his first year of outfitting. To get some mileage out of an unfilled slot, he invited me up to write about his great bear hunting.

Well, for me, it didn't turn out so great. For six straight days, eight hours a day, I sat at a bait trampled with five-inch tracks. A big bear was pounding that site. Yet I saw only one small bear, a 100-pound female.

However, that hunt forever changed my perspective on

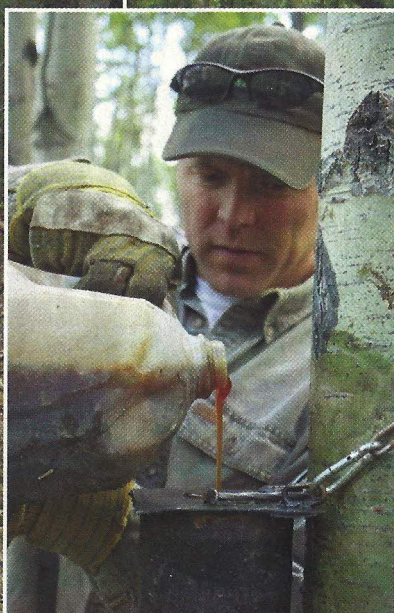
bear hunting. When Kevin Hayden, a bowhunter from Texas, shot the biggest bear I had ever seen, I wrote in my journal:

"Kevin's bear was the most awesome animal I've ever seen. Mike estimated its head at 20½", the hide over 7', the weight over 400 lbs. I just couldn't believe how much animal was there. You have to see one on the ground to get the real import of the size of an animal like this. It inspired me to try even harder to kill a big bear. Sometime I have to get something like that!"

In short, I became obsessed with trying to kill a bear like

By Dwight Schuh, Editor-At-Large

AUTHOR'S PHOTOS



With 2,000 square miles of prime bear country to hunt, Mike Ukrainetz can assure hunters they'll see big bears. At left, Mike sweetens a honey pot strategically placed to help hunters determine the sex of bears. Is there any doubt about the sex of the big blond caught on one of Mike's trail cameras? Larry D. Jones had plenty of close-range opportunities to kill bears but chose to hold out.

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