



PHOTO COURTESY LARRY WORKMAN

First time's a charm: Larry Workman with his first-ever elk.

to hunt with a crossbow to ensure a clean and humane kill if I was lucky enough to get a shot on the magnificent animal I was hunting. My weapon was a Parker Tomahawk Crossbow using 20-inch bolts with 100-grain broadheads.

I began scouting the week before season started and hunted hard the first three days of the season. Heavy rains kept me home the next day, but I resumed hunting on Wednesday, Sept. 19, accompanied by a good friend.

We began early that day. We were surrounded by bugling bulls and made several unsuccessful attempts to get close enough for a shot. Finally, in late evening, when the elk left the heavy woods to feed, we were able to call in a beautiful 6x7 bull.

My hunting friend kept telling me distances and giving me encouragement to let the bull keep coming. At 35 yards, I made a perfect double lung shot. The bull collapsed about 150 yards away.

Then the real work began, but I was on Cloud 9 and haven't come down yet!

By the way, the other archer on the property also scored. I owe a great debt of gratitude to the wonderful owners of this property for my fantastic experience. I've learned firsthand that reclaimed coal mines make great habitat for elk. ■

Author Larry Workman of Louisa, a retired employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, took his first deer in 1979. This was his first elk hunt.

Dream Come True

AFTER TWELVE YEARS of applying for the coveted Kentucky elk tag, this year I was fortunate enough to draw one of only 90 available quota hunt bull elk archery permits.

I was fortunate to obtain permission to hunt on some reclaimed coal mine property

in Martin County, located in EHU (Elk Hunting Unit) 1. They allowed only two archers to hunt for bull elk on their property. This was an opportunity for the dream hunt I've waited a lifetime for!

At age 68 – and although relatively proficient with my compound bow – I chose

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