



## ***An Interview with Jeff and Chris Propst of Drury Outdoors: Exclusively From Planet Whitetail.***

***Well, if you are anything like me, you have a couple of nights each week when you are glued to the TV screen, watching your most favorite hunting shows and dreaming about sitting on stand. For some time, one of my favorite shows has been anything to do with Drury Outdoors. In my opinion, the main reason why there shows are so great is because they put normal guys on stand and behind the camera and let them produce true to life "BIG BUCK" footage. Normal guys like Jeff and Chris Propst. I have been fortunate to spend some time getting to know Jeff and Chris in preparation for this interview. If you have seen an episode of "Dream Season," you know Jeff and Chris as the father, Son tandem, or "Team Missouri." Jeff and Chris live in the great Midwest and spend any free time they can find chasing whitetails. Jeff is married with two children, Julie twenty eight and Chris twenty three. When not in the woods hunting MEGA bucks, Jeff enjoys food plotting and fishing as well as selling Midwestern prime whitetail real estate. Chris is a diehard golfer. You can catch Jeff and Chris on "Dream Season Redemption as well as Bow Madness." You can find Jeff at [www.whitetailproperties.com](http://www.whitetailproperties.com)***



**PW:** Jeff and Chris, many people have seen the two of you hunt with the Drury Outdoors crew. How do you come to hunt with them?



**Jeff Propst:** Mark and Terry Drury are longtime friends of mine, Mark and I got acquainted way back in the early 80's when I was a competitive wild turkey caller, we traveled all over the US calling in calling contests for years, and when Mark started Drury Outdoors in 1989 he asked me to be a part of it, Chris was born in 1986 and as soon as he was old enough to start hunting I had him in the woods, it just developed from there. Our lifestyle revolves around hunting and family, we are all very close.

**PW:** *Jeff, I have seen you on whitetail properties. Is real estate your career while you are not hunting or do you have other businesses?*

**Jeff Propst:** Whitetail Properties is my primary job, we are hunting and recreational land specialists, I work the Northern part of Missouri and SE Iowa as an agent/land specialist, I also manage a big farm in North Mo that a good friend of mine owns, I do all the food plot work, along with general farm work that needs done.

**PW:** *Chris, for many people, it's hard working with Dad. What is it like for you spending so many hours on stand with you Dad, having the pressure to lay hunts down on tape?*

**Chris Propst:** For me, it isn't hard working with Dad. Sometimes we may get at each other just because of little things we do that may bug one another, but for the most part we get along great. We are just alike, which is a good thing, especially when hunting because we usually know what each other's thinking.

**PW:** *Jeff and Chris, given that the two of you hunt together much of the time, how do you decide who gets to hunt and who is behind the camera?*

**Jeff Propst:** We usually just take turns hunting, a lot of it depends on how much time Chris has off work, my schedule is more flexible than his, so I try to film Chris more if he doesn't have as much time off as we need. There is not a real ground rule here, we just make it work, when he was younger, I let him hunt the majority of the time, now that he is older we pretty much just take turns. We both love to hunt and film, and running the camera is about as much fun as actually hunting. (almost).

**PW:** *Jeff and Chris, how did the two of you decide that you would start filming hunts? What was the first camera you purchased to film with?*

**Jeff Propst:** I was doing some filming way back in the late 80's with Quaker Boy Game calls when I was pro-staffing for them, and that's where I started filming hunts, and things just transpired from there, I did some video work with Knight and Hale as well, but really got started heavy with Drury Outdoors in 2000. Our first camera was Panasonic AG 450 Super VHS, Mark bought one and



told me about it and I bought one, cameras have changed so much, we are shooting a Canon XH A-1 now in High Definition, as well as another smaller HD camera.



**PW:** Jeff, how did you get involved in the sport of chasing whitetails and how did you go about getting Chris involved in the sport so that he could do it at his own pace?

**Jeff Propst:** I started hunting Whitetails in the late 70's. I grew up in a small town on the Mississippi River in Missouri and I roamed the river hills as a kid, there were a lot of deer and I was infatuated with learning about them and hunting. I killed my first buck in 1979 with a rifle, and my first bowkill was 1981 I think, can't remember for sure. I have been hard at it ever since then, and when Chris was old enough, I started him hunting with me, he killed his first deer with a bow when he was 10 years old, it was a 6 point buck, I was one proud papa to see him take his first deer ever with a bow. He has been ate up with it ever since, I have never pushed him to hunt, I just let him do his thing.

**PW:** Jeff and Chris, what would you recommend as the first step for someone wanting to get involved in taping hunts and perhaps getting involved in producing hunts for television?



**Jeff and Chris:** My recommendation for getting started is to contact one of the hunting video companies, or TV shows and try to start filming for someone else, and produce footage for them, it is extremely hard to get started doing your own thing, there is a lot of expense in equipment, getting sponsors, and with the amount of shows on TV now, it has really made it tough to start your own deal. The editing equipment alone is a huge expense, we have never really had any interest in trying to do our own thing, working with Drury Outdoors has been great for us, we produce the footage and they do all the editing. We produce our footage exclusively for Drury Outdoors.

**PW:** Chris, if you had to choose one day to hunt for the rest of your life, what day would that be and why?

**Chris Propst:** If it's going to be whitetails, no doubt probably November 7<sup>th</sup>. That has always been one of my favorite days, plus I killed my best bow buck that day!



**PW:** Jeff and Chris, I know you do a good deal of traveling to hunt. Do you own a farm of your own that you manage as well?

**Jeff and Chris:** We own a farm in NE Missouri and we also lease a farm, we bought our farm in 2000 and it was the best thing I ever did for investment and enjoyment, there is nothing like owning your own farm to hunt on. We manage both our farm and our lease for mature bucks.



**PW:** Chris, you have certainly met some great people in the hunting industry. Who would you say you were the most excited to spend time with?

**Chris Propst:** I've been very lucky to meet some awesome people in the industry, but I honestly can't say there's one person I get really excited about spending time with in the industry. For me, I just really enjoy spending time with my family and Fiancé in the outdoors. I'm really just getting her started in hunting, and I know she really enjoys it, that means more to me than anything else.

**PW:** Jeff and Chris, what is your best buck to date? Either the largest or most memorable?

**Jeff Propst:** My best buck to date is a 195 1/8" gross buck I killed in Iowa in 2005, Chris's best Whitetail buck is his Wyoming 151" one of my most memorable hunts was a hunt I took my wife on in Kansas in 2005 she killed a 160" 10 pointer that I didn't film, and she was so excited it was just awesome. Chris also killed a 205" Mule Deer buck in Alberta a couple years ago, that was a thrill for me to be there with him and film that hunt.

