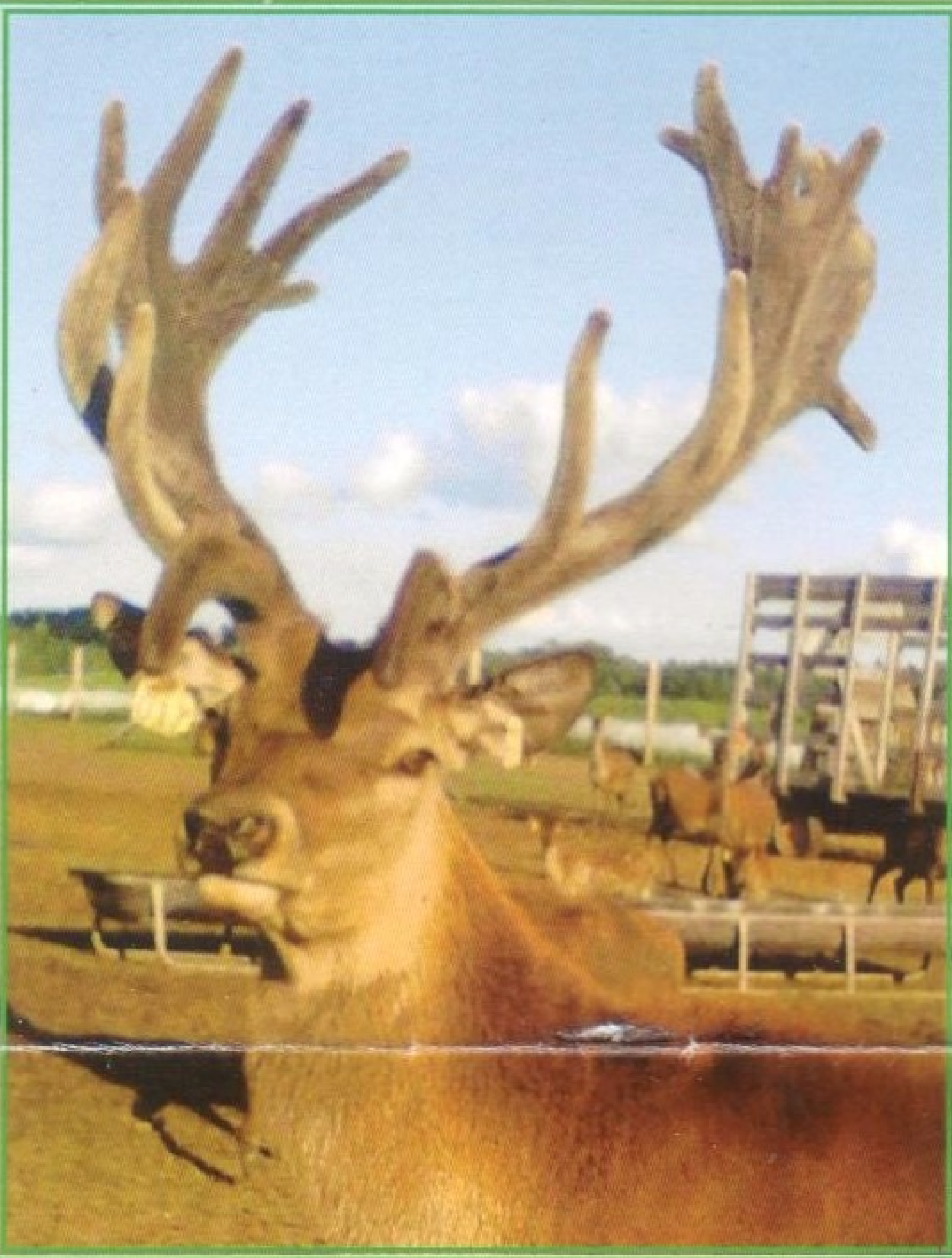


Redmond Deer Farm

By Jeff and Richard Hazard

Recently Jeff Hazard and I had the opportunity to take a tour of Redmond's Red Deer farm in Holland Patent, NY. The farm is owned and operated by ACSCI chapter members Fred and Marie Anken, and is situated at the base of Starr Hill, the highest point in Oneida County.



At present, the Anken's herd is made up of approximately 225 head of deer, of which 70-75 are stags. After returning to upstate New York from Connecticut where they ran a custom woodworking business, Marie and Fred opened the farm on nearly 250 acres in 2013. Farming is not new to the Ankens as they both grew up on local dairy farms. Farming is in their blood.

Although the Ankens are currently raising stock for the commercial meat market, they are also involved in breeding and the sale of antlers and velvet to the pet supply industry. Since our visit took place in early September, the stags were just coming out of their velvet and were showing some signs of pre-rut activity. Frequently, the stags would pair off and start to size one another up and engage in some light sparring. Fred said that he would be taking off their antlers within a short time to prevent injuries to both the stags and themselves. During the rut fights can become quite violent and stags have been known to kill each other. Of special interest to Jeff and I was a stag named "Bullwinkle". This is the Anken's main breeder stag, and at 5 years old he weighs an impressive 650 pounds and has a total antler length of over 400 inches. Bullwinkle is a prime example of Redmond's proud, strong stag lineage, with bloodlines tracing all the way back to some of the most established herds from all over the world. This testament is also evidenced in one of Bullwinkle's offspring - a young stag that boasts over 72 points as a yearling. It is safe to say the tradition of trophy stags is alive and well within this bloodline.

Redmond's Red Deer Farm is unique in that it boasts a 60' x 2800' grass runway with choice approaches from both ends.

Fred, a licensed pilot and plane owner, built the runway on the property to allow fly-in hunts for clients from both near and far. With this in mind, the Ankens are looking to open the farm up to hunting opportunities. While hunting will be limited at first, they look to greatly expand their operation in the years to come. Along with the ability to provide for fly-in hunting, some other key features of Redmond Red Deer hunts will include quality bed and breakfast accommodations for all guests, featuring home-cooked meals and exceptional lodging. In addition, there is 7000 acres of prime NY State land adjacent to the Ankens, offering trophy white tail deer, turkey, goose and black bear hunting for those looking to enjoy the thrill of all the natural game that New York State has to offer. For anyone who is interested in more information, please contact Fred or Marie Anken at: redmondsdeer@gmail.com. 315 865 8670

