

# Moose At The End Of The Rainbow

(Rainbow Point Lodge, That Is) — BY JIM CROWLEY



Greg Wierzba with his 64-inch rack moose.

I just got off the phone with Greg Wierzba. Greg is an accomplished outdoorsman and is the owner of GMW Guide service (gmwguideservice.com). Greg's specialties are walleye and whitetails; however, this phone call was not about either of these two species.

Greg had recently returned from another adventure to Rainbow Point Lodge on Perrault Lake in northern Ontario, Canada. Owned by Bob and Gale Extence, Rainbow Point Lodge has been their home for over 25 years. They have exceptional fishing, along with incredible hunting, including bear and moose. This, by the way, is the reason I called Greg. I want to go on a moose hunt and think about it often. So when I heard about his recent accomplishment, I had to hear the story for myself. This is an account of that conversation.

"Jim, I had hunted moose on three previous occasions with Bob Extence and really enjoyed myself; so much so that I brought my parents back for a bear hunt at Rainbow Point as well. In 2008, Bob called in a bull moose for me that just about ended up in my lap. So with that experience, it's obvious I had to come back for more. So on September 22, 2009, we did it again.

"Previous to my arrival, Jim, Bob had been through a certain area several times in the last week working on stands for bear hunters when he noticed numerous tracks from a dominant moose. No sooner had we set out that morning and shortly after daylight, Bob started calling. He attracted a bull moose that looked to have a 50-inch rack. The big moose was about 65 yards away and in response to Bob's calling was taking down small trees more efficiently than a logging operation! The moose worked around us for awhile but still out of comfortable bow range, he slipped back into the woods."

By now, I am 10 minutes into this conversation with Greg and I am so excited, I can't wait for him to continue. Just so you all know a 50-inch moose is big by anyone's standards. It's a dream of mine to get one that big. Go refill your coffee mug; it gets better!

"After the moose slipped away," Greg continued, "Bob made the first of two great decisions that day by quietly pulling back for a second chance later that week when hopefully the wind would be more in our favor. The second great decision was when Bob decided for us to load up the ATV and head for another area, where we had seen tracks

earlier in the morning.

"Shortly after we unloaded, we heard the grunt of another bull moose. Bob stated doing cow (female moose) calls. The bull immediately responded, and then, went silent for 15-20 minutes. Bob called again with the cow calls and then finished with a couple of soft bull grunts. That did it! The newly challenged bull responded more soundly and seemed to get closer. I looked at Bob and he told me to get ready, this one was coming our way. Then we heard the bull take down the first of many trees as he continued to get closer and grunt with more authority."

I know it can't just be me. The hair on the back of my neck was standing up, while hearing Greg relate this story to me. My heart was pounding and I was not even there!

"The bull is now within 100 yards," Greg excitedly spoke. "We know this because we can hear the splashing and the grunts are getting louder and resonate as thumps in our chest. We are set up on the edge of a swamp. About 75 yards out the bull makes a change of direction and comes straight up our hill and comes to a halt about 23 yards off my left side quartered directly towards me. The moose looked for a stare down in my direction. What I saw was what looked like a prehistoric creature with horns laid back beyond his midsection and so heavy that they were splayed back from the sheer weight. I was now at full draw, locked in on the biggest moose I had ever seen and one that dwarfed the previous 50-inch trophy we saw earlier!"

"Bob had again called another moose right into my lap. The way the moose was now position through the pine trees, I only had a hole the size of a basketball to shoot through." Now is when and why all those hours of practice pay off. "I released the arrow and the bull spun around and went back down the hill like a freight train crashing through trees and through the swamp. I had to take several deep breaths to help control the mixing flood of emotions.

"Bob and I then had a distinctive trail to follow. That trail included some very rough terrain for almost a mile. At about a mile and a quarter we came to a small rise of pines. I glanced up after Bob told me that a moose will stop and listen once it enters an area of pine trees. It was then I saw a rack with a monster moose attached to it. Solid hands shake an embrace and smiles that would not go away for the rest of the day. The small break down of stress, nerves and tears came as I looked over the moose that

seemed to have grown even larger over the last hour and a half of tracking."

The moose with a 64-inch rack is an incredible trophy and even more of an exceptional one because Greg took this animal with a bow.

I must admit after hearing this story and trying to walk this trail of adventure with Bob and Greg, I have no doubt the hours of time, practice and preparation that Greg Wierzba put in to acquire this awesome accomplishment. It is also quite obvious that when you hear a story like this from a repeat customer and now friend of a lodge owner and his family,

that Rainbow Point offers more than hunting and fishing.

As an outdoorsman and traveler, I know and respect that most lodge owners put their heart and soul into their operations. The great ones will never tell you that, however, their customers who become their friends will.

My congratulations to Greg Wierzba on his incredible accomplishment and for taking his time to relate this story to me, so that I could pass it on to all of you. I highly recommend that you check out Rainbow Point Lodge and owners Bob and Gale Extence. It's apparent that the Extences have a wonderful operation and are committed to making not only friends out of customers, but putting the time in that is necessary to make memories for those friends. For more information on Rainbow Point Lodge log on to [www.rainbowpoint.com](http://www.rainbowpoint.com) and see if you as well can have your moose, at the end of the rainbow.



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