

Review: Danner Sharptail boots

Comfort, right out of the box.

There's a statement that until recently I thought only applied to a pair of expensive running shoes and certainly never to a pair of hunting boots.

That is until I bought the Danner Sharptail GTX 8-inch boot for upland hunting this year.

There's little I enjoy better than being out on a frosty fall morning following behind my two Golden Retrievers who are busily working their way along a hemlock-shrouded creek bottom or in and out of rows of endless corn searching for a grouse or pheasant.

I spend a lot of time in the woods hunting, scouting and photographing wildlife, so when I began shopping for a pair of upland boots, I wanted to find ones that were comfortable, lightweight, waterproof and tough enough to take a lot of use and abuse.

After looking at several styles, I chose the non-insulated lace-up Danner Sharptail GTX. When I got the boots home, I slipped them on to wear around the house and was at once impressed with their precise fit. I wear a size 11 EE and they fit perfectly.

They were lightweight and the speed lace system made them



Bumper's Backwoods

easy to get on and off. When I laced them up, the feel of the soft Gore liner surrounding my foot gave me the sense the boots were likely going to be very comfortable in the field.

The boots were not worn again until a few weeks before spring gobbler season when a friend and I were trying to pattern some longbeards he had seen in nearby Fayette County.

I was a little hesitant about wearing the untested boots because I knew the ground we would be covering could go from open tranquil rolling farmland one minute to rocky uneven green briar covered hell-all within 100 yards of each other. But I had little choice as I had left my old pair of big game boots the ones usually worn for scouting at camp

and did not have the time to drive there to get them.

When we arrived at the old farm, the ground was spotted here and there with melting snow and my first thought was because I wore the new boots I would most likely be spending the day walking around with cold feet and slipping and sliding everywhere.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. The boots were comfortable and just warm enough in the 48-degree temperature with the wool socks that I had worn.

Surprisingly, the traction was of a better quality than my big-game boots. After thinking about it, I attributed this to the fact that the new boots were lighter thus I could feel better what I was stepping on. The Tenacious Predator outsole of the new boots also kept my foot from rolling over on uneven ground or when stepping over logs.

I wore the Sharptails during spring gobbler season, archery season and for grouse and pheasant hunting, and to be completely honest, I found nothing to complain about. I encountered during that period about every hunting and weather condition one could.

I can see now why in 2004

they were voted Best in Grey's Sporting Journal.

Summary

Excellent boots for upland bird hunting, turkey hunting or early-season bow hunting. These boots will appeal to any hunter like me who likes the classic styling and comfort of a moc-toe boot and the performance and quality of a Danner.

These boots are for anyone who wants a non-insulated boot that comfortable enough to wear all day and durable enough to handle variable terrain. That's what Danner has achieved with their reasonably priced Sharptail line of Hunting Boots. These boots have my highest recommendation.

In fact, after completing this field evaluation, I ordered the Danner 5-inch Sharptail Chukka Boot to wear hiking, fishing to the gun club or mall, or anywhere I know I will be on my feet for an extended period and want my feet to be comfortable.

Hunt hard, hunt safe and hunt fair.

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Roots, rocks and ruts: Mountain bike challenges

By Laura Lynn Yohe

SIGEL — On July 18, during the Shannock Valley Festival at Rural Valley, mountain bike contestants set out on the second race of the inaugural "Bike-the-Wilds Points Series."

Racing points will be tallied, and prizes awarded, at the concluding race during the Peanut Butter Festival in New Bethlehem on Sept. 19.

The first leg of the series began with the Fat Tire Challenge on Father's Day at the Laurel Fields near Sigel.

Held annually since 2006, "Fat Tire" tested 123 adult competitors in three divisions over a 14.5-, or 29-mile, course of logging and gas roads spread through the Clear Creek State Forest and lands owned by Matson Lumber.

Two miles of continuous elevation changes, 3,900 feet of elevation changes, "roots, rocks and ruts," and four miles of fresh single track, awaited cyclists competing in the Expert, Sport and Clydesdale (over 215 pounds) divisions.

Participants, including one on a unicycle, pedaled, and sometimes, struggled, over the muddy course under sunny skies, in cool temperatures.

Host for the event was the Brookville YMCA in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Matsons and several other area businesses as co-



MUDDY WINNER — Splattered in mud, Dave Colwell of Templeton paused in the shaded finish line area at the Laurel Fields near Sigel to catch his breath after placing first in his division of the Fat Tire Challenge Mountain Bike Race in June. Colwell was the overall winner in the Sport Division with a time for the 14-mile course of 1:32:24.9. (Photo by Laura Lynn Yohe)

sponsors.

"Fat Tire" drew mountain bike enthusiasts from the states of New York, West Virginia and Ohio, along with competitors from 64 towns and cities in Pennsylvania.

New this year was a category for the younger folks called the "Lil Fat Tire Kids Bike Race." Six- to 10-year olds rode two laps on a ½-mile loop within site of the Laurel Fields Registration Area. Cyclists ages 11 to 14 completed three laps.

Sometimes, the challenge is not just the weather, or terrain. While most cyclists carry spare tubes for their tires, and tools to change them en route, if there is more than one flat, or a sidewall is split, that can lead to a "DNF," meaning "Did Not Finish."

"DNF" can also result from mechanical problems, physical injuries or exhaustion.

Mountain bikes range in price from \$750 to upwards of \$6,000, but dollar value does not guarantee that a chain won't

break. Such an incident led to a five-mile walk for one contestant while others, and their bikes, were brought in from the farther reaches of the course by volunteers on ATVs.

Timing of such a race, where several determined athletes are bearing down on the finish line at the same time, is, in itself, a challenge. The duties were expertly handled by Herb and Bonnie Cratty of Ellwood City who own and operate Miles of Smiles Timing Services.

Numerous volunteers were on the course to guide and aid the racers. The Angels of Hope Relay for Life Team from Forest County, named in honor of the late Hope Beane Baka, manned the concession stand.

Prior to the event, Fat Tire Challenge director Mike White, who is employed by the trophy sponsor, Brookville Equipment Corporation, said, "It's my goal to not only promote mountain biking in this area, but to promote the resources of Clear Creek State Park and Forest, and the beautiful Mountain Laurel, our State Flower — so many people forget."

More information about the Fat Tire Challenge, event videos, trail stewardship, bike safety programs and more, can be obtained by visiting www.fattirechallenge.com on the Internet. Full race results are available at www.smileymiles.com.

A look back

FIVE YEARS AGO

Jeffersonian Democrat, Thursday, July 22, 2004

Laurel Eye Clinic, short on pitching, was routed by the Clearfield Chiefs in the Jefferson County League American Legion baseball playoff action at McKinley Field, 22-6. Clearfield avenged an earlier 11-5 loss in the opening round, pounding hits off four Laurel Eye pitchers, who also walked 14 and batters. Laurel Eye's season ended at 14-9. ... Clarion score runs in the top of the ninth inning to beat Cranberry, 13-10, winners' bracket finals matchup in the Clarion County American Legion baseball playoffs. Unbeaten Clarion now to play the Knox-Cranberry winners in the finals. Corbin drove in four runs for Clarion. ... The Brookville Grays, season champions, wrapped up their Federation League season with a 16-0 win over Sykesville as Dave Klepfer tossed a complete game while striking out five. He took a perfect game into the eighth inning until Mike Brewer singled with one out. The Grays await the winner of the first-round playoff series between and Sykesville.

TEN YEARS AGO

Jeffersonian Democrat, Thursday, July 22, 1994

The Brookville Little League baseball all-stars won the second straight District 10 Southern Tier title with a 5-2 win over Punxsutawney. Nick Heschke tossed a complete-game five-inning shutout to get the win. He also doubled in the first inning and hit home run in the third. Dan Liebman added a two-run home run in the second inning. ... The Brookville Junior Little League all-stars lost to Punxsutawney, 12-2, in five innings in the Southern Tier final. Punxsutawney pitcher Kayla Gomola was the match as Jen Buck needed a single in the fifth inning to end her no-hit bid. ... The Brookville Senior Little League all-stars fell to DuBois in the Southern Tier finals, 11-5. Dinger had a two-run single for Brookville while Nicole Pfeiffer and Heather Buck drove in runs. ... The Brookville Little League all-stars lost in the Southern Tier finals, 7-6. Jenny Pfeiffer struck out nine, but Punxsutawney's Jacque Curtis struck out four. ... Brookville's Katie Hynes competed at the USA Diving 4 Junior Olympic Diving Championship and finished sixth in the 1- and 3-meter events.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Jeffersonian Democrat, Thursday, July 26, 1989

The Brookville Teener League All-Stars defeated Punxsutawney 2-1 in a best-of-three series to advance to the Championship finals against Philipsburg. Brookville won the first game, 11-9. Dave Wolfe went 4-for-5 with a double and two hits. Tom Miller, Tom Hopkins and Doug Shaffer each hit a home run. Punxsutawney won the second game at Memorial Stadium, 16-6, as pitcher Dave Hoovler struck out 15 batters. Tom Miller hit a bases-loaded triple and Shaffer had two hits for Brookville. In the finale, Brookville won at Punxsutawney, 4-1, in a back-and-forth game. ... The Brookville Little League All-Stars were eliminated by Punxsutawney, 10-3. Punxsutawney pitcher Shawn Wasicki hit three home runs, to lead the winners. Brookville's seven-hitter and struck out 10 batters to lead the winners. Strong homered for Brookville and Bill Blake singled. ... In Brookville Area Softball League play at Comet Stadium, Ti-Brook beat DeMans, 7-5, to gain a two-way tie for first place in the loss column with two wins and two losses. DeMans lost its third game. Bob Barnett hit a three-run homer for Ti-Brook, which also got two hits from Gary Metzger and Hilliard, winning pitcher Denny Rhoades and John Gunderman. Rod Burns and Jay Loeffert each had two hits for DeMans.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Brookville American, Monday, July 20, 1959

The Brookville Grays got a two-hitter from Paul McCullough in a 4-2 win over the Clearfield Bisons. The game at Clearfield was the season's first triple play turned by Clearfield when McCullough's attempted squeeze bunt was popped up and caught by the catcher, who tagged Bob Means coming in on a third base and then threw to first to force out Fuzzy Clearfield's Lon Howell robbed the Grays of two home runs with circus catches and McCullough, playing center field, took a hit away in Clearfield's eighth inning with a catch. ... Brookville stock car racer Bill Love stepped into the winners' circle Friday night as he won the feature race at Paradise Speedway. He beat out runner-up Al Hamilton and Hoot Kaiser for the win. ... According to a Gallup survey, hunting ranks fifth among participation sports in America. This is 16 percent of the adult population compared to the 33 percent who took time out for swimming, the number one participation sport in the U.S.

No Bills!
No Checks!

