



(Left) Two of the author's top 10 BLADE Show hunting knives are the Queen Cutlery "4190 Fossilized Spalted Maple Burl" D2 fixed-blade skinner with a "fossilized"-maple-burl handle (left), and the Kershaw Model 1090 Northside Hunter mid-lock folder parading a 4.5-inch 8Cr13MoV stainless steel blade and an injection-molded Santoprene™ rubber handle (right).

want to be stuck on the side of the mountain, dusk approaching, field dressing an elk with a blade that does not perform."

Part of its new Rock Creek line, the C.A.S. Hanwei "Kudu" is also a Nessmuk hunter. Missy Hillian, sales manager for C.A.S. Hanwei, says, "The Nessmuk-style blade, popularized by 19th-century outdoors writer George W. Sears, is now seen on many custom and production knives. It is comprehensively useful in a hunter and aesthetically attractive."

Part of the appeal of the Kudu is the stacked-leather handle. One of 10 models in the Rock Creek fixed-blade series, the Kudu also features a 4.25-inch HWS-1 blade that rates 58-60 Rc on the Rockwell hardness scale, a cast-stainless-steel guard and pommel, thumb grooves on the blade spine, and a tanned leather sheath. The MSRP: \$106.

Sweep For Skinning

"The Kudu's blade has plenty of sweep for skinning, while the in-line point and saber grind make it capable of other field-dressing chores," Hillian notes. "HWS-1 has outstanding forging properties, corrosion resistance, and edge-holding and

C.A.S. Hanwei adopts the Nessmuk-style blade design, popularized by 19th-century outdoors writer George W. Sears, for the Rock Creek "Kudu" fixed-blade hunter.



sharpening capabilities. While the knife isn't well suited for birds and small game, it tackles anything from deer to cape buffalo."

Another versatile hunting knife for field chores and game processing is the Dozier Knives K-11 Columbia River Skinner. "It will handle anything from whitetail deer on up," says Daniel Crotts, shop foreman for Dozier. "Hunters are 90 percent of what we make. Our customers range from the hunter to the collector, and most feel that our knives cut longer than what they used before."

The man at the helm of Dozier Knives, Bob Dozier, has long touted the edge-holding capabilities of D2 tool steel, and the K-11 Columbia River Skinner employs a 3 13/16-inch D2 blade, at .135 inches thick, as well as a quilted-maple handle and a horizontal-carry Kydex® sheath. The MSRP: \$205.

From a distinctive Dozier knife to a discernibly Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer® Ken Onion style, the latter is being offered by Columbia River Knife & Tool (CRKT) in the form of the "Onion Skinner." And like the Dozier, it also comes with a horizontal-carry sheath, this one a pancake-style belt model.

"It's distinctively an Onion knife in terms of design and blade shape," determines CRKT's Rod Bremer. "Still, the shape is unusual, even for him. Until the time we came up with the name Onion Skinner, he called it the 'Unusual Hunter.' The blade is ground fine down to the cutting edge, so it slices well, and it's upswept to the tip, so you use the entire belly for skinning."

The Onion Skinner comes in a limited edition of 1,000 serial-numbered pieces, each donning a 3.5-inch, teardrop- or leaf-shaped, mirror-polished Bohler 110 German steel blade, a Micarta® handle, mosaic handle pin, lanyard and black leather pancake sheath. The MSRP: \$150.