

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION
OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

For the week of
Jan. 5, 2009

By Kurt Knebusch
(330) 263-3776
knebusch.1@osu.edu

Notes: Mules, but not mule deer, live in Ohio too of course. And also in many other places, such as "Hee Haw." Subspecies of the mule deer (note: not a mule) are the Sitka deer (ditto) and black-tailed deer (ditto ditto). White-tailed subspecies are the Coues (said "cooze," "cows" or "coos," depending on who says it) deer and Florida Key deer. Sources included "Winter Bed-site Selection by White-tailed Deer in Central Ontario," *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 1983. Ohio State's experts on deer and wildlife management in general, but not mules, work in the School of Environment and Natural Resources, specifically in the Terrestrial Wildlife Ecology Laboratory. Check it and them out here: <http://twel.osu.edu/>.

Section of Communications and Technology

2021 Coffey Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1044
(614) 292-2011

208 Research Services Bldg.
1680 Madison Ave.
Wooster, OH 44691-4096
(330) 263-3780

OSU Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, gender identity or expression, disability, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or veteran status. Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President, Agricultural Administration and Director, OSU Extension. TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868

Q. Dear Twig: Where do deer sleep during winter?

A. In two kinds of places. The choice depends on if it's daytime or nighttime. (I assume here a cold, snowy winter where the deer is. Are.)

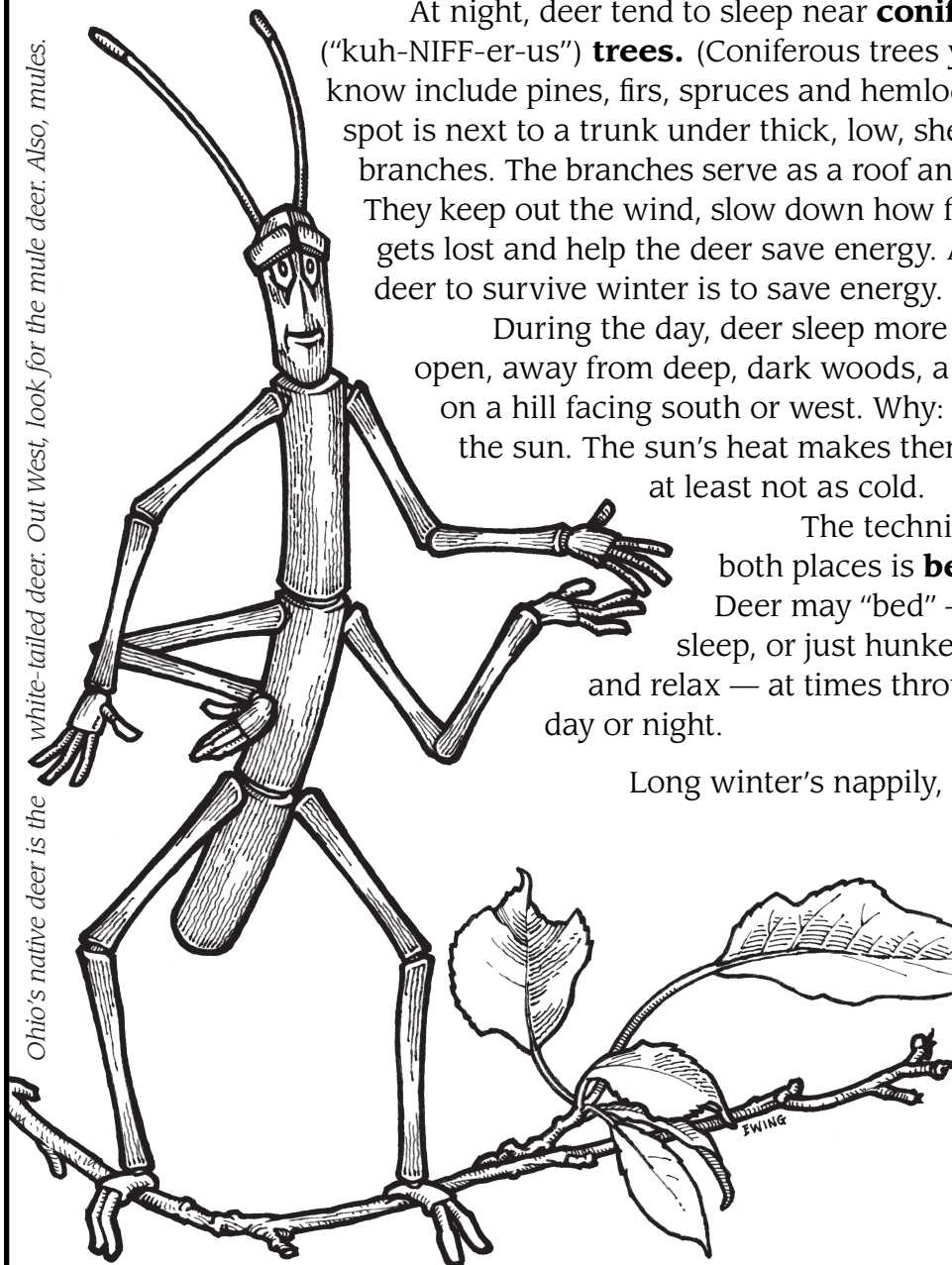
At night, deer tend to sleep near **coniferous** ("kuh-NIFF-er-us") **trees**. (Coniferous trees you might know include pines, firs, spruces and hemlocks. A usual spot is next to a trunk under thick, low, sheltering branches. The branches serve as a roof and a blanket. They keep out the wind, slow down how fast heat gets lost and help the deer save energy. A key for a deer to survive winter is to save energy.

During the day, deer sleep more in the open, away from deep, dark woods, a lot of times on a hill facing south or west. Why: To be in the sun. The sun's heat makes them warm. Or at least not as cold.

The technical term for both places is **bed sites**. Deer may "bed" — lie down, sleep, or just hunker down and relax — at times throughout the day or night.

Long winter's nappily,

Twig



Ohio's native deer is the white-tailed deer. Out West, look for the mule deer. Also, mules.

From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu) and OSU Extension (extension.osu.edu).