



# Brushytails Forever!

The best way to teach a youngster to shoot is with a .22 single shot rifle with an exposed hammer. The best way to teach a youngster or an adult to hunt is to go afield after one of the wild squirrel species available in Texas.

A single shot rifle with an exposed hammer is all kinds of safe. Looking at the hammer tells you whether or not it is cocked. I learned on a single shot bolt action with the pull cock hammer. The single shot aspect removes the danger of a finger twitch firing an unintended shot from an automatic. And to this day, be it a one shot .22 or a big bore in a Ruger No. 1, I truly believe knowing you have only one chance improves your aim, concentration, follow through and enjoyment.

A fun exercise is searching through the used firearms at your favorite gun



GAMO'S Whisper Silent Cat.

store for a clean old single shot. If that fails, there are still new ones being made by Winchester, Savage, Uberti and others.

Savage has been making break open combination single shot firearms forever. The current Model 42 offers a .22 long rifle or .22 Win. Mag. rimfire over-barrel with a .410 shotgun under-barrel. The 20-inch barrels and receiver are housed in a black synthetic stock and this 6-pound package breaks open by depressing a lever in front of the trigger guard. An advantage to a beginner in the squirrel woods is to use the .410 with #8 1/2 shot until they hone their .22 skills. See [www.savagearms.com](http://www.savagearms.com).

You experienced hands feel free to hunt with your scoped Ruger 10/22's, lever action Marlin 39's, bolt action Browning's or whatever you are most comfortable shooting. But...back to single shots.

Another excellent training tool and a new challenge to squirrel hunting can



The Savage Model 42 Takedown.

be had by using a single-shot air gun. Don't worry because you will not be at a disadvantage. New technology has made these arms shoot faster, farther, with more power and they are quieter.

GAMO is the world's largest manufacturer of airgun pellets and a major airgun maker. Some years ago they rang the bell with the line of Whisper air rifles fitted with what was first called a sound dampener. Now they just say silencer because it is o.k. since the rifles are not classified as firearms.

The GAMO Whisper Silent Cat gets its power from a break barrel single cocking system that operates a spring piston. This elegant system delivers

a .177 caliber lead pellet down the barrel at 1,000 fps and their alloy PGA pellet hits 1,200 fps. The 18-inch barrel features a non-removable "sound dampener" with up to 52% noise reduction. The adjustable trigger leaves the factory with a nice 3.79 pound pull.

The weather resistant synthetic stock has twin cheek pads for ambidextrous shooting and has a ventilated rubber recoil pad. The Silent Cat has front and rear fiber optic sights, plus the receiver is grooved for mounting an air gun scope. That is not a concern as

this rifle comes with a 4 by 32 scope as part of the package. The works weighs a slight 5.28 pounds. Mr. Squirrel will never here you coming. Check the line at [www.gamousa.com](http://www.gamousa.com).

We need to feed our firearms and we have many outstanding choices of .22LR ammunition, but there is something new on the shelves.

Aguila Ammunition, manufactured in Cuernavaca, Mexico, has been receiving rave reviews. More about the company and their full line in a later issue. For our purpose at present, let us take a look at their .22 long rifle SSS Sniper Subsonic.

These rounds feature a 60-grain solid point lead bullet. The design is a longer, heavier bullet on a shorter case with less propellant giving the cartridge the same overall dimensions and energy equivalent of a standard .22 long rifle round. This provides accuracy for target shooting and small-game hunting without excessive noise disturbing the critters. This is a dandy alternative when you don't want



Aguila .22LR SSS Sniper Subsonic.

to go through the time and expense of acquiring a silencer. If you are a silencer owner you'll get even more quiet.

These cartridges are recommended for use in barrels 20-inches and longer to achieve their best performance. The 60-grain bullet has a muzzle velocity of 950 feet per second as compared to the average .22 long rifle with a 40-grain bullet at 1,100fps while still providing good energy on the target and plenty of power for a rampaging rodent. These cartridges are manufactured using justly famous ELEY Prime technology from the folks that produce the ammo used by Olympic shooting teams. Visit [aguilaammo.com](http://aguilaammo.com).

Hunting squirrels is challenging for several reasons. First, they are small. They spend a great deal of time in trees and their color blends in with the foliage. They are sneaky, spending a great deal of time laying stone still, flat on a tree branch. They are very wary when on the ground because they do not want to be food. Plus, who else do you know that can flatten themselves against a tree trunk while upside down and looking for danger? This is where we can learn and teach walking softly, scanning, hiding and staying still.

Though stealth is necessary when squirrel hunting, sometimes making noise can help. The Hunter's Specialties Squirrel Call imitates sounds that squirrels make and they are quite vocal. This call mimics their bark, the feeding chatter of both fox and grey squirrels, plus the distress call of a baby squirrel. An extra added attraction is the instructional CD that is included to teach how and when to call to bring them in range. If a group comes stampeding in you are on your own. Decidedly cheap at \$ 12.95 and available at sporting goods stores or online at [www.hunterspec.com](http://www.hunterspec.com).

A bonus from squirrel hunting is there is a market for their tails. You will not get rich, but it is an extra use of the resource thanks to the folks at Mepps, the fishing lure manufacturer. Here is an interesting excerpt from their website. "We need them to create hand-tied dressed hooks for our world-famous, fish-catching lures. We've tried hundreds of other natural and synthetic materials; bear hair, fox, coyote, badger, skunk, deer, even Angus cow, but nothing works as well as squirrel tail hair. We've been recycling squirrel tails for over half a century. In fact, we recycle more of them than anyone else in the world.

The fact is squirrel tails are all hair—no fur. Practically all other animals have fur tails with just a few guard hairs. Fur doesn't have the rippling, pulsating movement of squirrel hair in the water. Mepps is only interested in recycling tails taken from squirrels that have been harvested for the table. We do not advocate taking squirrels strictly for their tails." Recycling squirrel tails...what a concept. See [www.Mepps.com](http://www.Mepps.com).

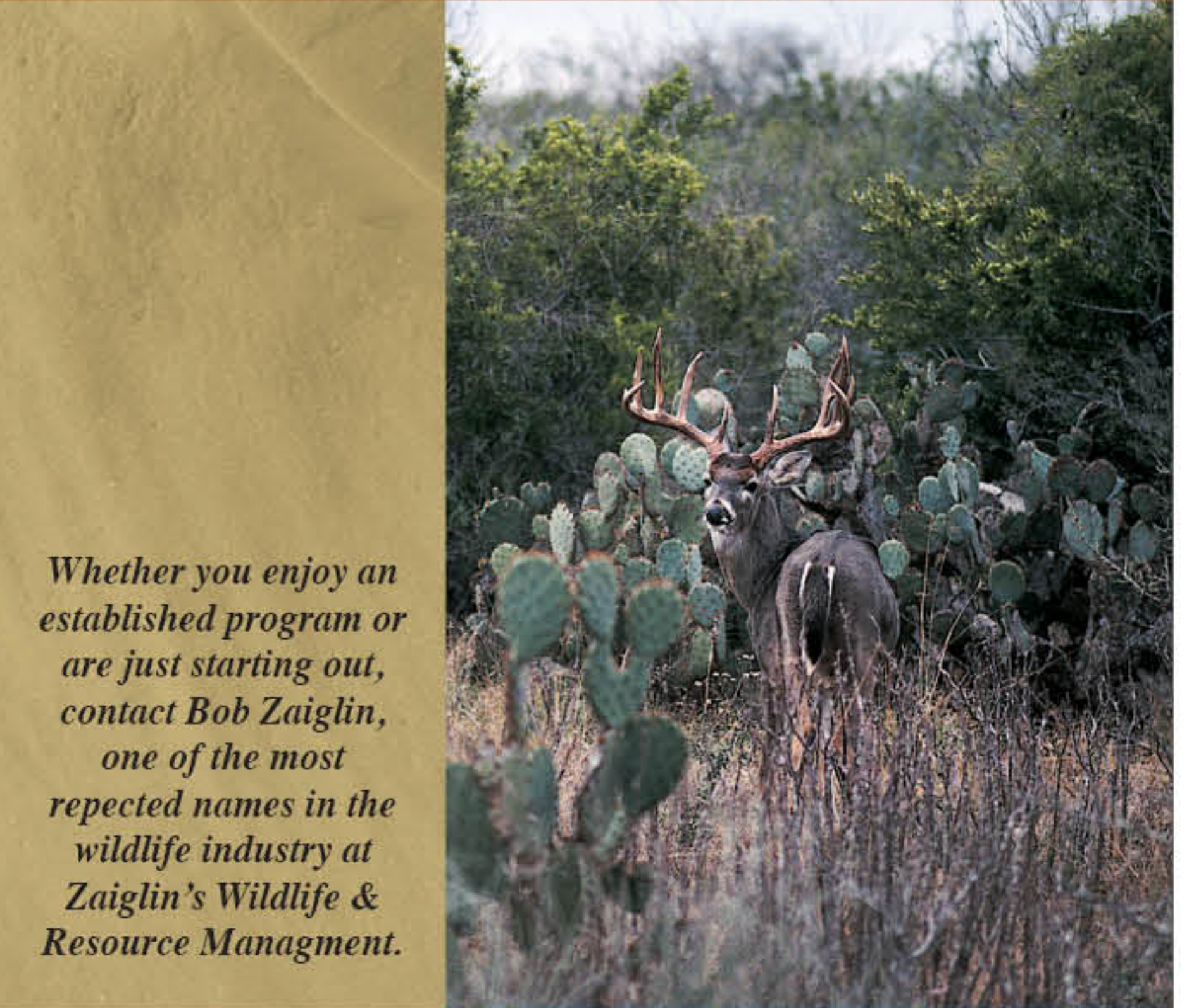
The best way to recycle is to dine on your harvest. Squirrel meat is surprisingly tasty and recipes abound such as baked, sautéed, roasted, fricasseed and more, but my all time favorite way

to prepare this tasty rodent is chicken fried. Of course, the required side dish is mashed potatoes with cream gravy. Yum! **T&J**



Hunter's Specialties® Squirrel Call easily makes the bark or feeding chatter of both fox and grey squirrels as well as the distress call of a baby squirrel. Plus the call comes with an instructional CD to help hunters learn how and when to call to bring squirrels into range.

## 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN TROPHY DEER MANAGEMENT



Whether you enjoy an established program or are just starting out, contact Bob Zaiglin, one of the most respected names in the wildlife industry at Zaiglin's Wildlife & Resource Management.

**Bob Zaiglin, Certified Wildlife Biologist**  
**830.278.8815**