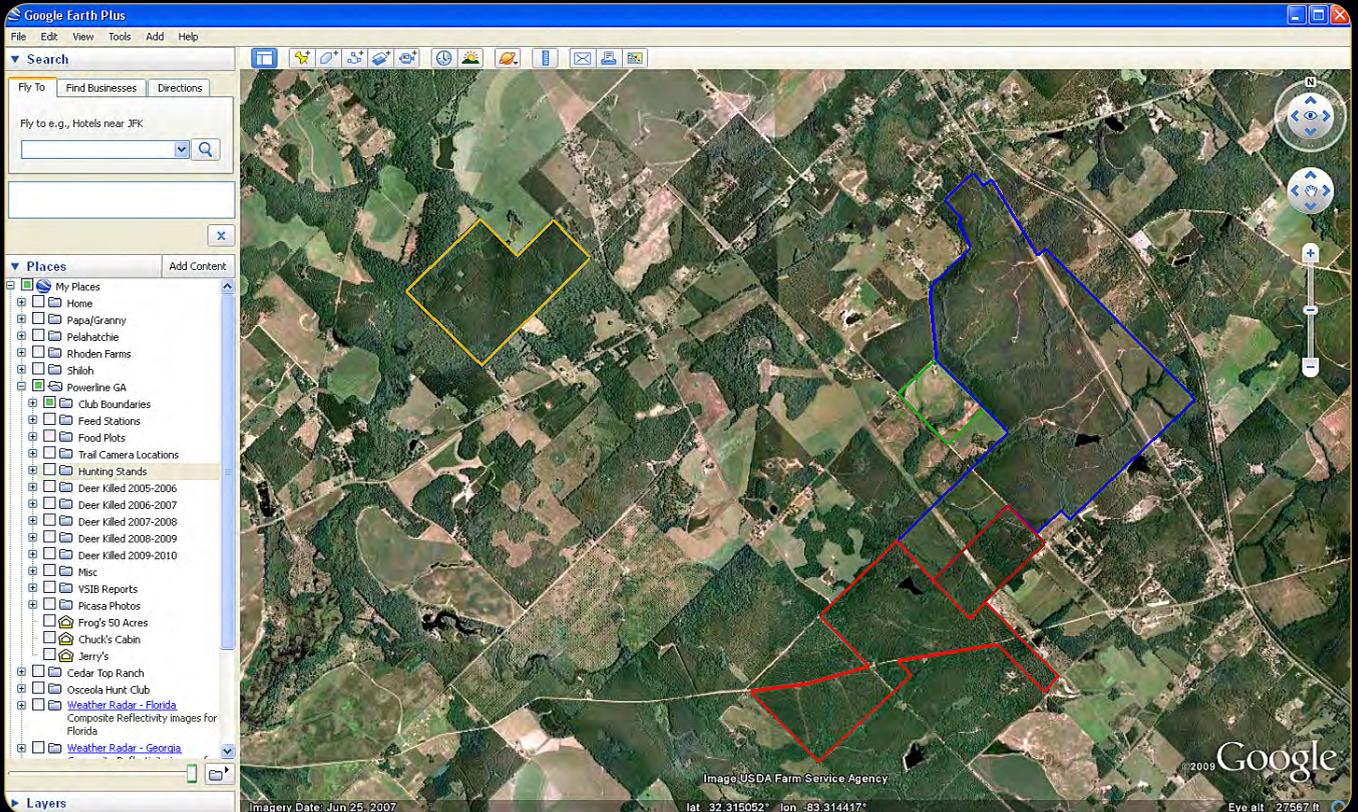


HOW TO



improve Your Deer Hunting Success Using Google Earth

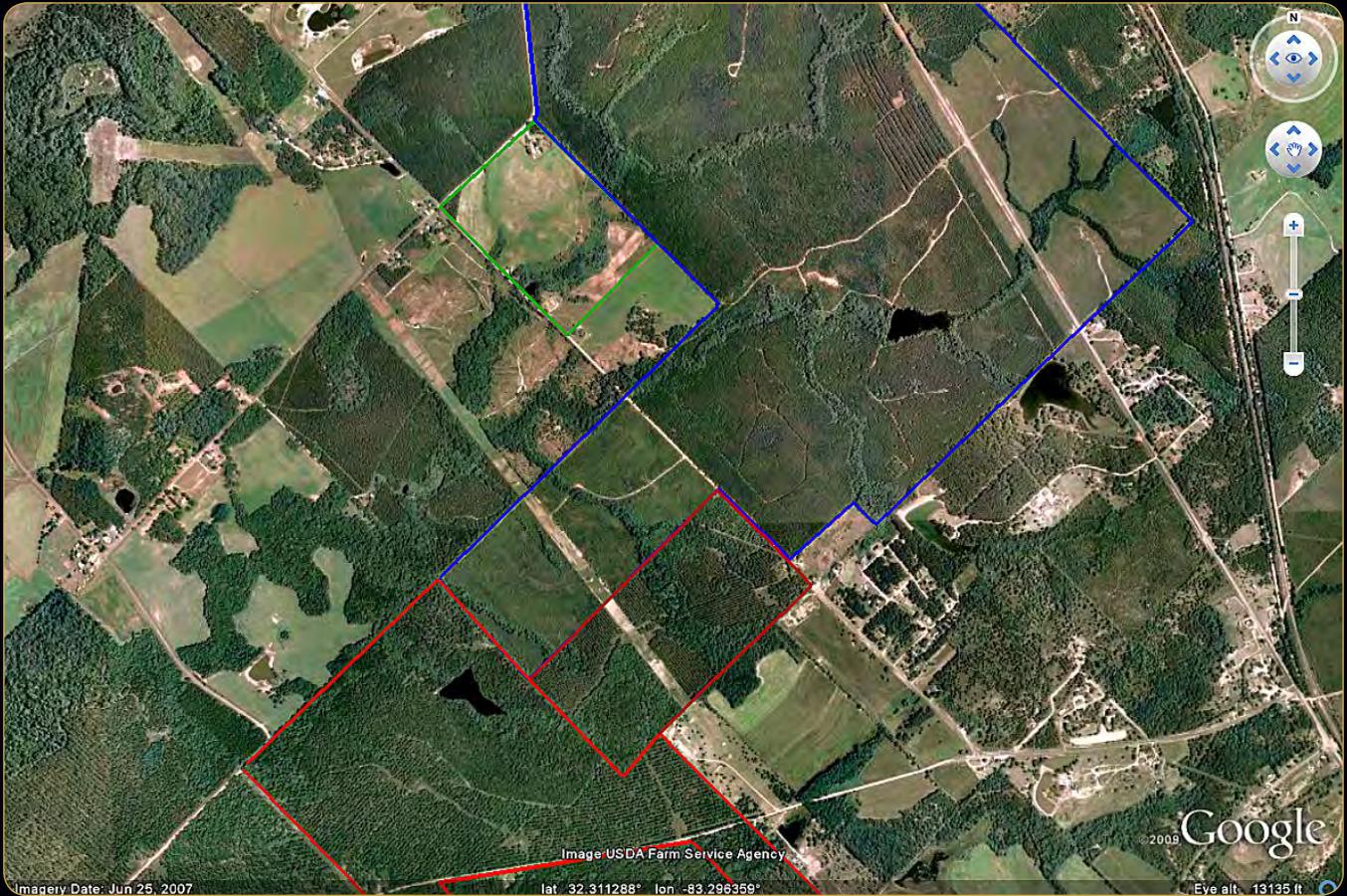
BY TOXIE GIVENS

I LOVE USING TECHNOLOGY TO HELP ME WHEN IT comes to hunting. The best technology I have used over the past few years to improve my hunting experience is Google Earth. Most hunters know that when hunting a property they need a good aerial photo. This aerial photo will give a hunter a bird's eye view of the layout of the land. Such a photograph will help a hunter locate hunting spots based on natural funnels, pinch points, saddles, feeding areas, bedding areas and other natural features.

Normally aerial photographs of hunting property are used at a sign in board or they hang on the wall at the

deer camp. They are still just photographs on a piece of paper. Photographs can be drawn upon but there is only so much drawing you can do to them before they become unusable. That is where Google Earth comes in as a better tool. I think of Google Earth as my database or record keeping system for all of my hunting details and exploits. I have everything documented in Google Earth from trail camera locations to deer stands to where deer have been taken in the past few years and so on.

Some reading this so far have already said, "What is Google Earth?" and "I use Google to find things on



the Web but what does that have to do with aerial photography?” Google Earth is an aerial mapping program downloadable from Google for free at:

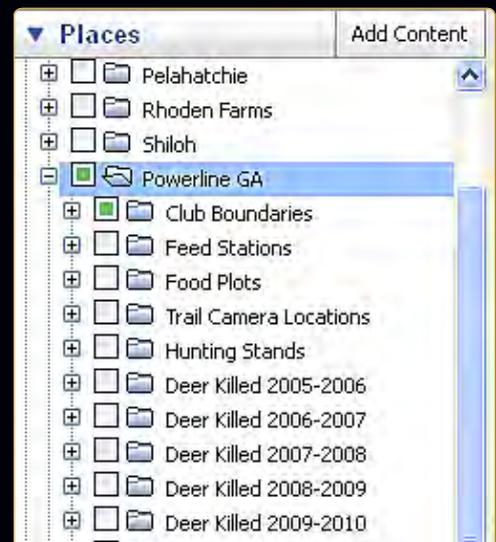
<http://earth.google.com>

Like all of Google’s products, Google Earth is very easy to use. The first thing to do is enter the location of some property and then Google Earth will “fly” to that location. You might have to start with a known location and then follow the roads to your property.

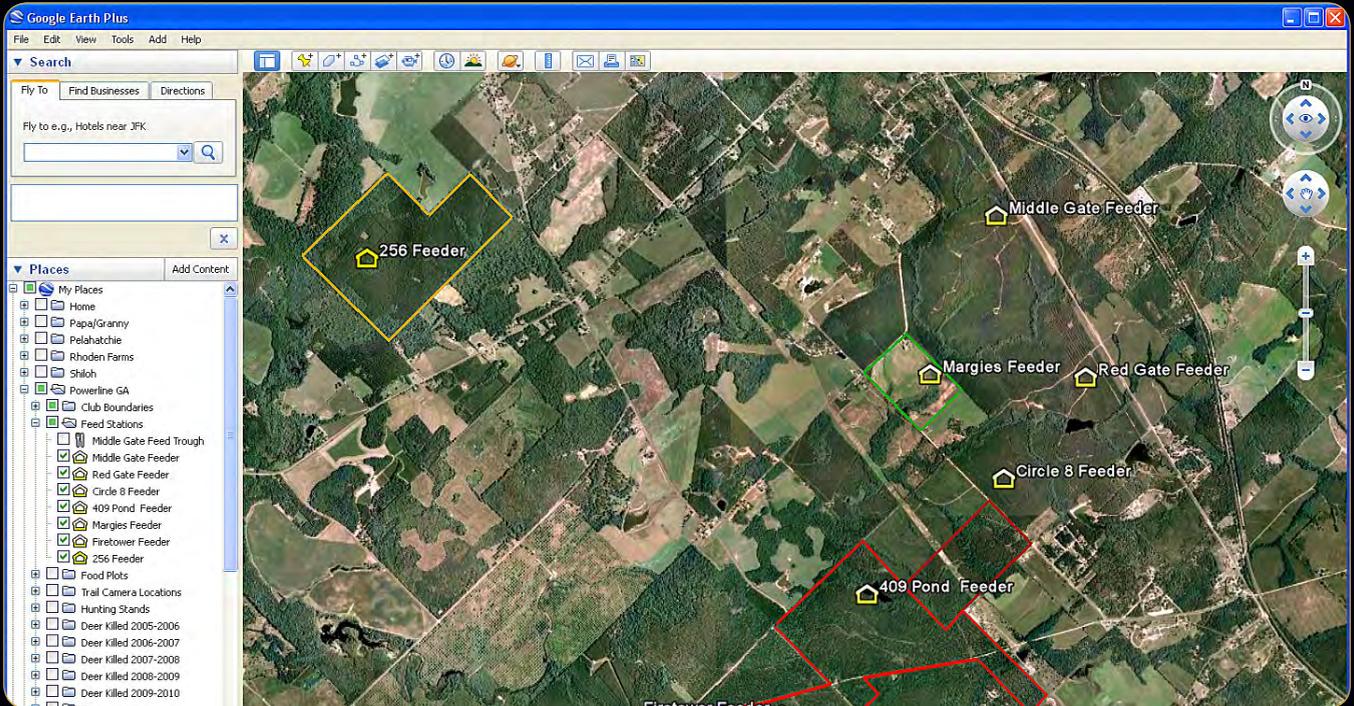
There are so many things you can do with this tool. Deer move from one point to another for a specific reason. I believe using Google Earth will help you discover these movements and behaviors. I spend a lot of time staring at my hunting properties using Google Earth. I reflect back on how and where I saw deer. What time of day? Where were they moving? Where did I think they were going? What time of the year? Google Earth allows you to zoom in and zoom out and it is so much better than looking at a printed out map on a table or the back of a pickup truck.

Once you have found your property, I recommend you draw your property boundary lines. I have done this to

one of my properties as shown in the illustrations. As you can see I have the line thickness increased and I have different colors. The different colors in the screenshot represent different leases I have with different land owners. You can now see how your land lays out in comparison to adjoining properties. Once the property in question is mapped, a hunter can start thinking about how deer move across one piece of property to the other properties. This is also a good way to identify



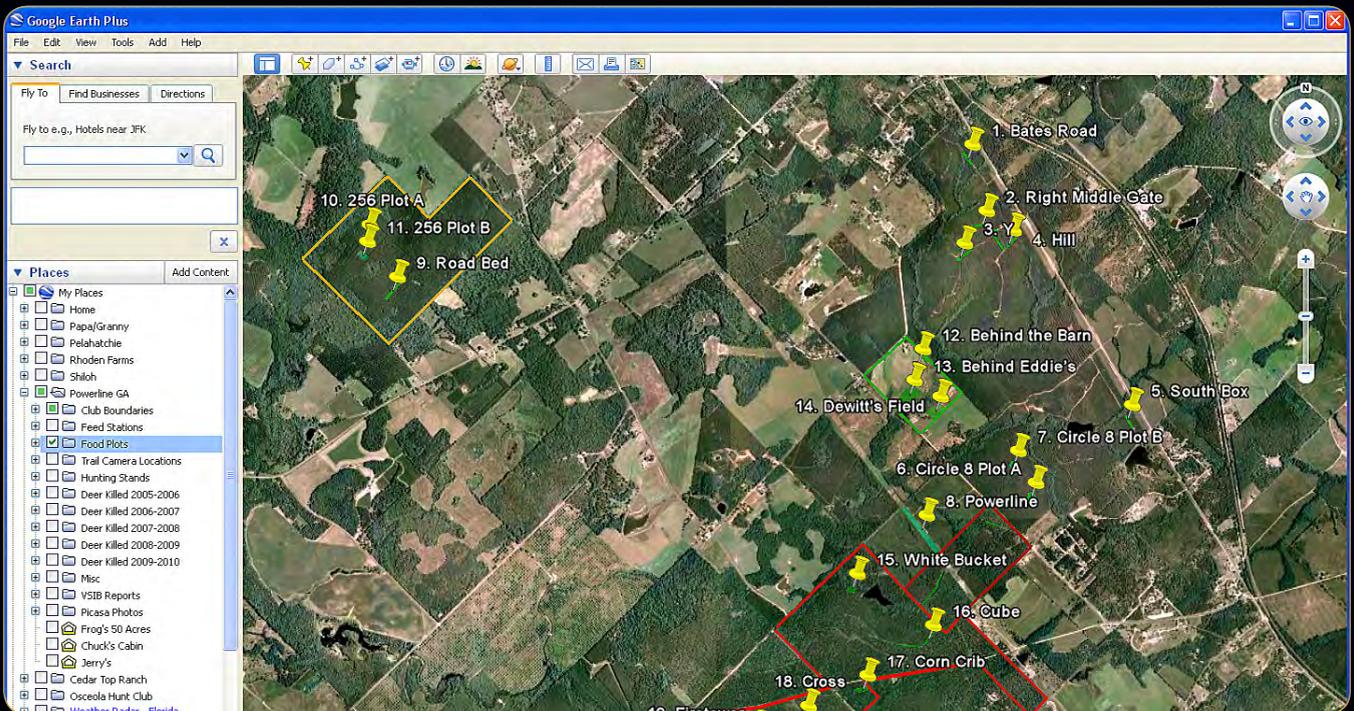
HOW TO

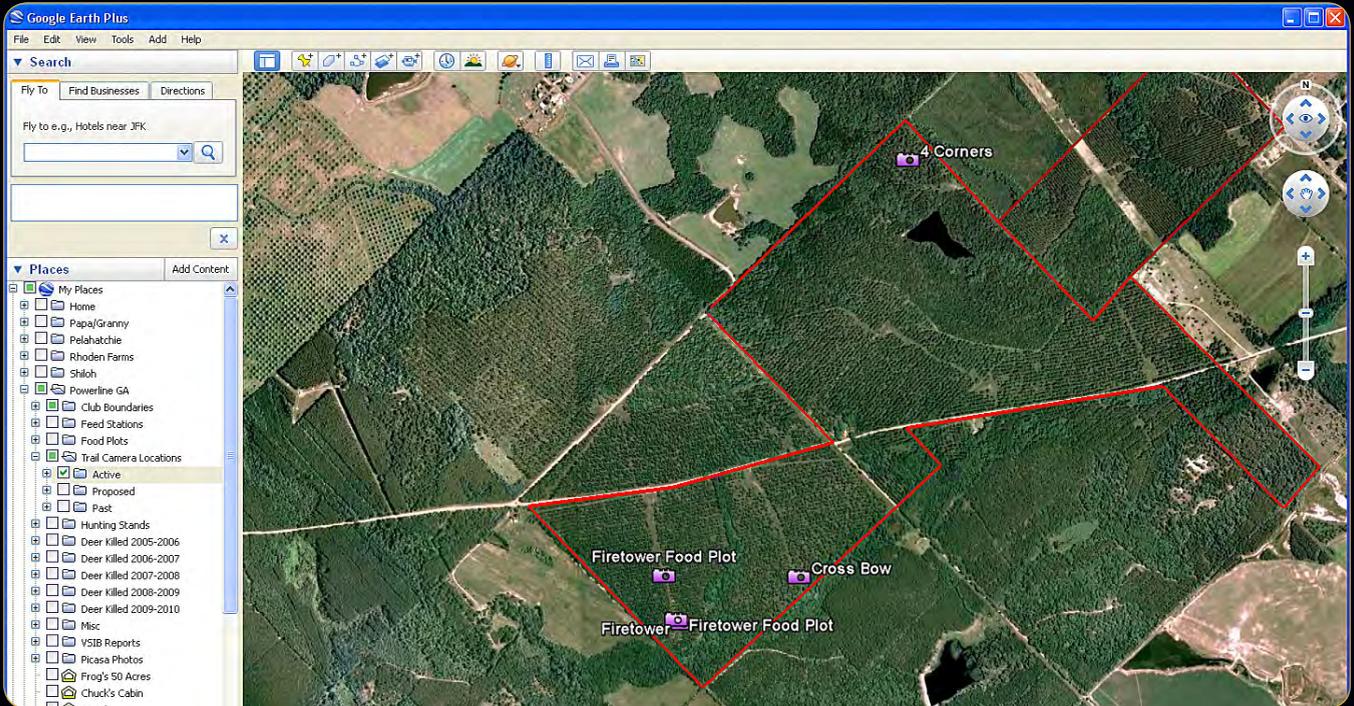


possible land you might want to try to lease or buy that will complement your current land.

Now that you have your club boundaries defined you can start entering information. I use folders and tags for all my information and I am going to go over each of

these tag areas that I use. Some of these areas are deer taken locations by hunting season, tree stand locations, food plots, and locations for trail cameras. Using these tags not only lets you see your hunting area but it keeps a history of what is going on surrounding your activities.





CLUB BOUNDARIES FOLDER: If you have more than one property then you will want to display them as mentioned before in different colors and organize them in this folder as shown in the illustrations.

FEED STATIONS FOLDER: I run different feed stations

on my club and I like to display and organize them in conjunction with the areas they service.

FOOD PLOTS FOLDER: I have drawn the shapes and locations of my food plots using Google Earth's drawing tools. The tools are easy and intuitive to use.

