



The history of the Boone and Crockett Club is a tale of over 127 years of measured and thoughtful commitment to conservation. It is a commitment that balances human needs with wildlife needs.

We will be celebrating the anniversaries of the passage of laws, the establishment of institutions, and the designation of wildlands, which exist today in large part because of the extensive efforts of the Club and its dedicated membership.

WILLIAM T. HORNADAY BORN 160 YEARS AGO

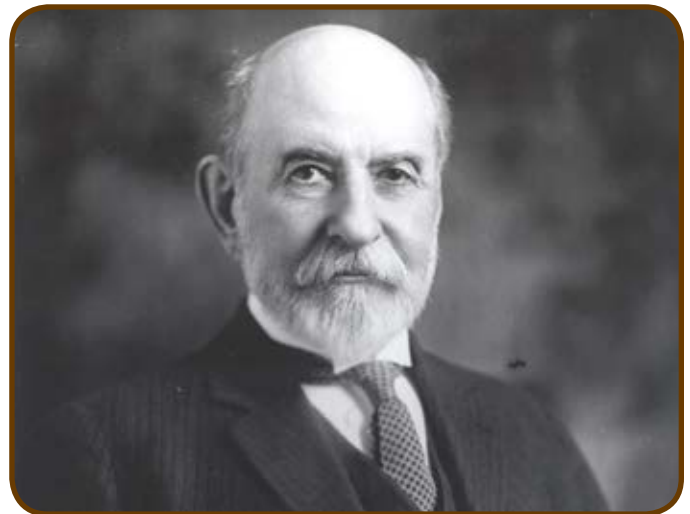
William Temple Hornaday was born December 1, 1854. He was an American zoologist, conservationist, taxidermist, author, and he was a pioneer in the early wildlife conservation movement in the United States.

In 1882 he was appointed chief taxidermist of the United States National Museum. In his position at the museum, Hornaday was tasked with inventorying the museum’s specimen collection of American bison, which was meager. He then undertook a census of bison by “writing to ranchers, hunters, army officers, and zookeepers across the American West and in Canada.” Based on firsthand accounts, Hornaday estimated that as recently as 1867 there were approximately 15 million wild bison in the American West. Through his census, he ascertained that those numbers had rapidly depleted.

The decimation of the species that Hornaday witnessed had a profound effect on him, transforming him into a conservationist. In addition to the specimens for the collection, he acquired live specimens that he brought back to Washington, D.C. The bison which formed the nucleus of the Department of Living Animals he created at the Smithsonian, the precursor to the National Zoological Park, which he helped establish a few years later in 1889. Hornaday served as the zoo’s first director.

In 1896, the newly chartered New York Zoological Society (known today as the Wildlife Conservation Society) enticed Hornaday back to the zoo field by offering him the lead role in building a new world-class zoo in New York, the Bronx Zoo. Hornaday served as the zoo’s first director from 1896-1926. Hornaday’s advocacy is credited with preserving the American bison from extinction. He was one of the early members of the Boone and Crockett Club.

During his lifetime, Hornaday published almost two dozen books and hundreds of articles on the need for conservation, frequently presenting it as a moral obligation. By 1915, the American Museum Journal declared that Hornaday “has no doubt inaugurated and carried to success more movements for the protection of wild animal life than has any other man in America.”

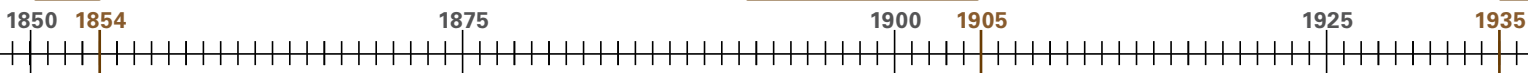


THE AMERICAN BISON SOCIETY FOUNDED IN 1905

During a meeting 110 years ago at the New York Zoological Society, the American Bison Society is formed with Club member William T. Hornaday serving as the president and President Theodore Roosevelt as honorary president.

The early American Bison Society launched a campaign to raise funds to create wild bison reserves and stock them with bison from the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Bronx Zoo. In 1907 the ABS shipped 15 bison to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve in Oklahoma by cart and rail. This was the first animal reintroduction in North America. In 1910, the ABS helped buy the nucleus herd for the National Bison Range in Montana, and in 1913, ABS donated 14 bison to Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota. Counting on the successful reproduction of the species, the ABS considered their work done, and the organization was disbanded in 1935.

In 2005, the American Bison Society was re-launched by the Wildlife Conservation Society to secure the ecological future of bison in North America.



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

In 1935 the National Wildlife Federation was founded by Club members J. N. “Ding” Darling, C. R. Gutermuth, Ira N. Gabrielson, and Karl T. Frederick. Darling was its first president.

Ding Darling saw the impacts from the Dust Bowl firsthand as an avid waterfowl hunter and he began letting people know about it. His cartoons and conservation ethic caught the attention of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who appointed him the head of the U.S. Biological Survey in 1934 (the forerunner to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Darling convinced President Franklin Roosevelt to invite over 2,000 hunters, anglers, and conservationists from across the country to the first North American Wildlife Conference in Washington, D.C. at the Mayflower Hotel.



ABOVE: One of Darling’s best-known conservation illustrations. BELOW: When Ding Darling (left) resigned as chief of the Biological Survey in November 1935, his colleagues and friends in the department presented him with a new shotgun. Ding is shown with his successor, Ira Gabrielson.



10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLT COLLIER NATIONAL REFUGE

Club member James L. Cummins worked with Congress to authorize and fund the Holt Collier National Refuge.

The refuge is located on Holt Collier’s historic hunting grounds near Darlove, Mississippi, about 29 miles southeast of Greenville. Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge is the first refuge named to honor an African-American. Collier was Roosevelt’s guide on the 1902 black bear hunt, which raised the national consciousness of the principles of fair chase.

Born a native Mississippian in 1848 to a slave family, Holt Collier led an extraordinary life. He fought in the Civil War as a Confederate soldier and later became famous throughout Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas as a legendary bear hunter and sportsman. Although the Louisiana black bear is now on the endangered species list, during his lifetime black bears were plentiful. Collier died in 1936 and is buried in Greenville, Mississippi.

In addition to the 1,400 acres of refuge lands designated in Senator Cochran and Congressman Thompson’s legislation, Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge will soon grow to 2,033 acres thanks to a donation of 633 acres of mitigation lands from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This expansion was made possible by partnerships between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Corps of Engineers, and is a good example of the Refuge System’s “conservation in action” initiative.



1950

1975

2000

2005

2025