

FROM THE EDITOR



Mark B. Steffen
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In this Issue

Connections, connections, connections. Akin to the real estate industry axiom location, location, location, the Boone and Crockett Club brings together the finest minds in industry, conservation, and science to

thoughtfully advance the concerns and needs of our wildlands, wildlife, and the hunter-conservationist. Frequently, as but an observer, I find the brilliance of these individuals thrilling. But, collectively, they are epic. From position statements to cutting-edge science, to new legislation, to leadership academies, B&C has a firm hand in guiding society into a successful future.

No shortage of credit belongs squarely in the lap of our outgoing president, Mr. William Demmer. His presidential influence will pay lofty dividends to our constituency for decades. Thank you Bill! Job well done.

For the sake of brevity, I want to point out two articles in particular. For our extreme hunters, please see Justin Spring's article on page 48. It is an intricate look at the functionality of the B&C records database and its online content application Trophy Search. As a serious trophy hunter myself with 15-plus

Colorado mule deer preference points, I was particularly captivated. The system's use is infinite and extends to all species and locals. I sure think the world of Justin. He is a class act and a real asset to the Club serving as Assistant Director of Records. I admire greatly those individuals with both academic smarts tempered by boots-on-the-ground, real-world experience. It's that combination that yields great results—and that's Justin!

That combination of grit and academic accomplishment also describes Eric Rominger. Eric, a B&C Professional Member, has spent a lifetime in the field researching our beloved wild critters. His piece, *Top-down versus Bottom-up, 35 Years as a Field Biologist*, looks at his research in New Mexico involving desert sheep, reviews multiple other well done studies, and culminates in a critical assessment and opinion regarding predator management moving into the future. I cannot stress enough how important his guidance on predator management is! We have had the return of the wolf forced on the majority of us, to the steep decline of many of our big game populations. Eric clearly defines why these predators must be tightly controlled. Read this article twice and incorporate its message, please!

A tree stand and the peak of the whitetail rut are calling my name today. Enjoy the magazine, renew your subscription, sign up a friend, and enjoy the ride. ■

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