

FROM THE EDITOR



Mark B. Steffen
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Chairman B&C
Publications Committee

In this Issue

A veritable wealth of information is an apt description of the winter issue of *Fair Chase*. The past year has been an exhilarating blur as the editorial board discussed, debated, wrestled, argued, and ultimately and simply reached out to the brilliant individuals who collectively constitute the Boone and Crockett Club. These contributors and authors are the true leaders—in thought as well as action. Their interwoven ties to the hunter-conservation community, to multiple conservation organizations, to governmental agencies and ultimately to each of us as we find our way afield is of itself an amazing story. They span several generations and many countries. Hopefully, within today's pages you will find an article that you connect with right now and another that helps elevate you to your tomorrow.

We are treated to an in-depth look at the deer rifle by Wayne C. van Zwoll, PhD, one of the most gifted and eloquent outdoor writers of our time (make that, any time). His breadth of knowledge as to the historical, physical, and ethical aspects of the hunt deserve, even command, our respect.

In their article "Predator and Policy Constraints," authors Greg Schildwachter, PhD, a graduate from a B&C doctoral program, and William F. Porter, PhD, a B&C Professor, begin to lay the foundation for the melding of science and policy. Do not miss the significance of this critical step in conservation as it is an absolute battleground that cannot be ignored.

"Disinterested Science" is not what you might think. This article by Valerius Geist, PhD, dives into science's dirty secret. That being, unless science is unbiased (performed by a "disinterested" researcher), the results can and will be tainted, misleading, and even destructive. This occurs for a multitude of reasons, none of which are for the greater good. The hunter-conservation community has held science in such high regard for so long. Some even regard it as the decision maker. It's not. It is a tool that needs gentle care and to be closely watched. Ultimately, science is used by our leaders to assist in decision-making, guiding wise-use principles as best as possible. I sadly suspect that contrived science will become the tool of the animal rights activists augmenting and equal to the courtroom bog, today's most favored technique.

Please consider this issue as our gift to you. Our best effort to entertain, educate, and elevate the well-being of both body and soul. Enjoy! ■

Mark B. Steffen MD

*Happy Holidays from the
Boone and Crockett Club!*

B&C
ONLINE

Find out more
about the topics in
Fair Chase online.
Look for this icon.

FAIR CHASE PRODUCTION STAFF

Editor-in-Chief & Publications Chairman

Mark B. Steffen

Managing Editor

Karlie Slayer

Assistant Editor

Julie L. Tripp

Conservation and History Editor

Steven Williams

Research and Education Editor

Winifred B. Kessler

Hunting and Ethics Editor

Mark Streissguth

Assistant Editors

Keith Balfourd

Jim Bequette

CJ Buck

Marc Mondavi

Jack Reneau

Tony A. Schoonen

Editorial Contributors

Chuck Adams

Craig Boddington

William A. Demmer

Valerius Geist

Jim Heffelfinger

Theodore J. Holsten

Winifred B. Kessler

Paul Krausman

Doug Painter

Daniel A. Pedrotti, Jr.

William Porter

Jack Reneau

Greg Schildwachter

Justin Spring

Steven Williams

Wayne van Zwoll

Photographic Contributors

Peter Eades

Joel Issacs

Donald M. Jones

Mark Mesenko

Fair Chase is published quarterly by the Boone and Crockett Club and distributed to its Members and Associates. Material in this magazine may be freely quoted and/or reprinted in other publications and media, so long as proper credit is given to *Fair Chase*. The only exception applies to articles that are reprinted in *Fair Chase* from other magazines, in which case, the Club does not hold the reprint rights. The opinions expressed by the contributors of articles are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Boone and Crockett Club.

Fair Chase (ISSN 1077-4627) is published for \$35 per year by the Boone and Crockett Club, 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801. Periodical postage is paid in Missoula, Montana, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Fair Chase, Boone and Crockett Club,
250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801
Phone: (406) 542-1888 Fax: (406) 542-0784

NATIONAL ADVERTISING

Bernard + Associates, 767 Mill St. Reno, NV 89502
jeff@bernardandassociates.com Phone: (775) 323-6828

B&C STAFF

Chief of Staff – Tony A. Schoonen

Director of Big Game Records – Jack Reneau

Director of Publications – Julie L. Tripp

Director of Marketing – Keith Balfourd

Office Manager – Sandy Poston

Controller – Jan Krueger

TRM Ranch Manager – Mike Briggs

Assistant Director of Big Game Records –

Justin Spring

Development Program Manager – Jodi Bishop

Assistant Controller – Abra Loran

Associates Program Manager/Graphic Designer –

Karlie Slayer

Customer Service – Amy Hutchison

Records Dept. Assistant – Wendy Nickelson

Conservation Education Programs Manager –

Luke Coccolli