

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Meet Our New Boone & Crockett Club President

You may wonder, "Who is Dan Pedrotti and how did he get the opportunity to lead this great organization that was founded by Teddy Roosevelt, has over a 110 year history in hunting and wildlife conservation and is on a mission to protect and enhance our hunting heritage well into the 21st century?"

I guess I was a conservationist long before I had ever heard of the word. I grew up in the small Texas border town of Del Rio, situated on the banks of the mighty Rio Grande River. The San Filipe Creek ran through town but 12 miles west was the Devils River where my dad and I spent most every Sunday after Mass wading and catching bass and catfish. Despite the many, many wonderful memories I have of those trips, my disgust at finding burned out campfires with rusty tin cans littering the banks of this beautiful river still sticks in my mind. It was on the rare occasions when we were invited to private spots on the Pecos or the upper reaches of Devils River that my disappointments were the greatest. After traveling for hours by auto and trekking down steep limestone rimrock to the river's edge, then to find that someone had already been there and spoiled the beauty is a scene that lives as vividly in my mind now as it did 56 years ago.

We also hunted birds and small game but Dad was not a deer hunter even though the Edwards Plateau provided some of the best whitetail deer habitat in the state. He ran a grocery store and simply would not impose on our rancher customers by asking to hunt deer on their land. This was long before fee hunting became the norm in Texas. I finally did take my first whitetail buck when I was 17 years-old and that probably set me on the course to big-game hunting.

My love of the outdoors lured me to become a geologist and my knowledge of mountain structures and rock formations naturally led me to wild sheep hunting. I joined the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and when an effort got underway to re-introduce desert bighorn sheep into the mountains of west Texas, I accepted an invitation from Dr. "Red" Duke, former President of the Boone and Crockett Club, to be a founding member of the Texas Bighorn Society. I followed Dr. Duke as the 2nd president of that organization. Our efforts were blessed and Texas now boasts of over 400 desert bighorn sheep and two record book rams were taken here in 1997.

Dr. Duke also gave me the job of program chairman for the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep Convention in Nashville, a position that fellow Boone and Crockett Club member, Tommy Caruthers, and I have filled for most every convention since. I was elected to the Sheep Foundation Board of Directors in 1990, chaired the San Antonio convention in 1994 and served as President of the Foundation in 1996-1997.

I became a regular member of the Boone and Crockett Club in 1989, served on the budget committee, chaired the Editorial and Historical committee, was elected Vice President of Communications in 1993 and in 1995 was appointed First Vice President. In December, 1997, at the Club's annual meeting in Denver, I became the 25th President of the Boone and Crockett Club, an honor and a responsibility beyond my greatest expectations.

I look forward to visiting with you in each issue of *Fair Chase* and in Reno this June at the 23rd Big Game Awards Program. ▲▲▲



Daniel A. Pedrotti

President
Boone and Crockett Club

FORMER PRESIDENT, PAUL WEBSTER, RIGHT, CONGRATULATES INCOMING PRESIDENT, DANIEL A. PEDROTTI, AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB IN DENVER, COLORADO.

