

TROPHY TALK

23rd Awards Program Activities in Reno, Nevada



Jack Reneau

Director
Big Game Records

By the time you're reading this column we'll be well into the 24th Awards Program that started January 1, 1998, and continues through December 31, 2000. If initial entries are any indication of what's to come, it looks like we're going to receive another bumper crop of outstanding trophies during the next three years.

Enough said for now about the 24th Awards Program because the 23rd Awards Program, which was one of the most active and exciting three-year entry periods since the Club started keeping records, closed on December 31, 1997. As this issue of *Fair Chase* goes to press we are

in the process of fine-tuning plans for the 23rd Awards Banquet, Wildlife Workshop and related activities that will take place in Reno, Nevada, May 6 through June 13, 1998. For more information about the activities read on and check out pages 32-33. Write or call the Club's headquarters at 406/542-1888 for reservation information.

The highlights of the 23rd Awards Program are the Awards Banquet, Wildlife Workshop and related activities taking place during June 12-13, 1998, in Reno. These activities are the culmination of the Club's records-keeping activities for the last 3 years. The festivities open

at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 12th in the trophy display at the Wilbur May Museum in Reno with a welcoming reception for trophy owners who have taken the finest trophies entered during the last three years, as well as associates, Club members, guests and the hunting public.

WILDLIFE WORKSHOP

On Saturday, June 13th, attendees can participate in the Wildlife Workshop. The highly informative seminars will be held throughout the day at the Reno Hilton and will cover a wide variety of relevant outdoor topics for today's big-game hunter. Speakers will include such renowned personalities as Craig Boddington, Jim Zumbo, Valerius Geist, Julius Fortuna, and Jack Ward Thomas, to mention only a few.

23RD AWARDS BANQUET

The weekend's activities will culminate with the 23rd Awards Banquet at the Reno Hilton on June 13th. The reception starts at 6 p.m. and is immediately followed by the banquet at 7 p.m. The coveted and highly prized Boone and Crockett Club medals and certificates will be presented immediately following the banquet to the individuals who have taken the finest North American big-game trophies entered in the Club's archives during 1995-1997. Who knows, the prestigious Sagamore Hill Award may even be presented to the single, most deserving trophy receiving honors in Reno.

TROPHY DISPLAY

The Awards Banquet and related activities will be preceded by a spectacular display of approximately 100 of the finest North American big-game trophies ever taken and gathered in one place. The display, which will be at the Wilbur May Museum, is scheduled to be open to the public during regular museum hours from May 6 through June 12, 1998.

I'm not exaggerating when I say the 23rd Awards Program is the

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB'S

23rd

BIG GAME AWARDS

1 9 9 5 t h r o u g h 1 9 9 7

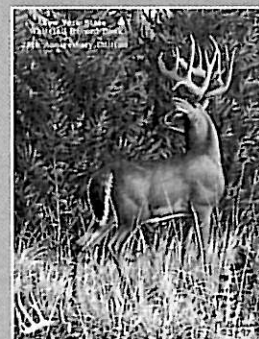
Schedule of Events

Final Awards Panel Judging	By invitation only	April 26 - 30
Trophy Display	Wilbur May Museum	May 6 - June 12
23rd Awards Registration Desk Opens	Reno Hilton	June 12
Welcoming Reception	Wilbur May Museum	June 12
Wildlife Workshop	Reno Hilton	June 13
Awards Banquet	Reno Hilton	June 13
Publication of 23rd Awards Book		Fall 1998

RECORDS BOOK REVIEWS

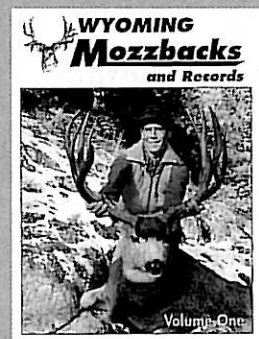
NEW YORK STATE WHITETAIL RECORD BOOK

The New York State Big Buck Club has just released a special 25th Anniversary Edition of its *New York State Whitetail Record Book*. This edition, using lower minimums than the Boone and Crockett Club's minimums, lists over 3,000 trophy deer and bear taken in New York. It also includes over 200 photographs, both black and white and color, of New York's top whitetail deer and black bear taken with firearm or bow. The *New York State Whitetail Record Book* is available for \$16.50 (post-paid) from the New York State Big Buck Club, c/o Dallas Sumner, 8895 Plainville Road FN, Dept. FC, Baldwinsville, NY 13027. As a bonus you will receive a complimentary reprint copy of the 1st edition of the New York State records book published in 1978 with your order.



WYOMING MOZZBACKS AND RECORDS

Ron Haider of Evanston, Wyoming, has culminated years of research with his recent release of *Wyoming Mozzbacks and Records*. His book, consisting of over 100 pages, lists over 1,000 big game entries of all eight big game species (11 categories) hunted in Wyoming. A copy of *Wyoming Mozzbacks and Records* can be purchased for \$13.95 from Ron Haider, Mozzbacks, P.O. Box 2818, Dept. FC, Evanston, WY 82930. Shipping and Handling is \$3.50.



BOOK REVIEW NOTICE

There are many state, provincial, and private organizations publishing local records books that use the Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system with permission of the Club. Since there is no single reference source for these books, and because there are many hunters who collect them, we will review them as time and space permit.

However, the Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data contained in these books. Some of the books featured in this column may contain trophies not listed in any Boone and Crockett Club records book. Further, some of these books may include trophies that were not scored by certified Boone and Crockett Club official measurers.

If there is a question about the status of a trophy listed in any of these books, the Boone and Crockett Club's records books/archives are the final reference source to settle any and all discrepancies.

most active three-year entry period ever experienced by the Club. From January 1, 1995, through December 31, 1997, we received nearly 3,700 entries. This is 500 more entries than the 3,200 received during the previous 22nd Awards Program, a 16% increase. It is a stunning 3,100 more entries than the number received during the 16th Awards Program (1974-1976) when I first started working for the Club's records program. It just goes to show you that wildlife management is working, and that we may be living through the "good old days" so far as big-game hunting is concerned.

Not only have we just received the greatest number of entries for a three-year period, but we've also received some of the finest trophies ever taken by modern day hunters. For starters we have accepted potential new World's Records for both typical and non-typical American elk, Sitka blacktail deer, typical Coues' whitetail deer, muskox and Pacific walrus. There are an additional 62 entries, representing 20 categories, that rank in the all-time top 10 for their respective categories.

The potential World's Record typical elk, which is currently owned by Alan Ellsworth, was taken by Alonzo Winters in Arizona's White Mountains sometime prior to 1970. Details of the hunt are sketchy since Lon, as he was known by his friends, passed away in 1994 without ever knowing that the monster he had taken would potentially rank number one. At an entry score of 447-7/8 points, Lon's elk exceeds the current World's Record (442-3/8 points) taken by John Plute in Colorado in 1899, by 5-4/8 points.

The potential new World's Record non-typical elk, which has an entry score of 456-3/8 points, was found dead along the shores of Upper Arrow Lake, British Columbia, in August 1994. Its entry score exceeds the current World's Record (447-1/8), which was taken by James Berry at Gilbert Plains, Manitoba, in 1961, by 9-2/8 points.

A potentially larger non-typical elk, scoring 487 points, was entered near the end of the 23rd Awards Program by Shirley Hayward. However, entry processing had not been completed at press time.

Since Northwest Territories started issuing hunting licenses for their muskox about two decades ago, we have received increasingly larger muskox during each of the last several entry periods, and the 23rd Awards Program was no exception. In addition to receiving five muskox entries during the 23rd Awards Program that exceed the current World's Record, we also received five others placing in the all-time top 10. The largest potential new World's Record, scoring 128 points, was taken by Steve Persson in 1995 along the Perry River, N.W.T.

Perhaps one of the most spectacular trophies entered in the 23rd Awards Program is a non-typical whitetail buck taken during the 1995 hunting season by Anthony Fulton in Winston Co., Mississippi. The entry score is 255-6/8 points. It has 47 measurable points and is clearly one of the most complicated bucks ever scored. This buck, as well as all of the above mentioned potential new World's Records, will be rescored by a select panel of judges that will meet in late April before the trophies are put on display at the Wilbur May Museum. Depending on the final score arrived at by the Judges, Fulton's buck could be the highest scoring whitetail ever taken by a modern-day hunter.

As I have said before, wildlife managers are doing an outstanding job. You can see the fruits of their labors by visiting the 23rd Awards Program trophy display that is scheduled for exhibition at the Wilbur May Museum from May 6 through June 12, 1998. Also, mark your calendar and plan to attend the 23rd Awards Banquet and Wildlife Workshop during June 12-13, 1998. Not only will you see some of the finest trophies ever taken by hunters of any age, but you will have an opportunity to personally meet the hunters who took them. It will be a fun time for everyone. ▲▲▲