

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dedication of the Millennium Circle and the Elmer Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center



Earl E. Morgenroth

President

Boone and Crockett Club

A group shot of the attendees after the bronze grizzly bear was revealed.

BELOW: Curly Bear performs the smoke ceremony to begin the Education Center dedication.

Two historic events occurred during the month of August of major interest to Boone and Crockett Club Members and Associates. On August 17th, a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt was dedicated at our headquarters in Missoula, Montana. The base of the memorial is nine feet in height. It is enhanced with nine bronze plaques containing significant quotes of Roosevelt and 181 bricks honoring Members, Associates, and friends of the Boone and Crockett Club. Mounted on top of the base is a nine-foot grizzly bear sculpted by Roosevelt's old friend and hunting companion, Jimmy Clark. Jimmy Clark was the Curator of the New York Museum of Natural History, a Professional Member of the Boone and Crockett Club, and a

noted taxidermist and artist at the turn of the century.

We were fortunate that a Member of our Club, Bob Lee of Reno, Nevada, owned the mold of the Jimmy Clark bear. Lee's donation of the mold to the Club made the memorial possible. The memorial was financed through the sale of bricks and bronze reproductions of the Jimmy Clark grizzly bear. We still have ample room for bricks from Associates and friends of the Club. Bricks are available at \$500 each and constitute a lasting memorial. Laser graphics of individual or trophy pictures are included in the cost of the granite bricks. Out of the 20 small-scale bronze reproductions of the Jimmy Clark bear that were made, three are still available. If you are interested in one of these remaining bronzes, please contact Boone and Crockett Headquarters in Missoula.

The following day, on August 18th, the Club dedicated the Elmer Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center at the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial (TRM) Ranch at Dupuyer, along the Eastern Front of the Rockies. The Center will serve as headquarters for our K-12 education programs, Boone and Crockett research programs, and as a wildlife

conference center for North America. The Center can house up to 36 teachers, students or conferrees. We are indebted to the many people and foundations for the funding, construction and success of this facility. The Center would not have been possible without the help of the R.K. Mellon Foundation of Pittsburgh and the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Opportunity, Washington. These two foundations provided the bulk of the construction funds for the facility.

The Rasmuson family of Anchorage, Alaska provided substantial endowment funding to ensure the continued success of the K-12 programs and the TRM Ranch. Elmer Rasmuson, who passed away last year, was a Regular Member of the Boone and Crockett Club and a leading citizen in his home state of Alaska. An article from Alaska magazine stated, "Elmer Rasmuson, a prominent Alaska native, was patriarch at the National Bank of Alaska. He started his bank career as a janitor at the Skagway Branch and was manager of that same bank at age 17." Elmer's public service extended beyond the Club: he also served as chairman of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and Mayor of Anchorage.

Elmer's son, Ed, succeeded Elmer as president of the National Bank of Alaska. Speaking of his father, Ed said, "His legacy to Alaska is going to be that he has formulated all the organizations and institutions he worked with, and he helped build the state." We want to thank the entire Rasmuson family for their ex-



tremely generous contributions to the Boone and Crockett Club. The Club is extremely pleased to honor Elmer with the dedication of this outstanding facility.

The Club has also honored Regular Member and past Club President Bill Searle and his wife Sally by dedicating the meeting room at the Center to honor this couple's extraordinary commitment to the TRM Ranch, the K-12 education program, and the Club. The Club also is indebted to Bob and Rebecca Palmer for their strong support of the TRM Ranch and providing a rifle range, which is currently under construction. It is my privilege to announce that the range will bear the name "Robert and Rebecca Palmer Rifle Range." I would also like to thank Earl Sherron, Vice-President of Physical Assets for his hard work in supervising the construction of the Roosevelt memorial in Missoula and the Elmer Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center at the TRM Ranch.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SYMPOSIUM

As a follow-up to the Chronic Wasting Disease article in the last issue of *Fair Chase*, the Boone and Crockett Club will participate in a Chronic Wasting Disease Symposium on September 15-17, 2001 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, Kansas. The Symposium is sponsored by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Kansas Coopera-

tive Wildlife Research Unit, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, North American Elk Breeders Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the Boone and Crockett Club. The symposium, which features some of our nation's finest veterinarians, research scientists and land managers, hopefully will find some answers in curing this perplexing problem.

Two Professional Members of the Club, Dr. Valerius Geist and Dr. Jack Ward Thomas, will coordinate the Club's efforts concerning

Chronic Wasting Disease and participate in panel discussions during the symposium. On Monday, September 17th, Dr. Geist, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary, will speak on "Chronic Wasting Disease from a Sportsman's Conservation Ethic." Dr. Thomas, Boone and Crockett Professor at the University of Montana, will conduct the symposium's closing session, titled "Where Do We Go From Here?" ▲▲▲

President Earl Morgenroth addresses the audience at the Millennium Circle Dedication in Missoula, Montana, on August 17.

BELOW: A view of the information sign for the Elmer E. Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center with the East Front of the Rocky Mountains in the background.

