

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Earl E. Morgenroth  
President  
Boone and Crockett Club

## CWD is Topic of Congressional Hearing

Approximately 18 months ago I had a discussion with Jack Ward Thomas, Boone and Crockett Professor at the University of Montana, on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Jack's remarks

to me were, "If we cannot achieve a biological solution, we will have a political solution...For example, if CWD was found in the elk herd at the National Elk Refuge in Jackson, Wyoming, the political solution would be a 'scorched earth policy' of killing the entire herd."

Given the recent developments on CWD, Jack's remarks were certainly prophetic.

Chronic Wasting Disease is gaining national attention and becoming recognized as a wildlife disease crisis. On May 16th, the House Resources Subcommittees on Forests and Forest Health and Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans held a joint oversight hearing on CWD. The purpose of the hearing was to probe the growing threat of CWD, and focused on ways federal agencies could support state wildlife managers and other involved state agencies in preventing further spread of CWD to non-infected populations. Additionally, the hearing explored ways in which the federal government could aid and support research and development efforts aimed at containing and, ultimately, eradicating the disease.

Boone and Crockett Club Professional Member, Gary Wolfe, chair of the Club's newly created Wildlife Health Committee was one of 10 witnesses invited to present testimony at the congressional hearing. Gary explained the efforts of the Club and the CWD Alliance, and offered specific recommendations for congressional action. The following is excerpted from Gary's testimony:

First and foremost, successful control and eradication of CWD in both wild

and captive populations of deer and elk will depend upon a cooperative approach and a well-coordinated effort between federal and state agencies. We encourage you to rely heavily on the recommendations of the state wildlife agencies when considering federal regulations or congressional legislation regarding CWD. Any such actions should recognize and reinforce the principle that state wildlife agencies have the primary responsibility for managing wild cervid populations.

Secondly, since CWD may be spread to new areas through commercial trade in captive cervids, thus placing wild populations of deer and elk at risk, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service should work closely with state wildlife agencies in the development of regulations affecting the interstate shipment of captive cervids.

Third, request that the sponsors of the upcoming national CWD Symposium report back to these congressional subcommittees following the conference with specific recommendations for action.

Fourth, because efforts to control CWD are costly and are taking critical limited resources away from the impacted states' other wildlife management programs, we would like to see significant federal funding appropriated to support additional research, assist state wildlife agencies, and develop a national CWD public awareness campaign.

Representative Scott McInnis (CO), Chairman of the Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee, commented that Gary's testimony was "very refreshing" and complimented the partner organizations on their positive approach to assisting with the resolution of the CWD crisis.

A few days following the hearing, Representative McInnis, in conjunction with Representatives Mark Green (WI) and Paul Ryan (WI), announced the introduction of the Chronic Wasting Disease Support for States Act, a bill that would authorize \$27 million to combat the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease. In addition to the money, McInnis said a hallmark of the bill is that it would draw clear jurisdictional lines of responsibility for the Departments of Interior and Agriculture, which share federal responsibilities for CWD. ■

FOUNDED IN 1887 BY  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Earl E. Morgenroth  
Executive Vice-President - Robert Model  
First Vice-President - Richard A. Gooding  
First Vice-President - Thomas D. Price  
Vice-Presidents of...  
Records & Ethics - Tommy L. Caruthers  
Physical Assets - Earl L. Sherron  
Conservation - Gilbert T. Adams  
Communications - FR. Daily  
Planning - Arlene P. Hanson  
Treasurer - Joseph A. Ostervich  
Secretary - Robert H. Hanson  
Class of 2001  
Lowell E. Baier  
Bill T. Closs  
Charles E. Long  
Class of 2002  
William O. Barrett  
Gary W. Dietrich  
John P. Poston  
Class of 2003  
Jack E. Beal  
Larry C. Bucher  
Norman C. Roettger

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Associates - Gray N. Thornton  
Audit - William L. Searle  
Budget & Finance - Robert Hanson  
Campaign for Wildlife - Bill T. Closs  
Communications & Publications - Thomas M. Baker  
Education - Harold J. Salwasser  
Facilities - Patrick J. Gilligan  
Grants-In-Aid - Winifred Kessler  
Habitat Partners - John Poston  
Historical - H. Hudson DeCray  
Ethics - Fred C. Bryant  
Legal - John P. Poston  
Marketing & Outreach - Duane A. Walker  
Membership - Gary W. Dietrich  
Museum - Robert Hanson  
Nominating - Daniel A. Pedrotti  
Position Papers - Marcus T. Barrett  
Professor - Daniel H. Pletscher  
Ranch - Larry C. Bucher  
Records - C. Randall Byers  
Sagamore Hill Award - Paul D. Webster  
Strategic Planning - Butch Marita  
Wildlife Health - Gary Wolfe  
WCP - Daniel A. Pedrotti

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Theodore Roosevelt  
Benjamin H. Bristow  
William Austin Wadsworth  
George Bird Grinnell  
Madison Grant  
Kermit Roosevelt  
Frederic C. Walcott  
Archibald B. Roosevelt  
Karl T. Frederick  
Fairman R. Dick  
Alfred O. Hoyt  
Robert Munro Ferguson  
Robert S. Waters  
Frederick C. Pullman  
John E. Rhea  
Wesley M. Dixon, Jr.  
Jack S. Parker  
William I. Spencer  
Judge F. Anderson  
James H. Duke, Jr.  
George C. Hixon  
Stephen S. Adams  
Paul D. Webster  
Daniel A. Pedrotti

Visit our CWD website  
[www.cwd-info.org](http://www.cwd-info.org) for  
the most accurate and  
up-to-date information.