

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Inaugural Message from Our 27th President



Robert Model

President
Boone and Crockett Club

This year begins the 116th year of the Boone and Crockett Club. I would like to share with our Boone and Crockett Associates the comments I made upon my inauguration as

the 27th President of the Boone and Crockett Club in December 2002. The challenges in this new century are different from the last, and the vision of the Boone and Crockett Club continues to change and evolve as new challenges emerge. We remain a small group of dedicated sportsmen and women intent upon making a difference in the wildlife conservation issues of today and tomorrow. As a Club, all of us must work to achieve these goals in order to be true and loyal to our Club's heritage.

"I stand here before you tonight with humility, pride and commitment. One hundred years ago, Grinnell, Roosevelt, and Pinchot took on an enormous commitment to save our wildlife populations that were being devastated by market hunters who had no regard for the future of wildlife. Their concern was the present, and before they knew it, our wildlife populations were

in great trouble. It was the Boone and Crockett Club that stepped in to work for the survival of our North American big game animals. If they were healthy, other wildlife would also be healthy.

"It was a time when the Club came together. Under the able leadership of Grinnell, the Club dealt with the complex issues in conservation—not only wildlife, but also insuring that the wildlife had a home on the public domain. Our early Members met those challenges. Their past leadership left us an important legacy, which we must preserve and take forward into this new century. By looking back on our early goals, our current leaders have the vision to see where we need to be in the next 100 years.

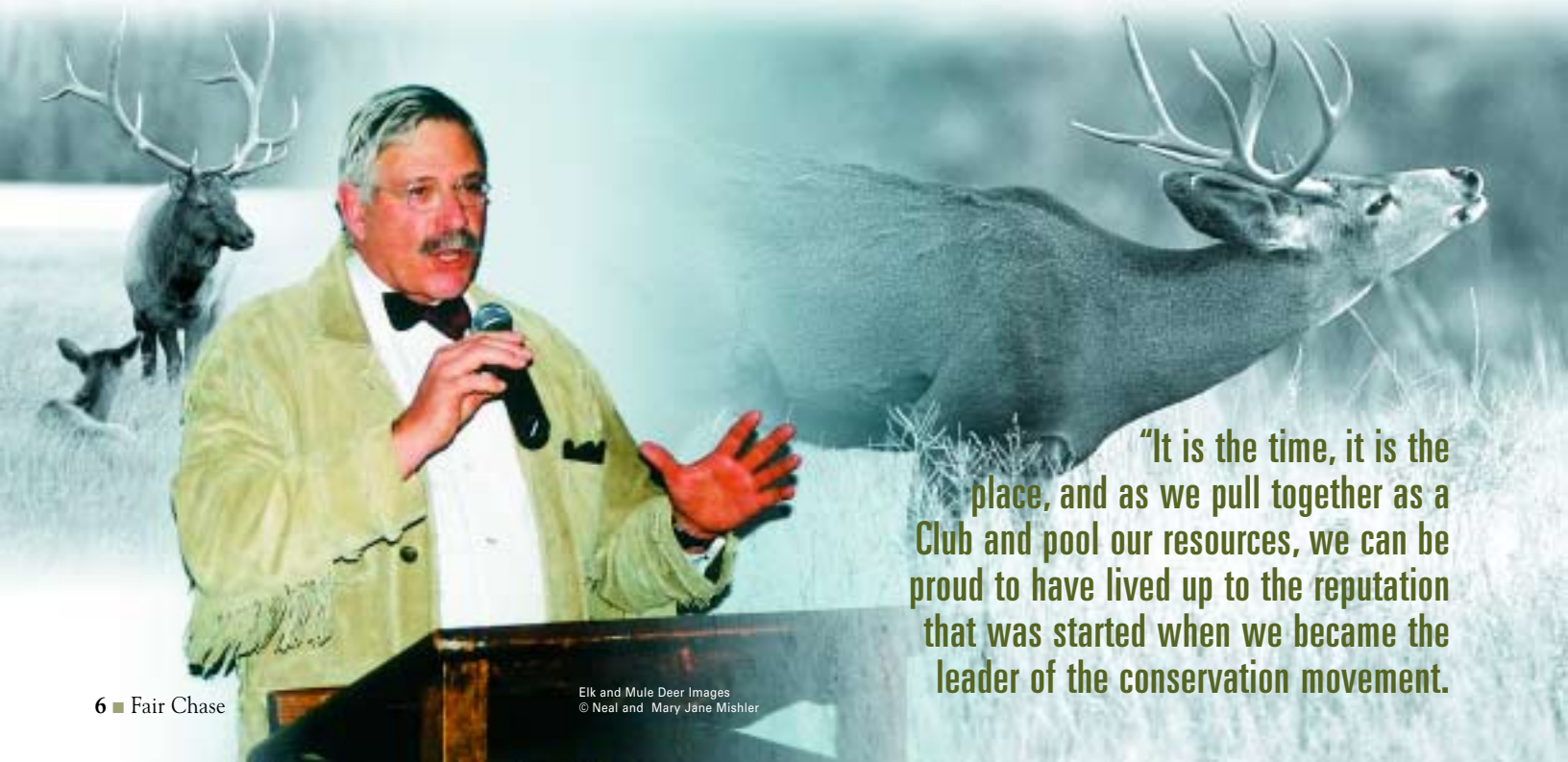
"The early Boone and Crockett Members set a course of saving wildlife populations, and insuring that vast tracts of the public domain were forever to be undeveloped and to be used, not only as home for wildlife, but as a source for sustainability in forestry and forage production, as well as an important water source. Our early leaders envisioned the concept of sharing and stewardship. They believed in ethics. The ethic the Club espoused was to educate Americans to respect and treasure the resources that this great country was blessed with.

"Tonight we have with us a number of Club Members who saw the need for the

Club to address the challenges of the 21st century and the second 100 years of Boone and Crockett.

"My introduction to the Club was the vision that Jack Parker and Bill Spencer demonstrated when they were trying to find a way to make the Club relevant in these times. They chose to buy a ranch. With the financial help of Bill Searle and Wes Dixon, this came to pass. The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch serves as a symbol to the commitment that the Club again made to insure that we have a healthy future for our wildlife and natural resources. The challenges in this new century are different from the last, but there is a consistent theme that runs from one century to the next. That theme is "if you have the animals, you have to have the land, the home." As we did 100 years ago by protecting the public domain, a major challenge in this next century is to hold together the private lands that sustain the public lands and create viable ecosystems. It is an important mission to accomplish the saving of these very valuable private lands from development. If we can do this during the coming century, we will have fulfilled an obligation to the founding members who would expect nothing less from us.

"Today, we come together as a Club. We also need to put any personal differ-



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PAST PRESIDENTS

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ences aside and recognize that what we do best is to lead. We demonstrated this leadership under the guidance of Presidents Tim Hixon and Steve Adams when we developed and implemented our strategic plan in 1993. The vision statements and focus on ethics, records, and education are our beacons. We demonstrated it when Dan Pedrotti was able to implement an idea that was fostered by Paul Webster. Dan, with the help of our Professional Members, led by Steve Mealey, successfully brought together like-minded hunter/conservation organizations, forming the American Wildlife Conservation Partners. This group, led by the Boone and Crockett Club, now has the attention of our politicians and present Administration. Through the hard work of these Club leaders, a great conservation leadership opportunity has been created. The window of this opportunity is narrow.

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"What do I mean by this? I mean that we can, as the leader of these organizations, influence the future with the recommendations of the 35 groups who came together and agreed on the way to set the course for the sustainability of our wildlife populations and the preservation of our private and public lands to support these populations.

Those recommendations are:

- Establish federal budget priorities that will restore wildlife
- Maintain and restore rangeland habitat in the West through proactive land management
- Maintain and restore forest habitats in the East through proactive forest management
- Emphasize collaborative national forest decision making
- Re-establish effective federal natural resource leadership
- Support wildlife conservation provisions in the 2002 farm bill
- Reinforce state authority and responsibility for wildlife management — legal issues
- Reinforce state authority and responsibility

for wildlife management — funding issues

- Establish an appropriation to provide for hunter retention, recruitment and education
- Remove disincentives for private land wildlife conservation
- Establish a public land law review commission to relieve legal and regulatory problems contributing to federal land management gridlock.

"We are delighted with the President's Healthy Forests Initiative. It captures our hope for habitat restoration through active forest management. We are also pleased with the progress to reduce legal gridlock.

"We must not let this brief opportunity pass us by. We must help this Administration in its continued success. The road to success will be bumpy. As a Club, we must be together. All of us must work to achieve these goals in order to be true and loyal to our Club's heritage.

"I call on all of you to recognize, in Jack Thomas' words, 'this magic' that the Club had and demonstrated in its beginnings. That 'magic' is alive in this opportunity for the Club to complete the course for the next 100 years.

"I am, as your incoming President, committed to work to achieve these initiatives we have set for ourselves. I am thrilled with the honor of being able to work with you as never before for success.

"I would like to conclude with having you all reflect on these thoughts, as well as on a quote from founding member George Bird Grinnell:

"It has not been the Club's practice to announce its purposes, nor to glory in what it has accomplished, but rather to move steadfastly forward, striving constantly to do whatever fell within its province which would tend to promote the country's welfare . . . a small body of individuals, scattered all over the country, working individually and constantly on behalf of things once laughed at or unknown, but now as familiar to the public mind as household words. The results accomplished by the Boone and Crockett Club bear testimony to the alertness and energy of its members, and to the success of the methods which they have pursued."

"Let us continue on in that great tradition." ■