

FROM THE EDITOR

Getting More Hunters Involved



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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Boone and Crockett Club

The Boone and Crockett Club was founded in 1887 by Theodore Roosevelt and a group of his hunting companions and friends. The name was chosen to reflect the group's

first-hand experiences in hunting the frontiers of the North American continent of their day. From that humble beginning, the Boone and Crockett Club has, by its philosophy and accomplishments, become recognized as the premier hunting and conservation organization of today.

Of course, when the Club was founded, conservation was unknown and the word itself not yet defined. In fact, the word "conservation" was coined by Gifford Pinchot, during his reign as head of the U. S. Forest Service under President Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt and Pinchot had been struggling to define the complex set of actions that were required to manage and maintain our natural resources, while allowing maximum "wide" usage for the benefit of mankind. The story goes that Pinchot was horseback riding in Rock Creek Park near the Capitol when he suddenly came up with the word "conservation" to define our steward's role in natural resource management. Roosevelt seized upon the word and made it a cornerstone of his presidency's policy toward natural resources. It is interesting to note that as Roosevelt and Pinchot defined and used it, conservation means, in simplest terms, "wise use." It does not mean the locking-up and non-usage of the renewable resources, such as forests, streams, and wildlife. That is plain-old preservation, not conservation as it should be.

By being a member of the Associates Program, you are agreeing with the Boone and Crockett Club's rules of fair chase and its emphasis on sportsmanship while afield. But most important, YOU are part of the important conservation programs that the Club is involved in, helping to preserve our hunting heritage for future generations.

From its beginning, the Boone and Crockett Club, the oldest pro-hunter conservation organization, has been a very small organization in terms of membership, although its achievements have been of giant proportions. A key to its success has probably been its small membership, allowing for in-depth discussion of issues and quick action. The group operates under the proverb of Theodore Roosevelt, "Walk softly and carry a big stick." While best known to hunters as the keeper of big game trophy records, its members have shaped America's natural resource management. However, its limited membership (a maximum of 100 Regular Members) meant that many people who supported the Club's ideals and programs were denied a direct connection to the Club. For that reason, almost 100 years after the Club's inception, the Associates Program was created in 1986. At that time, enrollment in the Associates Program included a quarterly newsletter, usually from 8 to 12 pages, and a nominal membership fee of \$20 per year, which could be quickly and easily balanced by the 20 percent discount on Club books.

Over the 17 years since the program's beginning, the membership fee has increased to only \$25 per year. The newsletter has transformed to a full color, 64-page magazine with articles by some of the best writers available, including the most up-to-date information on new records book animals written by the hunters who took them. There are important articles on where the trophy animals are being taken, how to hunt them, and how to judge a trophy records-book animal. Members of the Associate Program also have access to exclusive areas of the Club's web site. By being a member of the Associates Program, you are agreeing with the Boone and Crockett Club's rules of fair chase and its emphasis on sportsmanship while afield. But most important, YOU are part of the important conservation programs that the Club is involved in, helping to preserve our hunting heritage for future generations. You are hunting today because of efforts the Boone and Crockett Club has made during the last 116 years. While the membership of the Associates Program continues to grow, we need to get more hunters involved. As Associates, you need to help spread the word to your friends and family about this great organization and the important role it plays in the future of your hunting. Help the Club carry a bigger stick by getting more hunters involved in helping to continue our hunting legacy. ■

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT

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