

TROPHY TALK

25th Big Game Awards Book Available



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The Club's headquarters is very excited to announce the release of its latest publication, **The Boone and Crockett Club's 25th Big Game Awards**

book. It is the culmination of three years (2001-2003) of trophy data collection, as well as the 25th Awards Program activities that took place this past summer in Kansas City, Kansas. Literally thousands of hours of effort by trophy owners and B&C staff went into the preparation and publication of this book.

The last issue of *Fair Chase* was dedicated to recapping the exciting events of the 25th Awards Program banquet and related activities that took place at Cabela's in Kansas City, Kansas, this past summer where a record 117 trophies were singled out for special recognition of Boone and Crockett Club medallions and certificates. The 25th Awards book continues traditions established by previous Awards books. It includes full-page portrait photographs and the hunting

story of each one of the trophies that were recognized. Thus, in this single volume you can read and relive the first-hand hunting accounts of the sportsmen and sportswomen who have hunted all corners of the North American continent during the last few years to take their unique once-in-a-lifetime trophy. Not only that, you can glean information on hunting techniques these individuals used, as well as specific details on where their trophies were taken.

The 25th Awards book includes detailed lists of the 4,220 outstanding trophies accepted in 36 of the 38 categories of North American Big Game recognized by the Club. This is the greatest number of trophies ever accepted by the Club during any single Awards Program since the Club conducted its first Competition in 1947. It is an increase of nearly 300 trophies over the previous three-year recording period. Interestingly, but not surprising, typical and non-typical whitetail deer combined, totaling 1,404 trophies, comprise one-third of the trophies listed in this book, indicating that whitetail deer



Order your copy of the 25th Awards book by calling toll-free 888/840-4868!

management is paying big dividends in many areas.

Two other features of this book (of special interest to anyone with any interest in trophy specimens) is a special full color section of more than 100 field photographs and copies of 17 of the Club's copyrighted score charts with detailed scoring instructions.

First Repaired Trophy Accepted

The Club has reviewed and accepted three damaged trophies since the Damaged and Repaired Trophy Policy was modified (*Fair Chase* Winter 2003) to include detached antler, horn, or skull material in the final score if it can be proven the broken material fits perfectly. I would like to take this opportunity to review briefly the first such trophy to be accepted to illustrate the significance and appropriateness of this policy change.

Larry Miller took a large typical American elk near Spearfish, South Dakota, in 1980. It was a potential B&C qualifier, but the right G-5 point on this massive bull was tragically broken off at the base when Larry took it. It was easy for Larry, and Official Measurer Larry Frederickson, to surmise that his bull would have easily made the records book if the missing point was present, and if it was of comparable size to the left G-5 point that measured an even 14 inches.

It wasn't until two years later that Larry Frederickson was talking to a former high school classmate, Bob Vodopich, at a class reunion that a glimmer of hope surfaced for Larry Miller to enable him to determine a possible score of his trophy. Bob told Larry that he had found a point (nearly 13 inches long) from an elk antler in 1980 approximately 4 miles from where Miller had taken his bull. Shortly after their conversation, the broken antler piece was in

Larry Miller's possession, and it fit perfectly. The photos shown below illustrate the perfect match. The Club accepted it in the 25th Awards Program on December 31, 2003, at 377-3/8 points, just in time for inclusion in **Boone and Crockett Club's 25th Big Game Awards**.

Since Larry's bull is the only American elk listed in the Club's records book from South Dakota, it is obviously South Dakota's first state record.

Larry Miller's repaired typical American elk is the first ever taken from South Dakota to qualify for the Club's Awards Program.



The 25th Awards Program records book is truly more than a compendium of outstanding hunting stories with extensive lists of some of the finest trophies ever taken by modern-day hunters. It is a celebration and testimonial to the success of our nation's wildlife management system, which was initiated by the Club's farsighted founder Theodore Roosevelt and a group of his closest associates during the last half of the 1800s when they founded the Boone and Crockett Club. The outlook for North American wildlife at that time certainly couldn't have looked gloomier. Not only were bison on the very edge of extinction, but all other species of North American big game mammals were at their lowest ebb because of unregulated market hunting and westward expansion. I can't help but think how pleased Theodore Roosevelt and his contemporaries would be with the conditions and status of North American big game today. Not only did all species of native North American big game survive and thrive, but they have done so, thanks to sportsmen, in an ever-changing environment. I am certain Roosevelt would enjoy this publication.

Instructions for ordering copies of **Boone and Crockett Club's 25th Big Game Awards** book are included in the center of this issue of *Fair Chase*.

26th Awards Program Entries
A total of 1,117 trophies have been received since January 1, 2004, the start of the Club's 26th Awards Program. Unfortunately, there have been some unavoidable delays in processing these trophies because of the 25th Awards Program held at Cabela's this summer and the effort dedicated to producing and publishing the 25th Awards Program records book mentioned above. I am pleased to announce, however, that nearly all trophies received prior to September 1, 2004, have been processed. Trophy entries that were complete have been accepted, and the owners of those that were not complete have been notified of what they need to do to complete their trophy's files. Regardless, everyone who has entered a trophy in the 26th Awards Program prior to September should have received an acceptance certificate or letter from us by the time you read this column. n

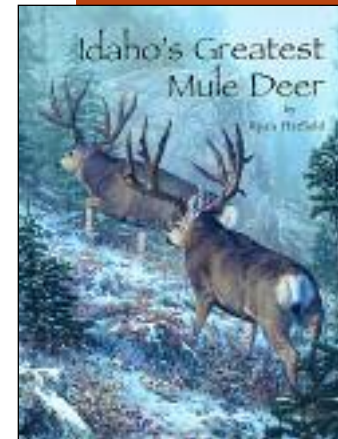
It's not unusual to hear from a customer using a Schmidt & Bender scope that they purchased 20, 30, even 40 years ago. It still performs like new, after hundreds of hunts and thousands of rounds. We guarantee that service for your scope will be available for up to 30 years from when you buy it. And for the first 10 years, if anything goes wrong because of material or manufacturing problems, we'll fix it absolutely free. Certainly, a Schmidt & Bender scope is an investment for your lifetime. And probably those of your children and grandchildren, too. Learn more at P.O. Box 134, Meriden, NH, 03770, (800) 468-3450, email scopes@cyberportal.net, or visit www.schmidtbender.com.



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IDAHO'S GREATEST MULE DEER, BY RYAN HATFIELD

This 412-page hardcover collectible book pays tribute to all of the giant mule deer bucks to have ever roamed Idaho soil. The book includes over 450 photos and stories that finally let hunters see what these great bucks look like. It also helps to capture the priceless history and heritage that goes with them. Sections in the book include: B&C non-typicals, B&C typicals, IDF&G records, and unofficial bucks. Also included are chapters on mule deer evolution and life cycle, herd vs. hunter opportunity, and maps showing trends in mule deer trophy areas. Over six years were spent accumulating the information in order to pay proper tribute to these magnificent creatures. The book features artwork by world-renowned wildlife artist Leon Parson.



For more info, go to www.idahobiggame.com. The book is \$29.99 + \$4.50 S&H (ID residents add 6% sales tax) To order, call 208-253-0002 or send check to:

IGBG, Box 2, Council, ID 83612.

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 the express written 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. Only those books that use the Boone and Club's copyrighted scoring system and terminology with permission will be considered for review. However, the Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data contained in these publications. Many of the books 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.