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BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

BIG GAME AWARDS

KODAK SAFETY FILM

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You're Invited!

to the Boone and Crockett Club's
26th Big Game Awards Program
May 2-June 23 — Fort Worth, Texas

On behalf of the Boone and Crockett Club and the records committee, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend Boone and Crockett Club's 26th Big Game Awards Program Banquet and related activities that will take place at Cabela's Fort

By Jack Reneau
Director of Big Game Records

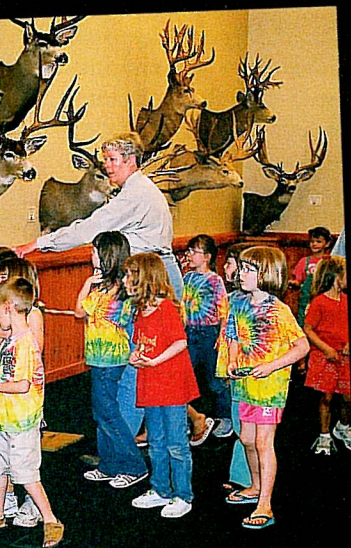
Worth, Texas, store in a few short months. The Awards Program Banquets were begun by B&C in 1947 to honor the finest big-game trophies ever taken by modern-day hunters; recognize the hunters for their singularly unique achievements; and celebrate the conservation successes of sportsmen that were begun by Theodore Roosevelt in December 1887 when he founded the Boone and Crockett Club.

The guests of honor at the banquet will be the fortunate men and women who have taken some of the finest North American big-game specimens ever recorded and recognized by the Club. Coveted B&C medallions and certificates will be presented at Saturday evening's banquet to these fortunate few trophy owners who have accomplished something that most of us only dream of. The quality and quantity of trophies that will be honored during this premier hunting event of 2007 are proof that we are living the "good old days."

I have personally attended nine Awards Program Banquets since I became involved with the Club in 1976. I never cease



Jack Reneau, pictured here at the 18th Awards Program, has been the Director of Big Game Records for the Boone and Crockett Club since 1983. Prior to that he handled the day-to-day operations for the Records Program for the NRA when they cosponsored the program with Boone and Crockett.



Schedule of Events

MAY 2-JUNE 23

Public display of award-winning, invited trophies at Cabela's, Fort Worth, Texas. Display open to the public during regular store hours.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

Noon - 8 p.m. Events registration desk open at Doral Tesoro Hotel and Golf Club, Fort Worth, Texas.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Field trip to 6-Flags Over Texas amusement park in Arlington

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Events registration desk open.

1 - 4:30 p.m. Buses shuttling between the Doral Tesoro Hotel and Cabela's.

6 - 8 p.m. Trophy Display Reception for trophy owners and guests in trophy exhibit at Cabela's.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Events registration desk open.

10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Buses shuttling between Doral Tesoro Hotel and Cabela's.

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lifetime Associates Luncheon.

1 - 4 p.m. Press Day for trophy owners and guests at Cabela's in trophy exhibit.

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Welcoming Reception and dinner at Doral Tesoro Hotel.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Events registration desk open. Buses shuttling between Doral Tesoro Hotel and Cabela's

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Optional Events (lunch on your own): Stockyards Historical District, Fort Worth, field trip.

Award-winning Big Game Profile videos at Doral Tesoro Hotel.

Golf at Doral Tesoro Hotel.

Bus to Cabela's to view trophy display.

6 - 11 p.m. 26th Awards Program Reception and Banquet at Doral Tesoro Hotel.

Chase, invitations will be in the mail.

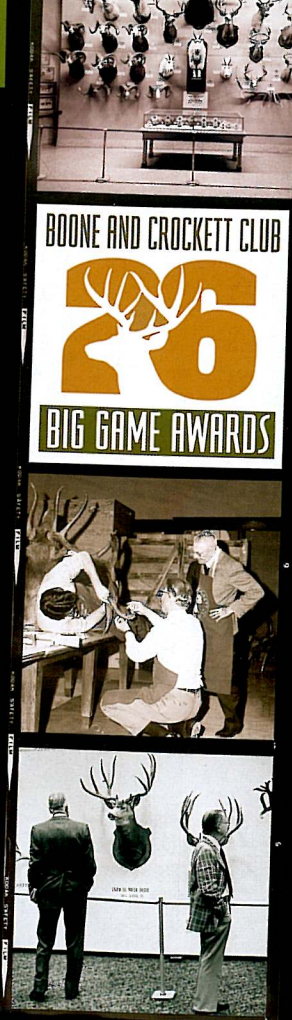
A complete schedule of events accompanies this article. There is something for everyone. The weekend of events starts out with a day trip for families and guests to world-renowned Six-Flags Over Texas theme park. With dozens of rides with names like Spongebob Squarepants 4-D, Texas Tornado, Shock Wave, Sidewinder, Crazy legs, and Judge Roy Scream, who wouldn't have fun? I can't tell how these rides work or what they look like, but with names like these it sounds like a lot of fun to me.

You will have the opportunity to rub shoulders during the entire weekend with hunters like yourself. There will be plenty of opportunities to swap stories with fellow hunters who have succeeded in taking some of the most unusual and remarkable specimens of big game ever recorded. Who knows, you might even take home some tips that will aid you in taking a book animal in years to come. You might even meet someone who will become a lifetime hunting companion, which has happened more than once in the past.

Cabela's itself is a destination spot in its own right. There are hundreds of trophy-class heads of all categories of North American big game recognized by B&C on display. Of special interest is their Texas Big Game Country Museum that is the home to dozens of B&C trophies whose scores have been verified by previous Awards Program Judges Panels. For me, it's like a reunion with many of the mule deer, whitetails, and elk that I have seen at previous Judges Panels I have attended. In other words, the trophies displayed at Cabela's are the best of the best.

The June 20-23 weekend of events will culminate with the 26th Awards Program banquet. Events during this weekend will include receptions and banquets; viewing opportunities of B&C's award-winning *Big Game Profiles* television series that aired on The Outdoor Channel; visits to Cabela's to view B&C's 26th Awards Program trophy exhibit and peruse their vast array of outdoor supplies and equipment; a field trip to the historic Stockyards in Fort Worth; the opportunity to play golf at Doral Tesoro's golf course; and much more.

Check the attached schedule and mark your calendar now; plan to attend the 26th Awards Program in Fort Worth, Texas. It may just be one of the most enjoyable and memorable activities you will ever attend. We always receive plenty of comments from satisfied trophy owners and guests, but one special compliment comes to mind as we prepare for this Awards Program.



BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB'S 26TH BIG GAME AWARDS



to be amazed at the quality of trophies presented. For example, the 25th Awards Program events and trophy display at Cabela's Kansas City store in 2004 included trophies such as David Meyer's and Dylan Wood's pronghorns that tied for World's Record status at 95 points each; Guinn Crousens's new World's Record bighorn sheep from Alberta that scores 208-3/8 points; Tony Lovstuen's Iowa non-typical whitetail deer at 307-5/8 points; and Robb Rishor's typical mule deer that scored a whopping 206-1/8 points, plus 112 similarly outstanding trophies.

Equally spectacular, Award-winning trophies will be on display at Cabela's during the 26th Awards Program activities from May 2 to June 23. Trophies scheduled to be on display include two new potential World's Record musk oxen taken by Jim Shockey along the Coppermine River, Nunavut, Canada, on the same hunt in April 2006. Another exceptional trophy on display will be Andrew Seman, Jr.'s 2005, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, black bear,

scoring 23-3/16. At this score, Andrew's massive bruin ties with the largest hunter-taken black bear ever recorded by Boone and Crockett Club.

Mark your calendar now; plan to attend the 26th Awards Program in Fort Worth, Texas. It may just be one of the most enjoyable and memorable activities you will ever attend.

Two of the most outstanding trophies ever taken by women are being invited to attend. The first is a non-typical mule deer taken by Catherine Keene during the 2004 season in Fremont County, Wyoming. It scores 285 points. The second is a typical mule deer, scoring 210-2/8 points, that was taken by Myra Smith in Sonora, Mexico, in 2006. These represent only a fraction of the outstanding trophies that will be there. About the time you receive this issue of *Fair*

A few months after the 20th Awards Program, we received a telephone call from the wife of one of the trophy owners who participated by sending in his trophy to be judged and certified for an award. Her husband was one of the honored guests at the banquet. Sadly, she informed us that her husband had recently passed away, but she wanted to thank us for involving him in the 20th Awards Program activities. She wanted us to know that her husband told her that his attendance at the Awards Program was, "The highlight of his life." We were all moved by that testimonial. It is comments like this give B&C the impetus to make each Awards Program more exciting and memorable than the last one for everyone in attendance.

Contact Club headquarters to be placed on the list to receive reservation information for the weekend of June 20-23, 2007, as soon as it is available. This information will also be posted on B&C's web site (www.booneandcrockettclub.com).

We look forward to meeting and visiting with you at Cabela's in Fort Worth, Texas, this summer. We'll all be there before you know it. ■

NEW POLICIES FROM THE RECORDS COMMITTEE

B&C NET SCORE AND B&C GROSS SCORE

At its last meeting, the Records Committee approved use of the terms B&C Gross Score and B&C Net Score in B&C publications. B&C Gross Score for antlered animals is the typical frame, without deductions for lack of symmetry, plus the total lengths of the abnormal points. B&C Gross Score for horned and tusked animals is the total of the left and right sides without any deductions for lack of symmetry. B&C Net Score is the original B&C Entry Score. Trophies will continue to be listed and ranked in B&C publications by their B&C Net Score, but the B&C Gross Score will be listed for informational purposes.

PARTY-HUNTING POLICY CHANGE

Boone and Crockett Club now accepts all hunter-taken trophies in the three states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa) and two Canadian provinces (Manitoba and Ontario) where party hunting is legal, so long as the animal is taken in Fair Chase. However, the hunter's name will only be listed in B&C publications for trophies killed by the hunter and tagged with the hunter's own tag(s). The hunter's name field for trophies tagged with the tag of another person will be blank in B&C publications. A copy of the license/tag for each trophy must be included with the entry materials, regardless of whose tag was used. These changes are retroactive.

UINTAH AND OURAY INDIAN RESERVATION BISON ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY

Free-ranging bison taken on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in Eastern Utah are now eligible for entry in Boone and Crockett Club's Awards Programs and records books.



Jack Rneau
DIRECTOR
Big Game Records

New pair of hunting boots.... \$85.00
Scent-free socks \$16.95
Snort/Wheeze Buck Call \$14.95

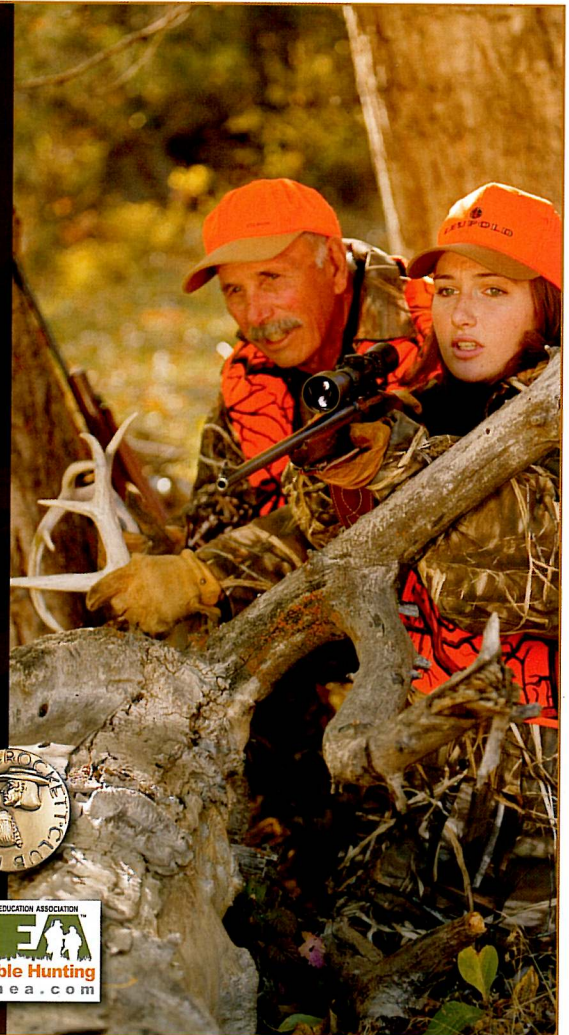
**750,000 new ethical/
fair chase hunters Priceless**

The Boone and Crockett Club has joined forces with the International Hunter Education Administration (IHEA) to produce a Hunting and Conservation Ethics DVD to be distributed and played for all the students participating in hunter certification classes across the U.S. and Canada. Each year the IHEA certifies approximately 750,000 new hunters, young and old. This new DVD will be made available to Hunter Education classes for years to come.

Please consider giving whatever you can to help the Club cover the cost of production of this important DVD. We think you'll agree the more who see this important message the better for our entire hunting community.

100% of your donation will go toward this project!

Giving to this worthy project is easy. Refer to the insert inside this issue of *Fair Chase*, for more information.



Reflections on 40 years of Trophy Measuring

[Reprint from the 1988 Edition of *Records of North American Big Game*.]

By Dr. Philip L. Wright (1914-1997)
B&C Honorary Life Member and
Sagamore Hill Recipient

In this chapter I have attempted to describe the history of the big-game records-keeping program as observed by one who has been involved continuously for over 40 years, first as a museum curator, then an official measurer, then a member of the Records Committee for 17 years, with 9 of these years as Chairman, and finally for the past 2 years as the Emeritus Chairman. I have tried not to duplicate what I have written in the 8th edition of the Records Book (1981) or the 18th and 19th Awards books, nor to repeat extensively what others have written in the previous editions of the

records books. I have been aided materially by my fellow Club and Committee member, George W. Johnson, whose involvement goes back to 1932, and whose files are remarkably complete and fully available to me.

My involvement with the records keeping began with the receipt in 1947 of the 32-page booklet titled, *North American Big Game Competitions*. It was published by the Records Committee chaired by Dr. Harold Anthony. This carefully prepared and attractively printed brochure announced the first competition to be conducted after the end of the year 1947. It was widely circulated to natural history

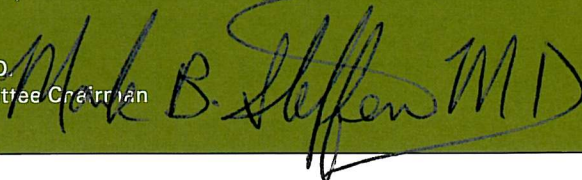
Celebrating Successes

culminates as they are gathered for public display this spring in Fort Worth.

Each individual trophy represents many varied successes. The success of the hunter and the hunt is most concrete. The success of landowners (both private and public) in providing and nurturing ideal habitat for great specimens to thrive. Success of wildlife management by our state and provincial wildlife departments across the continent is also represented. Less tangible, but easily seen by the true hunter-conservationist, is the success of a unique system — the North American Model of Wildlife Management.

With this reprint, we draw from the Boone and Crockett Club *Records of North American Big Game* 9th Edition (1988). Rarely do "Gold Standards" converge. Dr. Philip L. Wright (deceased), B&C Regular Member, past Chairman of the Record's Committee, Sagamore Hill Award recipient for lifetime achievement, and beloved friend and teacher of many current members, was a "Gold Standard" individual who gave so much of himself to a "Gold Standard" scoring system. Dr. Wright's story is a historical account of the development of our records-keeping system and of the many people who contributed. Enjoy.

Sincerely,
Mark B. Steffen, M.D.
Publications Committee Chairman



**Members of the 14th Competition
Panel of Judges: Peter Haupt, Bernie
A. Fashingbauer, George T. Church, Jr.,
Philip L. Wright, Ovar Uggen, Frank
Cook (Chairman), Charles F. Nadler,
and Donald S. Hopkins.**



FRANK COOK OF ALASKA NEEDS SPECIAL RECOGNITION, AS HE HAS BEEN PRESENT EITHER AS A JUDGE OR A CONSULTANT AT EVERY AWARDS PROGRAM SINCE 1966. HIS RECOLLECTION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS, AND HIS MATURE JUDGMENT, HAVE BEEN EAGERLY SOUGHT BY THE JUDGES PANELS.



Reflections on 40 years of Trophy Measuring

museums, fish and game departments, taxidermists, well-known big-game guides, and interested big-game hunters. It reproduced the then simple score charts and described the Club's interest in fair chase and the preservation of big-game hunting. The Club conducted three successive competitions for 1947-49, and the rankings for these trophies were all based upon simple measurements of length of the longer antler or horn or the greatest length of the skull. There were no "final scores," based on adding and subtracting various measurements, as there are in today's system.

We entered two cougar skulls from the University of Montana (then known as Montana State University) Zoological Museum and received the 2nd and 3rd awards at the 1949 competition. The medals were directed to the hunters who had taken the big cougars and had then generously donated the skulls to our museum.

During this period, Sam Webb was actively working as Chairman of a special Club committee to devise a scoring system, making it sufficiently broad to become generally accepted as the single proper method of evaluating all of the desirable qualities of native North American big game trophies, with the system to be called the Official Scoring System. This story is told in detail by Mr. Webb in earlier editions of the all-time records book, and it represents the most significant accomplishment of the records-keeping programs.

The other main partners in this effort were Grancel Fitz and Dr. James L. Clark, each of whom had established his own trophy scoring system. By the time of the 1950 competition, the new Official Scoring System, which had been widely circulated and then approved by the Club, was in effect. That competition designated new World's Records in several classes and clearly established the validity of the new scoring system. In 1951, Sam Webb took over the chairmanship of the Records Committee.

This photo was taken in 1951 just one year after the Club implemented the Official Scoring System. Grancel Fitz, Samuel B. Webb, and Milford Baker are shown here holding the newly-crowned and still-standing World's Record Quebec-Labrador caribou taken by Zack Elbow.

This was appropriate, as he had worked diligently to get the new system approved. The previous Chairman was Dr. Harold Anthony, who was the Curator of Mammals at the American Museum of Natural History and an active promoter of the records-keeping program during his years as Chairman.

Webb's account describes the earliest efforts of the Club to start a records program. It gives major credit to Prentiss Gray, who edited the Club's first records book in 1932. Later, after Mr. Gray's untimely death in 1935, Alfred Ely edited the second edition in 1939. Mr. Gray had the

age area of the museum suffered some bomb damage during World War II, and some of these trophies were destroyed or moved to other storage. Undoubtedly there are several outstanding American trophies taken in the early part of the century or late 1800s that are still housed in that museum, but it would take a concerted effort to identify and score these trophies. The species involved are primarily moose, elk, and caribou.

During the earlier days of the records program, the Records Committee relied heavily on mammalogists in natural history museums to check the scores of entered trophies. In 1951, Sam Webb recognized the need for naming qualified and interested people to become official measurers, with a letter of request to some 70 persons that was dated 17 April 1951. Some of these persons accepted the appointment and continued to measure and record trophies throughout their active lives. The newly-appointed official measurers were urged to use great care in measuring trophies. They were also encouraged to actively search out suitable heads for entry, and especially to find and re-measure those trophies listed in the 1939 book that had been scored by the old system. The only specific detail mentioned in that letter was a caution about not following the lower edge of the horn

in taking the basal circumference of sheep horns. (This still remains a problem today, with overzealous hunters being prone to take this measurement incorrectly.) There was no program for training the official measurers in a formal way.

Of that original group, only George Johnson, Ed McGuire, and I remain active in scoring trophies. Johnson's service to the Committee dates back to 1932, when he entered a Coues' deer taken by his grandfather in Arizona before the turn of the century. He entered additional trophies during those early years, and he later established a successful whitetail trophy program in Virginia. George also served on the Safari Club's records committee for a time, and he actually authored the scoring system used

FROM A SIMPLE DESIRE
BY SAM WEBB, GRANCEL
FITZ, JAMES L. CLARK,
PRENTISS GRAY, ALFRED
ELY, AND MANY OTHERS
TO RECORD AND HONOR
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RECORDS SYSTEM FOR
NORTH AMERICA
HAS EVOLVED.

cooperation of Rowland Ward of London, who had been recording North American trophies taken largely by British sportsmen, and a sizable number of the trophies shown in both the first and second editions were located in Great Britain. A number of these trophies ended up in the British Museum of Natural History in London. Efforts were made to see that these trophies were re-scored after the Official Scoring system went into effect, but there was little interest shown by the museum curators. I made two trips to the British Museum to do exactly that. I was able to locate only two Yukon trophies taken by Frederick C. Selous, the celebrated English hunter, in 1904. But upon re-measuring, they were found to be below the minimum entry score. The stor-

Reflections on 40 years of Trophy Measuring

Philip L. Wright (left) and George K. Tsukamoto measure the World's Record pronghorn taken by Michael J. O'Haco, Jr., in Arizona. Wright served as a Consultant to the 19th Awards Judges Panel (held in 1986) and Tsukamoto was the Chairman of the Judges Panel. INSET: Wright also presented Mr. O'Haco with his certificate and Award at the 19th Awards Banquet.



today by that organization. Unfortunately, through some quirk of fate, George did not join the Boone and Crockett Club until 1984, over 50 years after his initial efforts in trophy scoring.

After 1951, efforts were made to expand the numbers of official measurers, and almost anyone interested who volunteered was designated as a measurer. This was necessary because many parts of the country did not have any measurers available. It was in the summer of 1954 that, on request of the Montana Fish and Game Department, I conducted a one-day measuring school at the University of Montana's Biological Station at Flathead Lake. All four "students" were approved by Mr. Webb and

they became official measurers. I conducted other such schools in later years. Dr. Rusten, during his term as Chairman of the Committee, conducted programs for those interested in learning about measuring techniques at the North American Wildlife Conferences.

In 1973, when the National Rifle Association and the Club agreed to jointly sponsor the records-keeping program, a professionally trained wildlife biologist, Harold Nesbitt, was employed to conduct the program. During the prior 10-year period, when the files were housed at the Carnegie Museum, two secretaries (Mrs. Walter Toerge and, later, Mrs. Dorothy Petrovsky) maintained the files. They were supervised over most of that period by Dr. Rusten, who was working full-time as a practicing physician in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Dr. Rusten traveled periodically to Pittsburgh at his own expense to review entries and take care of other Committee duties. This continued devotion and great effort by Dr. Rusten was greatly appreciated by those who knew and understood it, and

it has been unsurpassed in the history of the Club.

When Nesbitt took over, he sensed that the quality of scoring by the volunteer official measurers varied greatly and that a formal system of training new measurers was necessary. To do this, he instituted a four to five-day school at which prospective new measurers were confronted with examples of each kind of native North American big game trophy and were taught to score them under direct supervision. Many of these schools have now been conducted by Nesbitt (recent ones by Jack Reneau, Director of Big Game Records). Since 1975, prospective measurers have had to complete this course in order to be designated official measurers. It is not possible to fully train a competent measurer in such a short period, but the workshop is a necessary prerequisite to experience.

Mr. Reneau now spends a good deal of his time in scrutinizing the ever-increasing numbers of entries before acceptance. The submission of at least three photos, which had always been requested in the past, became a required part of a completed entry at the same time that the measurer schools were begun. With these, Reneau carefully scrutinizes each entry, studying the score chart to see, for example, if in antlered trophies the proper points have been designated as normal or abnormal. He finds it necessary to send the Committee Chairman a number of score charts with unresolved problems. If the Chairman feels uncertain about how to score the trophy, the problem may be referred to the entire Committee. The annual meetings of the Records Committee, held in December, always have a number of such problems to be decided by a vote of the Committee.

Currently, all of the data submitted for each trophy are computerized so that it is possible to look at printouts that contain many more data than are listed in the records book(s). All of the early score sheets have now been computerized, and this has resulted in the detection of numerous errors in earlier entries. Thus, if trophies appear in this volume with a different score than was shown in an earlier edition, this will usually be the reason for the change.

The first 11 Big Game Competitions

were conducted at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. They were transferred to the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh in 1963, with the next three sited there. Since then, the programs have been conducted in widely-separated areas of the continent in an effort to involve big-game hunters and all others interested in our native big game animals. Awards programs have been located at Atlanta (1974), Denver (1979), Kansas City (1980), Dallas (1983), and Las Vegas (1986). Fifty-nine men have served as judges for the competitions (later Awards), and they have been invited both from within the Club membership and from among the more active official measurers. About half of the judges have come from within Club membership. Judges from Canada and from widely-separated areas of the U.S. have always been included. Customarily, no one serves as a judge more than three times. But the Committee, realizing the need for continuity in its programs, started in 1968 to invite some previous judges with long service, intense interest, and great devotion to the program, to serve as Consultants to the Judges Panel. Of these, Frank Cook of Alaska needs special recognition, as he has been present either as a judge or a consultant at every Awards program since 1966. His recollection of previous decisions, and his mature judgment, have been eagerly sought by the Judges Panels.

When Sam Webb assumed chairmanship of the Records Committee in 1951 from Harold Anthony, Betty Fitz (Grancel's wife) was named Secretary of the Committee and the files were moved to the Fitz apartment at 5 Tudor City Place, New York. Betty carried on this function admirably until the office was transferred to the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh in 1963. Until his death in 1963, Grancel Fitz was available to answer detailed questions from measurers. I have several such responses from Grancel, which I have used many times since in making rulings about difficult decisions in scoring. Fitz had, by far, the greatest experience of anyone with the scoring system, and I had no problem with any of the decisions he made for me or others. After the Official System was approved, Fitz and his close friend Sam Webb scored many of the largest known trophies, including several World's Records that still stand today.

Initially, trophies with split skulls that had an official measurer's estimate of

the spread were accepted by the Committee. As the programs became more competitive, this practice was disallowed. In a booklet carefully prepared for the official measurers in 1967, Dr. Elmer Rusten, then Chairman of the Committee, spelled out several other matters that would disqualify trophies for entry. In recent Awards programs the judges have resorted to x-rays to determine if mounted antlered trophies had split skulls, and trophies so found have been disqualified.

During the early years of the program, trophies could be scored for submission prior to the end of the 60-day drying period, with the understanding that the score would be checked again after the 60 days had elapsed. This is, of course, no longer allowed.

FROM THE START, GREAT EMPHASIS ON FAIR CHASE HAS ENHANCED THE PROGRAM'S INTEGRITY AND HELPED ENCOURAGE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AFIELD.

During Dr. Rusten's period as Chairman, the Committee decreed that cougars taken in states or provinces where there were bounties on them would not be accepted for entry. Today, perhaps spurred by this action, bounties for cougars are virtually non-existent, and cougars are recognized as game animals throughout their range, as well as being highly valued as trophy animals.

A great deal of effort has been made to ensure that the trophies submitted are fairly and adequately scored. The policy that the Judges Panel scores are final has been rigidly followed. The judging sessions, held several weeks in advance of the Awards banquet, are highly organized. The Chairman of the panel has copies of all the original entry sheets for the invited trophies in advance. Thus he and the consultants have the opportunity to study possible scoring problems and to point them out to the judges. Routinely, two teams of judges score each trophy independently. If the scores are not identical, the panel Chairman, or

one of the consultants, attempts to resolve the difference. Sometimes several hours are spent in resolving a vexing problem of interpretation of trophy quality. Today, new World's Records are designated only by these panels.

As one who has been involved with all of the last seven Awards programs, dating back to 1971, I can state that none of the World's Records designated during that period ever had any questionable quality.

Although a good number of trophies invited to the Final Awards are scored higher by the judges, the majority are scored the same as, or below, the entry score. Part of this is that trophies continue to shrink after they are killed, and this shrinkage may continue for months or years. The Committee is concerned with the problem

of shrinkage and has considered it many times. The 60-day drying period prior to official measurement was established many years ago as an arbitrary allowance for the major shrinkage in a fresh trophy. It would be ideal if a panel could review each entry score, compare it with the judges' score, and then let the initial measurement stand if they thought the trophy had been properly scored in the first place. In the interest of objectivity, however, the Committee has ruled in recent years that such a procedure would involve varying levels of guesswork, and they have emphatically rejected this possibility. When hunters

have complained about the loss of score due to shrinkage, I have used the example that Theodore Roosevelt's cougar, which stood as the World's Record for many years, was not officially scored until more than 50 years after it was killed!

Because there is such intense interest in the precise standing of each entry, the entry scores of trophies that have been invited to be sent to the Final Awards Judging and are not sent are shown with an asterisk. Although the initial score, as taken by the official measurer, is allowed to stand in the majority of entries, those very large trophies ranking in the top ten of their category must either be Panel scored or verified by two additional scorings before they take their final place in the all-time listing. Eventually, asterisked trophies neither sent to the panel nor so rescored will be dropped from the all-time records book listings.

In recent Awards programs, much effort has gone into consideration for the Sagamore Hill Award. Club officers have felt that not only should this award be made

Reflections on 40 years of Trophy Measuring

Wright (pointing) discusses a particular measurement on Coues' whitetail trophy at the 20th Big Game Awards Judges Panel. Pictured from left to right are C. Randall Byers (bottom left – former Records Committee Chairman, deceased), Wright, Eldon L. "Buck" Buckner (current Vice President of Big Game Records), Bill Cooper, Dennis Shirley, long-time Records Committee member Buzzi Cook, Frank Cook (in the background – long-time Records Committee member, deceased), and Jack Graham.

only for an exceptional trophy (in most cases a new World's Record), but it should also be a case where the hunt was conducted under the best of sporting conditions. Careful review of the hunters' account of his hunt, discussion with the guide and/or with hunting partners, and perhaps with the supervisory game biologist in the area of the hunt, as well as lengthy phone calls with the hunter, have been preliminary steps in making this award.

The principle of fair chase in hunting big-game animals was part of Roosevelt's thinking in establishing the Club. The initial Club by-laws, approved in 1888, prohibited unfair chase by members of the Club. Trapping of cougars or bears, shooting of animals while they were swimming, and "crusting" of moose (hunting from snowshoes) were and still are grounds for expulsion from the Club. Initially, "calling" of moose was forbidden. In one of the early Club books, Roosevelt admonished one of his writers for describing hunting of caribou with the help of snowshoes.

With the great emphasis on fair chase within the ranks of the Club throughout its history, it is surprising that a Fair Chase Statement was not required of hunters entering trophies until 1963. Those in charge had always assumed that the entered trophies were taken in fair chase, but hunters were required to sign a sworn statement to that effect for trophies entered in the 11th Competition of 1962-63. The Records Committee had actually been considering a "Fair Chase Statement" since the late 1950s, as hunters and guides began to use airplanes to spot game in Alaska and other areas. Some flagrant incidents of such "air-spotting," followed by landing nearby to kill the animals, were the catalyst for the first formal Fair Chase Statement. That signaled the curtailment of trophy hunting of polar bears by that method and encouraged laws preventing air-spotting in Alaska and other states and provinces.

At the same time (1963), the Committee imposed the restriction that the direct use of motorized vehicles in taking a trophy was to be regarded as unfair chase. More recently, the Committee imposed the requirement that trophy animals could



not be taken by use of electronic communications (including "walkie-talkies") or from within an escape-proof enclosure. This last definition was primarily directed toward commercial shooting preserves where non-native animals are released to be shot by clients.

During the first years of the records keeping, bison were actually shot with special permission on federal wildlife refuges or purchased alive and later dispatched. There are many times the number of bison alive today, and many more opportunities for hunters to shoot them, than in the late 1940s. Currently, bison must be classified by the state or province as a game animal, a hunting license must be purchased, and the animals cannot be restricted by an escape-proof fence to be eligible for entry. Beyond these requirements, bison taken in the lower 48 states are not eligible for awards, since the Committee believes that bison hunting in these areas is generally not as sporting a proposition as hunting for the other big-game species.

A great deal more could be offered

here in this review, but the important theme has been brought out above. From a simple desire by Sam Webb, Grancel Fitz, James L. Clark, Prentiss Gray, Alfred Ely, and many others to record and honor exceptional trophies of sport hunting, the world's best-recognized trophy records system for North America has evolved.

From the start, great emphasis on Fair Chase has enhanced the program's integrity and helped encourage good sportsmanship afield. It has been a worthwhile endeavor, one that I and all my fellow measurers, Club members, and big-game hunters have enjoyed greatly. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written in 1989 and was not modified or updated for this reprint. Several policies and World's Record trophies have changed since then. For example, the judges now apply a shrinkage allowance for all trophies submitted to the panel. Please refer to the Club's web site (www.boone-crockett.org) for the most current listing of policies and World's Records.