

# TROPHY TALK

## 26<sup>th</sup> Awards Program — Judges Panel



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DIRECTOR  
Big Game Records

I am writing this quarter's column at Cabela's in Fort Worth, Texas. Here, the 26<sup>th</sup> Awards Program Judges Panel has come together to verify the scores of the top trophies accepted during 2004-2006 in 34 of the 38 categories of native North American Big Game recognized by the Club. By the time you are reading this, the 26<sup>th</sup> Awards Program Judges Panel has finished their duties. However, it won't be too late to view the spectacular display of these trophies that will be open to the public at Cabela's during regular store hours.

The Judges Panel activities began with the arrival of office staff and volunteers

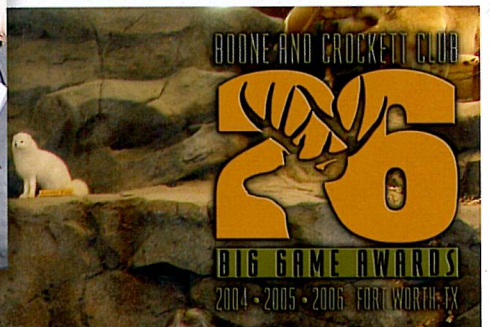
in Fort Worth on April 18 where we immediately began unpacking some of the most spectacular trophies ever recorded by B&C. While they are among the finest trophies accepted during the last three years, in reality they are some of the finest trophies ever taken, and opening each package and crate is a special treat for the staff and volunteers.

Two of the most outstanding trophies came in relatively small packages. One of the first boxes we opened contained the skull of Andrew Seman's black bear that was taken in a laurel thicket in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, during the 2005 season. Pennsylvania is noted for producing large bears, and Seman's is a perfect exam-

ple. Not only was its estimated live weight 733 pounds, which is exceptional anywhere, but it had a head to match. The Judges Panel verified its score at 23-3/16 points, which ties it with another giant bruin taken by Robert J. Shuttleworth in Mendocino Co., California, in 1993. These two bears, which tie for third place in the All-time records book, *Records of North American Big Game*, are the two largest black bears ever taken by modern-day hunters. Seman's accomplishment is nothing short of spectacular, considering that bear hunting in Pennsylvania is without dogs or bait.

The Judges Panel also verified the score of a new World's Record grizzly bear

**GROUP SHOT: Standing, L-R:** Ryan B. Hatfield, Missoula, MT (Asst. Dir. of Big Game Records); Patrick H. McKenzie, Regina, SK; Mark B. Steffen, Hutchinson, KS; Jack Reneau, Missoula, MT (Dir. of Big Game Records); Robert H. Hanson, Wapiti, WY (Chair, 26<sup>th</sup> Awards Judges Panel); Larry R. Carey, Spokane, WA; Eldon L. "Buck" Buckner, Baker City, OR (Chair, Big Game Records Committee); Frederick J. King, Gallatin Gateway, MT; Glenn W. Abbott, Portland, OR; Mark O. Bara, Hemingway, SC; L. Victor Clark, Verdi, NV; and Ralph C. Stayner, Nutrioso, AZ. **Kneeling, L-R:** Ken Witt, Arlington, TX; Richard C. Berreth, Prince George, BC; Larry C. Lack, Thompson Falls, MT; and Warren D. St. Germaine, Yellowknife, NWT. **FAR LEFT:** The Judges Panel gathers around Buckner to discuss the details of the quarter measurements for one of the top musk ox trophies. **NEAR LEFT:** Buckner, Reneau, and Abbott reviewing the point structure of a non-typical whitetail deer trophy.



that was found on the north end of Lone Mountain, Alaska, in 1976 by Gordon E. Scott in 1976. Scott's bear's score was verified by the Judges Panel at its entry score of 27-13/16, breaking the former World's Record position previously shared by three trophies scoring 27-2/16.

When opened, another large crate revealed a spectacular life-size Stone's sheep taken by Official Measurer Jelindo A. Tiberti II near Hook Lake, British Columbia, during the 2005 hunting season. Verified at 179-5/8 points, Jelindo's ram is the largest Stone's sheep taken in the last 17 years. A trophy such as this one isn't just a once-in-a-life-time trophy for Jelindo; it may be a once-in-a-generation trophy for the hunting community.

Two other crates we opened contained two of the largest non-typical whitetails ever recorded by B&C. The first, with a total of 47 measurable points and scoring 294 points, was harvested in McDonough Co., Illinois, by Scott R. Dexter in 2004. The second was taken by Jonathan Schmucker only seven months ago in Adams County, Ohio, and submitted to B&C with 35 measurable points at an entry score of 291-2/8 points.

Three days after arriving in Fort Worth, the Judges Panel unbelievably verified and finalized the B&C scores of both of these exceptional trophies at 295-3/8 points. What are the odds that two massive bucks like these would score exactly the same? These two bucks are now tied as the fourth-largest hunter-taken whitetails ever recorded by B&C. You may never again have the opportunity to view two such incredible trophies under one roof as you do right now in Fort Worth.

Another crate contained the horns of two exceptional musk oxen taken by famed outdoor writer Jim Shockey on a spring 2006 muzzleloader hunt near the Coppermine River in Nunavut, Canada. The Judges verified the final score of the more massive bull at 129 points, which ties it for World's Record status with Craig D. Scott's Norman Wells' bull taken in 2002.

Some trophies were personally delivered by their owners or representatives. For example, David May personally delivered Russell Young's desert ram, whose score was verified by the Judges at an unbelievable 188-2/8 points, tying it for 15<sup>th</sup> place out of 660 animals listed in its category in the 12th edition of the All-time records book. Russell took his trophy less than eight months ago in 2006 in Hidalgo County, New Mexico.

There are many other magnificent trophies that I could mention, but space limits me. However, I can't leave without

mentioning an incredible tule elk picked up by Jeff and Julie Lopeteguy after it died on their Glenn County, California, ranch. After rebounding from near extinction resulting from market hunting, tule elk are doing extremely well in California, and this bull is a prime example. This bull's score was verified by the Judges at 379 points, making it a new World's Record.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Awards Program is the 11<sup>th</sup> such event that I have participated in or attended, beginning with one at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, back in the late 1950s when I was in grade school. I never cease to be amazed at the quality and quantity of trophies taken by modern-day hunters. The good-old-days that we hear so much about were not back in the 1940s and 1950s — we are living them today.

There are 92 trophies in the 26<sup>th</sup> Awards Program Trophy Display at Cabela's. They stand as a testimonial to the conservation efforts of North America's hunter-sportsmen and the conservation efforts mapped out by B&C beginning in 1887 when the Club was founded. There is no doubt that hunters continue to foot the bill that took many of these animals from the brink of extinction in the early 1900s to their population highs of today.

Don't miss B&C's 26<sup>th</sup> Awards Program Trophy Exhibit that is at Cabela's Fort Worth store until June 23rd during regular store hours. In the meantime, I hope to see all of you at the 26<sup>th</sup> Awards Program Banquet and related activities that will take place at Cabela's and at the Doral Tesoro Hotel and Golf Club in Fort Worth, Texas, June 21-23. Join us in celebrating the successes of the North American Conservation Model and honoring the most magnificent trophies accepted in B&C during the last three years and the hunters that took them. ■

## OFFICIAL MEASURER RECOGNITION ITEMS

Official Measurers are the heart, soul, and backbone of Boone and Crockett Club's records-keeping activities. They dedicate their time and talents to score trophies as a public service for Boone and Crockett Club's North American Big Game Awards Programs. Like many before me, I have spent countless hours scoring trophies for the hunting public. It is a true labor of love. The advantage is that not only do you get an opportunity to score some magnificent trophies, but you also meet some great people who share their unique hunting stories with you. Some even become lifelong friends and hunting companions.

For years, Official Measurers have asked for recognition items to identify their service and dedication to the Club's records-keeping activities. Thus, it gives me great pleasure to announce the availability of three recognition items available to B&C Official Measurers.

These items, which are only available to Official Measurers, include baseball caps, shirts, and nametags. When ordering, be sure to include your Official Measurer's ID number, which is on your ID card.

### Official Measurer Baseball Caps

These six-panel, structured cotton caps, with classy sandwich bill, come in red and black with an adjustable Velcro strap. Embroidered on the front are B&C's trademark logo and the words "Official Measurer."

Red Hat Code - HTOMR - \$19.95\*

Black Hat Code - HTOMB - \$19.95\*

### Official Measurer Shirt

These Buzz Off™ Canvas Camp Shirts are made of 100% pre-shrunk, mid-weight cotton. This is a camp/travel shirt with UV-block 30+. Khaki colored shirt comes in medium, large, and extra large only with "Boone and Crockett Club Official Measurer" embroidered above the left pocket.

Item Code - SBOM - \$59.95\*

Available in medium, large, and extra large.

### Official Measurer Nametag

Custom, laser-engraved plastic nametag comes with satin gold finish measuring 2-3/4 inches wide by 1-3/4 inches high with locking pin and alligator clip fastener on back.

OMNT - \$10.95 (shipping included)

Include your name as you want it to appear on tag.

\*Plus Shipping and Handling: \$6.95 for the first item and \$2 for each additional item. Canada/Mexico is \$14 and \$4, respectively.

