

A Glimpse into the Soul of B&C

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The World's Record Stone's sheep is considered by many big game hunting enthusiasts to be North America's single greatest trophy. L.S. Chadwick took this unbelievable specimen while on expedition in British Columbia in 1936. Why is it that one animal, that now lives only in pictures and in mounted form, is so celebrated? Is it because his long, spiraling horns are so impressive? Is

"Soul" is defined as the essence of something; a moral or emotional sense of identity; intellectual energy or intensity. While most commonly related to a human being or an animal, and regarded as immortal, a soul can also relate to a business or an organization made up of many people.

For the Boone and Crockett Club it can be argued without contest that the soul of this 120-year old institution is derived from its steadfast work in the perpetuation of wise-use conservation, especially for wildlife. To many within the North American big game hunting community, the heart and soul of the Boone and Crockett Club is the prestige and credibility of its records keeping activities, and what this program means to the larger arena of conservation.

This year in celebration of what has become "the book" and a spoken language of score and G-2s among big game enthusiasts the second to last episode of the Club's television series *Leupold Big Game Profiles* pulled a switch. Instead of an episode dedicated to the historical and biological profile of a native big game species, viewers were treated to a glimpse into the better-known soul of B&C – a brief historical profile of big game records keeping in North America.

For those who missed the first airing of this inspiring episode and are waiting for the release of the Season II DVD, the following is the narrative script from this episode. If you speak B&C score and believe in the ideal of "fair chase," it is well worth the read.

it because today, sheep are small in numbers and few have the opportunity to hunt them? Perhaps it is that this particular trophy, and how and when it was taken, stands as a testament to the once untouched and unspoiled wildernesses of North America. Or maybe it's because this one trophy represents our long fascination with the biggest and the best. For some it might be that, at a Boone and Crockett score of 196-6/8 points, no other ram

of this species on record has even come close in size.

Regardless of the reasons, hunters have always celebrated such great representatives of nature. It is not known exactly when the display and admiration of hunting trophies began, but we do know of its importance. Man's first art demonstrated a respect for the largest of a species. In early European cultures, castles were adorned with trophies that represented a mastery over the land and the quality of the landowner's holdings, which included wildlife. Such displays of mounted antlers and pelts served as a constant reminder of man's connection with nature and his dominion over our wild creatures – a dominion that eventually developed into a need for conservation.

History has proven that when man is interested, he cares enough to do what is necessary. History also tells us of a time not so long ago when over harvesting for commercial markets, habitat loss, diseases, and irresponsible land use had brought many species of

The second airing of this episode can be seen on The Outdoor Channel:

The History of Big Game Records
Wednesday, December 19 at 9 am EST
Thursday, December 20 at 3 am EST
Sunday, December 23 at 10 am EST



wildlife to near extinction. The grave condition our big game species were in at the turn of the 20th century had many responsible sportsmen wondering if these great animals would be lost forever.

Born out of a greater responsibility to ensure that all wildlife would continue to benefit man for future generations, such heroes in conservation as Theodore Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell, Aldo Leopold, and Gifford Pinchot laid the foundation for the most successful conservation system in the history of mankind. To do so, these founding members of the Boone and Crockett Club accomplished many things, changing how we think about, care for, and interact with wildlife and the environment. The Club and its members worked diligently to establish and gain public support for the concept of conservation, enact laws and legislation, set aside lands as sanctuaries for recovering wildlife populations, and raise funds to support the science of wildlife management.

While devising a scoring and records-keeping system for big game animals may not seem as significant as these accomplishments, big game records keeping played a major role in the recovery of our wildlife populations and remains to this day a very important part of our hunting culture.

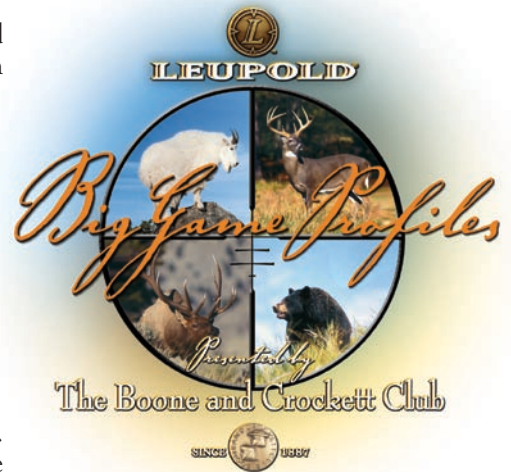
In 1902, when the Boone and Crockett Club's Executive Committee appointed Theodore Roosevelt to chair the Club's first Records Committee, it wasn't to develop a scoring system for endorsements, or to determine what fees to charge for the taking of a trophy. Their task was to develop a system that would accomplish three objectives in support of an emerging conservation movement.

If conservation and recovery were to be successful, science and real data were needed. The committee's first

In the midst of the Great Depression, L.S. Chadwick embarked on a 60-day expedition into the wilds of British Columbia. Chadwick kept extensive journals along the way. On August 28, 1936, Chadwick shot the World's Record Stone's sheep — many consider it the single greatest trophy ever taken.

objective was to create a system that would collect biological, harvest, and location data. The cornerstone of early game management philosophy was the belief that a trophy animal was a mature animal, and represented a balance in age class to a given population. Since no such trophy data existed, it was believed that this information would be beneficial to game managers in setting policy and to then track the success or failure of those policies. As the science of game management began to accumulate, this information was added to Boone and Crockett Club data. Biologists were now better armed to face the challenges of bringing our wild game back to viable populations.

Club members also intended to create a recording system that would provide recognition to those sportsmen who were participating in the conservation movement by hunting selectively for mature, male animals that had already genetically contributed to a local population. Removing pressure on the young and the females in a herd was paramount to recovery. They believed that



OFFICIAL SCORING SYSTEM FOR NORTH AMERICAN
 Records of North American Big Game and North American Big Game Competition
 BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

Left Horn	Right Horn	2 nd Ram
2 years - 9 5/8	1 year - 12 1/4	5 1/4
3 1/2 " - 17 1/2	3 1/2 " - 18 1/4	12
4 " - 24	4 " - 24 1/2	18 1/4
5 " - 30 1/2	5 " - 30	30
6 " - 35 1/2	6 " - 32 1/4	32 1/4
7 " - 39 1/2	7 " - 34 1/4	34 1/4
8 " - 42 1/4	8 " - 37 1/4	37 1/4
9 " - 45 1/8	9 " - 40 1/4	40 1/4
10 " - 47 1/8	10 " - 41 1/8	41 1/8
11 " - 48 3/4		
12 " - 50 1/4		
13 " - 51 3/4		
Part 14 - 52 1/8		



there is plenty of snow and ice all over the mountain tops.

Peace

Friday Aug 28th
 A cool night and fair warm day, to put in the hard climbing that I had to go thru for the sake of a very big ram's head. We left camp on hands, this all but Andy. Frank on Pinto, Ray on Sam and I on Roughlock. for a long hard day. Curly wanted to see if he could go over the pass into the Muskwa mts. because so he left me as soon as we got out of the buck brush and Williams, Frank Ray and I took a big arête over the mountains at the head of Kapp Creek, right on the divide. The first snow four small rams above a peculiar slide formation, like and hills but larger, the top of a large basin in places. At most I saw four rams in a basin to the left and another in a basin to the left. We ate lunch just under the summit then started over the divide.

Supplementary Data	Column 1	Column 2	Difference
31	Right Horn	Left Horn	
31	50-1/8	51-5/8	
	14-6/8	14-6/8	-
	14-1/8	14-2/8	1/8
	11-7/8	12-1/8	2/8
	6-6/8	7	2/8
36 near Lou's Wash Jr	97-5/8	99-6/8	5/8

ed Muskwa River, British Columbia
 By whom killed L. S. Chadwick
 Museum of Natural History New York
 and Central Park West, NYC
 (normalities) Fair Chase Winter 2007 ■ 41
 Present World's Record.

by also recognizing individual achievements in a records book, sportsmen would begin to see the benefits of conservation and become more involved.

The Records Committee's third objective was to establish a system that also recognized those sportsmen who held themselves to a high ethical standard of fair chase. In the latter half of the 1800s and early 1900s hunting by any means or method, during any time of year, for either sex, and to an unlimited take was deemed appropriate in most areas. If conservation was to take effect and if depleted game populations were going to have a chance at recovery, there needed to be rules pertaining to harvest, as well as proper conduct in the field. The need for game laws was easy to identify. What was more difficult was convincing sportsmen of that era, who were

accustomed to no restrictions, to accept the new philosophy of conservation and their role as conservationists.

The Boone and Crockett Club records book held sportsmen to this high ethical standard by only accepting those trophies taken in fair chase as defined by the Club. Following the new game laws and giving game a sporting chance became the rule, not the exception. This acceptance by sportsmen to respect the game, the land, and the privilege to hunt was perhaps the most significant outcome of the Club's records keeping efforts. Through prestige received from the success and acceptance of the records book, the Boone and Crockett Club had the ability to forge a new understanding of species biology and the need for the management of big game species.

This new data collection system took many years to develop. In the meantime the Club was busy doing other things to draw sportsmen and the general public into the conservation movement. In 1922 the Club opened its National Collection of Heads and Horns at the Bronx Zoo in New York City. The inscription over the entrance to this trophy exhibit read, "In Memory of the Vanishing Big Game of the World." This single exhibit helped to foster the public's realization that all wildlife belonged to them

and was in their care. The public outcry from this exhibit was so great that it reached the halls of Congress and subsequent legislation aimed at the protection of wildlife and their habitats was given the attention it deserved.

With the publishing of the first edition of *Records of North American Big Game* in 1932, the Club set in motion a system that would continue to elevate our native big game species to an even higher plane of public stewardship. A by-product of this book was an increased interest in trophy hunting. Talk of bagging the big one became part of our hunting culture and consequently more and more sportsmen began paying attention to what game they took and how much they really needed – the hunter-conservationist was born.

The original Boone and Crockett scoring system was fairly basic, measuring only skull length, or the longer antler or horn, plus base circumference. Later, prominent hunters James L. Clark and Grancel Fitz developed a more elaborate system that was adopted in 1950. Before the Club introduced this new system, it was reviewed and approved by 250 prominent outdoor writers, wildlife biologists, museum curators, big game hunters, and others with a special interest in recording biological and statistical information on big game animals. It is this copyrighted system that is the universally recognized scoring system used in North America today.

By the 1950s, when our conservation and game management efforts were paying dividends, it became apparent that some species were no longer threatened, but other species and some hunting practices still required attention. The Boone and Crockett Club decided to continue with its records keeping program, but with new purpose. What was also apparent was how the Club's records program could benefit individual species as well as affect the public's continued support of recreational hunting.

When it was reported that the Club would reject cougar trophies from states that still classified cougar as vermin under a bounty system, the result led to cougar being elevated to the status of a big game animal. This allowed the cougar both management and protection such a classification warranted. This same awareness and recognition became available to other species such as the Central Canada barren ground



Typical mule deer – 200 points
Fremont, CO - 1951
W.E. Canterbury – Jerry E. Canterbury

Wared Feb. 2/28/50

Hooks and Bu

Big Game Get Tro

—big Ray Trullinger—

The head hunters collected their rewards No. no. Let's have no confusion about missionary-stewing Jivaros, but to the Boone and Crockett Club's third annual North American trophy, who were awarded medals and certificates. A total of 184 big-game trophies were awarded. Messrs. Samuel Webb, Robert Waters and (New York City, and of that number, 41 were honored as outstanding and a possible new world record.

This great head was a mountain goat, shot by E. C. Haase of Ney, Ohio, in the Babine Mountains of British Columbia last season, and it was the judges' unanimous selection for the Sagamore Hill Award. This special honor is awarded annually in the memory of Theodore Roosevelt, first president of the Boone and Crockett Club; Theodore Roosevelt Jr., and Kermit Roosevelt, for the best trophy entered in the competition.

bucks, such as British Columbia, Maine, Minnesota, or New Brunswick. The '49 winner was killed in Cecil County, Md., two seasons ago by Roy F. Spies of Baltimore. This big buck carries a beautiful rack, with a spread of 24 1/2 inches, and with five points right and left. The greatest length on outside curve is 28 1/4 inches right, 30 1/2 inches left. In short, one of the best heads entered in the tourney.

The prize-winning elk was shot in Idaho five years ago by Ray Grangeville, Idaho, Mont.

The article at left reported on the Club's first competition after the new scoring system debuted in 1950. **ABOVE LEFT:** Grancel Fitz, left, works with other scoring panel members selecting the award-winning trophies to put on display. **ABOVE:** By the 1950s, our conservation and game management efforts were paying dividends, such as this record-book mule deer taken in Colorado.

caribou found in the north-central Canada. The declaration of a separate records book category helped bring attention to caribou in this region, eventually helping to provide for increased efforts to preserve and promote the species in those areas. These territories in turn received a vital boost to their economies from the sale of licenses, tags, and a new interest in these great animals.

In Quebec, when complaints were received from hunters about the practices of some caribou outfitters and guides, the Boone and Crockett Club contacted Quebec's Game and Fish Department. If questionable hunting practices continued, the Quebec-Labrador caribou would no longer be accepted for the records book. As a result, ethical, fair chase hunting of caribou in Quebec became the norm rather than the exception.

Since big game trophies represented the public's wildlife, the Club began holding Competitions in 1947 displaying such trophies for public viewing, honoring both the animal and the hunter. These Competitions were changed to triennial Awards Programs in 1970. This past June at the Cabela's store in Fort Worth, Texas, the Club held its 26th Big Game Awards Program. Many of the top specimens entered and accepted into the Club's records program were invited to be honored, along with their hunters. This three-day

celebration of the success of our systems of conservation and game management allowed the big game hunting community to gather, recognize outstanding trophies, share stories and renew our responsibilities as hunter-conservationists. Although only a small percentage of the millions of big game hunters in North America and around the world were in attendance, such events remind us all of the greater responsibilities

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borne from the need to manage wildlife and their habitat to the benefit of all mankind, and that organized hunting under fair chase conditions still to this day remains the best hope for all wildlife.

Trophies, trophy hunting, scoring, and records books mean different things to different people. Today, fewer people hunt, yet many have a say in how wildlife is cared for and managed. As societies evolve there are fewer people living in rural areas and

more and more in urban areas. This means that with each new generation there is less personal contact with nature. Those raised in rural societies usually have a connection to the land and an understanding of wildlife and hunting. Those who live in an urban environment who have not been exposed to hunting are less tolerant of what they deem as objectionable hunting practices including unethical behavior, killing for fun, and wasting game. Conversely, hunting is viewed favorably when it involves hunting for food, hunting under a science-based system of conservation and game management, and hunting conducted under ethical and fair chase conditions.

Clearly, our modern society demands hunters do more than simply obey game laws. Hunters must practice and display an unquestionable respect for the animals, the land, and one another. Through the Boone and Crockett Club's efforts of data collection and upholding the integrity of this records data by insisting on the practices of fair chase, sportsmen have had a touchstone to guide behavior when it comes to the appropriate use of wildlife resources.

They may just be names and numbers in a book, but to those who value the profound experience that only hunting can deliver, big game records mean much, much more. ■

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