

# TROPHY TALK

## Boone and Crockett Club's 26th Big Game Awards



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Hopefully, by now you have your own copy of *Boone and Crockett Club's 26th Big Game Awards (2004-2006)* book published in September. This is one of the finest editions of this series begun in 1984 with publication of *Boone and Crockett Club's 18th Big Game Awards book*.

There are listings of 4,615 animals in 35 of the 38 categories of North American big game recognized by the Club, including new World's Records for tule elk, grizzly bear, and musk ox. This figure is a five-fold increase over the 909 trophies listed in the 18th Awards book, and a 16-percent increase over the 4,001 trophies listed in the

25th Awards Program book released just three years ago. Clearly, hunters' support of our North American Model of wildlife management is working.

Typical and non-typical whitetail deer combined make up 35 percent of the entries in this book. Typicals numbering 1,006 and non-typicals numbering 600 were accepted during 2004–2006, with 85 percent taken since 2003, representing 39 states, seven Canadian provinces, and Mexico. The most significant whitetails are two non-typicals that, incredibly, tied at 295-3/8 points for fourth place as the largest whitetails ever taken by modern-day hunters. The first was taken in McDonough Co., Illinois, in 2004 by Scott R. Dexter, and the second was taken in Adams Co., Ohio, in 2006 by Jonathan R. Schmucker. Both Illinois and Ohio are top trophy-producing states.



Jonathan R. Schmucker's non-typical whitetail

Scott R. Dexter's non-typical whitetail

All of the trophies featured in this book are exceptional, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention a Pennsylvania black bear taken by Andrew Seman, Jr., in 2005. Seman's bear ties with another bruin as the largest ever taken by a modern-day hunter. Then, there's Myra Smith's typical mule deer, taken in Mexico in 2006. It is the largest of its kind ever taken by a woman. Finally, Craig Rippen's Utah mountain goat, which he took in 2006, is the largest goat ever recorded by B&C in the lower 48 states. The trophies and stories in this book are full of superlatives.

Perhaps, the most significant feature of this book is that it is the first B&C book to include the gross score for trophies listed. We'd received requests for this data from a number of hunters and had been thinking about it for some time as well.

The awards books are the only books published by B&C that include detailed hunting stories of hunters who took the top trophies accepted by B&C. There are detailed hunting stories of 90 such trophies accepted in the 26th Awards.

*Boone and Crockett Club's 26th Big Game Awards* book would make the perfect Christmas gift for the hunter in your life, a friend, or for yourself. Not only are there countless hours of armchair reading for the winter months ahead, but the trophy listings just might be the key to the success of next year's hunting season. And it isn't too late to order. Orders can be placed by calling the Club toll-free at 1-888/840-4868, or by ordering on line at [www.booneandcrockettclub.com](http://www.booneandcrockettclub.com). At \$44.95, plus \$6.95

## Shattered Skulls/Skull Plates

In the winter 2003 issue of *Fair Chase*, it was announced that the Club's Records Committee had modified the Club's long-standing policy concerning damaged trophies. Many readers will remember that points broken off deer and elk antlers can now be included in the final score, as long as the broken pieces have not been repaired or replaced on the rack, and the pieces fit together perfectly. Each trophy is treated on a case-by-case basis and is subject to approval by the Records office and/or the Records Committee.

I need to point out at this time that this same policy applies to bear skulls, as well as the skull plates of any category of big game recognized by the Club. For example, photo shown here is that of a bear skull where the posterior part of the skull was shot off by a hunter's bullet. The damaged pieces fit perfectly, so B&C accepted this trophy in the records archives.

Similarly, antlered animals with broken skull plates can potentially be eligible for entry in B&C, as long as the trophy hasn't been repaired and the pieces fit perfectly together allowing the measurer to get an accurate inside spread measurement.

This policy does not apply to skulls that have been



Shattered bear skull with its posterior part shot off

intentionally sawn apart. An important item to know in regard to broken skull plates is that these trophies can only be scored by a member of the records committee or their specific designees. Trophy owners with such trophies, or Official Measurers approached with a damaged bear skull and/or skull plate that meets the criteria mentioned above should contact the records office for instructions on how to proceed. Close-up photos of the damaged skull or skull plate that clearly show the pieces fit perfectly together must be submitted with the entry materials. Each trophy will be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis by either the records office and/or the records committee.

(\$14 Canada) for shipping and handling, it is a real bargain.

### Skull Scoring Box Available at B&C

I am pleased to announce that the records department has found a source for a well constructed skull-measuring box. The box is made of machined aluminum, measuring 24.5 inches long by 8 inches wide by 6.75 inches high. There is a ruler (Photo A) built into the base of the scoring box that allows for accurate measurements to the nearest 1/16 inch. The inside measuring surfaces of both uprights are machined with matching hash marks (Photo B) to assist with leveling a skull. These scoring boxes are available for \$295, plus \$20 to cover shipping and handling. Reference Item Code TMBDL.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who responded to the solicitation that appeared in my column in an earlier edition of *Fair Chase*, seeking someone to manufacture the skull measuring boxes for us. We received nearly 35 responses, which far exceeded our expectations.

### Official Measurer Applications Solicited

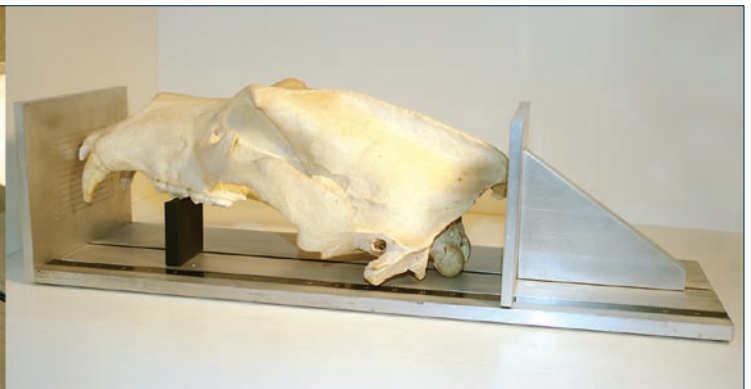
The Club's volunteer force of Official Measurers has always been the heart, soul, and backbone of its records-keeping activities. The Records Department has scheduled four Official Measurer Training Workshops for 2008, and still has a limited number of openings. If you're interested in the opportunity to see some "world-class heads," to hear first-hand accounts of these once-in-a-lifetime hunts from their owners, and to give something back to the sport of hunting by providing a much-needed public service in your area, please consider becoming a certified B&C Official Measurer. To obtain an application, call the Club at 406-542-1888, or download a copy from [www.booneandcrockettclub.com](http://www.booneandcrockettclub.com). Click on Big Game Records on the homepage and scroll down to Becoming a Measurer and click on it. Complete the application and return it to the address at the bottom of the application.

Official Measurers serve at the discretion of the Club, and there is no guarantee that all applicants will be invited to a workshop. However, everyone's application will be considered for future workshops. The workshops are 3.5 days long and include hands on, laboratory-type instruction in the proper measuring technique for all 38 categories of North American big game recognized by the Club. ■

Photo A



Photo B



The Club now offers a skull scoring box for sale. The box is made of machined aluminum and measures 24.5 inches long by 8 inches wide by 6.75 inches high.

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