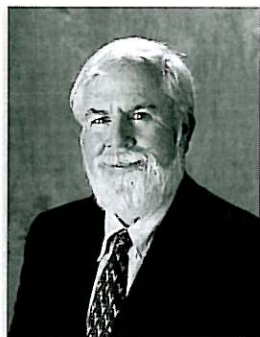


# PAST PRESIDENT HONORED

## Tim Hixon Receives First "Harvey Weil Sportsman Conservationist Award"



George C. "Tim" Hixon

Past President  
Boone and Crockett Club

Article by Daniel A. Pedrotti  
First Vice President  
Boone and Crockett Club

**...the first such honor was bestowed upon Tim Hixon, a long-time wildlife benefactor, who has dedicated his life to such efforts as The Boone and Crockett Club, The African Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Game Conservation International and dozens of other conservation efforts and causes.**

**George C. "Tim" Hixon**, 1990-1991 president of the Boone and Crockett Club, was chosen by the Friends of Harvey Weil Steering Committee to be the first recipient of the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi "Harvey Weil Sportsman Conservationist Award". A unique sculpture, crated by world renowned artist Kent Ulberg, was presented to Mr. Hixon at the award dinner, held on May 10, 1997 at the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation headquarters near Sinton, Texas. Dr. James H. "Red" Duke, Jr., served as Emcee for this historic event.

Some 400 people were on hand to hear Mr. R.N. "Dick" Conolly, a long time friend of Harvey Weil, expound on the conservation and environmental contributions of this legendary South Texas fisherman, hunter and nature enthusiast. Harvey Weil was an attorney with special interests in marine resources. He was widely regarded as one of the country's foremost maritime lawyers and as a partner in the prestigious law firm of Kleberg-Weil of Corpus Christi, represented the Port of Corpus Christi for over 40 years. Harvey was also past president of the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi.

Mr. Conolly explained that a group of Rotarians decided in early 1996 to form a foundation that would honor the

memory of this long-time South Texas Rotarian, civic leader, sportsman and conservationist, Harvey Weil, who died in 1991. Their goal was to raise a lofty \$1,000,000, the proceeds of which would benefit wildlife and marine conservation. The Friends of Harvey Weil Steering Committee was formed under the leadership of Conolly and Rotary Club President, Richard Leshin.

The vehicle the group chose to reach their goal was to establish the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi Harvey Weil Sportsman Conservationist Award, an international honor that would be given annually to an individual who best exemplifies Harvey Weil's contributions and ideals for marine and wildlife conservation. The honoree would join the Steering Committee in selecting the conservation efforts that would receive

grants each year out of the proceeds earned by the \$1,000,000 fund. This past May, the first such honor was bestowed upon Tim Hixon, a long-time wildlife benefactor, who has dedicated his life to such efforts as The Boone and Crockett Club, The African Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Game Conservation International and dozens of other conservation efforts and causes.

By the end of 1996, the first year of the effort, more than \$340,000 had been raised towards the goal. Major contributors to date are the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation, former Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe, The Kleberg Law Firm of Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Houston, the Behmann Bros. Foundation, the Caesar Kleberg Foundation, the Earl C. Sams Foundation, the Sid Richardson Foundation, the Fondren Foundation and Valero Energy Corporation. Most recently, Dr. Burton Grossman of San Antonio, Texas, himself a Rotarian, graciously donated a matching challenge grant of \$250,000 to the foundation. This donation has taken the total amount raised for the effort close to the \$700,000 mark to help protect and preserve wildlife and the marine environment world through education, research and conservation programs.

Conolly stressed that the foundation and the award are designed to be international in scope and the committee welcomes nominations for the award from all over the world. Those interested in more information about the effort or in making a nomination should contact Rotarian and Foundation Executive Director Karen Bonner at 512/993-1002. You can write to Karen at the Kleberg Law Firm, 800 North Shoreline Blvd., Suite 900, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-3709.

