

TROPHY TALK

New B&C Recognition Items



Jack Reneau
Director
Big Game Records

The Boone and Crockett Club's Records Department is excited to announce the availability of two new optional trophy recognition items. The first is the Boone and Crockett Trophy

Recognition Ring created and designed to our specifications by one of the world's most respected ring manufacturers. These rings come with a variety of options (e.g. Silverstone vs. gold, cubic vs. diamonds, birthstones, etc.) so that trophy owners can custom order a unique ring for their specific trophy. Regardless of choices, each ring features a relief of the species and the location of the hunt on one side and an engraving of the trophy's B&C score, the B&C Awards Medallion and the Awards Program the trophy was accepted in on the other side

Trophy recognition rings will serve as a memorial to the singularly unique accomplishment of taking a Boone and Crockett trophy and can be handed down to future generations as any other family heirloom. Prices vary depending on options selected. Check out the ad on page 60 of this issue of *Fair Chase*.

The second new trophy recognition item now available is Boone and Crockett Club's Official Certificate Plaque. This solid, 3/4-inch plaque features the very handsome color

acceptance certificate, which is presented to everyone with a trophy accepted in B&C. The certificate is surrounded by burl wood laminate with gold foil bevels and accents. The Certificate Plaques include the name of the owner, as well as the category and score of the trophy and date accepted by B&C. These plaques cost \$49.95, plus \$7.95 for shipping and handling. To obtain additional information about both of these new recognition items and/or to place an order, call 406/542-1888.

Even though Boone and Crockett Club formally initiated its records-keeping activities in 1932 with publication of the 1st edition of *Records of North American Big Game*, acceptance certificates were not introduced until the 16th Awards Program (1974-1976) when Boone and Crockett Club and NRA were co-sponsoring B&C's Awards Programs. It was the first time trophy owners could memorialize the taking of a B&C trophy with a certificate. The certificates were simple, consisting of a 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" piece of parchment paper with blue ink and both NRA's and B&C's logos, as well as pertinent owner and trophy data (pictured at left). Since then acceptance certificates have evolved into a very handsome letter-size certificate with a photograph of the Club's first president Theodore Roosevelt. In 1996 the Club added an 8" x 10" shadow box of black walnut wood with a black felt background to its recognition items. In spite of its popularity, trophy owners continue to request other forms of trophy recognition. If you have suggestions for other recognition items, please let me know at B&C headquarters, so that we can review additional options.

Trophy owners continue to receive a very handsome acceptance certificate free-of-charge when their trophy is accepted by B&C. However, trophy owners needing replacement certificates, or a duplicate copy for the home or office, can order them for \$10 each by calling the number above.

The Records Department would like to acknowledge and thank Keith Balfour of the Club's Marketing Department for coordinating and developing the Trophy Recognition Rings. It was a long and tedious process, but Keith stuck to it through thick and thin.

Missouri Monarch Update

In the Fall 2003 issue of *Fair Chase* I talked about the Missouri Monarch – the World's Record non-typical whitetail deer (333-7/8 points) – that was picked up in St. Louis County, Missouri, in 1981. As you might recall I reported unfounded insinuations that this trophy may have been raised on a game farm, and B&C was criticized for recognizing it as the World's Record. Since

then I have had the opportunity to interview Mike Helland, the Missouri Conservation Agent involved with retrieving the deer 23 years ago, as well as documenting his background investigations into the buck's origin and authenticity.

According to Mike, it is no secret in his state that the Missouri Monarch was found dead on property owned by the Pipefitters Union. The property, which encompasses more than 500 acres, is located at the north end of St. Louis County and is surrounded by a high fence. Mike obtained permission from union officials to retrieve the deer after he was notified of its existence by Dave Beckman, a local farmer, who spotted it dead behind the fence. Mike retrieved the deer and placed it in storage until after the 1981 hunting season. In the meantime, Mike investigated the union's property and fence to determine if it was escape proof and whether or not the deer was captive. Mike found many avenues of ingress and egress for deer. He found low spots in the fence along hillsides and gullies where deer routinely jumped or crawled under it. He also found large drainage pipes under the fence that deer could travel through, as well as an open security gate. As he said, there were many places a deer could get in and out of the property without problems.

After the 1981 season Mike was contacted by a local bowhunter by the name of Scott Gluckhurst.* Scott hunted private property adjacent to the Pipefitters Union area and saw a massive buck on several occasions. He passed it up each time waiting and hoping for a clearer shot the next time. More importantly, Scott didn't want to take a chance of injuring and losing such a magnificent animal. He never did get a clear shot at the buck, but he did verify the deer he was hunting is the buck that B&C later recognized as the World's Record and ultimately became known as the Missouri Monarch. Mike investigated Scott's claims, including a personal inspection of the area where Scott hunted. He noted the proximity of Scott's hunting area to the union property, as well as numerous rubs and scrapes by a big buck. Mike is convinced beyond any shadow of a doubt of the buck's authenticity, and that it was wild and free-ranging. ■

* Twenty-three years has passed since Mike talked to Scott, so he isn't sure of the correct spelling of Scott's last name.



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