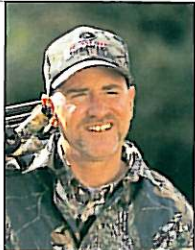


# FROM THE EDITOR



**Greg Tinsley**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Boone and Crockett Club

## Strength in Numbers

The world of hunting rippled earlier this year at the announcement of a new outdoor competition, a sort of drug-and-resuscitate deer shooting amusement where people would

presumably pop captive whitetails with tranquilizer darts for profit. To borrow the punch line of a recent television advertising campaign... life comes at you fast.

Many weeks later, I remain unclear on where that new association is with its launch. For all I know its principals are depositing entry fees, seeding participants, creating a tournament draw and working on media distribution. But I would hope that the idea has by now broken into parts and sunk.

Initially, the Internet site for this new association captured many imaginations. Streaming video on the site tweaked our sensibilities with the rewards of fast cars, big houses and other, even sexier, meats and cheeses. The commercial was laughable, really. But the promoter and the promotion were absolutely dead serious, which made the whole ill-conceived circus a bit worrisome. Initially, horrifyingly, several otherwise reputable but temporarily misled companies within the hunting community actually fell for all the zaniness! Further, I could imagine bunches of young, easily influenced hunters concluding that this crazy world of ours had finally forged an incredible profession.

One of the main problems, of course, is that hunting isn't a catch-and-release competition. I'm sure of that. I cannot, however, offer a perfect explanation for exactly what hunting is. I can hardly begin to de-

scribe hunting, because it is larger than my powers of written expression. I do, however, recognize that traces of human competitiveness exist within the art of hunting. Everyone enjoys his or her time in the sun with the best buck of the weekend or the bull of a lifetime. There's nothing wrong with showing a bit well-deserved pride, particularly when it's tempered with genuine humbleness. Mostly, though, full-blown competitions among hunters peak with an informal hat full of small bills, winnings that are usually spent on another round of ice, steaks and sodas for the whole camp.

The older I get the less competitive I am. And while I have suffered from occasional delusions after a nice showing at some minor-league target shooting event, hunting is the antithesis of competitive sport. For me, and probably most every member of the Boone and Crockett Club, hunting well has certainly now come full circle. Today, it's all about the journey — of simple campfires and the complexities of embracing cold mornings in country that maintains some

mystery — on the way to rare, hard-won encounters with magnificent, almost mythical, beasts.

But it is the sudden and exactly wrong notion of a national dart-shooting competition promoted as some twisted form of hunting that underlines how important well-managed organizations are to the hunting category and to each of us individually. Expressive letters from you or me to some hot-shot self promoter don't fea-

ture the same measure of influence wrought by notes from the Boone and Crockett Club, the National Rifle Association, the Dallas Safari Club and other organized powerbrokers for hunting. Hopefully, you're a card-carrying member of each of them and more. ■

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