

FROM THE EDITOR



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27th Awards Program, More Than Just a Display

In this issue of *Fair Chase*, we celebrate the 27th Big Game Awards held in Reno, Nevada, this past summer. What separated this awards banquet from others was the recognition of youth hunters. The Boone and Crockett Club has always

recognized the importance of introducing its hunting heritage and conservation efforts to future generations. This was the first time B&C formally recognized the achievements of hunters who were 16 years old or younger when they harvested their trophies. Everyone in the Club was proud to be part of this effort, and we look forward to growing this program.

The 27th Big Game Awards Program was the culmination of the past three years of entries in our Records Program. The recorded measurements of these trophies continue to demonstrate the success of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. It is important to understand that this scoring data serves as a scientific tool that helps biologists develop new methods for managing our wildlife species in North America. Our Professional Members, many of whom are scientists, utilize this data in their research efforts. In essence, the 27th Big Game Awards Program is much more than just a display. It serves not only to show the success of our current wildlife management efforts, but it also promotes our Fair Chase philosophy. It demonstrates to all that we can achieve spectacular trophy-quality big game while adhering to the highest ethical standards in taking these animals.

The Boone and Crockett Club carries forth a tradition established by Theodore Roosevelt to assist our government leaders in the continued development of policies that preserve our hunting heritage. As noted in Steve Williams' report, of the 18 recent

appointees to the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, eight are members of the Boone and Crockett Club. This council is a formal advisory board to the cabinet-level secretaries responsible for the primary federal land management agencies.

Tom Franklin, senior vice president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, discusses the Open Fields program. This is a new federal hunter-access program that will open access to millions of acres nationally. Winfred B. Kessler describes a new bighorn research effort jointly funded by the Boone and Crockett Club, Camp Fire Club of America, and the Pope and Young Club. We also welcome the new Boone and Crockett Chair of Wildlife Conservation at Michigan State University, William F. Porter. The Boone and Crockett Club takes pride in its establishment of Boone and Crockett professorships at major universities across the country. This program serves to develop young, talented individuals who will lead our nation's conservation polices in the future.

Finally, I would like to direct our readers to the president's column. This is the first of a two-parts series that will bring to light the extremist animal-rights movement that threatens our hunting heritage. It is essential that we understand the underlying agenda of these organizations. Their policies may disrupt the most successful wildlife management model in history. In the next few issues of *Fair Chase* we will uncover this ongoing battle that has spanned from the federal and state courts to the court of public opinion. It is time that we all participate in this discussion. The Boone and Crockett Club will always serve a leadership role in this effort.

I hope you enjoy this issue. Each time I prepare this column I feel honored to be a part of this organization which includes hunters, hunter-scientists, conservationists, and more importantly, our associates who hold to the same principles and beliefs that I adhere to. ■

HP. Mon

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