

FROM THE EDITOR

In this Issue



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Welcome to the fall edition of *Fair Chase* magazine. Anticipation for this year's hunting is high. Hopefully you will have a successful experience, for it is the experience that counts, not necessarily the trophy.

In this issue I want to draw your attention to part one of a two-part series, "The Future of the National Forests—Who Will Answer an Uncertain Trumpet?" by Jack Ward Thomas, Ph.D., past chief of the U.S. Forest Service and retired Boone and Crockett Professor at the University of Montana. There are rare times in my life when, as I am reading something, I realize how important an article is. This was one of them! Thomas represents the pinnacle of

one whose knowledge and experience with the Forest Service deserves our full attention when he speaks or writes on the subject. When you read this article, you will come to understand the tangled web that is strangulating the agency's ability to manage our national forests. Importantly, Thomas provides suggestions for "cleaving" the Gordian knot. This two-part article should inspire us (the Boone and Crockett Club and other conservation groups) into action!

Our president, in his message, appropriately calls on all of us "to convince Congress of the perils in failing to invest in our natural resources" as we look at draconian budget cuts that will effectively gut wildlife conservation efforts.

Paul R. Krausman, Ph.D., Boone and Crockett professor of wildlife conservation, finishes a three-part series (B&C Professor's Corner) emphasizing the importance of science in the decisions made in wildlife management.

In a sense, these three articles are related. All of us realize that we face significant challenges in the near future. The decisions made by government, both national and local, could affect the future of our hunting heritage. It is no small challenge, but inspiration from our past mentors, the founders of this Club, continues to give us the means to persevere. When I look at the history of what was accomplished, I realize that nothing came easy. Most of the battles were won in the third and fourth round, not the first. None of our founders faltered in their tenacity to persevere. We must all endeavor to carry on.

I rarely mention our hunting section in this column, but this issue has one of the best articles on the Winchester Model 70 written by Wayne van Zwoll that I have ever read. I own 12 Model 70s, and this article was a joy to read. Also, "Beyond the Score" shows us what a good guide and determination will accomplish. Most of the time, it is the extra effort that gets you the best results when you hunt. But, then again, isn't that true in all we do in life?

I wish all of you a successful fall in the field. As always, we at *Fair Chase* take great pride and pleasure in presenting you with this magazine. ■

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Fair Chase (ISSN 1077-4627) is published for \$35 per year by the Boone and Crockett Club, 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801. Periodical postage is paid in Missoula, Montana, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

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