



Boone and Crockett Club 29TH BIG GAME AWARDS

On July 16, 2016, I had the privilege of emceeing our 29th Big Game Awards Banquet, recognizing the great North American animals entered into our records system in 2013, 2014, and 2015. More than a hundred great North American trophies were recognized, but as always, not every lucky hunter or current owner was able to be present. By my count, 68 hunters came across the stage to have their awesome animals recognized, receive their plaques, and hear a brief story of their hunts and their animals.

Without question this was the most important event of the weekend for these hunters, and well it should be. A couple of especially lucky (or especially determined—or both!) hunters came across the stage twice, and there were a few who have been recognized in previous Big Game Awards. Realistically, however, for most of the hunters fortunate enough to take an award-qualifying animal, this is a once-in-a-lifetime event. Hey, I even have a few animals listed in the All-time records book, but like most North American hunters, I have never taken an animal of high-enough quality to be invited to a Big Game Awards—and it may never happen.

So I fully appreciate the significance of each trophy recognized, but I don't see that as the most important part of our triennial Big Game Awards. Instead, first and foremost, I see it in its entirety, as a celebration and ultimate proof of the fantastic wildlife resources we have on this continent and of the success of our hunter-driven and hunter-funded system of wildlife conservation.

As hunters, we like to say “the big ones are still out there.” Every three years our Big Game Awards provides proof not only of that hope that all hunters—and all non-hunters who truly love wildlife—cling to, but, now having concluded our 29th such celebration, the extension of that thought: The big ones are still growing and still breeding, and future big ones are still being born. And in some few cases of species not well-represented in this Awards Period, the realization is obvious: Wildlife populations and dynamics are never constant, so the work of conservation and wildlife management is never done.

This year, for our 29th Big Game Awards, we were exceptionally fortunate with our venue. The folks at Bass Pro

Shops' headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, went far beyond just rolling out the red carpet for our three-day event. They provided not just space, but plenty of well-lit and well-appointed space so that the trophies invited to Springfield could be properly displayed, enjoyed and appreciated by tens of thousands of visitors—something that has never before happened on such a scale. That, too, is important, because we as hunters are a minority in modern society, and it is increasingly important that we convey our message—hunting is conservation—to as wide an audience as possible.

Lastly, at least for my part, I think the significance of the Friday night event, the Jack Steele Parker Generation Next banquet and presentation is at least equal to the proper 29th Big Game Awards presentation. This event honors young hunters who entered qualifying animals during the three-year Awards Period. This is only the second such event, but the growth was exponential—and this event will be continued. This year 42 young men and women received recognition for harvesting exceptional animals. Some were already veteran hunters; for others, it was a first-time event. For them, too, it may well be a once-in-a-lifetime. They were an awesome group of young hunters. They are the future, and they gave me hope for a bright future both for our passion, lifestyle, and sport—and for North American wildlife.

- Craig Boddington



29TH BIG GAME AWARDS BANQUET

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Congratulations to all those who took record book animals during the 29th Awards Period, and especially those top specimens that were invited, and those trophy owners who were able to attend our 29th Big Game Awards celebrations in Springfield, Missouri.



B&C Chief of Staff Tony Schoonen introduced the emcee for the Staurday night banquet, Craig Boddington, and then presented Craig with his pin for 30-years of service to the Club as a professional member.



B&C Records Chairman Richard T. Hale presented the medallions as B&C Records Vice President Eldon L. "Buck" Buckner presented trophy owners with their recognition plaques. TOP LEFT: Dale Hislop received two plaques, one for his second award pronghorn and the other for his second award musk ox. BOTTOM LEFT: B&C Regular Member Kyle Krause accepting his plaque for his desert sheep. RIGHT: Ashlee Smith was recognized for her non-typical American elk.

WELCOME RECEPTION AND TOUR

The 29th Awards events in Springfield kicked off with an over-the-top VIP behind-the-scenes tour of the new Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium, which is set to open later this year.

The tour started in the 29th Awards trophy exhibit and made its way through the Bass Pro Shops King of Bucks collection, the Club's National Collections of Heads and Horns, dioramas of North American and African mammals, the Art Dubs' mountain sheep of the world collection, and ended with a reception and dinner surrounded by fish and aquatic exhibits in the aquarium wing. Vice President of Big Game Records, Eldon L. "Buck" Buckner greeted everyone and turned the microphone over to our host for the evening, Bass Pro Shops founder and B&C Regular Member, Johnny Morris, who in turn introduced the speaker for the evening, fellow B&C Regular Member and NASCAR legend, Richard Childress. WOW is short for Wonders of Wildlife, and WOW is the best way to describe the Welcome Reception.

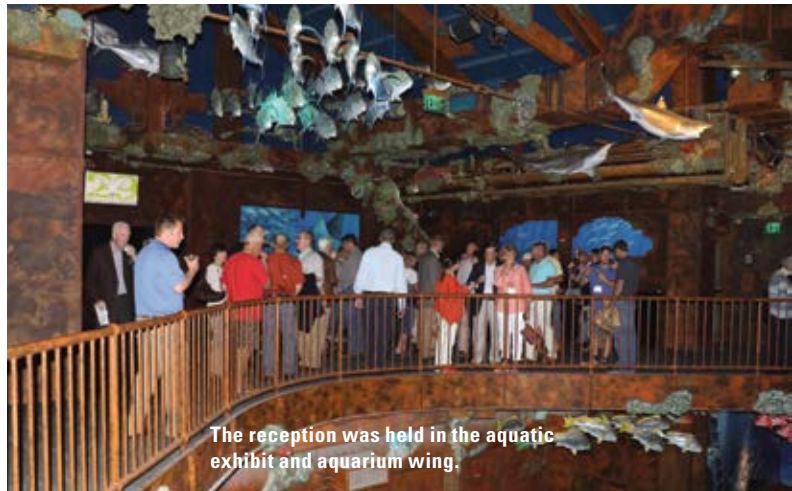
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African mammals exhibit



Artists working on their hand-painted murals were found throughout the museum.



The reception was held in the aquatic exhibit and aquarium wing.

Bass Pro Shops founder and B&C Regular Member Johnny Morris welcomed everyone to kick off the weekend of events at the 29th Big Game Awards Program.





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NATIONAL COLLECTION OF HEADS AND HORNS

The Boone and Crockett Club's National Collection of Heads and Horns received a permanent donation of the new World's Record pronghorn from Mike Gallo during the Club's 29th Big Game Awards banquet held in Springfield, Missouri this past week.

"We were there to honor this great animal and Mr. Gallo, and he honored the Club with a gesture that will benefit a lot of people," said Justin Spring, Boone and Crockett's Director of Big Game Records.

The Club's 29th Big Game Awards was hosted by Bass Pro Shops to celebrate the traditions of hunting as the cornerstone of North American conservation. Attendees were treated to a unique experience that included viewing some of the largest Boone and Crockett animals entered over the past three years, as well as VIP behind-the-scenes tour of the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium. The new museum, slated to open sometime late in 2016, is also the new home of the Club's National Collection of Heads and Horns.

Gallo, who took the largest pronghorn in recorded history in 2013, was on hand to accept its first place award and then made the announcement of his decision to donate his trophy to the Club. The buck, which measures an astounding 96-4/8 B&C points was taken in Socorro County, New Mexico, and surpassed the previous record pronghorn by one inch.

The National Collection of Heads and Horns was established by the Club in 1906 at the Bronx Zoo in New York City as a public exhibit of animals that were on the brink of extinction at the time. Its purpose was to inspire more people to support a new concept being popularized by the Club and others, called conservation.

Spring explained, "With a few exceptions it is rare for the public to get a chance to see actual World's Record specimens because they stay in private collections. Now being in the museum and in our National Collection more people will get the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate what an impressive pronghorn this is."

The National Collection of Heads and Horns now features four World's Records and an additional 35 historically-significant and high-ranking big game specimens from across North America, as well as exhibits on the history of conservation and sportsmen.



Guests toured the National Collection of Heads and Horns exhibit during the 29th Big Game Awards Program. The collection will be open to the public later this year. Mike Gallo's World's Record pronghorn will be on display along with trophies like the renowned World's Record Stone's sheep, the Chadwick Ram (left).



Learn more about Mike Gallo's World's Record pronghorn and read his story on page 54.

Read the history of the National Collection of Heads and Horns in the summer 2015 through spring 2016 issues of *Fair Chase* in a four-part series written by President Emeritus Lowell E. Baier.

The Campaign to Save THE NATIONAL COLLECTION OF HEADS AND HORNS

PART 4

It is a story that begins with an understanding of environmental threat against the Boone and Crockett Club's National Collection of Heads and Horns. It is a story that leads to a historic moment in the history of conservation and sportsmen.