

# FROM THE EDITOR

## California Hunter-Conservationist Banquet: September 2000



**George A. Bettas**  
First Vice-President of  
Administration  
Boone and Crockett Club

**A new Boone and Crockett Club program will debut in California this coming September.** This program will feature a special awards program during which hunters and conservationists from California will gather for the purpose of recognizing trophies accepted in the Boone and Crockett Club's 24<sup>th</sup> Awards Program for the years 1998 and 1999. Trophies from all of the Club's North American big game categories will be included.

Patrick Gilligan, the Club's Associates Program Chair, will organize this premier event as the first of what we hope will become an annual series of local and regional awards presentation ceremonies. These local awards programs are not intended to replace the Club's Triennial Awards Program. They will, however, provide the opportunity for trophy owners and the Club's members and associates to enjoy a day together, participate in a series of programs and

workshops, and celebrate the trophies taken by area hunters.

The event will culminate in a banquet and the presentation of Boone and Crockett Club big game medals and/or certificates that recognize trophy excellence. Watch your mail for an invitation and information about this very special event.

### HIGH FENCES, FOUL BALLS, AND FAIR CHASE

Recently a number of articles, appearing in several different publications, have addressed the Club's Fair Chase statement. The most recent issue of *Bugle* magazine contains an article by Ted Kerasote in which the author attempts to critique, criticize and otherwise interpret the intent of the Club's fair chase statement. It is an interesting read if you have not seen it.

In his article in *Exotic Wildlife*, November/December 1999, Ike Sugg takes issue with the Club's position

on not accepting game taken behind high fences for its North American Big Game records program. Sugg goes so far as to suggest, "the Boone and Crockett boys believe that any hunting behind high fences is wrong. . .". Those of you who have followed the development of and revisions to the fair chase statement know this is not exactly the case.

Since our fair chase ideal is the "gold standard" for our records program and many other aspects of hunting, it is appropriate that we have thoughtful discussions from time-to-time about our fair chase objectives. It is again time for such discussions, not because of the above articles, but because we believe it is warranted. We will keep you posted as these discussions go on. Meanwhile, if you have thoughts on the subject, we would be very interested in your input. Send us a letter at Club headquarters or an e-mail message to: [jtripp@boone-crockett.org](mailto:jtripp@boone-crockett.org). ▲▲▲



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