

ASSOCIATES IN THE FIELD

Share your letters and photos!

COMMON BASE A DEFINITION

We measurers know what it means. My definition is a love of something that draws people together, as in hunting and measuring trophy animals. That's how it started.

I was a Pope and Young measurer for quite a few years and wanted to become a Boone and Crockett measurer, so when Jack Reneau called and invited me to Colorado Springs for the class, I was thrilled. That's when Jack introduced me to Hal Burdick. He was a local measurer and helped set up the class to get more measurers in Colorado.

He offered his house to someone who needed a place to stay during the class. I took the offer.

After class each day, Hal and his wife Donna (who I thought might be an axe murderer) treated me like family. I learned Hal was a retired wildlife biologist for Colorado Division of Wildlife. His knowledge and stories kept me intrigued for hours.

He went elk hunting every year, so he invited me to go along that year. I already had plans, so we set it up for the following year. My wife was also invited because both women had the same interests too – antiques and shopping – spending while we hunted. All in all a fair trade.

Hal used a traditional long bow that he made and razzed me for using a compound. I got him back when the Packers would beat up on the Broncos.

Two years ago we were scheduled to go elk hunting when Hal informed me he had cancer and couldn't make it on the trip. We went out and I hunted for a couple days, but cut the hunt short to be with my friend.

Last week I got the call that Hal had lost his battle. I lost an elk hunting partner and a very dear friend.

The common base of love of hunting and measuring brought us together and I will never forget him. He will be missed.

— Submitted by Patrick Barwick

TROPHY WATCH... A MUST SEE

Now that I have become an associate member, I check out the B&C web site all of the time. The greatest feature that I enjoy the most is the Trophy Watch category.

In today's environment the Internet has certainly changed what you can and cannot believe when it comes to wild game photos. Everyone at B&C does a great job in separating fact from fiction. I tell all of my hunting partners to check out your site every time another world record of some type surfaces. Remembering back, I can't count how many times I was e-mailed that story about the record grizzly, which was actually an Alaskan Brown. That bear devoured more hikers and took more pistol rounds than one can imagine. I also enjoyed the photos of the black bear with white cubs. That bear according to the web has a pretty magnificent range of all the way from a park in Canada to the woods of northern Wisconsin. Incredible....

— Mark J. Wickham



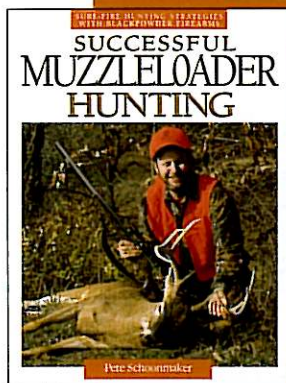
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Successful Muzzleloader Hunting is available for purchase from major bookstores or by visiting www.krausebooks.com – Paperback \$24.99.



PRESERVING OUR FUTURE HUNTING HERITAGE

I was greatly struck by the sober assessments of the future of outdoor recreation in Bob Model's farewell message (President's Message: Winter 2005). Several times he returned to the theme that transformations in the rural landscape pose profound threats to the wildlife and wild places where sports men and women pursue our passions. Mr. Model's highlighting of population increase as the underlying factor driving these changes gets right to the heart of the matter. At the Izaak Walton League, we have been aware of these issues since our 1998 study on hunting access identified sprawl development as the number one threat described by our focus groups. But more important than simply identifying that the problem exists, Mr. Model is calling for sportsmen to act; not only for our interest in the sport but for the quality of our lives, and the lives of all Americans. Many constituent groups have engaged in debates about sprawl, land use planning, smart growth and the like. Yet too often the hunters, anglers, and conservationists are absent. That debate needs us. It needs our commonsense knowledge of ecological management. It needs our passion for the land and our communities. It needs the credibility that our community has with business interests and elected officials. Though sobered by Bob's assessment of our predicament, I am heartened by his faith that we can make a difference... if we get involved.

— Paul W. Hansen, Executive Director
The Izaak Walton League of America