

TROPHY TALK

23rd Awards Judges Panel



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I just returned from my second trip to Reno, Nevada, this summer, where 101 of the finest trophies ever recorded by the Club were received for re-measurement by the 23rd Awards Judges' Panel. The results of the judging were announced when the coveted Boone and Crockett Club medals and/or certificates awarded by the Judges' Panel were presented to the trophy owners at the 23rd Awards Program Banquet that was held at the Reno Hilton on the evening of June 13th.

As announced in the last issue of *Fair Chase*, the trophies received in Reno were displayed at the Wilbur D. May Museum in Reno. If you've never attended one of the Club's previous Awards Program trophy displays, I hope you were able to see this one. If not, start making your plans to attend the next one in the year 2001. Not only was the Wilbur D. May Museum an excellent facility for the display, the big game specimens

on exhibit were some of the finest ever recorded by the Club.

Among the many top-ranking trophies displayed were new World's Records for typical and non-typical American elk, Sitka blacktail deer, muskox and Pacific walrus. Also included was Tony Fulton's non-typical whitetail deer to which the judges assigned a final score of 295-6/8 points. While it is the third largest whitetail ever recorded by the Club, it is the highest scoring whitetail ever taken by a hunter.

The complete results of the 23rd Awards Program Final Awards Judging will be published in the next edition of *Fair Chase*. In this issue I would like to concentrate on the Club's Awards Programs and the significance of the judging activities. Even though the Club is well known for its records-keeping activities, little is understood about this procedure.

The Club receives entries for a three year entry period known as

an Awards Program. In the beginning, the Awards Program, as well as the judging and display activities, were conducted on an annual basis. That is, entries were received and recorded for one year, with the judging and display taking place the following year. These activities became biennial recording periods in 1951, and triennial events in 1967.

Since the beginning, there have been 23 Awards Programs (or Competitions as they were known in the beginning) followed by the judging and trophy display. The 23rd Awards Program, which closed December 31, 1997, will culminate in October 1998 with the publication of the *Boone and Crockett Club's 23rd Big Game Awards* book.

The year following the close of an entry period the top few, generally five, trophies in each of the 35 categories (excluding jaguar and Atlantic walrus) are invited to a central location for Final Awards Judging by a select panel of official measurers. Recent panels consisted of a chairman, ten judges, four consultants and panel assistants. Panel members are selected from among the 817 active official measurers. Selection is considered recognition of a measurer's contribution and dedication to the Club's records-keeping activities.

Typically, individuals serve as chairman only once. On the other hand, official measurers can serve as a judge on no more than three different panels. Consultants are individuals who have served as a Judge on at least three panels. Panel assistants may or may not be measurers who simply help where needed.

While consultants may help with the measuring, the presence of an individual like Frank Cook, who has served as either a judge or consultant on panels since the mid-1960s, adds continuity to de-



THE 23RD AWARDS JUDGES' PANEL WITH THE FIVE NEW WORLD'S RECORDS. STANDING (L-R): GERARD BEAULIEU, NEWFOUNDLAND; HOMER SAYE, TEXAS; LARRY R. CAREY, WASHINGTON; FRANK COOK, ALASKA; FREDERICK J. KING, MONTANA; ELDON L. BUCKNER, OREGON; L. VICTOR CLARK, NEVADA; WILLIAM C. MACCARTY III, VIRGINIA; ROGER W. ATWOOD, IDAHO; GLENN E. HISEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDGES' PANEL, MINNESOTA; AND PAUL D. WEBSTER, MINNESOTA. KNEELING (L-R): WAYNE CAPURRO, NEVADA; GEORGE K. TSUKAMOTO, WASHINGTON; C. RANDALL BYERS, CHAIRMAN OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE, IDAHO; JACK GRAHAM, ALBERTA; RON BOUCHER, VERMONT; AND JACK RENEAU, DIRECTOR OF BIG GAME RECORDS, MONTANA.

RECORDS BOOK REVIEWS

cisions made by Judges' Panels over time. Often, they are faced with particularly difficult scoring problems that likely have been encountered and resolved by previous panels.

Incidentally, the 23rd Awards Judges' Panel consisted of some of the most experienced measurers ever assembled. Only three of the judges had never served on a previous panel. Five panel members, namely George K. Tsukamoto, Jack Graham, Randy Byers, Eldon L. Buckner and Frank Cook, were chairmen of previous panels.

The primary purposes of Judges' Panels are to verify final scores of top-ranking trophies; to assign awards and certificates; and to announce new World's Records. The judging starts with a brief introduction of procedures and expectations from the panel chairman, followed by team appointments and scoring assignments.

All trophies are measured by at least two teams of judges, each team consisting of two or more members. If both team's scores fall within a prescribed tolerance (which varies with each category) to allow for natural shrinkage, the original entry score remains as final for that trophy. The shrinkage tolerances were first used during the 21st Awards Program.

There are only two exceptions to this basic concept. First, World's Records receive the score arrived at by the panel. Secondly, if the panel's score is within shrinkage tolerance, but the difference between the panel score and the entry score is due to a difference in scoring interpretation, the panel's score becomes final.

If the panel's score for any trophy is higher than the entry score, as happened in a few cases in Reno, the panel's score stands as final for that trophy. Finally, if the panel's score is lower, and more

than the shrinkage tolerance, the panel's score is final.

The last act of the Judges' Panel is to assign place awards and/or certificates to each trophy rescored by the panel. If there is a trophy worthy of singular recognition, the panel may recommend it for the Sagamore Hill Award from the Roosevelt family in memory of Theodore Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and Kermit Roosevelt. It is awarded to the trophy considered the "best of show" to recognize the quality of the trophy and the quality of the hunt. The Sagamore Hill Award has been awarded by only 15 previous panels.

Place Awards (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) are reserved for hunter-taken trophies, regardless of when they were taken, so long as the hunter and owner is still the same. Honorable Mentions are awarded trophies where the panel's score is significantly below the entry score. "Significantly" is determined by comparing an invited trophy's score to the scores of other trophies in the same category. If the panel's score is below an unspecified, but significant, number of other entries that could have been invited, as determined by their entry scores, that trophy then receives an Honorable Mention.

Finally, Certificates of Merit are assigned to trophies owned by someone other than the hunter; to trophies that were "picked up" or are of unknown origin; and to bison taken in the lower 48 states. The Awards and/or Certificates were announced and presented at the 23rd Awards Banquet, Reno, Nevada, on Saturday, June 13.

The 23rd Awards Program Judging took place during April 26 - 30. The members of the panel (pictured at left) volunteered their time, talents and resources to accomplish their task. We owe each of them a great deal of gratitude.▲▲▲

MISSOURI SHOW-ME BIG BUCKS CLUB RECORDS BOOK

The *Missouri Show-Me Big Bucks Club Records of Whitetail Deer* records book has just been released. In addition to listing over 3,500 Missouri whitetail deer, this 348 page, hardback book includes sixteen chapters on the majestic whitetail deer by a select group of renowned outdoor writers, 300 photographs and 10 full pages of wildlife artwork. Chapter topics include such subjects as: the history of whitetail deer in Missouri; the history of the Missouri Show-Me Big Bucks Club; the philosophy and ethics of hunting; measuring antlers; photographing and filming of wildlife; and much, much more. *Missouri Show-Me Big Bucks Club Records of Whitetail Deer* is the culmination of 30 years of records keeping by the Missouri Show-Me Big Bucks Club. To order, send check or money order for \$30, plus \$5.95 for shipping and handling in the U.S. (\$12.95 S&H for Canadian orders), to Missouri Show-Me Big Bucks Club, P.O. Box 9, Dept. FC, Unionville, MO 63565.

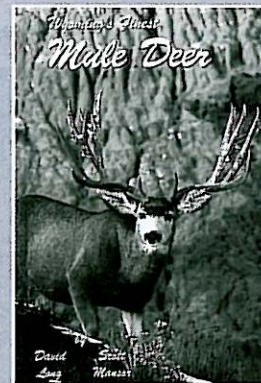
MISSOURI SHOW-ME BIG BUCKS CLUB



RECORDS OF WHITETAILED DEER FIRST EDITION

WYOMING MULE DEER RECORDS BOOK

Wyoming's Finest Mule Deer was recently published by David Long and Scott Mansor. This 320 page hardback book includes over 300 photographs of Boone and Crockett and Pope and Young trophy-class mule deer, both typical and non-typical, from the state of Wyoming. The B&C and P&Y trophies include associated hunting stories. The forward is by Dr. Valerius Geist, and the illustrations are by renowned wildlife artist Chris Lacey. *Wyoming's Finest Mule Deer* can be obtained by sending \$24.95, plus \$4.50 S&H, to *Wyoming's Finest Mule Deer*, P.O. Box 399, Big Piney, Wyoming 83113, or calling 307/276-3250. Wyoming residents add \$1 per copy for sales tax.



BOOK REVIEW NOTICE

There are many state, provincial, and private organizations publishing local records books that use the Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system with permission of the Club. Since there is no single reference source for these books, and because there are many hunters who collect them, we will review them as time and space permit.

However, the Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data contained in these books. Some of the books featured in this column may contain trophies not listed in any Boone and Crockett Club records book. Further, some of these books may include trophies that were not scored by certified Boone and Crockett Club official measurers.

If there is a question about the status of a trophy listed in any of these books, the Boone and Crockett Club's records books/archives are the final reference source to settle any and all discrepancies.