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THEODORE ROOSEVELT

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## Don't Forget to "Pass it Up"



Gray N. Thornton  
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
 Boone and Crockett Club

There are many different themes to express our interest to share our hunting and outdoor heritage, as well as fair chase ethic with the next generation of hunters and conservationists. Marks such as "Ensuring the Legacy," "Pass it On," and our own "I Hunt Fair Chase" are excellent examples of our desire to perpetuate our passion and ethical standards.

While much emphasis (rightfully in my opinion) has been placed on campaigns and programs to introduce youth to hunting and the outdoors, recent studies from the noted research firm, Responsive Management, and workshops at American Wildlife Conservation Partners summits and recent state Governor's Symposiums on our Hunting Heritage show that there is another group of hunter/conservationist that deserve our interest and emphasis - former hunters and shall I say the "more seasoned, wise, and experienced" of our ranks.

As mentioned in this column in the spring issue of *Fair Chase*, I was to experience in March of this year my "first hunt"

with my father - he a non-hunter at the age of 71 and I, a hunter at 42. Although no doubt atypical of most of our Club's Member's and Associate's first hunting experience with their parent, my father and my recent fly fishing and hunting holiday together in New Zealand was an experience that like many who recall their first day afield with their dad, is one I will cherish for the rest of my life. Instead of my father "passing the hunting heritage on" to me I "passed it up" to him. However, the results were the same - an appreciation by a newcomer to the thrill of the chase, and equally important, an understanding of the reverence to the quarry when pursued under the principles set forth by this Club over 100 years ago. Although my father does not desire to become a hunter, he now understands firsthand what we are about and why we are passionate for, and are and have been, the best stewards for wildlife, wilderness lands and what Bob Model quotes in his President's message as the "good earth."

Whether your audience is young or old, share your passion for our heritage, our Club, and our principles with a new friend - wildlife and wild places depend on it. ■

### To send a Letter to Boone and Crockett Club, mail to:

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