

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



C. Robert Palmer
PRESIDENT
Boone and Crockett Club

Reflecting on the Past and Investing in the Future

It's been more than 118 years since Theodore Roosevelt formed a coalition of gentlemen hunters to establish the Boone and Crockett Club. Today, the North American conservation

movement faces challenges not unlike those our founders faced over a century ago. Just as in 1887, when Theodore Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell, and others played a critical role in the establishment of public policy for conservation of wildlife and wild places, today's Boone and Crockett Club members are working to conserve, protect, and restore America's wildlife heritage.

We face more pressures than ever before in achieving our mission of conservation leadership. As we approach the 120th anniversary of the Boone and Crockett Club, we have strengthened our resolve

while initiating new, proactive partnerships with individuals and organizations. As we continue our journey, our challenge is to develop innovative approaches to conservation policy, leadership and education, hunter ethics, and big-game records keeping. Following is a brief description of what we have been doing recently in each of the Club's major areas of focus:

Big Game Records

The Club's Records of North American Big Game remains the international standard for big-game records keeping and recognition. This system continues to showcase fair-chase hunting and the "North American Wildlife Management Model." A result is ever-improving big-game populations and more exemplary big-game specimens each year.

Conservation Partnerships

The Club, through the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP), has re-emerged as a potent force in national conservation policy. The Club was the force behind the establishment in 2000 of the

AWCP, which now has 45 conservation partner organizations representing millions of hunter-conservationists. The AWCP effort's in helping pass the Healthy Forests Restoration Act in 2003 is one example of the strong influence of AWCP. That influence will continue: In March 2006, the Secretary of the Interior established a "Sporting Conservation Council" to provide advice to the Secretary on wildlife, hunting, and habitat. Included on the SCC are B&C past president Robert Model, B&C Honorary Life Member Steve Mealey, and a number of AWCP members who are also Boone and Crockett Club professional members.

Conservation Education

The Club is a pioneer in conservation education emphasizing responsible, shared use of natural resources; programs are being developed at the university, K-12, and professional levels. At the university level, the Club's flagship professorship at the University of Montana emphasizes the integration of science and policy in the context of conservation versus preservation. Similar programs are underway at Oregon State University and at Texas A&M, and are under development at Michigan State University. A "train the teachers" program for grades K-12 emphasizing responsible shared use versus preservation of our natural resources is being developed and will be added to the Club's existing K-12 conservation education programs. In partnership with the National Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and selected AWCP partners, the Club is sponsoring a national conservation leadership institute to provide the nation's most promising future conservation leaders training to promote sustainable resource use and management.

It is evident to me that the Boone and Crockett Club's legacy of conservation leadership continues through our investment of time, energy, and financial resources. I would like to invite you

to assist us in this effort through a gift to the Boone and Crockett Club Foundation as a Boone and Crockett Conservationist because I know that the work of the Club has never been more essential (see page 62 for more details). Please join me in continuing the conservation leadership legacy started by Theodore Roosevelt more than a century ago. ■

SPORTING CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Secretary of Interior Gale A. Norton during her appearance at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on March 23rd announced the creation of the Sporting Conservation Council as an advisor to the Department of Interior. This council has been created by Secretary Norton and spearheaded by Assistant Secretary of Interior Rebecca Watson (prior to her retirement) to survive successive Secretary's and changing Administrations. The council will provide input to DOI in areas of habitat restoration and protection; the impact of energy development on wildlife resources; wetlands restoration; forest and rangeland health; hunting and recreational access to Federal lands, etc. Norton said, "Dating back to Teddy Roosevelt, hunters have been the pillar of conservation in America, doing more than anyone to conserve wildlife and its habitat," Norton said. "This new advisory council will provide a formal mechanism for the department to benefit from the expertise of sportsmen and -women as well as become aware of their concerns as we develop federal policies." The initial 12 members the Secretary appointed to the committee include:

- Daniel R. Dessecker**, senior wildlife biologist, Ruffed Grouse society, representing game bird organizations;
- Steve Mealey**, former forest supervisor and member, Boone and Crockett Club, representing the hunting community;
- Jeff Crane**, president, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, representing wildlife conservation organizations;
- Jim Mosher**, Executive Director, North American Grouse Partnership, representing game bird organizations;
- Christine Thomas**, Dean and Professor of Resources Management, University of Wisconsin-Stevens point College of Natural Resources, representing the hunting community;
- Rob Keck**, Chief Executive Officer, National Wild Turkey Federation, representing game bird hunting organizations;
- John Baughman**, Executive Director, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, representing state fish and wildlife agencies;
- Merle Shepard**, Vice President, Safari Club International, representing big game hunting organizations;
- Susan Recce**, Director, Conservation, Wildlife and Natural Resources, National Rifle Association, representing wildlife conservation organizations;
- John Tomke**, Chairman of the Board of Ducks, Unlimited, Inc., representing game bird hunting organizations;
- Peter J. Dart**, president and Chief Executive Officer, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, representing big game hunting organizations;
- Robert Model**, chairman, Boone and Crockett Club, representing big game hunting organizations.

