

FROM THE EDITOR



Greg Tinsley
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Boone and Crockett Club

The Good Word of the Day

The “trophy hunter” modification has become so sensation-ally misinterpreted by the great non-hunting public and spun so craftily by the anti-hunting agenda that its use is generally dis-

couraged by the thoughtful outdoorsmen and outdoors professionals. From the perspective of writing and editing for the traditional outdoors, “kill,” too, has followed the same literary fate as the T-H phrase during the past half century.

It’s a shame that the trophy-hunter term has converted into an uncool sugges- tion to some and is viewed as a treacherous

conception to others, because it works so well as the descriptive for the selective hunter. Were someone to suggest to me that they were a “trophy hunter,” or that such-and-such was a trophy hunter, then I would assume

that those persons hunted with higher self-imposed limitations; killing less, experiencing more. Following nearly 40 years of interface with hundreds of Nimrods, I can’t, however, recall anyone ever flying the trophy-hunter banner in the course of conversation or introduction. “Hunter,” it seems, is always enough. Trophy is a lovely, nearly pure piece of language, whether it is used alone or with most other words. Millions of cheap plastic-and-faux-marble trophies are handed out every year to young athletes and scholars to keep as diminutive, shiny monuments to their achievements. With stars in their eyes, most everyone learns about the symbols for great deeds at an early age. From the Nobel to the Academy, the Lombardi to the coach-pitch championship, there are physical mementos under ever rocky outcrop in these modern times. This is so good for humankind that we’re now handing amulets out by the boxcar load to all of the children. Little Johnny’s club finished dead last, but everyone in the league gets a trophy.

In hunting, we also have trophy class, trophy buck, trophy unit, and trophy fee. Those who market traditional outdoors gear, and those who check off on their work, often use “trophy” in their campaigns like

weapons, even while the word “weapon” is shunned as a poor and uncomfortable substitute for hunting rifles, bird guns, powerful handguns, or bow-and-arrow sets. I admit to feeling a bit of personal discomfort with all of the aforementioned uses of trophy, but I am undoubtedly super sensitized to the negative perceptions that might be caused by the word’s overuse. All of the above are very descriptive within what has become the lexicon of the hunting culture, and so, I regularly use more than half of them myself during the streams of idle conversation with other hunters.

The rub is found in the idea that horns, antlers, skulls, and hides are the singular trophies of the hunting experience, and that people who would kill and

It’s a shame that the trophy-hunter term has converted into an uncool suggestion to some...because it works so well as the descriptive for the selective hunter.

render natural revelations solely for those things are monsters. Of course, such trophy wantonness, such heinous crimes against nature do occur with rarity every season. But as difficult as it is

for fair-minded people to comprehend acts of cold-blooded megalomania, dementia and/or dangerously whacky ignorance, there is also the paradox of association. That the true trophy hunting elite is the group most offended by such scandalous acts against wildlife probably seems completely out of context to many non-hunters.

This business with the word trophy really isn’t the sticky issue that it could be, thanks to moral-compass-bearing organizations with clear purpose like the Boone and Crockett Club. Right in the exact center of the word and its uses is where you find the Club, teaching, suggesting, and influencing, not only hunters, but policy makers, too. There is good science and counter-strike intelligence in the history of qualified, records-book game, as well as opportunities, even obligations, to pilot perhaps the most important civilian flagship of North American hunting. Metaphorically, B&C is the gunboat escort powered by principle, decency, and conscientious activism, armed with an uncompromising, immeasurable reverence for big game—a power wedge of original animal-loving zealots who don’t have to be told that hunting within the doctrines of fair chase is to quietly define the word trophy. ■

FAIR CHASE PRODUCTION STAFF

Publications Chairman
Howard P. Monsour, Jr.

Editor-in-Chief
Greg Tinsley

Managing Editor/Design
Julie T. Houk

Conservation and History Editor
Steven Williams

Research and Education Editor
Winifred B. Kessler

Hunting and Ethics Editor
Mark B. Steffen M.D.

Assistant Editors
Keith Balfourd
Craig Boddington
Jack Reneau

Editorial Contributors
Lowell E. Baier
Keith Balfourd
Jack Childs
Valerius Geist
Theodore J. Holsten
Paul R. Krausman
Sarah Livesay
Howard P. Monsour, Jr.
Jack Reneau
Justin E. Spring
John A. Tomke
Wayne van Zwoll

Photography Contributors
Denver Bryan
Tony Bynum
Michael H. Francis
Donald M. Jones
Tre’ Taylor

Fair Chase is published quarterly by the Boone and Crockett Club and distributed to its Members and Associates. Material in this magazine may be freely quoted and/or reprinted in other publications and media, so long as proper credit is given to *Fair Chase*. The only exception applies to articles that are reprinted in *Fair Chase* from other magazines, in which case, the Club does not hold the reprint rights. The opinions expressed by the contributors of articles are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Boone and Crockett Club.

Fair Chase (ISSN 1077-3274) is published for \$35 per year by the Boone and Crockett Club, 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801. Periodical postage is paid in Missoula, Montana, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Fair Chase, Boone and Crockett Club,
250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801

Phone: (406) 542-1888 Fax: (406) 542-0784
E-mail: bcclub@boone-crockett.org
Advertising: Keith Balfourd – Ext. 208

B&C STAFF

Chief of Staff – Tony A. Schoonen
Director of Big Game Records –

Jack Reneau
Director of Publications – Julie T. Houk
Director of Marketing – Keith Balfourd

Director of Conservation Education Programs –
Lisa B. Flowers

Office Manager – Sandy Poston
Controller – Jan Krueger

TRM Ranch Manager – John Rappold
Assistant Director of Big Game Records –

Justin Spring
Development Program Manager –

Jodi Bishop
Assistant Controller – Abra Plemmons

Assistant Graphic Designer – Karlie Slayer
Customer Service – Amy Hutchison

Records Dept. Assistant – Wendy Nickelson
Facilities Coordinator – JoAnne Cobb

