

EDITOR'S NOTE

Team Effort: Big Game Profiles 2.0



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For most hunting shows, seasons of new television broadcasts begin around Independence Day, the start of the third quarter of the year. The magazine staff believed that this issue of

Fair Chase (and this space in particular) represented a fine opportunity to give members something of a sneak peek at the maturation of *Big Game Profiles*, the television series.

First, there's its official name, perhaps the longest in television history: Leupold Big Game Profiles presented by the Boone and Crockett Club and Mossy Oak, in association with Dallas Safari Club. In casual conversation, most call it *Big Game Profiles*, or LBGP for short. Call it what you will, LBGP 2.0 beginning in July 2008 is a departure from its award-winning 2006 and 2007 format.

I suppose you could classify the first two seasons of the series as the world's original "conservation-based wildlife documentary." The bright light then was on the health and well-being of individual big-game species, illustrated mostly by the substantial and oftentimes wondrous wildlife photography from the archives of our friend and fellow producer Tim Gauthier. It was informative eye-candy for the big-game hunter, and the viewer couldn't help coming away from an episode smarter, because the research provided by the likes of Jim Heffelfinger, Val Geist, Jack Ward Thomas, and Dale Toweill, was certified science from the world's most distinguished experts.

Accordingly, year one of LBGP picked off the Outdoor Channel's "most informative" Golden Moose Award, an award that was disappointingly discontinued in 2007 because it was "too difficult to judge," according to one network honcho.

As mentioned, the show will change rather significantly in 2008. It will still reflect terrific research; the excellent work of Gauthier; the richly marbled narrations of Shane Mahoney and Mark Streissguth. But there are significant changes to the vignettes, that pair of short pieces that were titled "Leupold's Guns, Loads and Optics" and "Remington's Fair Chase Hunting." And the changes reflect a significant modification to the larger theme of the show.

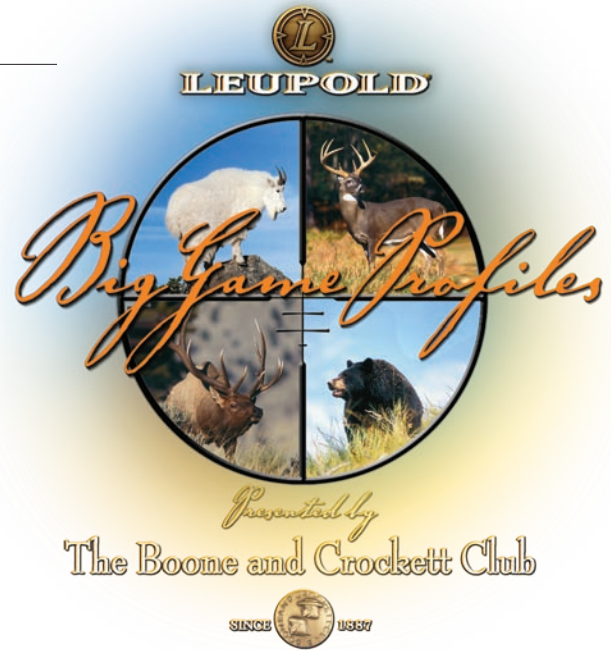
The aim of this next generation of LBGP is to become a thoughtful, informative "trophy destination hunting documentary." That's something we believe hasn't been accomplished before, or at least produced to the exacting and unparalleled specifications of your Boone and Crockett Club. Perhaps a brief about the first show in 2008 will give you a better understanding of the project's evolution.

West-central Colorado is historically one of the world's best locations for stupendous mule deer bucks, and we spend the first show of 2008 discussing techniques for hunting big bucks, speaking specifically about the whys of mule deer in that part of Colorado, and answering the question: Why is this region special for long-bodied, high-racked mulies? I won't give the answer away in print because we really do want you to watch.

As a given hunting trip becomes each show's visual underpinning going forward, the Remington *Fair Chase* hunting vignette primarily becomes tightly focused insights on the top all-time specimens for that species, usually trophies from the proximity where that specific show was recorded.

Moving farther into 2008, "*Guns, Loads and Optics*," which was hosted by B&C Professional Member Craig Boddington during the first two seasons, seemed to have run its course. Craig's a personal hero of mine, and his considerable efforts with LBGP illustrate his deep concern not only for this organization, but for big-game conservation. Essentially, he donated himself to the project—a magnificently solid series-within-a-series that worked well thanks to Boddo's expertise and delivery. He's certainly an exceptional pro with the heart and the instincts of the old-school greats, the guys like Theodore Roosevelt who gave far more than they took. We will all surely miss the frequency of his presence on this show.

Robbie Coblentz of Starkville, Mississippi, has joined the team as a co-producer. Although Robbie is not a hunter, he is a fantastically talented video editor with a multitude of skill sets, including the eye for visuals that would be the envy of any



creative director for any post-production house in the country. As the man most responsible for the show's increased emphasis on technical flawlessness—seamless packages—Robbie's Broadcast Media Group has already outstripped all expectations.

I expect I need to mention that second-season LBGP DVDs are in the works, which will soon complete the 2006-2007 "wildlife documentary" home-library phase of this series. More announcements to that effect will be forthcoming in these pages. Also, the first season of the show is poised to begin double-digit weekly airings beginning in July 2008 on the IPTV network at www.mossyoak.com.

Much goes into this TV business. And none of this would be possible without partners, and LBGP enjoys a premier stable of partners powering the effort: Dallas Safari Club, Remington Arms and Ammunition, Cabela's, Mossy Oak, the Boone and Crockett Club, Walker's Game Ear, Crooked Horn Outfitters, and, of course, one of the Club's most cherished corporate partners, Leupold & Stevens.

By the power vested in me, I pronounce each of you honorary co-producers of Leupold Big Game Profiles presented by the Boone and Crockett Club and Mossy Oak, in association with Dallas Safari Club. Or you can call it *The Show*. In either case, prepare to be inspired. ■