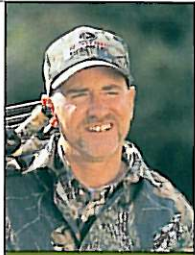


# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



**Greg Tinsley**  
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Boone and Crockett Club

## Crowning Achievement

My copy of “The Book” arrived several weeks ago. I’m a real hunting-book freak, and this one, the Boone and Crockett Club’s *Records of North American Big Game, 12th*

Edition, beats anything I’ve ever seen. Unofficially, it weighs 4 pounds 8 ounces; officially, it features more than 900 pages and it is 2-4/8-inches thick.

If there’s one triple-checked stat, there are 37,788 certified details. And in this case, God is certainly in the details.

The Book’s stats were compiled by Eldon L. “Buck” Buckner, chairman of the Club’s record committee; Jack Reneau, director of big-game records; Ryan Hatfield, assistant director of big-game records; Sandy Poston, office manager and “data guru”; and Amy Hutchison and Wendy Nickelson of customer service. Jeffery Buchanan Miller compiled and edited the accounts of the World’s Records, and old friend Abe Walsh got as close as he’s ever going to get to a World Record by editing the accounts of

the most recent of the All-time monsters. Then, somehow, the Club’s director of publications, Julie T. Houk, molded the raw material into an intelligently designed work of art and had it all come out the other end in sequence and bound.

This edition of The Book is dedicated to C. Randall Byers, the professional super enthusiast who at age 56 was at the height of a multitude of successes when he passed away. At the time of his death, he was both chairman of the Boone and Crockett Club’s Records of North American Big Game Committee and president of the Pope and Young Club. Although I knew personally that Dr. Byers had been blessed with one

of the most disarming demeanors of any human being I’d ever met, I now better understand the great loss that ripped through the hunting community three years ago. I cannot think of a more fitting tribute.

I was happy to again see that two somewhat differently configured 95-inch pronghorns taken independently by David Meyer and Dylan Woods share the new World’s Records for the species.

The horns of these two creatures would make the eyes of a person who had never seen a live pronghorn pop out on stalks. They are barely believable, and having pictures of them is worth the \$49 retail price for The Book. There do appear to be a couple of mistakes: the 196-2/8-inch non-typical World’s Record Coues’ whitetail and the 477-inch barren-ground caribou can’t be correct, because there are no such things. Well, actually, they did exist and

they were officially scored and recorded by the world’s foremost experts in this area.

The Book could be subtitled “To see is to believe; records were meant to be broken.” It is in the meticulous measurements of these “ginormous” specimens where one can begin to understand just how

amazing America’s resuscitated big-game populations were during the past century.

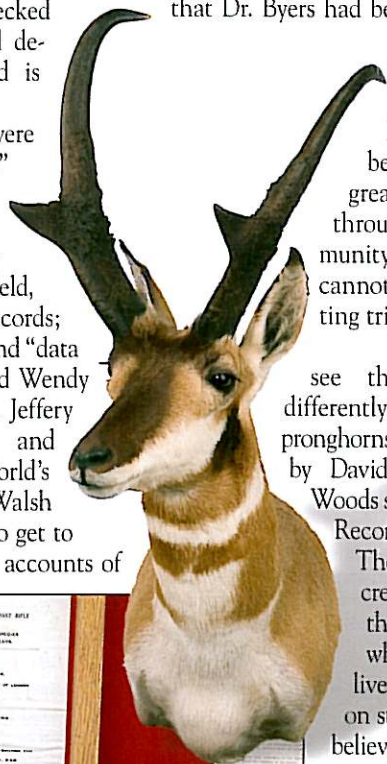
I continue to enjoy the wonderful color photography of chapter eight’s “Special Rifles,” which adds another terrific collector’s facet to The Book. I have not had enough time to determine my absolute favorite, but if I could have one gun in the world for a day it would be found in these pages. (Probably President Roosevelt’s Royal Grade .500/.450 Holland & Holland double, but O’Conner’s .30-06, which saw action on his best North American ram and a 60-inch kudu in Tanganyika, have certain allure.) There’s something intangibly wonderful about storied fieldpieces, and I applaud the Club’s marketing director, Keith Balfour, for inspiring the addition of the luxurious images of these special rifles to the ultimate hunting reference.

That may be the primary mission of The Book: Documenting the official juncture where hard hunting, good luck, and science and conservation have met. Sprinkled throughout these All-time records are 15 thumbnail profiles on the Club’s major players, beginning with Theodore Roosevelt and ending with John F. Lacey, the Civil War hero, congressman and Club member whose Lacey Act put the hammer down on market hunting, breaking a new legal trail that led to the greatest big-game recovery in the history of the world.

There’s a terrific chapter by the head of Texas A&M University’s department of wildlife and fisheries science, Robert D. Brown, on deer antlers. When you’re finished with Brown’s treatment, you’ll be able to win several bets around the campfire. For instance, horns grow from the base and antlers grow from the tip. What! Who knew?

Elsewhere, there are scoring charts for all 38 species, so you won’t have to call your buddy in the middle of the night to ask him for the third time in 20 years if there’s a circumference measurement between the base and the brow tine, or if it’s the inside or the greatest spread.

There’s a whole lot more to be sure, but my time is up and my hat is off to all the folks who produce crowning achievements like the *Records of North American Big Game*: Official measurers, writers, editors, designers, members, hunters and especially the animals that are both immortalized and accounted for through the painstaking efforts of the greatest conservationists the world has ever known. ■



**The Book includes enticing content such as images, trophy data, and the stories about World’s records like Dylan Wood’s pronghorn and a special color section of special rifles like Theodore Roosevelt’s Royal Grade .500/.450 H&H.**