

# FROM THE EDITOR

## In this Issue

### *Will the Circle Go Unbroken?*

In this day of modern distractions, our children are caught up in a technological world that pulls them indoors rather than outdoors. As hunter-conservationists, our souls belong to the outdoors. We live for the fall, the sweet smell of drying leaves and a brisk, cold north wind. Our ultimate challenge is how to pass this conservation spirit down to the next two generations—our children and grandchildren.

The importance of this is not just for the enjoyment of the outdoors, but the understanding of how hunting plays a role in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Our children and grandchildren do not have to be hunters, but they must understand the role hunting plays. With this understanding comes support.

In the Sand Hills of Nebraska lies the small town of Thedford. Just south of there on the Dismal River, a young man named Colton Neal, 10 years old, shot his first mule deer buck on my ranch. His younger brother Jasper, 8 years old, accompanied him on this hunt. Jasper's envy was palpable. He will certainly be there in two years.

Colton's father Dan guided him. His grandfather Tim helped field-dress the deer and bring it in. I sat on the top of a high ridge with my binoculars a mile away watching this—one generation passing down the traditions to another. Tim, Colton's grandfather, later told me this was the most exciting hunt of his life!

Of course they took the buck to Colton's great grandmother to show her his accomplishment and receive her blessing and accolades. I am sure this scene was played out all over America this fall. We all realize however, that keeping the hunting tradition "in the family" is not enough! We must introduce others to this passion. We must go one step beyond.

**Colton (left) and his brother Jasper shown with Colton's first mule deer buck.**

Remarkably, it is not hard to do. We have to take the time to do it. In the last few issues of *Fair Chase* we have tried to highlight organizations that have taken the extra step. In this issue, we present to you the remarkable work of the Dallas Safari Club through the Dallas Ecological Foundation's efforts to introduce our youth to wildlife conservation. We also celebrate Ducks Unlimited's diamond anniversary. Most importantly, we have an extended youth section including the official launch of our youth essay contest. We give you the story of the youngest grand-slammer, 14-year-old Ben Jaksick.

Dr. Jack Ward Thomas' second-part series about the state of our national forests is a must-read, as is the article "Dead Deer Walking," which offers a unique way to reach disease management decisions with an outbreak of Chronic Wasting Disease in New York.

In our hunting section, two-time Olympic gold medalist Cathy Turner tells her story of bagging a trophy buck with her bow. Never too late, she started hunting at age 30. It seems to me that those who acquire the hunting passion later in life are the most excited about their new-found experiences in nature and the thrill of the chase. Her story is exceptional—she takes her daughter out to help track the deer after she arrows it!

Will the circle go unbroken? Not if the Boone and Crockett Club or our partners such as the Dallas Safari Club and the rest of the hunting community have anything to do about it! I hope you enjoy this issue. May you have joyful holidays and successful times in the field.



**Howard P. Monsour, Jr.**  
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