

# TROPHY TALK



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## Age Data Needed

The Boone and Crockett Club wants to remind Official Measurers and trophy owners that we continue to actively collect the age of all trophies entered in its Awards Programs even though it is not an

entry requirement. Age data makes records-keeping more relevant to big game managers. It can also be used to refute anti-hunters' claims that hunters remove the best breeding animals, when in reality trophy animals have already passed their genes on to the next generation during previous breeding seasons.

If you know the age of your trophy and the method by which it was aged, please include both on the back of the Hunter, Guide, and Hunt Information form, which is an entry requirement for every hunter-taken trophy. If you don't know the age, please send us the first premolar for bears (Figure A), the second premolar for cougars, and, except for walrus, one of the two center incisor teeth of the lower jaw on all other categories (Figure B) recognized by the Club. We will then have your trophy aged by Matson's Laboratory here in Montana and let you know what we find out. For complete instructions on which tooth to pull, how to preserve it,

etc., please go to Matson's web site [www.matsonslab.com](http://www.matsonslab.com). When you pull the tooth, take care to include the tip of the root, as it is needed to determine the age.

If you would like to know the age of any trophy, whether it makes B&C or not, Matson's can accurately age it for you if you will follow instructions on their web site and mail your tooth directly to them with payment.

### Practical Use of Genetics for Accurate Records Keeping

Boone and Crockett Club recognizes 10 different categories of native North American deer, representing five different subspecies, which are separated by boundaries drawn on a map with the best information available. These boundaries were created with enough buffer to hopefully exclude hybrids and specimens of the larger category from entry in the smaller category where their ranges overlap. The mule deer/Columbia blacktail deer boundary, for example, was drawn with the idea of positively excluding the larger mule deer from the blacktail deer category. Unfortunately, this means that there is a potential that some pure blacktail deer specimens may be excluded from the records book.

Until recently, it was nearly impossible to exclude smaller mule deer specimens from being entered as blacktail deer in the latter

category either inadvertently or because of outright fraud. Similar problems exist for Coues' deer and whitetail deer.

It was with these concerns that B&C embarked on a comprehensive deer DNA research program several years ago through its Conservation Grants Program with cooperating agencies and other organizations. The goal was to see if there were DNA markers that could separate the different categories of deer from each other.

B&C is extremely pleased to report that this research has produced some very reliable data that will enable us to separate deer specimens of the different categories by DNA analysis. In fact, we have already used it on three different occasions. DNA analysis was used to confirm that a mule deer submitted with an older Columbia blacktail deer license in the latter category was indeed a mule deer. DNA analysis was also used to confirm that a supposed 4x4 typical whitetail taken in New Jersey was actually a mule deer without G-3 points. Had we accepted it as a whitetail, it would have been the World's Record typical 4x4 whitetail.

Following is a write-up prepared by B&C Professional Member Jim Heffelfinger on the third incident we resolved through DNA analysis. Jim works for the Arizona Game and Fish Department and has been involved with B&C's DNA research from the beginning.

*Jack Reneau*

FIGURE A



Preferred tooth to remove with intact root.

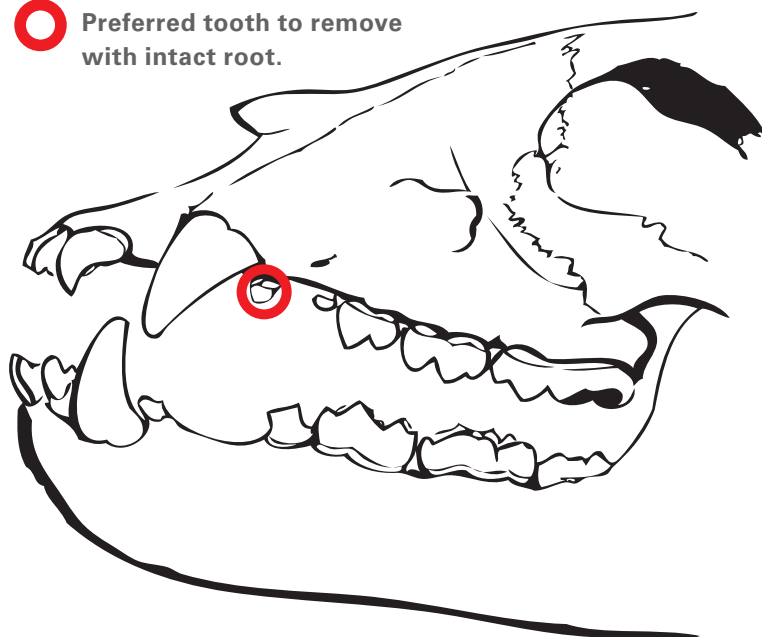
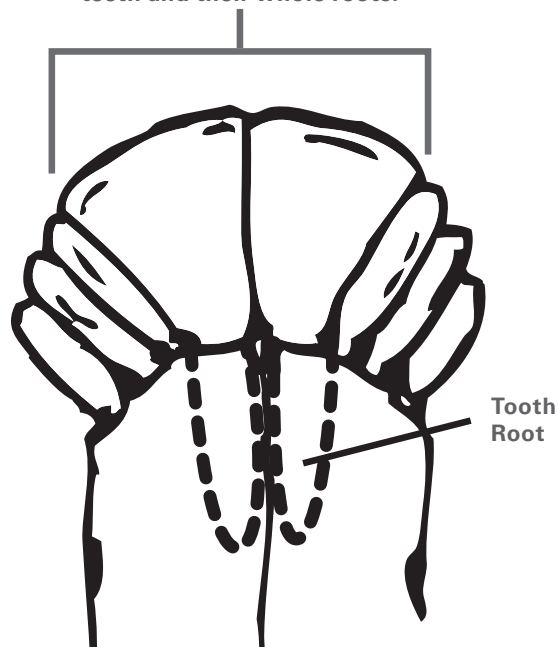


FIGURE B

Please remove these two teeth and their whole roots.



COURTESY OF MATSON'S LABORATORY

# BOOK REVIEW

## BOWHUNTING BIG GAME RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICA, 7TH EDITION



Pope and Young (P&Y) Club announced the recent release of this quintessential bowhunting records book that contains comprehensive data on more than 88,000 North American big game animals harvested in fair chase with bow and arrow. This 904-page volume includes all animals accepted into the Pope and Young Club's records archives through January 1, 2011.

Scientific data gleaned from the archived scoring forms are given for each animal listed, including: final

score, length of main beams (or horns), inside spread, number of points, basal circumferences, county and state where taken, hunter's name, year taken and all-time rank.

The listings are enhanced with portrait photographs, field photographs and first-person accounts of the World's Records in each of P&Y's 34 recognized categories of native North American big game. Nine new World's Records are introduced in this volume.

This edition of the Pope and Young Club's records book is extra special, as it commemorates the Club's 50th Anniversary in 2011. Book editor and member T. J. Conrads crafted 120 pages of educational and entertaining text. Learn how the Club came into being and the history of P&Y's namesakes (pioneer archers Dr. Saxton Pope and Arthur Young). See how its records system has evolved over time and learn about the development of P&Y's conservation and youth programs. A special section of testimonials from numerous Club members relates how their involvement in the Pope and Young Club has shaped their bowhunting ethics, their beliefs in themselves, how it melded friendships and shaped their lives.

A CD-ROM of the records is included with this all-time records book. It contains a digital version of the full records book in pdf format, as well as records archive information in sortable database format. This tremendous resource tool allows the user to sort the data by practically any field—from date of kill, to county, to main beam length, and so on.

This book not only recognizes and honors these extraordinary examples of North American wildlife species, it also traces the past and present health of wildlife populations and offers indisputable evidence of the continued success of traditional wildlife management. Perhaps as importantly, the pages of this publication are a testimonial to the spirit and time-honored traditions of the hunt and harvest.

*Bowhunting Big Game Records of North America*, 7th Edition, is available for \$43.00. Add \$5.95 for shipping. Send orders to Pope and Young Club, Box 548, Chatfield, MN 55923. Visa or Mastercard orders can be placed by calling (507) 867-4144 or by ordering online at [www.pope-young.org](http://www.pope-young.org).

### BOOK REVIEW NOTICE

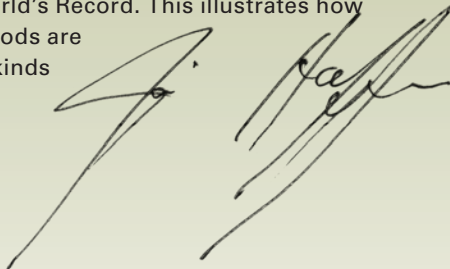
There are many state, provincial, and private organizations publishing local records books that use Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system with permission of the Club. Since there is no single reference source for these books, and because there are many hunters who collect them, we will review them as time and space permit. Only those books that use the Boone and Club's copyrighted scoring system and terminology will be considered for review. Please note that the Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data contained in these books. Some of the books may include trophies that were not scored by certified Boone and Crockett Club Official Measurers. If there is a question about the status of a trophy listed in any of these books, the Boone and Crockett Club's records books/archives are the final reference source to settle any and all discrepancies.

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

Buck Buckner, chair of the Records Committee, became aware of a whitetail deer skull plate and antlers that was reported to be a Coues' whitetail. The shape of the antlers showed many similarities to characteristics typically seen in Coues' deer. This buck, however, scored 145-5/8 points, which would have made him the new World's Record, surpassing the current buck scoring 144-1/8 points. Because of this, it was very important that we use the scientific tools available to confirm this deer was in fact a Coues' whitetail. In January, Buckner delivered this skull to me in order to take a bone sample from the skull plate and antlers for DNA testing. Two samples of bone material were carefully removed with a sterile, slow-turning drill bit and placed in a sterile container. These samples were sent to Dr. David Paetkau at Wildlife Genetics International in British Columbia. Dr. Paetkau extracted DNA from these samples and analyzed them with the genetic test he is developing with a grant from Boone and Crockett Club's Conservation Grants Program. This test is still in development, but sufficiently refined to provide a robust test of deer of unknown origin.

The results showed clearly that this deer was not a Coues' whitetail. Although a beautiful buck, this deer will not replace the current World's Record. This illustrates how powerful genetic methods are and how useful these kinds of analyses can be to answer real-world questions.

**Jim Heffelfinger**



The graph below shows the clustering of Coues' whitetail deer (blue) and non-Coues' whitetails (white) and the results of the analysis placing Buck Buckner's mystery deer (red) near the center of the white squares. The yellow squares are mule deer with the seven yellow squares in the center as possible hybrids.

