

BUSY BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

FROM THE
PRESIDENT



B.B. Hollingsworth, Jr.
PRESIDENT

There is a lot of important and outstanding work going on at the Club this fall, but I want to highlight three matters in this column today—a book, a campaign, and a program—that I think are particularly significant.

The book I'm referring to features an ad elsewhere in this issue for *Records of North American Big Game*, 14th edition. Think about that: in our 130-year history, this is only the 14th All-Time records book. As president of the Club, it was my distinct honor to write the foreword for this historic publication, and in so doing, I learned a lot. I looked back through previous issues to see what other presidents had to say, and even back to the 1939 *North American Big Game* foreword for a great and prophetic quotation. So I want to share with you in *Fair Chase* a portion of my foreword highlighting the history of the records book. You will find it on page 30, and I hope it inspires you to purchase your own copy of the 14th edition. Enjoy taking a walk back through the history of this important work by the Club.

The campaign that I want to highlight is called *Hunt Right; Hunt Fair Chase*, a two-year outreach and communications initiative for today's sportsmen. Envisioned and developed by the Communications Committee, headed by CJ Buck (yeah, the knife guy), you will see it as a national ad campaign across print and digital platforms. CJ explains the principles of fair chase like this:

Although hunting ethics are both a matter of personal choice and those deemed appropriate by the hunting community at large, the actions of individuals do represent all hunters, which can affect the way hunting is either publicly supported or opposed. It's therefore important for us, and those who do not hunt, to know that fair chase hunters share these important principles.

The fair chase hunter:

- knows and obeys the law and insists others do so as well
- understands that it is not only about just what is legal, but also what is honorable and ethical
- defines "unfair advantage" as when the game does not have reasonable chance of escape
- cares about and respects all wildlife and the ecosystems that support them, which includes making full use of game animals taken
- measures success not in the quantity of game taken, but by the quality of the chase
- embraces the "no guarantees" nature of hunting
- uses technology in a way that does not diminish the importance of developing skills as a hunter or reduces hunting to just shooting
- knows his or her limitations, and stretches the stalk, not the shot
- takes pride in the decisions he or she makes in the field and takes full responsibility for his or her actions

"These principles are important for many reasons," Buck added. "If I had to put my finger on just one reason, it would be the fact that hunting is actually a privilege, not a right. Like any privilege, it is something that must be earned repeatedly. In our

democratic society, a fair chase approach helps to ensure our opportunity to hunt."

Be on the lookout for this initiative that we can all use to become better ambassadors for hunting. For more information and to join the conversation, visit huntfairchase.com.

Lastly, the program I referenced in the opening paragraph is called *Guns for Conservation*, and it supports the Foundation's endowment. It provides members the opportunity to support the Club through the donation of firearms, sporting collectibles, wildlife art, and hunting books—what a great idea for those of us with too many guns and other sporting collectibles. See the ad in this issue for more details.

Since this is the holiday issue of *Fair Chase*, let me take this opportunity to wish you, your family, and loved ones a wonderful holiday season. May it be filled with love, good cheer, great memories, and charity for those less fortunate. May God bless you all. ■

LEARN MORE:

- *Records of North American Big Game*, 14th edition on page 30 and 64
- *Hunt Right; Hunt Fair Chase* on page 62
- *Guns For Conservation* on page 40

**Happy Holidays from the
Boone and Crockett Club!**

Snow started falling at TRM Ranch this October.

