

Since 1887

KENDALL
HOXSEY-ONYSKO

B&C JUNIOR MEMBER
AND HISTORY LIAISON

As we are in unprecedented times, I thought that the history column could provide some knowledge as to how Boone and Crockett weathered another time in history that tested fortitude and how we as Americans lived our daily lives—The Great Depression.

Thank you to the Technical sub-committee of the 1991-1992 Long Range Strategic Planning Committee including Club members Lowell Baier, Durward Allen, Tommy Carruthers, Frank Cook, Wesley Dixon, Walter White, and Philip Wright, for their prepared report, which has provided invaluable information.

The three main issues B&C tackled during that time were:

- Restoration of big game species specifically pronghorn and Roosevelt's elk
- Creation of a systematic measuring system for North American Big Game
- Establishing migrating waterfowl refuges with federal funding

How did B&C achieve these goals?

In creating new habitats, B&C members, T. Gilbert Pearson, Charles Sheldon, and Childs Frick along with the Club purchased 2,375 acres in northwest Nevada and assisted in the establishment of the Charles Sheldon Wildlife refuge for pronghorn. Following the Club's example President Hoover assigned 30,000 acres of adjacent land as public land in 1931 and President Roosevelt established the Hart Mountain

Refuge in eastern Oregon. All three acts provided winter and summer habitat for the tri-state pronghorn herd.

B&C member, DeForest Grant, with the assistance of the Club, raised \$700,000 to secure 1,605 acres of forest habitat to rehabilitate the Roosevelt's elk population of Humboldt County, California, which later became the Madison Grant Forest in 1948.

B&C created a committee, Heads and Horns 1930-1932, led by Prentiss N. Gray, which created a measurement system to score trophy heads. This was the first time a measuring system was created for all native North American big game. Creating this system also re-emphasized the rules of Fair Chase thus creating future emphasis on hunter ethics within the hunting community. Other key members include Carl Rungius, James Clark, Samuel Webb, and Harold Anthony.

One of the most important achievements during this era was the Federal Duck Stamp Act to fund the waterfowl refuges. Several Club members played key roles. Jay N. "Ding" Darling, the Pulitzer prize winning cartoonist, was appointed to the Committee for Wildlife Restoration by FDR in 1934. He worked congruently with Senator Frederic Walcott (R-CT) to ensure

the Stamp Act passed. This new act built upon the 1929 Migratory Bird Conservation Act spearheaded by Club members Lewis Morris, Charles Sheldon, George Bird Grinnell, John Phillips, John Burnham, and T. Gilbert Pearson. As a well-known cartoonist Ding would go on to design the first stamp for the Federal Duck Stamp Program.

In 1935 Ding and other members—C.R. "Pink" Guter-muth, Karl Frederick, and Ira Gabrielson—urged FDR to convene the North American Wildlife Conference, which was held in February 1936. The purpose was to bring together

stakeholders who were interested in the restoration and conservation of wildlife resources. The National Wildlife Federation, which many of you might recognize for their Ranger Rick Program—was ultimately born out of the efforts of that conference.

As you can see B&C worked in the circumstances given to them to further the message of Fair Chase and the message of conservation from Theodore Roosevelt and the other Club founders. My best to you all and may we all stay healthy! ■



The Biological Survey Department of the Interior Department took several crates of ducks to a waterfowl sanctuary near Washington on the Potomac River and released them as part of the survey's experiment on the travel of ducks. Shown here is Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the Biological Survey, releasing one of the wild ducks, circa 1940.

