



BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

Pioneers of Conservation | Since 1887

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If you need more hunting articles, more hunting photos, more ways to stay in the know, then check out the recent updates to www.boone-crockett.org.

You told us you wanted to hear more from the hunting world, and we're delivering. From press releases to vintage field photo galleries to the latest records there is something for all of our members. Plus, you can read any back issue of *Fair Chase* you might have missed!

New and improved premium content in the Community Section. Log in to begin exploring.

 **Stewardship**
Where Hunting Happens, Conservation Happens™

Depending on your interests, you can see the latest posts in each category, Hunt, Lead, Learn and News.

HUNT

 Vintage Hunting Gallery - October 2021	 What's the Most Popular Big Game Caliber in the Book?	 Why Should I Bother to Enter My Trophy?	 Boone and Crockett's Top Whitetail States
 Boone and Crockett Club's Poach and Pay Project	 B&C's New County Search Tool Can Help You Find Your Next Trophy	 Is This the New Pennsylvania State Record Elk?	 Seven Tips For Ethical Field Photos
 Vintage Hunting Gallery - July 2021	 Clean Bores. And Certainty.	 Massive Headgear: 15 Latest B&C Entries	 Net Score Vs. Gross Score
 Stickers and Kickers and Junk, Oh My	 Does Flaid Work as	 Does Boone and	 The Punt Gun and the Race to Save America's Wildlife

FAIR CHASE WEB EDITION

Beginning in 2013, Boone and Crockett began offering our Fair Chase magazine in a web edition for current members, Associates, and Official Members. It's easy... click on the cover to view each issue, page by page, in full screen mode. Each issue is also fully searchable.

The Club now offers a web-edition only subscription to Fair Chase at a reduced rate. If you'd prefer to read your copy of Fair Chase online and not receive a printed copy in the mail, consider renewing as a web-edition Associate.

2021 FAIR CHASE ISSUES

 Spring 2021	 Summer 2021	 Fall 2021	 Winter 2021 Available in November
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2020 FAIR CHASE ISSUES



 Spring 2020	 Summer 2020	 Fall 2020	 Winter 2020
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BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB
MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



In The Field

There are other ways to stay involved! Make sure you are subscribed to our monthly e-newsletter *In The Field*, as well as follow up on social media for all the latest news.

  @BooneAndCrockettClub
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www.boone-crockett.org

THE ORIGINS OF FAIR CHASE

Excerpt from the Winter 2017 issue of Fair Chase

An ethical code of conduct, that which was viewed as the right way to approach hunting, was a concept that originally developed in Europe. This did not, however, carry over with the settlers to the New World. America was the land of abundance and opportunity. A life of independence, free from servitude and filled with promise, was there for the taking. All one had to do is be resourceful and take. How we hunted did not matter back then. There was no need or room for an ethical approach to hunting. Game was plentiful and hunting was not for sport, but for survival and profit.

In time, when enough land was cleared for reliable food crops and domesticated livestock, food security became less of an issue for those living in more populated areas. These same human developments and decades of over harvesting had left wild-life population in scarce supply. Hunters had to venture further and further into the wilderness to bag their game. The concept of hunting for sport began at this time, as did the need to restrict the amount of game taken so it could replenish and there would be game to hunt tomorrow. This is when the notion of conservation first began to appear, and along with it an ethical approach to hunting that showed restraint.

By the late 1800s, unregulated sport and commercial market hunting had taken its toll. Wildlife was no longer abundant or even present in all but the furthest

reaches of remaining wilderness. Sportsmen already knew what was happening, but the broader public was just beginning to take notice of the extinction of some species and the near extinction of others. The logical solution was preservation and protection, which included an end to hunting. Those closest to the situation had a different idea.

Influential sportsmen who valued the game they sought and the spirit of the chase stepped forward; most notably Theodore Roosevelt. He formed a group of his friends into the Boone and Crockett Club in 1887 to address the rapid decline of big game populations on a national scale. Their solution was to promote a new system of natural resource use they called “conservation,” and they promoted regulated hunting as the foundation for this new system.

The earliest recorded usage of the term “Fair Chase” is in the fifth article of the Boone and Crockett Club’s constitution, adopted in February of 1888. At this time in history there were no laws governing the taking of game for food or for sport. Water-killing deer (driving deer with hounds or pushers into lakes where shooters waited in boats to either shoot, club or cut the throats of deer) was a widespread practice, especially in the Adirondacks.

Another article of the Club’s constitution declared that the killing of game while swimming was an “offense” for which a member may be suspended or expelled from the Club. Later writings by Club members Theodore Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell,

Fair Chase and Hunting Ethics

Search the website for keywords such as 'Fair Chase' to read all the articles published about Fair Chase and Hunting Ethics.

FAIR CHASE AND HUNTING ETHICS



Lead Hunting Ammunition

The topic of non-lead hunting ammunition has become one of the most polarizing topics discussed in today's hunting community—and beyond for that matter. The “beyond” might be even more of a concern, but let's focus first on our own ranks. Much of this debate is rooted in concerns about the ramifications of a misguided and unnecessary ban on lead ammunition for hunting, though an equal portion is driven by a concern for individual birds that die from lead poisoning.



Defining Modern Hunting

For Modern Hunting, the heart of our message must be conservation—the first love of hunters, and expressed in the Fair Chase ethic. By Simon Roosevelt, B&C Regular Member Excerpt from Fair Chase, Spring 2020 | With permission from Modern Huntsman, Vol. 1 when you are there, hunting, having...



Can It Make You a More Ethical Hunter?

By Keith Ballford, B&C Professional Member Excerpt from the Summer 2018 issue of Fair Chase Maybe it's just me, but I don't think so. It appears that some product manufacturers these days are concerned about the ethics associated with the use of their products. On the surface this would appear...



If There's No Chase, Is the Hunt Still Fair?

By Robert D. Brown, B&C Professional Member Excerpt from the Summer 2018 issue of Fair Chase A few years ago I published an article in Fair Chase titled, “The Wicked the Line...Have You?” (Summer 2007). In that article, I provided figures on the slippery slope of gravitating from being a tree...



The Origins of Fair Chase

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Why Are We Focused On Hunter Ethics and Fair Chase?

Because hunting is too important to be lost over misconceptions and a poor public image due to the unethical behavior of a few.



Fair Chase Hunting Equals Happiness

SCIENCE BLASPHEM! By John F. Orger, B&C Professional Member Excerpt from Fall 2019 issue of Fair Chase In the last issue of Fair Chase, I wrote about how we may transform the way we communicate the results of hunting...

and Aldo Leopold articulated the term “Fair Chase” to the public through books and magazine articles. Most notable of these were the Club’s Acorn book series on hunting (1893 – 1933), Leopold’s *Sand County Almanac*, and Grinnell’s *Forest and Stream* magazine—now *Field & Stream*.

Conservation was based on the fact that people need and will use natural resources, including wildlife, but this use would now have to be regulated and guided by science. For society to accept this new idea over complete protection, Roosevelt and the Club began to promote another new concept: one called fair chase.

If hunting was going to be allowed to continue, how it was being conducted and the character of the hunter now mattered. Fair chase became a matter of pride and

status. It separated those who hunted for personal reasons from those who hunted for profit, ie., the commercial market hunters who had no code of honor.

Fair chase became a part of an overall conservation ethic. It defined a true sportsman as one who could kill game, yet use self-restraint and stand guard to ensure that wildlife populations would never be threatened again. It didn’t mean hunting was a sport like other contests, but rather its participants used a “sporting” approach. Fair chase defined the rules of engagement that elevated sportsmen to being highly respected members of the community, both for their skill as woodsman and providers, but also for their commitment to something greater than themselves. ■