

REFLECTING ON THE LAST TWO YEARS

FROM THE PRESIDENT



James F. Arnold
B&C PRESIDENT

As I write this final *Fair Chase* column as your president, I would like to thank you for honoring me with the opportunity and privilege to serve such a historic and important organization. When I began cultivating my relationship with the Club in 2004, I was unaware of what the next 18 years would bring in experiences and teach me about myself as a hunter and the significant role this Club plays in wildlife management and conservation. I am proud of this Club's rich history as a conservation organization and the many ground-breaking accomplishments we have made together throughout the years. As your president, I am immensely grateful to you, our membership, for placing your trust in me, and I want you to know that serving you in this position has been one of the more rewarding experiences of my life.

In reflecting on the last two years, I wish to highlight some of the Club's major accomplishments. Even in the face of COVID-19 and the many interruptions in our work, and the work of others, our wheels never stopped turning.

In Washington, D.C., the Club's conservation policy leadership team has boldly advocated for our involvement in, and garnered support for, national wildlife management and conservation issues ranging from forest health and wildlife disease to poaching to federal statutes such as the Endangered Species Act. Though I was initially reluctant to assert any advocacy position on Capitol Hill through my participation there, I have seen the meaningful impacts our team has made in communicating our Club's vision, mission, and story to the right audience. Remaining politically aware and active

are huge undertakings, and our conservation policy team needs our support in the future as much as, or more than, they have needed it in the past.

The Club has built strong and collaborative partnerships with universities and their staff in preparing the next generation of wildlife management and conservation professionals, most recently with the University of Idaho. I continue to feel the great need for our Club's involvement in developing and guiding our youth through our University Programs and preparing them to be effective leaders—in Washington and beyond. Providing these developing professionals with training in natural resource management and policy arenas will enable them to be best poised for—and capable of—making real change in the world.

The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch in

Montana has become a shining star in so many ways. Our past Club leaders purchased the ranch to showcase effective management of a wildlife conservation-oriented ranching operation. Not only did the Club's efforts at the ranch accomplish this, but they have also resulted in the development of outstanding outreach programs focused on the value of land and wildlife experiences and targeted for youth.

Through the efforts of the Records Program, the Club has appropriately honored and recognized the world-class display of North American harvests as part of the Big Game Awards, held in Springfield, Missouri. With



LEFT: Jim Arnold with his Stone's sheep in British Columbia, 2015. RIGHT: B&C Members gathered at the Club's headquarters in Missoula in August 2021, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners. From left: Tony Schoonen, Terrell McCombs, James Cummins, Robert Model, Jim Arnold (top), Greg Schildwachter (below), Paul Phillips.



USDA Under Secretary Homer Wilkes spoke at Boone and Crockett Club's spring meeting in March 2022. From left: James Cummins, Homer Wilkes, and Jim Arnold.

the growing number of new records each year, this event reflects the success of prior management and conservation efforts and outcomes. I am especially grateful to the Club's Records Committee, staff, and Official Measurers for their commitment to making this a special and enjoyable event for all.

After years of work on the Club's infrastructure project, we can finally see the impact of our social media presence and virtual interactions with our membership. Additionally, the Club has recently completed a rebranding process, in which we defined our conservation goals and objectives. I am continually impressed to see how the new website and rebranding efforts have allowed us to reach out to you in new ways.

Lastly, as the world struggled to climb out of the uncertain effects of COVID-19, so did the Club. After a shutdown year with few

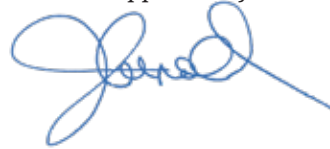
in-person meetings and/or events, the Club was fortunate to still meet our financial requirements and work toward all the goals we outlined in our Strategic Plan to make this Club a stronger force in wildlife management and conservation.

I feel that we have made many significant strides in the past two years, all while attempting to reach more people and share our story of where we are and how we got here. We are the gatekeepers of wildlife and their spaces. Theodore Roosevelt started this Club in 1887 due to his concerns for the future of wildlife. Today, we would all agree that, though many factors (like the political climate, our values, and our needs) are different, the challenges we face in remaining gatekeepers are perhaps greater now and in the future. As the gatekeepers—the guardians—who will address these challenges, if not us?

**“People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.”
—Theodore Roosevelt**

The future is not guaranteed for anyone, let alone our wildlife resources.

In closing, I want to thank you all for the fulfilling two years you have allowed me to serve this Club and for your confidence in working alongside me in the trenches as your president. Again, this role has been one of the more rewarding experiences in my life. I hope all of you who experience and enjoy the wild places and wild things will continue to do your part to make sure people now and 100 years from now will have the same opportunity. ■



At the Boone and Crockett Annual Meeting in New Orleans in 2021, B&C Fellow Levi Heffelfinger presented his research and was awarded the Outstanding Fellow Award. From left: Jim Arnold, Levi Heffelfinger, and David G. Hewitt, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute Director at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.



As an Official Measurer, Jim Arnold was called on stage along with all Official Measurers in attendance to be recognized for their years of service at the 31st Big Game Awards Official Measurer Luncheon in Springfield in July 2022. From left: Richard Hale, Jim Arnold, and Mike Opitz.



THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB ASKS THAT YOU PLEASE THANK OUR TRAILBLAZERS WITH YOUR PATRONAGE.