

# Review of the 26TH BIG GAME AWARDS PROGRAM Held in Fort Worth, Texas

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**By Keith Balfourd**  
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Professional Member

The Boone and Crockett Club is no different from any other business or organization. If you miss a meeting around here, you may get “volunteered” for all sorts of projects. I missed this issue’s editorial meeting, which means I was “volunteered” to recap the events that took place this past June in Fort Worth, Texas, at the 26th Big Game Awards. Usually when I get awarded such assignments, a fair

amount of groaning ensues, but not this time. I actually looked forward to filling you in on the singularly most important event that remains the heart and soul of our 120-year-old club.

For the fall 2003 issue of *Fair Chase*, Craig Boddington wrote a wonderful review of the 25th Big Game Awards that was held at the Cabela’s store in Kansas City. He wrote about the festivities and briefly profiled the outstanding specimens that were recognized and honored. I plan to do the same, but before I do I want to share a few observations that, as a member of this fine organization, you should be aware of and think about when it comes to the Club’s records program and activities.

On the surface, there is no getting around the fact that B&C records books look like a simple listing of names, scoring data, some stories, and as many photos as will tastefully fit into an increasingly thicker book. To the originators of our system of scoring and data collection, all the way across a century to those who painstakingly uphold the integrity of this data today, B&C’s records books mean much more.

For one, the Boone and Crockett Club was founded to establish a system of conservation in North America, and it remains a leading conservation organization to this day. Sticking to the same mission for 120 years is an accomplishment in itself. The Club’s records publications represent a historical account of conservation success stories by recognizing outstanding specimens that have resulted from science-based conservation programs.

Second, our systems of conservation and game management are successful only through the participation and cooperation of sportsmen. B&C’s records books document this involvement by listing the names of these participants.

Last, hunters care about wildlife. So much so that they imposed a higher standard of ethical behavior on themselves and developed a concept of fair play. The Club defined these rules and gave them a name: Fair Chase. Only those who practice this high standard are acknowledged along with their trophies in the Club’s triennial and All-time records books.



These three points are key, and answer the questions of why the Club goes to great lengths every three years to host such events and spends the time in between making sure the data is accurate and above reproach.

In 2003 Craig wrote about a glaring misconception that still seems to maintain some traction today—that the heyday of trophies and trophy hunting has come and gone. How many times have you heard, “There are no real trophies left,” or, “I wish I could have hunted back then.” Three years later, this misconception holds even less water.

In total there were 4,615 trophies accepted from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2006. Of these, 166 were invited to the 26th Big Game Awards (top five in each category are invited, plus any that could be a top ten all-time). Of these, 91 trophies were shipped by their trophy owners and received in Fort Worth for panel judging, display, and award presentations. Every one of these trophies is a high All-time ranking specimen, including three new World’s Records.

It’s true that the tally of new World’s Records was down from the 25th Awards (8) and the 24th Awards (7); nonetheless, “hope” was hanging on the wall everywhere you turned in Fort Worth. Of this tally we did see five new state records and two number two all-time state records. Clearly, our conservation and management systems are still working, and still working beyond producing just a surplus of big game to hunt.

This was my third Big Game Awards, so I have a little perspective about what I witnessed compared to the previous two—enough to tell you that each one is the same in some respects and different in others. First, the similarities:

The trophy owners who had a top-five trophy from within the three-year Awards period who received an invitation, sent their trophies, and attended the events had no idea what they were getting

into until they arrived. Then it hits them.

They realize they’ve indeed done something remarkable, but they’re humbled by the event—a feeling that only happens in life on a handful of occasions. Added to this is the realization that they have new brothers and sisters, people they have never met, but who have something special in common. Lifelong friendships are made in such ways, and this is one of the many special things that remain a constant at these Awards events. It’s a level playing field where race, education, and social status mean nothing.

What seems to change from Awards to Awards are the hot trophy categories. In Springfield, Missouri, at the 24th Awards, tule elk, Coues’ whitetail deer, and Alaska brown bears were the major species of interest. In Kansas City at the 25th Awards, blacktail deer and American elk came to the forefront. At this most recent Awards, it was caribou and whitetail, in my opinion. Also, there were four impressive musk oxen, one a new World’s Record (tie), so my Best of the Awards standout category list has to include musk ox along with the aforementioned whitetail and caribou categories.

### Skulls

The headliner in this category has to be the brute of a black bear taken down by Andrew Seman Jr. in 2005. If you follow the records books and are one of the thousands of black bear enthusiasts, it will come as no secret that Pennsylvania ranks as one of the top black bear regions for massive skulls and off-the-chart body sizes. Seman’s bruin came from Fayette County and scored 23-3/16. It tipped the scales at 733 pounds.

Right behind Seman’s huge boar, which turned out to tie for the largest hunter-taken bear on record, was another Pennsylvania giant. The Second Award went to a bear taken by Jeremy Kresge from Monroe County that scored 22-15/16.

What’s remarkable about these two exceptional achievements is the fact that a Pennsylvania black bear hunt means no dogs, no bait, low bear population densities, thick continuous woods, and a short season.

Right behind these two high-ranking skulls were two entries from the big bear-rich state of Wisconsin. Tied for the Third Award at 22-11/16 was Duane Helland’s Chippewa County boar and Joseph T. Brandl’s black bear from Price County.



**TOP:** B&C Official Measurer and Lifetime Associate, Ira D. McArthur, left, and his wife Jennifer are joined by Eldon L. “Buck” Buckner at the 26th Awards Trophy Display Reception. McArthur is one of 1,093 B&C Official Measurers located across North America who volunteer their time to Boone and Crockett Club by scoring North American big game trophies. **UPPER MIDDLE:** Three of four trophy owners for black bear were in attendance at the 26th Big Game Awards Program. They are pictured at right with their award-winning skulls – from left to right: Joseph T. Brandl (Third Place Award – tie), Andrew Seman, Jr. (First Place Award), and Duane Helland (Third Place Award – tie). **LOWER MIDDLE:** A new World’s Record grizzly bear was declared by the 26th Awards Program Judges Panel. The skull was picked up by Gordon E. Scott. **BOTTOM:** Scott Weisenburger was hunting near Alaska’s Meshik River in 2004 when he took this award-winning Alaska brown bear. The bear, which squared 10’8”, has a final score of 29-7/16.

There were four exceptional grizzlies on hand, one a new World's Record. Since it was a picked-up trophy, this grizzly, scoring 27-13/16, received a Certificate of Merit, but now sits atop this category, displacing three other trophies that were tied for World's Record status in this category at 27-2/16. Gordon E. Scott found this skull frozen in a tundra bog back in 1976 near Lone Mountain, Alaska. Thirty years later he had it find officially measured. The rest is grizzly history.

The First Award was given to James C. Blanchard's Otter Creek, Alaska, trophy that scored 26-13/16. Blanchard recounted that at close range the boar's head was so big it covered the majority of his chest. Needless to say, waiting for a clear shot is something Blanchard will never forget.

A bear scoring 26-5/16, taken near KLIKITARIK Bay, Alaska, with a bow by Dennis H. Dunn received the Second Award. Dunn's bear is Pope and Young Club's current World's Record.

An eight-yard shot netted Matthew J. Williams his Third Award grizzly that scored 26-4/16. All in all, these were four outstanding grizzlies.

The brown bear has always held a special fascination for hunters and casual observers. The polar bear may be the larg-

est land carnivore, but in today's hunting world, if you want to stalk the "great beast," a brown bear hunt is easier to obtain.

There were four exceptional brown bears on display in Texas. A Meshik River, Alaska, boar taken by Scott Weisenburger received the First Award at 29-7/16. Scott summed up the essence of the sport this way: "Brown bear hunting is 98 percent boredom and 2 percent sheer adrenalin rush."

The Second Award went to a Bear Lake, Alaska, trophy taken in waist-deep snow by James H. Doyle. It scored 29-5/16. On the spring hunt, Doyle was so exhausted by the time he reached his prize he could not hold the bear's head up out of the snow.

Bowhunter Jack Brittingham, hunting near Iliamna Lake, Alaska, arrowed a boar that tied for the Third Award at 29-3/16. With a fatal shot in place, the huge bear rose to his hind legs looking hard for his assailant. Brittingham recalled that it reminded him of Godzilla swatting at helicopters in the old black-and-white movies.

The other Third Award went to a bear shot by Gary Darrah near Buskin Lake, Alaska. He had passed up many other bears during a ten year period while waiting for this giant.

Three outstanding cougars were recognized in Texas – two were from Al-

berta and one was from Colorado. The First Award went to a Sundance Lake, Alberta, cat taken by Joseph Gore Jr. that scored 16-2/16. Gore shot this great tom in the middle of a "cat chases deer" episode. "It was like something out of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom," Gore recalled.

Dick Ray's and Darryl L. Kublik's toms tied for the Second Award at 15-6/16 points. Ray took his cat in Archuleta County, Colorado, in 2004, and Darryl L. Kublik took his with a bow near Jackfish Lake, Alberta, in 2003.

## ELK

Once again the 400 Club was well represented at an Awards Program. Is elk conservation and management alive and well? Take a look at these bulls.

The First Award in the typical American elk category went to a Utah County, Utah, bull taken by Doug Degelbeck that scored 412-7/8. Degelbeck took this bull with a .50-caliber muzzleloader. Irrespective of method, it is now the Utah state record typical.

Hunter Dan J. Agnew knows big bulls. His 1997 Gila County, Arizona, typical bull scored 396-4/8 and received a Second Award at the 24th Big Game Awards. His Gila non-typical bull from 2001 that scored 442-3/8 received a Second Award at the 25th Big Game Awards. Three years later Dan is back with another Gila County bull. This time it was for another Second Award in the typical category for a bull that scored 410-5/8. If you have a Gila County tag, he may be the guy to talk to.

In the non-typical category, Latah County, Idaho, produced a 433-1/8 monster for Peter J. Orazi, Jr., in 1977. This First Award bull turned out to be the largest in Idaho history and the widest bull on record at 70-3/8. Orazi did not know that B&C instituted a non-typical elk category in 1984, so this great specimen sat in his basement unrecognized for years.

It was back to Arizona for the Second Award non-typical – a bull taken by Lynn H. Stinson in 2004. The famed San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation was where he found his bull that scored 417-1/8.

Nevada resident Ted L. Wehking drew a hot tag in Nye County, Nevada, and used the opportunity to bring his sons along. Their reward was a 7x7 that scored 415-6/8 and garnered the Third Award given for non-typical American elk.

In the Roosevelt's and tule elk categories, six outstanding bulls were on hand. James V. Stewart's Vancouver Island, British Columbia, bull, which scored 371-2/8,

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**TOP:** Doug Degelbeck and his son Easton are pictured above with Degelbeck's typical American elk scoring 412-7/8 points. The award-winning bull was taken in Utah County, Utah, in 2006. The bull, which was taken with a muzzleloader, is the new Utah state record. **MIDDLE:** Catherine E. Keene got a second chance on this outstanding non-typical mule deer. The buck, which scores 285-4/8 points, received a First Place Award at the 26th Big Game Awards Program in Fort Worth, Texas. Keene was hunting in Fremont County, Wyoming, in the fall of 2004. **BOTTOM:** The award-winning whitetail deer on display were among the most impressive to date. Two of the non-typical trophies tied at 295-3/8 points, which put them as the number 6 non-typical whitetail deer of all time - Jonathan R. Schmucker's buck (top center), and Scott R. Dexter's buck (top right). The other two non-typicals on display were David H. Jones' buck (bottom center) and Steve Wallis' (bottom right). Both of these bucks also rank high on the all-time list.

received the First Award for Roosevelt's elk, followed by a Clallam County, Washington, bull taken by William R. Treese. Treese took his Second Award winning bull, which scored 344-1/8, at 25 yards with a rifle.

Like the new World's Record grizzly mentioned earlier, another Certificate of Merit trophy now ranks Number 1 All-time in the tule elk category. A huge 379 tule elk was found dead by Jeffery and Julie Lopeteguy on their ranch in Glenn County, California. This picked-up bull displaces a bull taken by Bryce Evans in 1997 that scored 365 points.

Val O. Olenski and Todd A. Robillard took the First and Second Place Awards, respectively, in the tule elk category for bulls they both took in Colusa County, California. Olenski's scored 341-4/8 points, and Robillard's scored 331 points.

Solano and Monterey Counties, respectively, produced the Third Award and a Honorable Mention for two other outstanding bulls. Reed Mellor's bull scored 325-1/8, and Kevin S. Small's bull scored 312-2/8.

Each of these five fine specimens are a testament to what conservation efforts can do. Not long ago, tule elk were snatched from the jaws of extinction and, although tags and hunting opportunities are extremely limited, having a huntable surplus is a far cry from these great animals almost disappearing altogether.

## DEER

The past three years were notable for mule deer, especially in the typical category. Unfortunately, only one typical buck made its way to Fort Worth, but as it turned out, at 210-2/8 it is the largest ever taken by a female hunter, largest on record from Mexico, and ranks 25th all-time. Myra S. Smith took this incredible buck while hunting with her husband in Mexico in 2006. For the Awards Entry Period there were 23

bucks over 200 inches entered and accepted, compared to only nine over 200 for the 25th Awards. Are we witnessing a new trend in typical mule deer?

The non-typical mule deer category saw another lady hunter receive a First Award. Catherine E. Keene hunted Fremont County, Wyoming, to down a 285-4/8 inch 17x16 brute. A rare second chance after an earlier miss netted Keene a career deer in anyone's book.

The Second Award was given to a buck that scored 272-1/8. Thomas D. Friedkin hunted the famed Arizona Strip in Mohave County in 2004 to find his career deer.

Two bucks taken 24 years apart, yet scoring the same at 170-6/8, shared top honors for typical Columbia blacktail. Allan Naught chose to honor his father by sending his dad's buck to Fort Worth and being there in person to accept the First Award on his behalf. Larry Naught hunted the Tillamook Burn area of Clatsop County, Oregon, in 1955 when he encountered this huge buck. Having since passed away, Allen saw to it that his father and his great deer received the recognition they deserved.

The second-largest blacktail on record from California fell to Frank G. Merz while hunting Siskiyou County in 1979. His buck also scored 170-6/8.

Two non-typical Columbia blacktails, both from Trinity County, California, were honored. The First Award went to an 8x8 buck scoring 185-1/8 that was taken by J. Peter Morish.

Tim A. Nickols' buck, scoring 168-3/8, received the Second Award. Both bucks are proof positive that the Trinity Alps still hold some tremendous blacktails.

Well up the Pacific coastline from California and Oregon lives the Sitka blacktail of Alaska, and five outstanding trophies were on display at this Awards. In the typical category Dave L. Brown's buck, scoring 120-7/8, received the top honor.

The Second award went to James A. Sharpe's buck that scored 120-1/8. These two great Sitka bucks came from Wrangell and Prince of Wales Islands, respectively.

Another Prince of Wales Island buck received the Third Award. Tim Koenopp hiked deep into dense brush to get to what he felt was the best habitat and was rewarded with a buck scoring 118-2/8.

Davey W. Brown's buck that scored 117-6/8 received a Fourth Award in this category. If the name looks familiar, it's



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because his dad was the First Award recipient. This was Davey's first hunt in one of his dad's favorite hunting areas.

Forest geologist and B&C Official Measurer James Baichtal received a Certificate of Merit for an outstanding 122-1/8 buck he found dead at the bottom of a vertical pit. This buck had locked horns with another buck, and both evidently fell into the pit during battle.

In the non-typical category, another buck from Prince of Wales Island took top honors. William C. Musser connected on a buck that turned out to be the fourth largest all-time, scoring 124-2/8.

For whitetail deer in this Awards Period, it came down to the states of Ohio and Illinois. A total of six bucks were on display in Fort Worth — two typicals and four non-typical. Three were from each of these two great trophy whitetail producing states. The top two typicals came from Ohio.

The First Award in the typical category was presented to Bradley S. Jerman's Warren County, Ohio, crossbow buck that scored 201-1/8. This is the new Ohio state record and the 11th largest typical of all time.

The Second Award was given to Timothy E. Reed's Muskingum County

buck that scored 198-3/8. Reed's buck is now the second largest on record from Ohio behind Jerman's buck. Both bucks were taken in 2004.

On the non-typical side, something truly unusual took place. Two bucks, one from McDonough County, Illinois, and the other from Adams County, Ohio, both with completely different typical frames, ended up scoring exactly the same at a whopping 295-3/8. Scott R. Dexter's muzzleloader buck is radically non-typical with 47 scorable points. Jonathan R. Schmucker's crossbow buck has a massive typical 7x6 frame with 22 abnormal points. Both bucks are tied for 6th All-time.

Two other outstanding non-typical were honored. The Second Award was given to a buck taken by David H. Jones in Mason County, Illinois, in 2002. This buck scored 267-1/8.

The Third Award went to a buck taken by Steve Wallis. Wallis put his tag on a buck he took in Marshall County, Illinois, in 2004 that scored 256-3/8.

"Stunning!" describes seeing all six of these unbelievable deer hanging side-by-side. I grew up in Ohio farm country spotting bucks from school bus windows. I will never forget standing in front of that wall of whitetails.

Six seems to be the magic number for whitetails, because there were also six outstanding Coues' whitetails on hand for this Awards. As usual, Arizona and Mexico remain the trophy destinations for Coues' deer. This Awards Period was no exception, with Arizona producing two of the three typicals. Mexico produced the third, as well as all three non-typical.

The First Award recipient in the typical category was the result of a last day whitetail hunt on a Mexico mule deer hunt for Terry C. Hickson. His buck scored an impressive 122-4/8. The Second and Third Awards went to bucks scoring 120-2/8 and 120-1/8, respectively. Eric Richard and William P. Mattausch, Jr., both hunted World's Record-producing Pima County, Arizona, to find their award-winning whitetails.

All three non-typical award winners came from Sonora, Mexico, with the top head taken by James Schacherl, scoring 134-4/8. The Second and Third Award winning bucks were taken in Coues' whitetail fashion — hours of long-distance glassing then accurate shooting. James G. Petersen's buck scored 121 points and Keith D. Riefkohl's scored 111-6/8 points.

## MOOSE AND CARIBOU

Historical B&C data reveals British

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**TOP:** Wade Hanks, left, is seated next to his dad Frank A. Hanks and Frank's award-winning Canada moose. Frank's moose scores 227-6/8 points and received the First Place Award. The bull was taken in British Columbia. **MIDDLE:** Many of the trophy owners receiving awards brought their families with them to help celebrate the occasion. Pictured at right are Jay R. Wolfenden, left center, with his wife and daughters, Carol, Beth, and Emily. Andrew Seman, Jr., right center, was also joined by his wife Susie and their daughters Christie and Kelsie. **BOTTOM:** Woody Groves is pictured with his award-winning Quebec-Labrador caribou taken from 40 yards with his bow. Despite receiving grief from his hunting partner for passing on numerous quality bulls, Groves held out and was rewarded with this fine bull, which scores 424-2/8 points.

Columbia as the top destination for trophy Canada moose, and this Awards Period was no different. However a bull taken from Minnesota drew a lot of long looks.

The First Award was given to a bull Frank A. Hanks took on Kawdy Mountain, British Columbia. His bull scored 227-6/8.

Dennis C. and James C. Rengo had a combined total of 50 years of applying for a Minnesota moose tag and, at the same time, both put a single round from their .30-06s into the bull they had waited so long to hunt. At 216-2/8, their bull turned out to be the second largest on record from that state.

Franz Kohlroser hunted the Kvichak River region of Alaska to take what is the fifth largest Alaska-Yukon moose on record, scoring 254-5/8.

Jerry D. Whisenhunt, who was accompanying his daughter on her graduation-present moose hunt, turned in another exceptional specimen that received the Second Award for Alaska moose. Whisenhunt's bull scored 244 points.

Two great bulls representing the Shiras moose category were taken from the Northwestern states of Idaho and Washington. Chad Hammons took his First Award bull from Shoshone County, Idaho, in 2005. When this 187-1/8 inch bull turned his head for the first time, Chad decided to turn his scouting trip into a hunting trip without hesitation.

The Second Award went to a Washington state bull (183-6/8) that was taken and entered by Marc W. Babiar. His bull now sits atop the list for Shiras moose from the Evergreen State.

I mentioned earlier that each Awards Program has standout categories and, for the 26th, I was most impressed with the whitetails and caribou that were honored. In total, of the five species of caribou recognized by the Club's big game records program, fourteen of the twenty-five invited trophies on hand to be celebrated. That's a feat in itself, since shoulder-mounted caribou are not the easiest heads to crate and

ship. What impressed me more than how many trophy owners shipped their trophies was seeing all of these mounts aligned on one wall at the same time—photos will never do this scene justice.

Here's where you'll need to get your copy of the 26th Awards book to see and read about all these trophies. Space permits me to only cover the First Awards winners, starting with mountain caribou.

William F. Nye traveled to Tucho Lake to take part in a traditional British Columbia mixed bag hunt for Stone's sheep, mountain goat, and grizzly. The undercard on such hunts is often the mountain caribou, but not on this hunt. Nye connected on a tremendous 437-6/8 caribou just after having punched his grizzly tag.

Woodland caribou can only be found in Newfoundland, and this is where James H. Holt wrote the chapter in his own hunting history book by downing a First Award bull (384-2/8).

Further to the West across Canada we find the Quebec-Labrador subspecies. Here Woody Groves collected his First Award winning bull that scored an impressive 424-2/8.

The First and Second Award winners for Central Canada barren ground caribou were taken and entered by the same hunter. Robert F. Fairchild filled his two bull tags in less than 10 seconds. "As fast as I could work the bolt, my hunt ended," Fairchild recalled.

### HORNS

Rocky Mountain goat hunting is rarely easy and is rarely the kind of hunt were one gets to be a selective trophy hunter looking over many before deciding on one. That said, taking a records book qualifying mountain goat has to rank right up there with typical mule deer for the hardest to "put in the book" these days.

The four billies honored in Fort Worth were led by Edward E. Toribio's Revillagigedo, Alaska, trophy (54-4/8).

Two others received the Second and Third Awards at 54-2/8 and 53-4/8, respectively. Craig L. Rippen took this Second Award goat in Utah, which is not known as a records book goat destination. Interestingly, of the 23 records book heads from Utah all have been taken since 1985, with the majority taken since 1997. Rippen's billy is also the new state record for Utah.

You know the competition is tough



when a 52-inch billy gets Honorable Mention, as was the case with Robert E. Reedy, Jr.

The Coppermine River area of Nunavut has a long history of producing records book musk oxen. Hunter Jim Shockey took two All-time Records Book-qualifying bulls on the same hunt. If this weren't enough, his first bull ended up tying for the World's Record, scoring 129 points. His other bull—the Third Award recipient, scored an impressive 128-2/8.

Wedge on either side of this bull are two other outstanding musk oxen. The Second Award winner taken by Tony L. Spriggs scored 128-6/8, and the Fourth Award winner taken by Ben F. Carter III scored 123-6/8.

With the Club's national headquarters being located in Missoula, we are fortunate to see many of the finest bighorn sheep trophies taken in North America brought into the office for scoring. Montana is producing outstanding heads, and it is a special treat to be living here to see history come through our front door each fall.

Both the First and Second Award winners in this category came from Montana. Robert E. Seelye (199) and Stephen C. Morrill (198-3/8) both struck gold in drawing Montana resident sheep permits, and both hunters certainly honored these tags with fine rams.

Just to the northwest of Montana in Ewin Creek, British Columbia, Steven S. Bruggeman anchored the Third Award recipient ram (197-1/8). Three rams in the high 190s certainly suggests that our game managers are doing something right with bighorn sheep management and conservation.

Four desert sheep were honored in Texas. Russell A. Young ended up taking the largest desert ram of the past 18 years when he hunted Hidalgo County, New Mexico, in 2006. His First Award ram scored 188-2/8. Three other mid-180s rams were on display at these Awards. Entered by K. Michael Ingram was

a ram taken from Sonora, Mexico, that scored 185-2/8.

The new Texas state record was taken by Terry J. Fricks and scored 183-5/8. The second-largest hunter-taken ram on record from New Mexico was taken by Thomas D. Friedkin. His Fourth Award ram scores 182-6/8. Looks like I better add desert sheep to my list of whitetail, caribou, and musk ox.

Every once and a while our Records Department gets to see what we call a "pretty" trophy. "Pretty" is not typically an adjective one would apply to a male of any species, but the field photo picture of Cody A. Miller's First Award Dall's sheep scoring 178-4/8 has to be of one of the prettiest rams we've seen in a long while. You may need to purchase the 26th Awards book that will be released in September to see for yourself, but it's worth it.

The Second Award was given to a no less impressive ram taken by Nick J. Duncan that scored 173-4/8. Duncan took it in the Chugach Mountains of Alaska. Hunter and husband Bob Cassell gifted the Third Award Dall's ram to his wife Cynthia when he decided to hike back thirteen miles to get her after locating this ram that scores 173-3/8. She recalls the gift was more than the fine trophy. It was the entire adventure in one package.

Any sheep hunt can be tough. When you find out on location that your horseback Stone's sheep hunt has unexpectedly turned into a backpack hunt there is no saddle to slump into. Jelindo A. Tiberti II had a reversal of fortune when he toughed it out on foot to take a magnificent Stone's ram that scored 179-5/8. His trophy was also the second largest ram taken in the past 15 years.

This was but a snippet of the magnificent trophies and stories that have marked the history of big game hunting in North America between 2004 and 2006. Like I mentioned earlier, there are 4,615 trophies in the 26th Awards Entry Period, which is up 16 percent over the 25th Awards Entry Period just three years ago. Next time someone says there are no real trophies left anymore, buy him or her a B&C records book. ■



## BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB



## BIG GAME AWARDS



### BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB'S 26th BIG GAME AWARDS EXHIBIT



**TOP:** VP of the Club's Big Game Records Committee Eldon L. "Buck" Buckner discusses how to determine the starting point for the length of each horn on Jim Shockey's World's Record (tie) musk ox. Once the center point of the boss is determined, the length of horn measurement, which begins at the lowest point of horn material, can be measured. **MIDDLE:** Cody A. Miller is pictured at right with his award-winning Dall's sheep. The ram, which has a final score of 178-4/8 points, was taken in Northwest Territories' Mackenzie Mountains in 2005. **BOTTOM:** B&C Official Measurer Curtis Smiley admires nearly a dozen wild sheep trophies at the 26th Big Game Awards Trophy Display at Cabela's. All four sheep species recognized by the Boone and Crockett Club were represented. In particular, the collection of desert sheep was one of the best ever.