The purpose for scoring North American big game is deeply rooted in history and biology.

More than Bragging Rights

Whether it came after months in the tree stand, learning the habits of one particular whitetail, or just being in the right place at the right time, the sportsman does earn bragging rights for bagging a trophy deer.

But it almost wasn't so.

By the late 1800s, unchecked habitat destruction and harvest of North American big game drew the attention of a number of influential men—legislators, magazine editors, military officers, lawmen, artists, sculptors and scientists—who shared a passion for hunting and the outdoors, and feared for the future of species such as bison, deer, elk, sheep and pronghorn.

On December 12, 1887, 12 gentlemen—including Theodore Roosevelt—founded the Boone and Crockett Club, what is now the oldest conservation organization in North America. In 1902, Roosevelt was one of three individuals appointed to a special committee charged with devising a scoring system to record and preserve biological information of native North American big game animals believed to be going extinct. It wasn't until 1950 that the club's current, copyrighted scoring system was formally adopted.

"The purpose of setting up a scoring system wasn't to give sportsmen a system for earning bragging rights," explained Jack Reneau, the Boone and Crockett Club director of big game records. "Through the information collected by measuring antlers, horns and skulls, a record was amassed of biological, harvest and location data."

The club continues its tradition of promoting fair chase and the sport of hunting, and to invest in the future through a variety of education projects.

Story By Kathy Andrews and Tracy Shafer

One of the measurements official scorers for the Boone and Crockett Club take is the circumference at the smallest place between the burr (point of attachment to the skull) and the first point. A flexible, steel tape is used for all measurements.

In addition to measuring the length of the main beam (pictured), scorers measure the circumference between each of the antler points and the length of the points. A point is a projection that is at least 1 inch long and longer than it is wide.

In the late 1980s, the club purchased the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch in Montana and established an education center there in 2001. Kindergarten through high school students and teachers of all ages visit the center to learn about the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems. Additionally, a grants-in-aid program helps underwrite critical wildlife management research by graduate students.

Through the scoring process and research projects, biologists have a record of the successes of conservation and how wildlife management activities are working.

"Each year," Reneau concluded, "more than 1,500 Boone and Crockett entries are received—evidence of the need for the wildlife management principles envisioned more than 120 years ago."

The Boone and Crockett Club was named for famed explorers and hunters Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett.

Training to become an official Boone and Crockett scorer requires 3.5 days of hands-on practice learning to score the 38 categories of native North American big game recognized by the club.

Think you have a trophy? Contact the Boone and Crockett Club at (406) 542-1888 or visit www.booneandcrockettclub.com to obtain an official scoring sheet. If after completing your initial score the animal appears to qualify, the club will provide contact information for the closest official measurer.

The following records are for deer submitted during 2004.

Firearm Typical

John Sondag	185 0/8	2004	Mason
J.C. Linson	180 4/8	2004	Wabash
Robert Crouse	173 4/8	2002	Knox
Bobby Goss	173 0/8	2003	Hamilton
Donald W. Hansen Jr.	171 7/8	1994	Jo Daviess
Edward Heath	171 7/8	2000	Montgomery
Aaron Moore	171 1/8	2004	Montgomery
Ann Degenhardt Sanders	171 1/8	1983	Randolph
Tim Likens	170 1/8	2004	Douglas
Daniel Rhodes	169 0/8	2004	Madison
Duane Hopkins	168 7/8	2003	Moultrie
William Burris	168 0/8	2004	Sangamon
Karen Ritter	167 7/8	1994	Clay
Jacob Glick	167 0/8	2004	Cass
J.L. Hargis	166 1/8	2001	Randolph
Dan Lasanka	165 5/8	2004	Menard
Clay Lyon	163 7/8	2004	Sangamon
Kent Snyders	163 6/8	2004	Calhoun
Brandi Anderson	163 4/8	2004	Wayne

Brett Herbeck's 212 0/8 whitetail was harvested in Macoupin County in 2004 and was the largest buck entered in the firearm non-typical category.

Steve Bielser	163 1/8	2004	Henderson
Ty Waters Holmquist	162 5/8	1996	Grundy
Robert Madson	162 1/8	1975	Fulton
Matt Swinger	162 0/8	2003	Christian
Brett Chesnek	160 4/8	2004	Washington
Jack Lyerla	160 4/8	2004	Macoupin
Dennis Levan	160 0/8	2003	Lee
Ken Sharp	159 6/8	2004	McLean
Alan Reeter	159 4/8	2004	Christian
Mark Carver	159 0/8	2004	Sangamon
Aaron Huber	158 2/8	2003	Madison
Matt Tadlock	158 2/8	2004	St. Clair
Bill David	157 6/8	1982	Carroll
Adam Bagus	157 1/8	2004	Bond
Erich Ohrt	157 1/8	2004	Ogle
Jon Thompson	157 0/8	2002	McLean
Kyle Tegeler	157 0/8	2004	Whiteside
Calvin Burroughs	156 6/8	2002	Tazewell
Martin Williams	156 6/8	2003	McLean
Jim Lundell	156 4/8	2004	McDonough
Glenn Brooks	155 5/8	2003	Henry
Matt Crouse	155 4/8	2001	Knox
Michael Wyant	155 1/8	1998	McLean
Anthony Mueth	154 6/8	2004	Tazewell
Scott Lewis	154 2/8	2003	Williamson
Bruce McConkey	154 0/8	2003	Randolph
Bill Smith	154 0/8	2002	Winnebago
Tim Walker	154 0/8	2004	Macon
Paul Childers	153 7/8	2004	Union
Frank Jungewaelter	153 6/8	2004	St. Clair
William Ragland	153 6/8	1996	Christian
Gary Prins	153 5/8	1991	Carroll
Anthony Slavic	153 5/8	2004	Bureau
Lance Dial	153 4/8	2003	Perry
Steve Carroll	153 2/8	2004	Livingston
Bobby Hawes	153 2/8	2004	DeWitt
Craig Becker	153 0/8	1993	McLean
Paul Opp	152 4/8	2004	Randolph
James Roodhouse	152 3/8	2002	Calhoun
Jason Morgan	152 1/8	1991	Rock Island
Jake Kiefer	151 7/8	2004	Randolph
Adam Crowell	151 6/8	2004	Jackson
Tim Hogan	151 6/8	2003	Grundy
Robert Brown	151 5/8	1997	Adams
Ron Lounsbury	151 4/8	2004	Edgar
Tom Bryant	151 3/8	1999	Logan
Tommy Petersak	151 1/8	2004	Vermilion
Jon McCann	151 0/8	2004	Bureau
Nick Courtney	150 7/8	2004	Clark
Cody Walker	150 6/8	2003	Macon
Steve Craig	150 5/8	2004	Logan
Brad Dame	150 4/8	2004	Morgan
Alan Reynolds	150 4/8	2004	Montgomery
Justan Griffith	150 3/8	2004	Fulton
Edward Heath	150 1/8	1993	Montgomery
Jesse Northcutt	149 6/8	2004	Morgan
Steve Green	148 4/8	2004	Shelby
David Sallee	148 3/8	2003	Schuyler
Brad Mazanek	148 2/8	2003	Marion
Jay Nutt	148 2/8	1986	Adams
Michael Lance	148 0/8	2004	Sangamon
Elizabeth Buck	147 2/8	2004	Champaign
Doug Nimrick	147 2/8	2004	Henry
James Gieker	146 5/8	2004	Adams
Jamie Wilson	146 5/8	2004	Randolph
Terry Oldham	146 4/8	2004	Shelby
Keith Weigel	146 1/8	2002	Calhoun
Dan Ferris	145 7/8	2003	Iroquois
Kirk Reed	145 3/8	2004	Perry
Aron Shofner	145 2/8	2004	Putnam
Joe DeGroot	145 1/8	1998	Cass
Bryan Childs	144 6/8	2004	Perry
Christopher Gleason	144 5/8	2003	Macoupin
Ken Garls	143 6/8	2003	Lee
Bryan Ford	143 4/8	2004	St. Clair
Jeff Schanz	143 4/8	2004	St. Clair
Jim Wempen	142 7/8	2002	Fayette
Mark Demont	142 6/8	2004	Stark
Gary Baranowski	142 2/8	2004	Knox
Frank McKean	142 2/8	1990	Marshall
Phil Wending	142 1/8	2004	Clay
Dan Heinz	141 7/8	2004	Peoria
Scott Bradley	141 6/8	2004	Randolph
Dennis Miller	141 6/8	2004	Peoria
Dean Mitchell	141 6/8	2004	Ogle
Don Coile	141 4/8	2004	Schuyler
Bryan Ford	141 3/8	2001	St. Clair
Shawn Issacs	141 1/8	2004	Franklin
Charles Gilmore	141 0/8	1994	Mason
Terry Paul	140 7/8	2004	Bond
Evan Lucas	140 6/8	2004	Mason
Matt Sherman	140 6/8	2004	McLean
Earl McKenzie	140 2/8	2004	Cass
Dan Thomas	140 0/8	2004	LaSalle

Firearm Non-Typical

Brett Herbeck	212 0/8	2004	Macoupin
Michael Huisinga	190 2/8	2004	Piatt
Tom Billhorn	186 7/8	2004	Bureau
Larry Derringer	183 0/8	2004	Randolph
Shane Sullivan	182 5/8	2004	Johnson
Steve Baumgartner	174 2/8	2004	Bureau
Joseph Snyder	172 3/8	2000	Mason
Brad Christer	171 4/8	1994	Shelby
Roy McConkey	169 3/8	2003	Randolph
Dave Pierce	169 3/8	2002	Randolph
Michael Lance	168 7/8	2004	Sangamon
Chase Carruthers	168 6/8	2004	Jackson
Darren Hancock	168 2/8	2004	Henry

With a score of 190 2/8, the buck Michael Huisinga shot in Piatt County in 2004 placed second in the firearm non-typical category.

Placing second in the typical archery category was the 174 0/8 buck James Kleiber harvested in Marshall County in 2004.

Herb Rush	165 7/8	2004	Sangamon
Alan Stout	164 3/8	2004	Brown
Kenneth Basler	163 0/8	2002	Adams
Alva Miller	161 6/8	2004	Cumberland
Tim Spangler	161 5/8	2004	Hancock

Archery Typical

Reese Bernier	182 5/8	2004	Kendall
James Kleiber	174 0/8	2004	Marshall
Wayne Smith	171 4/8	2004	McDonough
Scott Grant	167 0/8	2004	Green
Sheila Purcell	165 5/8	2004	Piatt
Mark Atterberry	165 2/8	2004	Menard
Aaron Isaacson	165 2/8	2003	Bureau
Jeff Martin	165 0/8	1999	Logan
Marc Anthony	164 1/8	2004	Tazewell
Chad Spence	164 1/8	2002	Franklin
Troy Zoellner	163 5/8	2003	Christian
Mark Haling	160 7/8	2003	Hancock
Chad Goetten	160 3/8	2004	Jersey
Eric Billman	160 2/8	2004	Champaign
Dennis L. Griswold	160 0/8	2004	Livingston
Mike Angel	159 5/8	1999	Henry
Jerry Penrod	159 5/8	2004	Saline
Shawn Williams	158 7/8	2004	Adams
Brandan Edrington	158 5/8	2004	Champaign
Carson Herrman	158 4/8	2004	Fulton
Melvin Johnson	156 6/8	2004	LaSalle
Aron Shofner	156 3/8	2003	Marshall
Corey Rennels	156 0/8	2004	Coles
Dennis Docherty	154 5/8	2004	Mercer
Marc Anthony	154 2/8	2004	Tazewell
Matt Gaitros	154 1/8	2004	Piatt
Tom Robbins	153 5/8	2003	Montgomery
Scott Schnepper	153 4/8	2004	Clay
Ryan Settles	152 7/8	2001	Hancock
Donald Kiser	152 6/8	2004	Lawrence
Carl Waggle	151 7/8	2004	Richland
Mike Angel	150 4/8	2004	Rock Island
Curt Thompson	148 7/8	2002	Adams
Brent Chesnut	148 0/8	2003	Jasper
Fred Cook	147 5/8	2004	Winnebago
James Bartels	147 2/8	2004	McLean
Joel Carpenter	147 0/8	2004	Will
Brian Kline	146 7/8	2004	Peoria
Larry J. Clark	146 6/8	2004	Calhoun
John Schmid	145 4/8	2004	McHenry
Jeff L. Vaughn	145 3/8	2002	Menard
Nathan Holle	145 1/8	2004	Washington
Jim Wagner	144 5/8	2004	Jasper
Eric Williams	144 2/8	2003	Tazewell
Philip Guarino Jr.	143 5/8	2004	Ogle
Curt Myers	143 5/8	2004	McDonough
David Plocher	143 0/8	2004	Pike
Chris Mowry	142 7/8	1999	Sangamon
Brian McClure	142 5/8	2004	Champaign
Robert Anderson	142 3/8	2003	Iroquois
Greg Humphrey	142 3/8	2004	Will
Rich Lingemann	140 2/8	2004	Marshall
Keith Weigel	140 1/8	2003	Calhoun
Rocky Pulliam	140 0/8	2003	Woodford
Christopher Gleason	139 7/8	2004	Macoupin
Nathan Clift	139 4/8	2004	LaSalle
Kory Garrie	139 4/8	2004	Winnebago
Brent Chesnut	139 3/8	2004	Jasper
Eric Gholson	139 3/8	2004	White
Philip Guarino Jr.	139 3/8	2003	Ogle
Brad Weidner	139 1/8	2004	Ford
Matt Peterson	139 0/8	2004	Menard
Steve L. Hobbs	138 1/8	2004	Clark
Chris Maring	138 0/8	2002	Vermilion
Andy Suligoy	137 4/8	2004	Will
Philip Guarino Jr.	137 2/8	2004	Winnebago
Harry Savage	137 0/8	2004	Morgan
Mike Angel	136 6/8	1987	Rock Island
Ron Kaderly	136 4/8	2004	Stephenson
Richard Burdett	136 3/8	2004	Tazewell
David Both	135 0/8	2004	Grundy
Eldon R. Broster	134 2/8	2004	Logan
Mike Angel	134 1/8	2001	Henry
Brad Betke	133 4/8	2004	Boone
Gary Morse	133 0/8	2004	Fulton
Mitch Robbins	133 0/8	2003	Montgomery
Dale Long	132 5/8	2003	LaSalle
Ron Helton	132 1/8	2004	Logan
Jeremiah Brandon	131 5/8	2001	Hardin
Jonah Dunning	131 4/8	2004	LaSalle
Eldon R. Broster	131 3/8	2004	Logan
Michael Fenwick	131 2/8	2004	LaSalle
Brian Flinn	131 2/8	2004	Mason
David Troxell	131 1/8	2004	Morgan
Jerry Dunn	130 7/8	2004	Lawrence
Donald W. Hansen Jr.	130 6/8	1986	Lake
Brad Kaisner	130 4/8	2004	Livingston
Philip Guarino Jr.	130 3/8	2001	Winnebago
Donald W. Hansen Jr.	130 2/8	2004	Lake
Duane A. White	130 2/8	2003	Rock Island
Craig Greskoviak	130 0/8	2003	Livingston
Ken Yeater	129 6/8	2004	Rock Island
Mike Angel	129 3/8	2002	Rock Island
John Kamarauskas	129 1/8	2003	Will
Gary Noe	129 0/8	2004	Boone
Philip Guarino Jr.	128 6/8	2002	Winnebago
Micah Rincker	128 6/8	2004	Washington
Chris Mowry	128 4/8	2000	Sangamon
Ricky L. Parker	128 4/8	2004	Douglas
Robert Kiefer	128 3/8	2004	Henry
Glenn Farmer	128 2/8	2002	Brown
Aron Shofner	128 2/8	2000	Putnam

Timothy Hawley's 208 3/8 LaSalle County buck earned top place in the archery non-typical category.

The distinctive rack on Les Day's DeWitt County buck earned 198 3/8 points in the non-typical archery category and second place in the 2004 recognition program.

Wilbur K. Engelhardt	176 1/8	2004	Randolph
John Barrick	175 5/8	2004	Lawrence
Alan Harvey	174 1/8	2003	Adams
Mel Landwehr	173 7/8	2000	Carroll
Richard Goss	172 0/8	2004	Jasper
Jacob Barnett	170 6/8	2004	Macoupin
Tom Goldasich	170 1/8	2004	Pike
Ken Garls	169 3/8	2004	Brown
Robert Dave Mitchell	165 1/8	2004	Vermilion
Jack Hoffman	157 7/8	2003	Edgar
Ray Holohan	156 6/8	2004	Iroquois
Steve Major	153 0/8	2003	Montgomery
Tom Anderson	149 0/8	1997	McLean
Eric Root	142 1/8	2004	McDonough

Brian Weber	128 2/8	2004	Iroquois
Kelly Harper	128 1/8	1993	Madison
Jack Behnke	127 6/8	2004	Macoupin
Jeffrey Olsen	127 4/8	2004	Winnebago
Aron Shofner	127 4/8	2002	Putnam
Jeffery J. Schneider	127 1/8	2004	Kankakee
Dennis L. Vail	126 7/8	2004	Wayne
Don Brandon	126 6/8	2001	Hardin
Rich Kober	126 2/8	2003	Tazewell
Dustin Renkes	126 2/8	2004	Whiteside
Steven Helms	126 0/8	2004	Alexander
Claude Yoakum	126 0/8	2004	Stephenson
Scott Klendworth	125 6/8	2004	Woodford
Philip Guarino Jr.	125 3/8	2000	Winnebago
Steven Renner	124 3/8	2004	Livingston
Kenny Reese	124 1/8	2004	Brown
Steve Gruenwald	123 5/8	2004	Putnam
Pete Thompson	122 7/8	2004	Hamilton
Bill Westlake	122 3/8	2004	Pike
Jeffrey Olsen	122 2/8	2004	Winnebago
Chris Maring	122 1/8	2003	Vermilion
Ken Ferch	122 0/8	2004	Peoria
Jeff Robbins	122 0/8	2004	Bureau
David Troxell	121 7/8	2002	Morgan
Garry Winterland	121 7/8	1997	McLean
Tyler Olsen	121 5/8	2000	Winnebago
William Trainor Jr.	121 1/8	2004	Marshall
Wayne Macha	120 7/8	1994	Marshall
Mike Angel	120 4/8	1975	Henry
Joe Sikora	119 1/8	2004	Calhoun
Cody Walker	119 1/8	2003	Macon
Mike Hamrock	118 1/8	2004	Montgomery
Todd Malcom	117 6/8	2004	Macon
Jeremiah Brandon	117 4/8	2004	Hardin
Brian Sullivan	117 1/8	2004	Montgomery
Brandon Roberts	117 0/8	2003	Pope
Brandon Roberts	116 7/8	2003	DeKalb
Bruce Bell	116 6/8	2004	Montgomery
Ryan Hamby	116 5/8	2004	Montgomery
Ken Garls	116 4/8	2001	Brown
Mike Angel	116 2/8	2000	Henry
Rich Waters	115 4/8	2004	Knox
Dan Rogers	115 3/8	2004	McLean
Steve L. Hobbs	115 1/8	2004	Clark

Archery Non-Typical

Timothy Hawley	208 3/8	2004	LaSalle
Les Day	198 3/8	2004	DeWitt
Scott D. Johnson	197 2/8	2004	Piatt
Jeremiah Brandon	188 0/8	2004	Ford
Calab Hartke	187 6/8	2004	Marion
Ryan Arnold	186 6/8	2004	Champaign
Richard Carlson	182 1/8	2004	Will
Brian Pekarek	181 5/8	2004	Jo Daviess

Crossbow Typical

Mike Cohoon	157 6/8	2004	DeWitt
John Grosboll	145 4/8	2003	Menard
Chip Golec	137 3/8	2004	St. Clair
Dale Conner	133 7/8	2003	White
Bruno Parzych	129 2/8	2004	DuPage
James Werner	125 0/8	2004	Henderson
Gerald Nelson	119 0/8	2004	Boone

Crossbow Non-Typical

John Grosboll	159 5/8	2003	Menard

John Grosboll's Menard County deer earned recognition in the typical (145 4/8) and non-typical (159 5/8) crossbow categories.