

Years ago I was able to hear one of the most recognized wildlife biologists, researchers and biggest proponents of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation speak at a wildlife management conference in Bismarck, North Dakota. His name is Dr. Valerius Geist and he very eloquently put the history of the term Sportsman in its proper context, complete with historical perspective from England and Germany on truly where this descriptor of those loving the outdoors came from.

The fact of the matter is this: hunting is not a sport, it is a passion. In America, for decades we have perverted the term to have competitive connotations because the word sport is in the description. The term Sportsman is in fact an old English term simply describing the relationship between the hunter and other hunters, the hunter and the land and the hunter and the wildlife resources they are helping manage through wildlife conservation. To be a Sportsman meant you were a gentleman and treated other hunters, the land and the wildlife with profound respect.

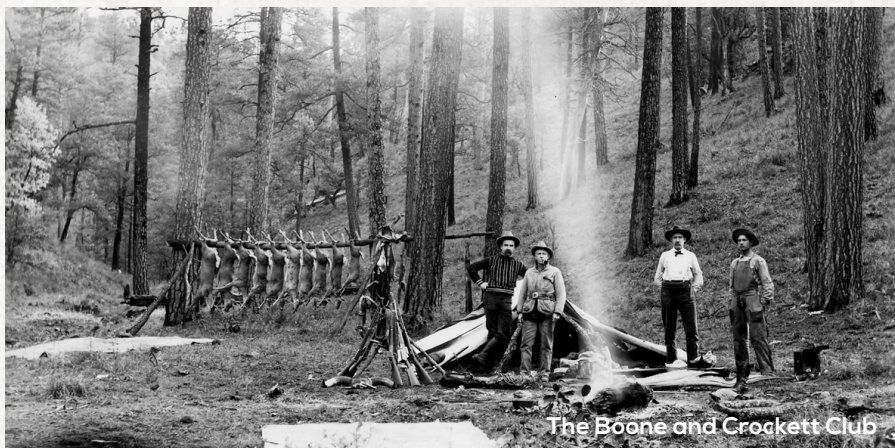
Too often we hear stories of irrational behavior exhibited by fellow hunters in the field - someone piggybacking on your hunting spot after you simply shared your story of success with them in passing, another person trying to beat you to an animal in a basin you have clearly been hunting before anyone else, an individual tagging an animal you just shot and claiming it was actually them who shot it when they just saw you shoot the animal and quickly arrived upon the dead animal, tagging it before your arrival. The list goes on and on (notice I didn't refer to these slobbish people as hunters or sportsmen since they are nothing of the sort - true hunters/sportsmen do not act this uncivilized toward their fellow hunters/sportsmen).

These horrific stories are the exact opposite of what the term Sportsman means. Hunting is not a competition between you and other hunters. It is not a competition between you and the animal. Sure, there are supreme challenges that exist in hunting which test your merit and fortitude, but there

is no scorekeeping, or at least there shouldn't be. To be a Sportsman is to be a gentleman in all senses of the word. A Sportsman will go without filling a tag rather than push others out of the way to get first crack at an animal. A Sportsman will share hunting tactics and



The Boone and Crockett Club



The Boone and Crockett Club

# Eastmans'

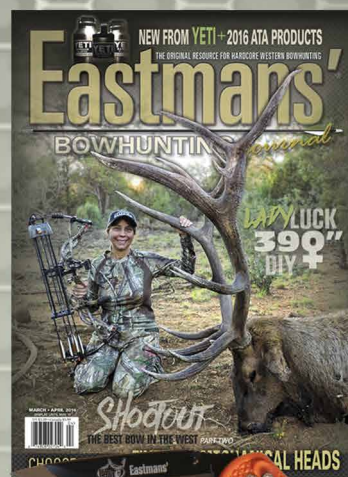
BOWHUNTING JOURNAL



# FREE

## OUTDOOR EDGE ONYX KNIFE

WITH SUBSCRIPTION



ABSOLUTELY  
**FREE KNIFE**  
Plus Shipping & Handling

# \$24.99

Reg. \$36

Expires: 8/17/2016  
Promo Code: EHJ156

[www.EASTMANS.com](http://www.EASTMANS.com)  
800.842.6887