Review in Wisconsin Outdoors by Dan Small

From Boys to Men of Heart: Hunting as Rite of Passage, by Randall Eaton, should cause quite a stir in both the hunting and mentoring communities. Eaton's thesis is simple, yet profound, even revolutionary: "The world is a mess because for too long we have failed to raise boys properly."
In primitive cultures, a boy graduates to manhood by hunting and killing an animal, thus proving he can feed his family. This initiation is missing in modern cultures, and this gap leads to detachment, anger and violence in young men. Boys who learn to hunt become compassionate men, Eaton argues.
"Men take life to support life," Eaton writes. "And the kill itself is the event that engenders compassion, respect for life and the moral responsibility to protect it."
Eaton draws from his own experience and from the writings of hunters, mentors, teachers and others from a variety of cultural and philosophical traditions to build a strong case for the importance of hunting in today's world. He praises the efforts of conservation groups to introduce newcomers to the sport, but says they fail to teach the value of hunting to the growing non-hunting community. This failure, he says, may doom hunting.
An important book and a fascinating argument.