

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

The Boone and Crockett Club University Program is designed to provide science-based knowledge from seasoned wildlife professionals and educators to college graduates in the wildlife field to better prepare the graduates for the responsible and wise management of wildlife in the future.

The Wildlife Society and Boone and Crockett Club's University Programs PROMOTING PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The Boone and Crockett Club's presence at this year's Wildlife Society Conference in Cleveland was prominent.

The B&C's University Programs organized a symposium that presented case studies and lessons from prominent wildlife professionals on the delicate balance between stakeholder engagement and scientific decision making when formulating wildlife policy. The wildlife profession is solidly founded in the disciplines of biological, quantitative, and social sciences, yet wildlife professionals also must function within the reality of political and public arenas. Thus, in their efforts to manage and conserve wild-life populations and habitats, wildlife biologists often encounter politically and publicly challenging situations.

The Boone and Crockett Club hosted two luncheons during the conference.

As one of the Leading Sponsors of The Wildlife Society, Boone and Crockett had the opportunity to reach out to over 100 up and coming wildlife biologists at the Student Chapter Leaders Luncheon. B&C Professor Josh Millsbaugh gave those in attendance a brief history lesson about B&C and our long history with science-based

wildlife management. He also introduced our Hunting for Sustainability program for college students who are interested in hunting but haven't had the opportunity to learn. The 3-day program explores hunter ethics, motivations, fears, the role of hunting in wildlife management, the history of conservation, hunting regulations, firearm safety, and field dressing, processing, storing, and cooking harvested wild-life. A substantial portion of the program is devoted to food. Participants eat wild game all weekend prepared by a professional chef who discusses tips for preparing and cooking game. As a take-away from the luncheon, each student received a customized noodle bowl complete with a venison ramen recipe crafted by B&C's Director of Big Game Records Justin Spring and fortune cookies with hunting and wildlife inspired quotes.

The B&C Fellows luncheon was created to bring together Boone and Crockett Fellows, Boone and Crockett Professional Members and speakers from the Wildlife Policy symposium for lunch and informal discussion. B&C Professional Member, Dr. John Organ of the United States Geological Survey, was the speaker and shared some

professional lessons that have made a difference in his career.

Boone and Crockett Club's new text book, *North American Wildlife Policy and Law*, was on display during the conference along with a special book signing with all three editors and several of the contributing authors. This comprehensive text thoroughly examines the history and foundation of policy, reviews and analyzes major federal, state, and provincial laws and policies important to natural resource management, and most uniquely discusses application and practice of policy to ensure sustainability of wildlife, fish and their habitats. Read an excerpt from the book on page 38. ■

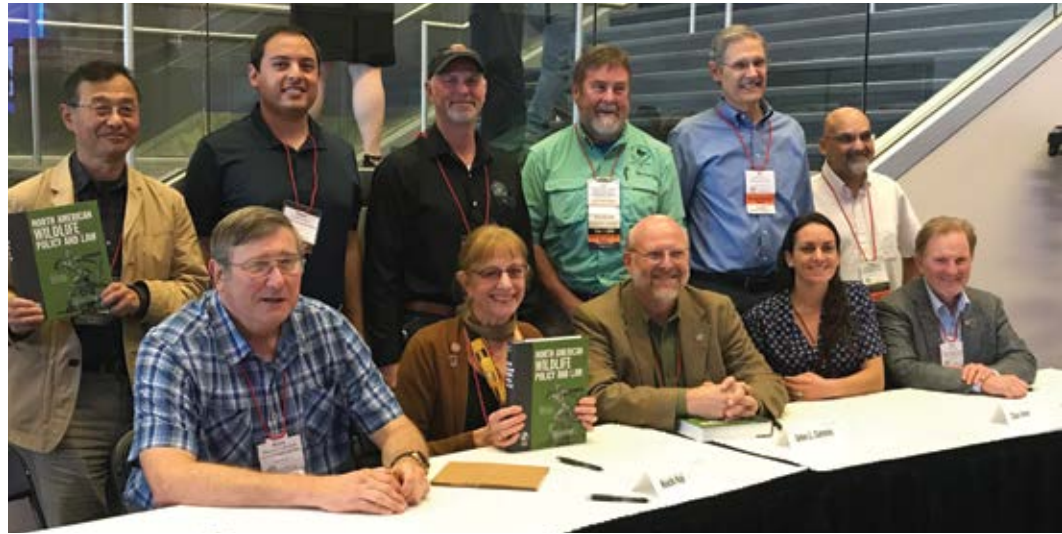
CHALLENGES OF BALANCING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SCIENTIFIC DECISION-MAKING TO INFORM WILDLIFE POLICY

- Coyote Wars Move East: Stakeholder Reaction to Fawn Predation Research
- Learning from History to Bring Evidence into Canid Management – the Case of the Australian Dingo
- Bacteria and Viruses and Prions, Oh My: Dealing with Stakeholders on Wildlife Disease Issues
- Elk management in the political landscape of northwestern Minnesota
- The Management of Humans with Interests in Invasive Wild Pigs
- An evaluation of State Incentive Programs for Habitat Management on Private Land
- Wild Horse and Burro Management: Using Science and Coalitions to Advance Sound Policy
- Strategic Bird Conservation through Stakeholder Participation in Ecosystem Service Payments and Carbon Offsets: A Case Study from Costa Rica
- Building Trust Among Conservation Stakeholders Around Shared Values
- Balancing Science and Stakeholder Interests in the Conservation of Lesser Prairie-Chickens



Professional Member John Organ introduced Professional Member, Wini Kessler, who gave the Aldo Leopold Keynote Address: *The Gifts of the Dying Wolf* and other "Aha" Moments.





North American Wildlife Policy and Law editors and authors gathered for a book signing event during the conference. TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Koichi Kaji, Chase Voirin, James R. Heffelfinger, Thomas M. Franklin, William F. Porter, Perry S. Barboza. BOTTOM ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Bruce D. Leopold (Editor), Winifred B. Kessler (Editor), James L. Cummins (Editor), Serra J. Hoagland, and John F. Organ.

BELOW: Professors and Fellows were able to network and share stories with B&C Members at the University Programs Fellows luncheon. John Organ presented at the luncheon sharing the professional lessons he has learned throughout his career.



My unwritten professional lessons

- Build Trust
- Expand your network outside of your work culture
- Synergy – the value of collaboration
- Create time to THINK
- Embrace diversity in thinking
- Be respectful of those with counter viewpoints
- Strive to be an Honest Broker



LEFT: Two B&C Fellows from Michigan State University, Rebecca Gain and Garrett Knowlton, presented posters at TWS. RIGHT: University of Montana professor Joshua Millsbaugh addresses students at the TWS Student Chapter Leaders Lunch, which the Club sponsored. This was an opportunity to introduce young wildlife professionals to the history and importance of the Boone and Crockett Club.

