



APPLIED WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE HONORED BY BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016

The Boone and Crockett Club has honored a South Texas university research facility, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CKWRI), with the Club's second Conservation and Stewardship Award. B&C presented the award April 5, 2016, at a dinner the Club hosts annually during the North American Wildlife Conference, this year held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

CKWRI was founded at Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 1981 by the Caesar Kleberg Foundation for Wildlife Conservation. During the past 35 years, CKWRI has grown to become the leading wildlife research organization in Texas and one of the best university wildlife research programs in the nation.

"What makes Caesar Kleberg unique among research facilities is its focus on the reality that people do live,

work and recreate on the land," stated Tom Price, chairman of the Club's Habitat and Multiple Use/Sharing committee. "Study of biotic communities on preserves and national parks is important work, but applying what is learned there falls short of what is needed to be good stewards of working landscapes and shared habitats where wildlife and people interact."

Research at CKWRI is largely focused on the habitat and population ecology of game species in the South Texas ecological region. Its application of research is of high value to land managers, hunters, ranchers and other conservationists who strive to sustain and enhance wildlife populations and their habitats.

"It is for Caesar Kleberg's track record of producing applied wildlife research and defining successful management strategies for both

hunted and non-hunted wildlife across more than 10 million acres of rangelands in South Texas that it has been chosen to receive this award," Price said.

"Compared to many other university wildlife programs that now have a strong focus on conservation biology and the non-consumptive use of wildlife, we are completely unapologetic of our research focus on game species and our avid support of hunters and hunting," explained Dr. Fred Bryant, director of Caesar Kleberg. "At the same time, however, we also conduct research on threatened and endangered species and other non-hunted species. We respect and embrace the culture and ranching heritage of South Texas."

Graduate students come from all over North America and many other parts of the world to learn how to

conduct wildlife research. But they graduate also knowing and appreciating how much private landowners care about their land and go on to become leaders in their profession.

All Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute scientists believe that "science without publication is recreation." Since 1981, CKWRI scientists have produced 24 books, with at least three more currently in preparation. More than 800 peer-reviewed articles written by CKWRI scientists and graduate students have appeared in scientific journals published around the world. More than 500 articles for popular literature such as magazines and newsletters have been written by CKWRI scientists.

CKWRI represents a unique model for wildlife research because it is largely funded by private donations and endowments but administered within a public university setting. This public-private model of administration and support is what has kept the CKWRI focused on generating reliable knowledge for the informed management and conservation of both private and public lands. ■



B&C president Morrie Stevens (second from right) and professional member Steve Williams (far left) presented the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute with the 2016 Conservation and Stewardship Award at the 31st Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference held in Pittsburgh this March. Accepting the award for CKWRI were professional member Fred Bryant (holding certificate), Tio Kleberg (center) and professional member Dave Hewitt (far right).

To learn more about the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, visit www.ckwri.tamuk.edu.