

Charting the **Direction** of Wildlife Conservation

A century after President Roosevelt visited Michigan Agricultural College, the Boone and Crockett Club will establish an endowment to cultivate future leaders in wildlife conservation and management.

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The Club announced \$1.75 million in gifts towards the establishment of the Boone and Crockett Club Professor in Wildlife Conservation at Michigan State University on Thursday, October 4, 2007. The gifts were announced at a reception held at the University Club of Michigan State University to celebrate the launch of this historic endeavor. These gifts represent half of the \$3.5 million goal set for the endowment.

The evening's hosts, Boone and Crockett Club members Bill Demmer, Jake Shinnars, and Morrie Stevens, were joined by university officials, Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials, and prominent members of the community to celebrate the advent of the third Boone and Crockett Club Professor. The Michigan Boone and Crockett Club members and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University affirmed their commitment to leading wildlife conservation into the 21st century and beyond.

Speakers at the event included Dr. William Taylor, chairperson of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Rebecca Humphries, director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources,

Tom Coon, director of MSU Extension, and Club members Bill Demmer and Jake Shinnars. Shinnars spoke to an engaged audience on the history of the Boone and Crockett Club and its relevance to conservation in North America. For many at the event, this was their introduction to North America's oldest conservation organization. Reception attendees came away with a greater appreciation for the Boone and Crockett Club's work.

The Boone and Crockett Club Professor in Wildlife Conservation at Michigan State University will represent the Club's first Midwestern chair and the third endowed chair to be established by the Club.

The professor will work with students, faculty, policy makers, natural resource



Key players in establishing the Boone and Crockett Club Professor in Wildlife Conservation at Michigan State University were on hand for the official launch party – From left, Jake Shinnars (B&C Member), Bill Demmer (B&C Member), Rebecca Humphries (MI DNR), Morrie Stevens (B&C Member), the Jordan Burroughs, and William Taylor.

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professionals, Boone and Crockett Club members, and constituents to:

- Develop knowledge, tools and methods required to shape and implement science-based policy decisions;
- Strengthen organizational structures that promote effective wildlife management; and
- Design systems that are responsive to changes in the wildlife productivity supply chain.

The Boone and Crockett Club Professor represents a partnership between the Boone and Crockett Club and Michigan State University in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to provide leadership for wildlife conservation in the 21st century. This partnership will engage in research focused on wildlife conservation and management, and publish findings that will inform policy, regulations, institutions and other arenas related to natural resource management.

"The Boone and Crockett Club sees this partnership with MSU as an opportunity to share and spread our historical and ethical messages of fair chase and sound science as they relate to our wild places and their inhabitants," said Demmer. "Michigan State University and the Michigan DNR have long been proponents of 'shared use resources,' another concept in complete harmony with the Club's philosophy."

Founded in 1855 and established as the nation's first Land Grant College in

1862, Michigan State University is known internationally as a major public university. Its 17 degree-granting colleges attract scholars worldwide who are interested in combining education with practical problem solving. The university has been advancing knowledge and transforming lives through innovative teaching, research and outreach for more than 150 years.

The new professor will be housed in the university's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, which has achieved national and international renown as a leader in conservation education, research, and outreach.

Established in 1950, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife is located in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The department has continually expanded its horizons and now supports 45 tenure-stream faculty and more than 90 graduate students. The vision of the department is to cooperatively develop understanding of the structure and function of ecosystems, which will enable reasoned conservation, restoration and management of fisheries and wildlife resources. That vision is realized through wide-ranging partnerships across the university, and with an extensive network of external governmental and non-governmental organizations.

"Michigan State University has been a joy to work with as we've joined on this journey to bring a Boone and Crockett Club chair to the University," Demmer said. "MSU has been a North American leader in attracting and working with partnerships. Together, the Club and MSU have the potential to develop leaders of the future that share our great and historic vision." ■

A century ago, President Theodore Roosevelt visited the Michigan State University campus and spoke at their graduation.

For more information and to find out how you can support this initiative, please contact:

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