

# EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

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

**FROM: University of Montana and Mississippi State Awards**



## BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB PROFESSOR DR. JOSH MILLSPAUGH RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM RMEF

**Dr. Josh Millspaugh, Boone and Crockett Club Professor of Wildlife Conservation at the University of Montana, Missoula, has been awarded the 2019 Excellence in Elk Country – Wildlife Research/Biologist Award from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF).**

Dr. Millspaugh is the Endowed Chair of the Club’s wildlife conservation program at the university, part of a nationwide program the Club has established at major universities. The award honors an individual scientist or wildlife biologist whose career has demonstrated desire and dedication to benefit the scientific management of elk or elk habitat.

“The honor is well deserved,” said James L. Cummins, the Boone and Crockett Club’s vice president of conservation. “Anyone who knows or has worked with Josh has seen his tireless commitment to wildlife and his students. I don’t know anyone who dedicates their lives to conservation who thinks about awards. They all just suit up and get to work, and Josh is a worker.”

Millspaugh has been leading the RMEF sponsored research to look at the Foundation’s habitat enhancement treatments projects and their effect on vegetation, elk use, and resident bird use and pollinator prevalence before and after treatments with two graduate students.

“We are very pleased to recognize Josh with this award,” said Blake Henning, RMEF’s Chief Conservation Officer. “Josh has been conducting elk research for many years and in many different places including Missouri, Kentucky, South Dakota and Montana. With more than 200 articles authored or co-authored on wildlife related topics, he is a most worthy recipient.”

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is committed to elk and elk country having conserved more than 7.4 million acres for elk and other wildlife. The Foundation works to open and improve public access, fund and advocate for science-based resource management, and ensure the future of America’s hunting heritage.

The Boone and Crockett Club has Fellowship Programs at nine major universities, established to harness the power of human resources, facilitate partnerships with natural resource agencies, and sustain well-defined research that benefit diverse ecological and social settings. ■



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**THE POPE & YOUNG CLUB PRESENTS THE 2019 LEE GLADFELTER AWARD TO PROFESSIONAL MEMBER, DR. BRONSON STRICKLAND OF MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Pope & Young Club's Lee Gladfelter Award recognizes a wildlife professional who has made a significant contribution to bowhunting and wildlife conservation. At the Club's 31st Biennial Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, Mississippi State University's Dr. Bronson Strickland received the award. A wildlife professional since 1995, Dr. Strickland leads a research project that has demonstrated how antlers may be one of the most sensitive indicators of habitat quality. His research demonstrates how the recording of antler measurements is critical for habitat management. The Boone and Crockett Fellowship program is currently under the leadership of B&C Professional Member Dr. Bronson Strickland and B&C Regular Member James L. Cummins.

The Lee Gladfelter Memorial Award is named after Lee Gladfelter, a prominent wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and a dedicated bowhunter. Lee worked tirelessly to better the image of bowhunting across North America until his life was tragically taken in an automobile accident.

"In the early years of the Pope and Young Club, its records program proved to state wildlife agencies that a bow and arrow was more than capable of taking big game animals," said Doug Clayton, Conservation Chair of the Pope and Young Club. "Now, almost 60 years later, the Club's records program is still being utilized for wildlife research. Dr. Bronson Strickland's research at Mississippi State University is showing that antlers may be one of the subtlest indicators of habitat quality. Research has shown that, for survival, an animal's body mass comes first, then antlers. Big game record books, such as Pope and Young Club's Bowhunting Big Game Records and associated statistics, can assist wildlife professionals in determining herd health. P&Y is proud to support Dr. Strickland's important wildlife research that shows the important uses of antler measurements."

"It is an honor to be recognized by the Pope and Young Club and to receive the Lee Gladfelter Memorial Award," said Bronson Strickland. "I'm so fortunate to work in the field of wildlife conservation, with a special focus on white-tailed deer biology, ecology, and management. The white-tailed deer is truly a conservation success story, and its recovery is emblematic of many wildlife species that were extirpated from many regions in North America. Our state wildlife agencies, along with conservation organizations like the Pope and Young Club, have worked tirelessly for decades to restore our native deer populations. We now face new challenges with the management of North America's deer species given the expansion of human development, transportation, agriculture, and climate change. I'm grateful to the Pope and Young Club for recognizing these conservation challenges, and prioritizing their efforts to ensure future generations can enjoy thriving wildlife populations in North America." ■



Dr. Bronson Strickland of Mississippi State University (left) received the Pope & Young Club 2019 Lee Gladfelter Award.



Read Dr. Strickland's article *Nutrition versus Genetics in Whitetail Deer Management* in the Spring 2016 issue of *Fair Chase*.