

FOSTERING TOMORROW'S CONSERVATION LEADERS

FROM THE
PRESIDENT



Timothy C. Brady
PRESIDENT

I have often shared with my Boone and Crockett Club colleagues my belief that our university programs are and will continue to be one of the Club's greatest legacies. Certainly, that opinion is widely held as university programs represent the single-largest investment in the Club's history, continually attracting the brightest young people to the strongest universities to work with the foremost wildlife faculty. Year in and year out, our university programs offer education and professional development opportunities that prepare future scientists, decision-makers, and leaders to effectively address the enormous challenges facing wildlife conservation. These efforts, coupled with our involvement in the National Conservation Leadership Institute and our educational programs at the Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center on the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch, help ensure the development of highly capable and effective future leaders in the conservation community.

The Club's past is replete with examples of recognizing a need and then facilitating change not only with laws or regulations, but also in the attitudes and beliefs of the American people. Our founder, Theodore Roosevelt, along with other key Club members, championed the passage of laws, the establishment of institutions, and the designation of wildlands, which today make up our nation's conservation system. In addition, their successors

created and implemented the incredibly successful North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

The creation and development of our university programs are a sterling example of our members championing a cause based on a clear need within the conservation community. Almost 30 years ago, forward-thinking men and women funded an endowed chair at the University of Montana with the intent of developing a program designed to transmit science-based knowledge from seasoned wildlife professionals and educators to college students in the wildlife field. The goal has been to prepare graduates for the responsible and wise management of wildlife and habitat in the future and become engaged in formulating policy at the state and federal levels.

Today, in addition to the University of Montana, we have endowed chairs at Michigan State University and Texas A&M University as well as fellowship programs at Mississippi State University, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Oregon State University and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Club members are working diligently to develop and fund additional programs at the University of Georgia and Clemson University.

Responding to the desire of our membership to ensure a future where we remain a leader in shaping conservation policy, Texas A&M University is in the process of establishing a dual-degree program, wherein students can earn a

bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and a master's degree in Public Policy over the course of five years. These multidisciplinary programs are effective in producing students, and thus future natural resource professionals, who think more broadly and strategically about complex, albeit connected, issues at hand.

To aid students in learning about conservation policy, the Club recently published *North American Wildlife Policy and Law*, a comprehensive textbook that thoroughly examines the history and foundation of policy related to our wildlife. It also reviews and analyzes major federal, state, and provincial laws and policies important to natural resource management. This unique and award-winning textbook has been hailed as the definitive volume on wildlife law and policy development and was edited and primarily written by Boone and Crockett Club Regular and Professional Members.

To provide practical policy experience for our future leaders, past Club President Bill Demmer established the Demmer Scholars Program in 2009 at Michigan State University. Since its inception, almost 250 Demmer Scholars have been selected through a competitive process

and placed in paid natural resource policy internships with the federal government, nongovernmental organizations, and trade associations. Today, over 60 scholars from the Demmer Program who have completed their academic studies have relocated to Washington, D.C., to begin or continue their careers in government or the private sector.

In 2005, the Club—along with other similarly-focused organizations—recognized that, as the baby-boomer generation matured, leaders of state and federal wildlife and habitat management agencies were retiring at an alarming rate. To help prepare new leadership, the Club assisted in the establishment of the National Conservation Leadership Institute. Its mission, in part, is “to preserve the legacy of our natural resources by developing extraordinary conservation leadership.” The institute offers a unique curriculum that challenges assumptions, piques critical thinking, fosters higher-trust relationships, and strengthens confidence. The program is so highly regarded that, in recent years, individuals from the oil,

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manufacturing, and forestry industries have asked to participate. Today, alumni include over 450 conservation professionals who work for a wide array of state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations and in several diverse industries. Some of the alumni are Boone and Crockett Club Professional Members.

Of course, the best time to inspire a lifelong appreciation for wild places and wild things, as well as teach a lasting conservation ethic and learn about our hunting heritage, is to start when individuals are young. And that is exactly what transpires at the Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center on the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch. Our educational

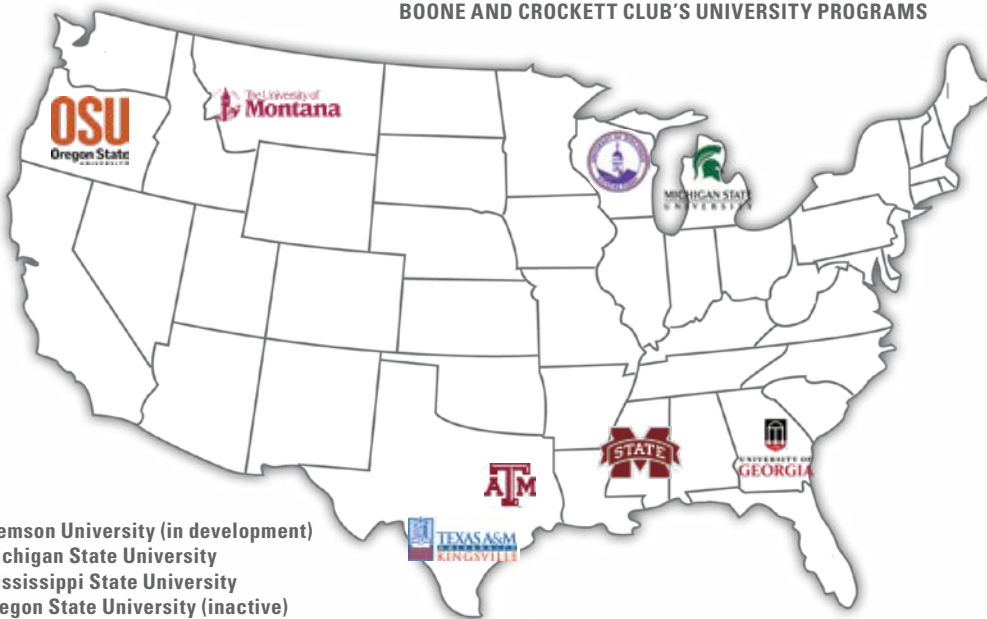
programs at the ranch reach over 2,500 people each year, with many children and teenagers experiencing wilderness and wildlife for the first time. Some of these programs include: Montana High Adventure Base for Boy Scouts, Women's Hunter Education, Outdoor Adventure Camps, and Learn 2 Hunt: Hunting for Sustainability.

Finally, the Boone and Crockett Fellows Program is a shining example of how the Club is cultivating tomorrow's conservation leaders. The program continues a rich history of successfully training the scientists, managers, biologists, and policymakers of tomorrow. The program currently has 35 fellows throughout the nation and an

additional 66 former fellows who are now becoming leaders in the wildlife profession and the broader conservation community. I have had the good fortune to meet and visit with many of our Boone and Crockett Club Fellows and graduates as well as many alumni from the National Conservation Leadership Institute. They represent incredibly capable young people and exceedingly skilled conservation professionals who will guide current and future conservation policy based on sound science and best management practices. The future of conservation in North America is in good hands. ■

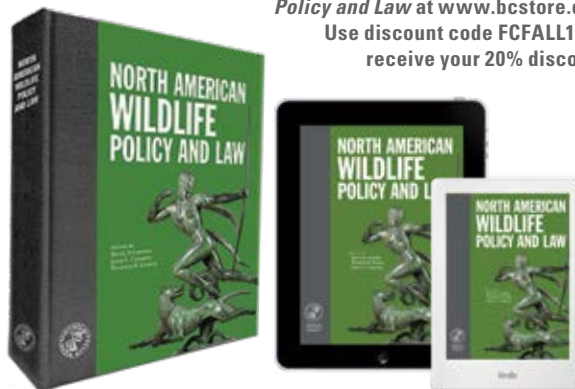


BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB'S UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

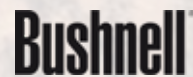


- Clemson University (in development)
- Michigan State University
- Mississippi State University
- Oregon State University (inactive)
- Texas A&M University
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- University of Georgia (in development)
- University of Montana
- University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Order your copy of *North American Wildlife Policy and Law* at www.bcstore.org. Use discount code FCFALL19 to receive your 20% discount



Read more about the university programs on page 48 and don't miss a youth hunting story that took place at the TRM Ranch through the First Hunt Foundation on page 68.



THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB ASKS THAT YOU PLEASE THANK OUR TRAILBLAZERS WITH YOUR PATRONAGE.