

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: B&C Fellows Presenting at the Club's Annual Meeting

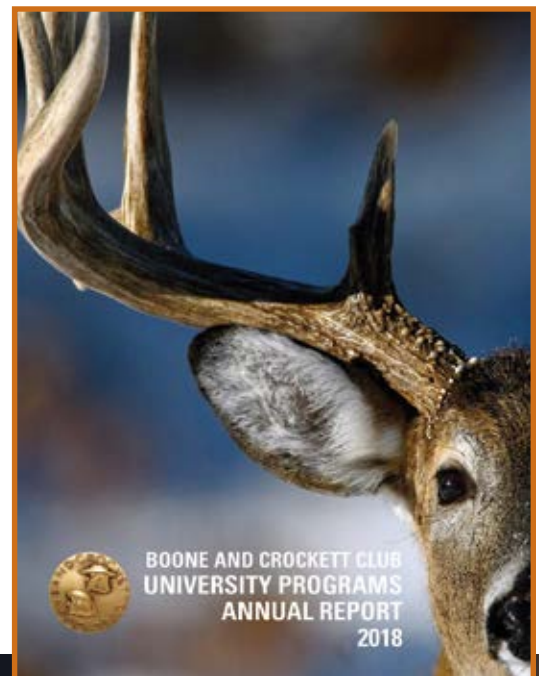
The Boone and Crockett Club stands as a role model for all who are passionate about wildlife conservation. Among the qualities that set it apart are its University Programs. The Club is not bashful about expressing a bold vision: attract the brightest young people to the strongest universities to work with the foremost faculty. The intent is nothing less than preparing the wildlife scientists and conservation leaders who will be at the table when big decisions are being made about wildlife and habitat in the future.

In December at the Annual Meeting two Boone and Crockett Fellows presented their research to enable Club

Members and B&C Fellows to get to know one another and share their values.

What once was a set of six independent Boone and Crockett professorship and fellowship programs is quickly becoming a coordinated team. Together with Club leadership and representatives of universities soon to host new Boone and Crockett professors, we are developing a common set of goals that will stitch together the universities and the Club into the fabric of a powerful organization. Importantly, we are working to capitalize on the values and the visionary thinking of wildlife legacy and hunting heritage that are the core of the Boone and Crockett Club. ■

Learn more about each University, their programs and students in the 2018 University Programs Annual Report. If you would like printed copies to share please contact Boone and Crockett Club Headquarters at (406) 542-1888 or email Karlie Slayer at Karlie@Boone-Crockett.org



B&C Professor and Professional Member Dr. Joshua Millspaugh introduced B&C Fellow Vaughan Branch as the presenter at a luncheon during the Club's Annual Meeting.



BOONE AND CROCKETT FELLOW PROFILE

VAUGHAN BRANCH



TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF: I grew up in a small farming community in south Georgia. As a young man I spent nearly all of my time outdoors - playing sports, hunting, fishing and exploring. After earning business and law degrees, I served as a prosecutor for many years and worked for a time in commercial litigation. During my professional career I also helped manage an agency linking the criminal justice and rehabilitation communities and later worked as a policy advocate. I lived and worked in metropolitan Washington, D.C., Birmingham, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia before moving with my wife to Missoula, Montana to pursue a graduate degree in Wildlife Biology. Joining Dr. Millspaugh's lab as a Boone and Crockett Fellow has provided the perfect opportunity to combine my professional background and lifelong passion for animals and the outdoors with my desire to positively affect the direction of wildlife conservation policy.



DESCRIBE YOUR RESEARCH: In the United States, state and federal wildlife agencies serve critical roles in the conservation and management of wildlife, and they do so over a mosaic of political and land ownership boundaries. Traditionally under the Public Trust Doctrine, state wildlife agencies have been considered the primary managers of wildlife regardless of where the animals may be found within a given state. However, some have questioned such plenary state authority over wildlife suggesting that certain federal statutes mandate management by federal agencies. With our research we hope to inform this discussion by closely examining federal funding statutes such as the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts along with so called "savings clauses" from other relevant federal statutes in order to determine whether a consistent expression of Congressional intent regarding state wildlife management is present. Ultimately, we hope to provide a valuable resource to policy makers, judges, agency personnel and other stakeholders who may encounter questions related to state and federal authority to manage wildlife.

BOONE AND CROCKETT FELLOW PROFILE

REBECCA CAIN



TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF: I was born and raised in South Carolina. I inherited a passion for the outdoors from my father, an avid outdoorsman who took me fishing, camping, mountain biking, and hunting. My interests in learning and science arose from my mother, who signed me up for science fairs and made learning fun. I earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences at Clemson University after writing a senior paper on hunting as a population control technique for white-tailed deer. I went on to receive a Master's of Earth & Environmental Resources Management degree from the University of South Carolina. My thesis research focused on using statistical analyses to investigate how changes in management influence the annual harvest of white-tailed deer. I joined the Boone and Crockett Quantitative Wildlife Center at Michigan State University as a doctoral student in July 2014.



DESCRIBE YOUR RESEARCH: There are obvious differences in the distribution of record book white-tailed deer harvested across the United States, with the majority of harvests occurring in the Midwest region. Understanding how landscape-level processes impact the occurrence of record book deer is important because there is ongoing interest in management practices that improve the overall quality of the deer herd and increase the number of large bucks. This research will examine spatial and temporal patterns in the distribution of older age and record-quality bucks harvested in the Midwest. Results will be used to inform managers about the influence of harvest regulations and hunting traditions on characteristics of record book white-tailed deer.

Specific objectives for this research project include (1) assessing the spatial and temporal variation in the number of record book white-tailed deer in the Midwestern United States to determine important factors that facilitate their production and (2) evaluating the variation in white-tailed deer age structures across Michigan under different management strategies.

Rebecca presented research to the Records Committee at the annual meeting, see page 70, and is also an Official Measurer for the Club. She helped write an article about the history of the Records Program in the Fall 2016 issue of *Fair Chase*.