

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

Among the Boone and Crockett Club's most forward-looking initiatives is its University Programs. This initiative is designed with a bold vision: attract the brightest young people to the strongest universities to work with the foremost wildlife faculty in the country. The Club now has programs at seven universities (three Professor programs and four Fellowship programs), with two more coming online in the next year. Here, we profile the full suite of our University Programs. Through the next issues, we intend to showcase what these programs are doing to educate the next generation of conservation leaders.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Long known for its exceptional big game research, the University of Montana hosted the original Boone and Crockett Professor, beginning in 1987. The Boone and Crockett program is focused primarily on the integration of wildlife conservation and private land management. This program includes research, extension of information, teaching, and documentation. A key component of the research-extension-documentation effort is centered on Boone and Crockett Club's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch and the Elmer E. Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center near Dupuyer, Montana. The 6,000-acre working cattle ranch and the Center are adjacent to the Lewis and Clark National Forest, along the Rocky Mountain Front.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Texas A&M University hosts one of the three Boone and Crockett Professor programs. Through the Boone and Crockett endowment, Texas A&M has supported a decade of research on public policy. Last summer, Texas A&M proposed to expand their program with the Club to integrate policy with the study of private lands for conservation of wildlife. The expanded program will support research and instruction for Boone and Crockett Fellows, on issues of wildlife ecology and management on private lands. Full implementation of the program is expected to require two to three years.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Among the nation's top wildlife programs, Michigan State hosts a Boone and Crockett Professor, the Club's only Wildlife Extension Specialist, and the Boone and Crockett Quantitative Wildlife Center (QWC). The strong, student-focused research program is specifically designed to address game-changing issues challenging wildlife conservation. The QWC emphasizes the application of advanced statistics and computer modeling as a common language to draw in the diverse sciences critical to conservation. In addition, Michigan State's highly innovative outreach programs are introducing young professionals to hunting. Associated with these efforts is the Demmer Scholars program, which places students into conservation-related intern positions in Washington, D. C. each summer.



Michigan State University



Texas A&M University – Kingsville

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
- STEVENS POINT COLLEGE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

UW-Stevens Point is one of the largest education programs in wildlife science in the nation and hosts one of Boone and Crockett's Fellowship programs. Established in 2012, the Stephens Boone and Crockett Fellowship engages undergraduate students in mentored research on black bear, pheasant, sandhill crane, bobcat, and bobwhite quail. Boone and Crockett Fellows have won regional awards for their research. The Boone and Crockett Fellowships bring honor and prestige to student recipients and encourage active, mentored, scientific research that prepares graduates to manage and protect the future of America's precious wildlife resources.

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
- KINGSVILLE**

Kingsville hosts one of Boone and Crockett's Fellowship programs. The first graduate student funded under the Boone and Crockett Fellowship in Ungulate Research at Texas A&M University-Kingsville will begin in January 2016. The fellowship is being used to support a 5-year research project, in conjunction with other funders, to study the effect of agriculture on mule deer in the Texas Panhandle. The student funded by the Boone and Crockett Fellowship in Ungulate Research will use this project for their graduate degree and will develop a variety of skills necessary to effectively manage large mammal game species.

**MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Mississippi State is home to the most recent Boone and Crockett Fellowship program. The National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses has partnered with the MSU Extension Service and Wildlife Mississippi® to plan and host a four-state regional meeting of legislators, including respective Governor's offices, to discuss national policy on wild hogs and work toward consensus on the question, "What is effective legislation and policy to address hog control/eradication?" This regional summit will serve as a national template to discuss and form new policy.

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW YORK COLLEGE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE AND FORESTRY**

SUNY-ESF will soon be home to a Boone and Crockett Professorship Program. The university hosts undergraduate and graduate education programs in wildlife science as well as the Roosevelt Wild Life Station. A select group of graduate students will have the opportunity to concurrently earn degrees in wildlife science at ESF and public administration at the Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs—the highest ranked public affairs school in the nation. In December 2014, the Boone and Crockett Club, ESF, Syracuse University's Maxwell School, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation collectively signed an agreement committing resources to the prospective endowed university program at ESF.

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
WARNELL SCHOOL OF
FORESTRY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

As one of the nation's premier programs in wildlife and forestry, UGA will host a Boone and Crockett Professor. UGA President Jere Morehead has offered to match up to \$250,000 of funding from Boone and Crockett to endow a Boone and Crockett Club Distinguished Professorship in Wildlife Management. The focus of this professorship and related program will be on issues of using sport hunting to sustainably manage big game species in the privately owned and commercially managed forest landscape of the southern United States.

**OREGON STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Oregon State University hosts one of four Boone and Crockett Fellowship programs. Since its inception, this program has brought a strong emphasis to public policy as a centerpiece to wildlife conservation.



Texas A&M University



Michigan State University



University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point



Texas A&M University - Kingsville



Mississippi State University



SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry



University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources



Oregon State University