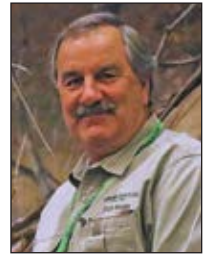


# OUR YOUTH IS THE FUTURE OF ALL WILD PLACES AND WILD THINGS

FROM THE  
PRESIDENT



**James F. Arnold**  
B&C PRESIDENT

**The summer has come upon us quickly, and the Club has been working at a fast pace to progress our work.**

First, we traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the summer meeting of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. There, we spent time with many of our politicians on the Hill discussing major wildlife management issues, including future funding of wildlife health and disease research, as well as policy initiatives like the Great American Outdoors Act. I was proud to witness the positive effects of the Club as we traveled from office to office to meet with many of the staff who are graduates of our Club's University Programs. We, as a Club, take great pride in seeing so many of our folks who have passed through our universities as Boone and Crockett Fellows, scholars, and educators. Seeing them at work making a difference for conservation helps me see clearly that our past leaders had great vision. And, that we have more work to do.

Regarding our University Programs, we currently have 22 active students and 93 graduates. These graduates have entered a variety of fields and professions—non-governmental agencies, consulting firms, big business, state and federal resource management agencies, universities, and private industries. I'm proud to say they have (and will continue to have) a meaningful impact on wildlife management and conservation. Our Club's

network is scattered throughout wildlife-centric agencies, groups, and organizations around the country and beyond. In addition, we have many students and educators in universities who are training and teaching the next generation of conservation leaders. We also have many conservation allies who advocate for us in Washington, D.C., and they work to help inform the current political leadership to make the best decisions for all of us.

Next, we participated in the University Programs Retreat held at the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch in northwest Montana. There, we had representation from most of our eight University Programs. We spent three days working through a strategic plan, which will help our great programs continue to expand and have an even greater impact on the future of youth and the conservation of wildlife. The Club takes enormous pride in the fact that, with all the great organizations with like-minded goals out there, we are the only organization that has embarked on the path toward developing and including universities as part of our strategic plan. We feel we must work on the next round of leadership in this country to sustain wildlife management and hunting opportunities. And that is our youth.

The ranch also provides a first-rate training ground for tomorrow's conservation leaders and professionals. As we worked with University Partners at our

ranch, conservation education staff gave us an overview of how they are reaching more and more kids, young adults, and educators through camps and outreach programs held there during the summer. We are planning to host approximately 1,200 kids at the ranch this summer. With the help of our staff, these programs will continue to grow and instill values of fair chase hunting and ethical wildlife management into young folks.

And finally, I certainly cannot leave out our 31st Big Game Awards Banquet. Every three years, the Club celebrates successful conservation by recognizing hunters and their harvests. The event was held at Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium in Springfield, Missouri. There, we recognized all youth who were 16 years old or younger when they harvested their record-book trophies at the Jack Steele Parker Generation Next Youth Awards and Banquet. There were smiles, laughter, and maybe even a few tears as these young hunters shared their stories.

Whenever I sit at the Club's ranch and listen to our leaders and members, I realize that, again, the kids—our youth—are where it starts. We have to help protect our legacy of hunting and fishing,

and this is where it has to begin. Our youth are the future of all, and we must do our part to help bring them along and make them understand what their role is in the future.

I am proud of the Club's efforts at all levels to bring together America's youth in helping them find their place—just like all of us did in protecting and preserving all wild places and wild things. We need to identify and recruit the next generation of young leaders. Then we have to support them throughout their growth and help foster their passions for nature and the outdoors.

I believe the Club's efforts in developing award programs, creating educational and outreach programs, supporting our university program educators and students, and networking with decision- and policy-makers are making a significant difference in advancing conservation. I hope we can do even more in the years to come. We hope you feel that way, too. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "James F. Arnold". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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READ MORE ABOUT THE CLUB'S UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS RETREAT ON PAGE 58. READ MORE ARTICLES FROM THE CLUB ON PAGE 54.