

B&C UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

2022 RETREAT AT THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL RANCH

After being postponed for two years, the third Boone and Crockett Club University Programs Retreat was held June 2-5, 2022, at the Boone and Crockett Club Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch, in Dupuyer, Montana. The intent of the retreat was to bring together University Program (UP) leaders, Club members and university administrators to participate in a strategic planning process.

During this two-day retreat specific goals were discussed:

- Increase public outreach and visibility.
- Increase the Program values around diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Align the University Programs' priorities with the Club's strategic plan.
- Increase collaboration amongst all the programs.

There was general agreement that the mission of the University Programs needed to be redefined and updated. A small working group developed a new mission statement that the group as well as the Club agreed on and approved. We were also introduced to Dr. Jerry Belant, our new Boone and Crockett Club Professor at Michigan State University.

It is clear our University Programs are attracting bright young people and the nation's top wildlife universities to our cause. Still, we need to keep our eye on the ultimate goal—placing effective advocates at the decision-making table in the next generation. We all know that 20 years from now the challenges facing wildlife conservation and our hunting heritage will be enormous. The Boone and Crockett Club stands as the major conservation organization preparing those future leaders and scientists, those who will advocate for all we hold dear. ■

Between planning sessions people were able to enjoy all that the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch has to offer with hiking, fishing, and shooting.

ABOVE - LEFT TO RIGHT: MSU Professor Jerry Belant, B&C Regular Members William Demmer and Morrie Stevens.

The group included University Program professors, Club members, university administrators, and B&C staff. Seven universities were represented at the retreat.

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

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UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS NEW MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF HIGH IMPACT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LEADERS



Josh Millspaugh watches as B&C Fellow Dan Morina sights in his rifle.



B&C WELCOMES DR. JERRY BELANT AS THE NEW BOONE AND CROCKETT PROFESSOR AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Michigan State University (MSU) selection team with significant Club member participation worked the selection process hard to bring Dr. Jerrold L. Belant on board. Our MSU Boone and Crockett Partners are looking forward to working with Dr. Belant to continue the great work of our program. We are excited to have someone of his background and reputation.

Jerry was the first Camp Fire Professor of Wildlife Conservation and Director of the program at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He has served as a member of Council for the International Association for Bear Research and Management and Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Small Carnivore Specialist Group. Jerry is currently Deputy Editor-in-Chief for

the journal *Ursus*. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and his Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His research interests include wildlife resource use, monitoring and population estimation, human-wildlife interactions, and international conservation.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Belant is joining us as the Boone and Crockett Professor at Michigan State University. Jerry brings a wealth of experience in translating science to policy and research relevant to the Club's mission. His collaborative approach to science and education will complement and enhance our programs," said Josh Millspaugh, Boone and Crockett Professor of Wildlife Conservation at the University of Montana.



ABOVE: Fellow Christopher Hansen downloaded photos from the trail cameras placed around the ranch. B&C President James Arnold looks on as he reviews the latest videos. See more photos on page 76 and online in the Wildlife Caught On Camera series.

LEFT: Welcome Dr. Jerry Belant to the Boone and Crockett Club University Programs.

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