# EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

B&C UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

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 the graduates for the responsible and wise management of wildlife in the future.

## 2019 BOONE AND CROCKETT FELLOW OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN GRADUATE RESEARCH

**At the Annual Meeting last December Daniel P. Thompson was announced as the first winner of the Boone and Crockett Fellow Outstanding Achievement Award in Graduate Research. The Boone and Crockett Club has established this award to formally acknowledge the most outstanding achievements of Boone and Crockett Fellows. The award highlights and strengthens the connection between students and the Boone and Crockett Club that supports them.**

The Boone and Crockett Club's University Programs offers educational and professional development opportunities that prepare future scientists, decision-makers, and leaders to address the enormous challenges facing wildlife conservation. The Club established the annual Boone and Crockett Fellow Outstanding Achievement Award to recognize a graduate student whose research advances the Club's mission and informs natural resource management and policy decisions in North America. Awardees are selected on the basis of the relevance and significance of their research, the quality of their work, and their commitment to leadership, effective communication, and outreach.

Boone and Crockett Club President Timothy C. Brady said, " On behalf of the Boone and Crockett Club and its University Programs Committee, I'd like to congratulate you on being awarded the first Boone and Crockett Fellow Outstanding Achievement Award in Graduate Research. Your work evaluating the physiological and behavioral responses of moose to changing temperatures is an excellent example of research that brings meaning and understanding to the Club's mission and strategic vision. Your role with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game demonstrates your ability to lead in research that will make a difference to management of landscapes for big game."

B&C President, Timothy C. Brady (right) presented Daniel Thompson with a plaque during a luncheon at the Club's Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona. Dan presented his research on the physiological and behavioral responses of moose to fluctuating environmental temperatures to the members in attendance.

## BOONE AND CROCKETT FELLOW PROFILE

### DANIEL P. THOMPSON
**PH.D. STUDENT - TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

**THESIS TITLE:** Evaluating the physiological and behavioral responses of moose *(Alces alces)* to fluctuating environmental temperatures

Dan was born and raised in western Colorado where his father was a District Wildlife Manager. His father cultivated his interest in wildlife and instilled a strong hunting heritage from a young age. Dan followed in his father's footsteps by obtaining a B.Sc. in wildlife biology from Colorado State University, and then achieved a M.Sc. in wildlife biology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. He has worked as a wildlife biologist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Colorado, as a NEPA coordinator at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and currently as a wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Dan looks forward to passing on his interest of wildlife and hunting heritage to his son and daughter as they begin to accompany Dan and his wife on outdoor and hunting trips in Alaska.

Dan's research evaluates how moose respond, both physiologically and behaviorally, to daily and seasonal fluctuations in environmental temperature on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. Using internal temperature sensors in moose, he can look at daily and seasonal body temperatures to determine when they may become stressed from warm environmental temperatures. Using captive moose, he will evaluate how individual moose respond physiologically to warm environmental temperatures by using techniques such as heart rate belts, salivary and fecal stress hormone levels, and forward looking infrared thermal images. With wild moose, he will evaluate behavioral responses to warm environmental temperatures by using GPS collars to determine habitat selection and activity. Understanding habitat selection of moose for both thermoregulation and habitat quality will allow wildlife managers to identify areas that can provide both thermal relief and adequate forage for moose during seasonally warm temperatures when planning habitat improvements for these populations.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Chad Bishop, B&C Professional Member and Director and Associate Professor of the Wildlife Biology Program at the University of Montana, Daniel P. Thompson, B&C Fellow, Perry S. Barboza, Boone and Crockett Chair in Wildlife Conservation & Policy at Texas A&M University, Timothy C. Brady, B&C President. Chad Bishop welcomed everyone to the luncheon and introduced the award and selection process. Perry Barboza introduced Daniel and his research as his professor at Texas A&M.