

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

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.

FROM: B&C Fellows at the 85th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

At the Boone and Crockett Club 2020 Spring meeting, held March 8-13, 2020, in conjunction with the Wildlife Management Institute's 85th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, three of our B&C University Programs Fellows presented at the luncheon on Thursday, March 12. ■



A group photo of the presenting B&C Fellows along with their advisors and B&C members at the Boone and Crockett Club Spring meeting. LEFT TO RIGHT: B&C Professional Member and University of Montana Director and Associate Professor of the Wildlife Biology Program, Chad Bishop; B&C Professional Member and Associate Director of the Boone and Crockett Quantitative Wildlife Center at Michigan State University, David Williams; B&C Fellow Ashley Huinker; B&C Fellow Vaughan Branch; B&C Professional Member and Boone and Crockett Club Professor of Wildlife Conservation at the University of Montana, Josh Millspaugh; B&C Chief Executive Officer, Tony Schoonen; and B&C President, Timothy C. Brady.

VAUGHAN BRANCH
M.S. STUDENT - UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



THESIS TITLE: State and Federal Wildlife Agencies: Management Authority on Federal Lands and Effective Collaboration on Habitat Connectivity

Vaughan Branch grew up in a small farming community in southern Georgia. As a young man, he spent nearly all of his time outdoors—playing sports, hunting, fishing and exploring. After earning business and law degrees, he served as a prosecutor for many years and also worked in commercial litigation. Vaughan’s decision to leave his practice of law and return for a M.S. in Wildlife Biology at University of Montana was driven in part by his lifelong passion for wildlife and the outdoors. His work focuses on management authority on federal lands and effective collaboration on habitat connectivity. Upon completion of his degree in spring 2020, he intends to work with a wildlife agency or organization in a role dedicated to improving stakeholder collaboration and informed conservation governance.



Presenting at the spring meeting was a great experience. I enjoyed answering the member’s questions and talking with them afterward more about my project and myself. I think presenting is important for both fellows and members—members learn more about what B&C fellows are doing and how they’re moving conservation goals forward, and fellows get the opportunity to gain more exposure for their research and make connections that they otherwise wouldn’t. I am so grateful for my experiences in Boone and Crockett’s University Programs!
 - Ashley Huinker, B&C Fellow presenter

ASHLEY HUINKER
M.S. STUDENT - MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



THESIS TITLE: Microhabitat selection and reproductive success of American woodcock in Michigan

Ashley Huinker was born and raised in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. Her interest in wildlife started early, when her father took her out hunting and she spent time outdoors camping and hiking. Ashley completed her undergraduate degree at Montana State University. After spending a year working as a technician with Oklahoma State University and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, she returned to school for a M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. Ashley’s work focuses on habitat selection and reproductive success of American woodcock in Michigan. Upon completion of her degree in spring 2020, she plans to pursue a position as a game bird biologist for a state agency or non-governmental organization.

