

**31st EDITION NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 1999**

**NORTH AMERICAN  
WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**"WORKING FOR WILDLIFE"**

## NAWEOA AWARD APPLICATION

Name of Person to Receive Award: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Surname) (First name)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State/Province) (Code)

Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Award Category (Check): Award of Appreciation \_\_\_\_\_  
Award of Valour \_\_\_\_\_  
Lifesaving Award \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate of Award \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate of Retirement \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please use reverse side if neccessary)

I need this certificate by (date): \_\_\_\_\_

Award to be presented at NAWEOA Annual Conference Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Please mail to the Secretary/Treasurer allowing plenty of time to process.

Make additional copies as needed.

**NAWEOA**

**POB 22**

**Hollidaysburg, Pa. 16648 USA**

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association now offers the opportunity for those persons who are not field fish and/or wildlife officers, but who are supportive of all fish and wildlife enforcement, to become part of NAWEOA as an associate member.

**INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** - Includes a patch , bi-annual newsletter and the opportunity to attend the annual convention as a non-voting member.

**AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** - (Such as sportsman clubs, gun clubs, conservation groups, colleges, etc.) - Includes membership certificate, bi-annual newsletter and eligibility to send one non-voting delegate to the annual convention.

If you desire to be a supporter of this 8,000 member professional organization of wildlife officers, please complete this form and mail, along with check or money order, to:

**NAWEOA**

**POB 22**

**Hollidaysburg, Pa. 16648 USA**

\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership (\$20 per year)

\_\_\_\_ Affiliated Organization Membership (\$200 per year)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE

Sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gary Martin

Hello, everyone!! My hope is that this Spring finds all of y'all healthy and safe. As usual, this has been a busy NAWEOA year ...lots of changes and things happening. Let me try to update you on what is new as well as ongoing projects, issues, etc.

**NEW FACES** - After performing what are two of the busiest jobs in the NAWEOA organization, both Merryl "Bull" Bustin and Mike "Gabby" Gabbard have decided to take a well deserved rest.

Merryl has been Secretary Treasurer for NAWEOA for the past 7 years, which is longer than anyone has survived in this role! This was during a time when we have progressed almost virtually from stick pens and photocopiers to laptops, databases, and e-mails! As many of you know, Merryl also survived a devastating fire which virtually destroyed everything in his home, as well as a lot of NAWEOA material, and he has worked especially hard at trying to recover and reorganize lost files and information.

Our new Secretary Treasurer is Steve Kleiner from Pennsylvania. I have asked Steve to write an introductory note which you should find elsewhere in this issue, but I should tell you that in the three months that he has taken on this task, he has impressed all of your board members.

Mike Gabbard, too, has decided to hand over the editor's red pen. Gabby has been the longest serving person in this role and has worked long, hard hours for your organization. Gabby has made all kinds of improvements to the newsletter to make it more readable and to try and keep everyone informed. A brute for punishment, Mike has volunteered to take on a role of managing our membership files...we will update you on how that will work in the near future.

Your new editor is Pat Brown from Ontario. Pat will also introduce himself elsewhere, but he is also a 'keeper'.

**NEW PROJECTS** - We have a few new things on the go. Some are our own initiatives and some are, in the new trend, 'partnerships'.

We have joined the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs (NACLEC) as associate members. NACLEC is a new organization that, along with NAWEOA, will perform a very necessary role as the voice of fish & wildlife law enforcement. As a part of our association with NACLEC, we will be working with them on two projects: the Wildlife Violator Compact project and the Wildlife Contravention Information Computer (WCIC) system. The Violator Compact, as many of you know, extends licence suspensions from beyond the originating state to all states who are members of the Compact. We will be working with ACLEC to get all states on board as well



as continue to lobby the Canadian Chiefs to initiate a similar process in Canada and, ultimately, continent wide. The WCIC project is an effort to share information about convicted violators amongst states through a national database. This will be a very valuable resource for field conservation officers.

We are revitalizing the "Adopt-a-Warden" project and director Lisa Truffelli will lead this initiative. We all have surplus and out of date equipment that needs to be shared with our brothers and sisters in third world countries. As well, we have a wealth of knowledge and skills which may even be more valuable. Stay tuned for updates on this from Lisa and feel free to contact her if you would like to become involved in this project!

**ONGOING PROJECTS** - There are a number of tasks which we have been working on over the past couple of year which you should know about. The "Tips & Tricks" project is going very well. This is a major effort, compiling information and tips from officers across the continent. The first edition is with an editor right now and should be ready for the St. Louis conference.

The NAWEOA home page is up and running at <http://naweo.com/> - check it out! Let us know what you would like to see at this site! The Library of Technical Reports continues to expand and we now have several hundred reports, articles, and other materials on hand. Copies of any of the material are available on request....drop me a line for the catalogue.

**HELP NEEDED!** As of today, we do not have prospective hosts lined up for the 2001, 2002, 2003, etc. conferences. We will be looking for bids for the 2001 meeting and possibly 2002 at the St. Louis meeting...if you have any thoughts or questions please contact either myself or your regional rep ASAP.

We have also hosted a number of very successful regional training workshops over the years, covering topics as diverse as decoys, in-

terrogative and interview techniques, water safety/enforcement and wildlife forensics. However, we are now scratching our heads to try and develop new training - it seems like our various state and provincial in-house training programs are advancing so fast that there is less demand for supplementary training.


If you have any thoughts on topics which are not being covered in your region or would like to see any of the aforementioned workshops delivered in your part of the country, contact your regional rep!

See ya in St. Louis!!! Hope each and every one of you reads this newsletter from cover to cover. Congratulations, Pat on your virgin issue!!!

And, finally, consider making the lads in Missouri believers! Let's have 1000 officers show up in St. Louis and absolutely blow their minds!!! Work well, work safe.

**120th ANNIVERSARY  
1880 - 2000**

**NEW YORK STATE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION  
OFFICERS**



**NORTH AMERICAN  
WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
CONFERENCE 2000 ALBANY, NY**

## NAWEOA 2000

Albany, New York

July 10-16, 2000

Come and join us to celebrate the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New York State's ENCONS and the millennial conference of NAWEOA. For details contact Marion at 914-331-0899 or e-mail [MJFishcop@aol.com](mailto:MJFishcop@aol.com)



## REGION 1 REPORT

by Kevin Carr

Hello from northwestern Canada. We have an early spring this year and most people I have talked to are good and ready for the snow to go.

Bernie Bergman from the **Northwest Territories** reports that if you have a map of Canada, hang on to it because it will soon be a collector's item. Canada's map has not changed since 1949 when Newfoundland joined Confederation. On April 1, 1999 the Northwest Territories divided into two parts, the Northwest Territories and a new Territory called Nunavut. Nunavut, approximately one-fifth of Canada and five times the size of Alberta, has a population of 24,000, of whom 85% are Inuit.

This split will also divide our Officers, some of whom will now work for the new government. At this time no one knows for sure what new challenges they will face. There will be a lot of new positions in both Territories to be filled as the changes start to take place. It is recognized that there is not enough expertise within the Territories to fill these positions, so for the adventurous types - stay tuned.

Here in the west the name is still the Northwest Territories, however, there is a strongly protested movement to change this name.

The N.W.T. Officers association is STILL trying to have management implement policies which will provide for training and issuance of basic safety equipment, such as pepper spray, batons, handcuffs and vests. In most cases, we are conducting one person patrols with only our personalities and luck to protect us. We may require a letter writing or e-mail campaign in the future, similar to what Saskatchewan had on the Game Warden Net.

Al Gibson from **Alberta** reports that the 1993 amalgamation, which created the Department of Environmental Protection (EP), had many Fish and Wildlife Officers in the province wondering about our future. Since then, Fish and Wildlife officers have been attached to the Natural Resources Service (NRS) of EP. For the most part, field duties within

NRS were unaffected, although the message from management over the last five years has been one of shared job duties and responsibilities, blending of services and moving from a specialist function to a broader based district management approach. Throughout this time NRS has been in a continual state of change and transition. Annual budget reductions have hampered attaining the goals and objectives of this reorganization and lengthened timelines. There has been much frustration for field staff about where they were going and how they were to get there. During 1998, management completed its own restructuring and endorsed an area management model that created eighteen management areas within our six provincial regions. Each management area has one manager overseeing all operational aspects (fish and wildlife, water management and provincial parks). This process resulted in the elimination of our Regional Superintendent position, with the new Area Manager jobs assuming far wider responsibilities than supervising our role.

And now Integration, announced on November 30, 1998. Fish and Wildlife Officers will be combined with Provincial Park Rangers to form a new Conservation Officer series. Prior to implementation, which is tentatively set for April/May, several key factors must be determined: defining the role of the CO; establishing standards and defining an interview/screening process for selecting the district CO (supervisor) from existing staff. However, while are experiencing some havoc, we will survive bigger, better and stronger than we were before.

Rick Hildebrand from **British Columbia** reports that they are presently experiencing more fiscal restraint and possibly further budget cutbacks in the new fiscal year commencing April 1. One district office (Maple Ridge) closed effective March 19, 1999. No one seems to know for sure just what may happen in the new fiscal year. The province was anticipating hiring another six recruits from an eligibility list prior to its expiry on February 16, 1999, but that did not happen. There are currently 10 vacancies across the province.

The issue of use of blue lights by Conservation Officers has risen once again. There is new provincial legislation defining specifically who is allowed to use red and blue lights. Conservation Officers are not included. Apparently there is some research being conducted into alternate light color combinations.

A NAWEOA 2005 Master Committee has been struck, involving representatives from the BC Conservation Officer Service and its Officers association, Pacific Region Fishery Officers Society, Canadian Wildlife Service and the National Parks Warden Service. Plans for site selection are well underway. Pending some changes to the NAWEOA Constitution this summer in St. Louis, BC will be presenting a conference hosting bid in Albany, New York in 2000. Start making plans now to at-

tend in BC in 2005. We will be celebrating 100 years of conservation enforcement in BC as well as the 25 years of NAWEOA.

Kerry Wrischo of **Saskatchewan** reports that their Officer association SACO just had their annual conference in Cold Lake, Alberta with the Alberta Officers association. A total of 100 Officers attended from both provinces and a good time was had by all, some more than others.

The Saskatchewan Officers are hoping for an improved budget after last year's dismal operating budget. The taking home of enforcement vehicles as a taxable benefit to Conservation Officers is a cause of great concern amongst Officers all across Canada. A government-wide class plan overhaul was conducted in Saskatchewan with the main emphasis on pay equity. A lot of field Conservation Officers saw increases, however, a large number of appeals are still outstanding.

Greg Slatter reports from the **western/northern Canadian National Parks**: For the first time in several years the poaching of a bighorn sheep was discovered in Jasper National Park. Two hunters were observed by another hunter killing a bighorn ram the day before the legal hunting season opened in the Province. The person reporting the incident abandoned his hunt, hiked approx. 10 km. and then drove to a phone to report this violation. Park wardens and Alberta F&W Officers apprehended the pair as they were transporting the cape and meat to their vehicle the following day. They will appear in court next month, charged with National Park and provincial wildlife offences.

In a similar case, in the same general boundary area, a hunter observed 2 other hunters remove the head from a dead bighorn sheep on the Park boundary the evening before legal hunting season opened. He reported this suspicious activity and Park Wardens and Alberta F&W Officers investigated. The sheep was lying exactly on the boundary line and had been dead for some time. The hunters claimed it was a "found" head and were subsequently issued a possession permit by Alberta Environmental Protection. There is some question whether it had been moved a few metres to the boundary and as to how it died. No bullets were found in the carcass, although there was evidence of a damaged/infected horn core caused by an old bullet wound.

Unfortunately a traffic fatality occurred this past summer in which a Jasper Warden was attempting to stop a dangerous driver. Several complaints to both the RCMP and our East Gate staff about a dangerous/erratic driver were received. A Park Warden located the suspect vehicle and attempted a traffic stop using emergency lights and siren. The suspect vehicle fled at high speed, driving on the wrong side of the road. The Warden terminated the pursuit and requested the RCMP respond with a spike belt. Shortly after, the suspect vehicle (stolen), still on the wrong side of the road, forced several oncoming vehicles

into the ditch and then collided head on with a motorcycle. The driver of the motorcycle was killed instantly and the violator was captured. An internal investigation and a separate RCMP investigation revealed no criminal liability or departure from NPS policy by the Warden. The violator faces criminal and civil penalties.

**Parks Canada/Jasper National Park (JNP)** lost another round in our attempt in court to close the local Jasper airstrip. Last fall a local pilot's lawyer argued successfully that his client hadn't received proper notice of restrictions to use of the airstrip (i.e. no landings/takeoffs without a permit). Charges were withdrawn against several other pilots. The Canadian Owners and Pilots Association organized a fly-in and more charges were laid. These will be in court later next month.

JNP captured and relocated almost 100 elk in February to two areas in Alberta. These elk were part of a herd that lives year round within the Jasper townsite and are responsible for increasing numbers of attacks on local people and visitors, particularly during spring calving and the fall rut. This is phase 1 of a multi-year program to reduce the elk population. At the same time the capture was taking place, word was received of the discovery of a poached bull elk 20 km. outside of town. We have no suspects at present, but the investigation is continuing.

**Elk Island National Park:** An inter-agency search exercise was conducted in November with search managers from Elk Island and the Edmonton Police Service, and search resources from many local and regional groups and agencies taking part. This exercise was a success and an excellent learning experience.

For the first time since the late 1800's, trumpeter swans have successfully raised cygnets in Elk Island National Park. Trumpeter swans have been relocated to Elk Island from

the Grande Prairie area of Alberta for several years in an attempt to reintroduce this extirpated bird.

**Gwaii Haanas National Park:** The commercial herring fishery is planned again for late winter/early spring in the waters surrounding the archipelago. Warden and RCMP presence will be scaled back this year and staff are hopeful that DFO and the Haida Nation can reach a compromise and eliminate the potential for conflict. This past year was busy for search and rescue - there were 5 (3 ground searches for lost mushroom pickers, 1 for a fisherman within the Park, and 1 marine search in Hecate Strait).

Brian Lacey of the **Yukon** reports that on January 8, 1999, Bill Rankins, a big game guide and director of field operations for a Yukon Outfitting concession in the Mayo area in 1996 and 1997, entered guilty pleas to two charges under the Yukon Wildlife Act.

The first charge stemmed from investigations in 1996 in which Rankins hired a guide from New Zealand who subsequently illegally guided hunters. The second charge related to incidents in 1997 in which Rankins counseled non-resident hunters to commit violations of the Wildlife Act, including hunting on another person's licence and exceeding the bag limit on Dall sheep.

In a joint submission, Crown and Defence agreed on a fine of \$7,500.00 for the 1996 violation and a fine of \$10,000.00 for the 1997 violation and a lifetime ban on guiding or outfitting within the Yukon. In default of payment Mr. Rankins will serve 9 months imprisonment. Sixty-three other charges were withdrawn with the entry of the guilty pleas.

Some of you may remember Californian Michael Shipsey, a trophy hunter who poached a big horn ram from Jasper National Park with a handgun in the early 1980's. Mr. Rankins

was Shipsey's guide in that incident.

Thirteen counts under the Yukon Wildlife Act are still outstanding against New Zealander Bruce Todd.

These investigations involved the efforts of Officers from the Yukon, British Columbia, California, Utah, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Zealand and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This was another exceptional example of co-operation between agencies.

In the spring of 1999 the Yukon Conservation Officer Service will trade in their .357 S & W revolvers in favour of the S & W .40 semi-automatic pistol. Probably the biggest news for Yukon Conservation Officers was the recent agreement reached between the Governments of Canada and Yukon on the transfer of Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Programs to the Yukon Territorial Government. The Yukon Department of Renewable Resources will double in size with this transfer of Federal Programs, and Conservation Officers will undoubtedly see significant increase in duties. The next year promises to be one of exciting changes and challenges in the field.

I believe everybody across NAWEOA can relate to the loss of a brother or sister Officer. I met an Officer named Dave Russell from Newfoundland last summer at the Ohio conference. His enthusiasm and energy were contagious. For those Officers who attended last year, you know the Officer of whom I speak. Dave lost a battle to cancer this past winter, and his passing is a loss to our profession. I send our condolences to Dave's wife and children and also to the Officers of Newfoundland. Dave will be missed.

As the rivers and lakes open up and our citizens make their way out into the back country be vigilant, practice good tactics and be safe out there.

## *Calling all Candidates*

There are going to be some important elections at the annual meeting in St. Louis in July. Gary Martin's term as President is up and he will be replaced by an American member of the executive, which includes all jurisdictional reps. In a similar manner, VP Randy Hancock will be replaced from among the Canadian board members.

The terms of the directors of the four American regions of NAWEOA are also up this summer. The directors of Region 4 (Jerry Claasen), Region 6 (Bruce Lemmert) and Region 7 (Lisa Trufelli) have each served one term and are eligible for re-election to a second two year term. Mary Clawson has served two terms as a director of Region 5 and her term on the board is up.

If you are interested in any of these positions or wish to nominate someone please contact:

Rick Pallister  
Rt. 1, Box 66  
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834

Or e-mail: Rick Pallister at [rgpal@vcn.com](mailto:rgpal@vcn.com)

## **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS**

All NAWEOA membership dues expire on December 31 of the year. Due to the large number of members, it is not possible to send out renewal notices to those members who pay as individuals. For those who pay as jurisdictions, please check to see that your dues are paid. Any individual or jurisdiction that has not paid their dues by January 31 will not receive a spring newsletter.



## REGION 2 REPORT

by Ian Anderson

NAWEOA'S Winter Executive meetings are always the highlight of my winter as our hosts are often in some remote corner of North America, which I haven't visited before. This year was no exception and I now know where Meridian, Mississippi is located on the map.

Our host this year was one of finest, Bill Brace, who was assisted by his family and members of the hunt camp where we stayed. In addition, Bill Collins, also a wildlife enforcement officer, provided backup to Bill Brace in every way. The food and atmosphere was great and very conducive to getting business done.

The tornadoes on the way down, which resulted in more canceled and late flights than any one person should be subjected to in a lifetime, only added to the occasion and will be an interesting chapter in my book upon retirement!

I'd like to welcome Steve Kleiner as our new secretary/treasurer and Pat Brown as our new editor. Merryl and Mike carried the torch for many years and deserve a lot of thanks and recognition for their efforts.

George Tardiff of the **National Capital Commission** reports that the doom and gloom of the past years seems to have dissipated around the capital with enthusiasm being the mood of the future. The Commission has implemented some new training after two incidents last summer in which officers were assaulted and threatened.

Last fall everyone in the section participated in a pepper spray course. Now all officers, casual and permanent, carry spray while on duty. A specialized winter defensive driving course has just been conducted, and in the spring the RCMP are offering a special 5 day Peace Officer Course when summer staff are available.

The new memorial stones at the Canadian Peace Officer Memorial were in place for the ceremony on Parliament Hill this past September. Many wildlife officers and wardens from across Canada attended the events. Plans are ready for phase two of the memorial, which includes the building of a hedge garden in front of the stones with park benches and electronic bollards, which will display the Honour Roll

for visitors to see. This is currently slated for completion prior to the 1999 ceremony. On the eve of this year's ceremony the Canadian Peace Officer Memorial Association will hold a Celtic Night in the west block of the Parliament Buildings - plan on attending.

Gerry Brunet of **Environment Canada (EC) Wildlife Enforcement Division** reports Ontario Region welcomed Gary Colgan as their new Chief of Enforcement this past November. Gary came over from Revenue Canada where he held the position of Director, Intelligence and Contraband Division, Custom Border Services (Inland), Toronto Region. Gary spent 25 years with Revenue Canada and brings with him experience and contacts, which should prove to be valuable assets.

A joint investigation between the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and EC that was reported in the last newsletter was concluded on January 21, 1999. The taxidermist involved pled guilty in Kitchener Provincial Court to three counts under the Ontario Game & Fish Act and two counts under the Migratory Bird Regulations. He was fined \$2,500.00 and forfeited all 118 mounts and frozen specimens. Nine firearms related charges are still before the court.

Other joint investigations between the OMNR and EC involving the deposit of bait for migratory birds by hunting clubs in Southwestern Ontario during the fall 1998 season were brought to successful conclusions. In one incident, two men from Tilbury, Ontario were fined \$1500.00 each and the Baptise Creek Lodge Inc., of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan was fined \$3000.00. Another incident at the Mans Brothers Marsh near Amherstburg, Ontario resulted the Trenton Development Company Ltd., of Trenton, Michigan paying a fine of \$4500.00. Both investigations involved pre-season baiting carried out within days of the opening of the season.

In January 1999 Environment Canada sent five officers to the RCMP depot in Regina, Saskatchewan to be trained as Basic Firearm Instructors (BFI's). That brings our total of trained BFI's to eight across Canada. These BFI's will be responsible for organizing and running the annual pistol qualifications within their respective regions.

EC officers in Manitoba report they have been kept busy during the fall and winter 1998 season conducting nine training sessions for Canada Customs officers on C.I.T.E.S. and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRITA).

Jim Kamann of **Manitoba** reports that illegal night lighting continues to drop in Manitoba and credits proactive enforcement and perhaps a few smarter "bad guys" as the reason. The Game Warden Show completed a shoot up in Churchill, Manitoba, highlighting polar bears, with everything going well. They also did a firefighting segment earlier last summer.

The successful applicant for the first George Graham Memorial Scholarship was Aaron Young, congratulations Aaron. He is the son of Chuck and Barb Young, one of our own and we wish Aaron the best of luck with his studies and future career aspirations.

A recent survey of job duties and wage comparisons with other jurisdictions has been completed. Manitoba officers work in a multi-disciplined environment and have many responsibilities, including enforcement. Their wages are not even close to their neighbouring provinces of Saskatchewan and Ontario. Hopefully this can be resolved in the near future.

The Manitoba Natural Resources Officers Association Convention 99 was hosted in Brandon on March 26-28. As usual, this Convention was a good mixture of business and fun, with a chance to meet new people and see old friends. New promotional merchandise was also available at this Convention. The NNROA hockey tournament was held in Pine Falls this year - winner to be announced!

Congratulations go out to Joe, Ross, Brian, Jerry, Luke, Tom, Don, and Bruce on your recent promotions this past year, and also to the recent NINE Natural Resources Officers hired. New blood in the organization is so very important for growth and development. Best of luck as well to all those that transferred.

NAWEOA welcomes Bruce Ward as the new jurisdictional rep, and thanks to Dan VanExan for all of his hard work as Ontario's rep. Dan has recently changed work locations, good luck in your new area! Bruce reports that Ontario is delighted to hear that retired Ontario Conservation Officer Pat Brown is our new NAWEOA Newsletter Editor and offers a heartfelt thank you to Mike Gabbard for his hard work and dedication on all our behalf.

Ontario now has a new Fish And Wildlife Conservation Act, which came into force on January 1, 1999. Some of the changes include extended authority to inspect and increased statute of limitations. Increased penalties and a "Lacey Act" like section, which makes it an offence to possess game illegally taken in another jurisdiction are welcome additions.

On the work front, Ontario is preparing for a major turnover of our CO workforce as a significant proportion of our officers is approaching retirement age. With 281 CO badges, including about 190 field officers, many of who are now over 40, the "brain drain" potential is obvious, so recruitment to the CO ranks has been given a high priority. At the same time our Deputy CO program is also under review.

Our current Government's unexpected announcement of its decision to end the spring bear hunt in Ontario caught most people by surprise and has drawn considerable attention to the process by which it reached this decision. The anti's mounted a very effective lobby to end this hunt, and this is a grave wake-up call to all hunters that they too need to become more vocal to protect their hunting heritage. Currently a lot of negative press is being gener-

ated by hunters, outfitters and members of the Provincial Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board who had not been consulted about the decision to end the hunt.

Operating dollars to keep Ontario CO's on the road are again at a premium. We currently enjoy some of the best equipment, vehicles and uniforms that we've ever had, coupled with a clear focus on enforcement issues, but still find vehicles parked in some corners of the province as we near the end of a fiscal year. The news for 1999 on this front doesn't get better, as we've been promised a further reduction in budgets.

On the up side, Ontario Conservation Officers continue to make good cases both on routine enforcement and through special investigations. The courts are on side as well with appropriate penalties in most cases, which will deter others from similar violations. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Missouri this July!

NAWEOA welcomes Mark McIntyre as the Region 2 news contributor for the **National Park Warden Association** and thanks to Bob Reside who has moved west to Alberta. A thank you as well to Mark Halley for this contribution. News from the St. Lawrence Islands National Park includes a co-operative venture between the Park and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in an effort to establish a buffer zone of vaccinated raccoons to prevent the further spread of Raccoon Rabies, north from New York State. Raccoons were live trapped, vaccinated and released in the Park and on adjoining private land. To date, there has not been a case of Raccoon Rabies on the Canadian side of the Thousand Islands ecosystem, although the disease is confirmed on the south shore of the St. Lawrence.

This Park has successfully concluded two occurrences dealing with local residents claiming to have right away through Park property. Both incidents have been resolved in favor of the Park with no right of way granted. A group of six hunters were caught hunting together inside the Park and were charged by Park Wardens for Trespassing to Hunt.

The Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park report that Stan McClellan retired from the Warden Service, as did Ken Johnstone. Adam Moreland moved to Wood Buffalo National Park and Doug Sweiger was deployed to Point Pelee National Park to act in the Parks Law Enforcement Specialist position. Mark Halley has transferred to BPNP/FFNMP from Point Pelee National Park and is now the LES for the Park.

A black bear study is ongoing in the Park with radio collared females being removed from the dens this winter to check for cubs and other biological data. Denning sites will be marked and measured with further live trapping of bears to start up again in the spring.

The Warden Service is involved in an ongoing whitetail deer monitoring program. The winter deer yard area in the Park is being monitored weekly for deer movements, snow

depth and predators. This data is being compiled and provided to the OMNR as part of the overall provincial deer population modeling program.

In August there was a diving fatality at the Arabia site in the Park. During the recovery Park Wardens used a Remotely Operated Vehicle called a SARA (Search and Research Apparatus) to search and record videos of the scene at a depth of 110 feet. The Ontario Provincial Police divers were unable to stay down at those depths for more than 10 minutes and were appreciative of the assistance of the SARA to document the search and recovery.

Georgian Bay Islands National Park reports that this winter the Warden Service conducted an unannounced "Enforcement Preparedness Exercise" to assess its response to a simulated poaching incident observed while on patrol. This was a valuable exercise that would benefit all sites. Numerous concerns were identified and discussed after the exercise in an effort to further improve the Warden Service response. Specifically discussed was the availability of defensive equipment to wardens conducting snowmobile patrols.

The Warden Service participated in Ice Rescue Training this past winter and Mark Villeneuve travelled to Wood Buffalo National Park to instruct in Wilderness First Aid. Georgian Bay Islands Park is an active member of the Recovery Team for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, which is designated as threatened. The Park established a website in order to promote protection of this snake, check it out at <http://www.terra-plex.com/sin/>.

Pukaskwa National Park reports that they were sorry to see Bob Reside and his wife Cathy leave and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Parks Officers, Wayne Michano and Andrew Promaine teamed up with Ontario Conservation Officers for the opening of moose season and were involved in a number of seizures and charges laid.

A moose survey was conducted in spite of the bad weather. With snow depths over 70 cm in early January it might be a bad winter for the moose. A number of multi-year projects came to an end, including the Pukaskwa Predator-Prey Process Project. The moose-wolf-caribou/landscape study ran 6 years. Results are still preliminary, but it does appear that wolves have a tough time of it throughout the Greater Pukaskwa Ecosystem. Garbage dumps, trapping, railways and roads all contribute to a high mortality rate on the wolves. Caribou don't appear to be a major prey species of the wolf, yet their numbers remain low.

The Park was involved in a long process of negotiation and mediation to move a proposed logging road on Crown land adjacent to the Park, farther from the park boundaries. In the end neither side got everything they wanted but the Park has earned an enormous amount of respect and is beginning to be considered a legitimate player in regional land-use planning. The agreement reached has the road 2 kilometres away from the Park boundary and specifies that the road will be decommissioned upon completion of timber harvesting from the area.

Hope everyone has a safe and productive spring, see you in Missouri.

## NAWEOA STUFF

Richard Kingston, past director of Region 3, is now responsible for distribution of NAWEOA promo items. Only prepaid orders over \$100 will be accepted. Make cheques or money orders payable to:

NAWEOA  
4 Stacker Rd., Whitney, NB E1V 4J6

### AVAILABLE ITEMS WITH PRICES

	CAN \$200	U.S. \$150
Print (Where Game Abounds)		
Print (Quiet Watch)	45	35
Buckle (Original Design - First Issue)	20	15
Buckle (1993 South Dakota Conference)	20	15
Buckle (1996 Saskatchewan Conference)	20	15
Buckle (1995 Pennsylvania Conference)	20	15
Buckle (1997 Colorado Conference)	Call	Call
Ball Cap (Black, Green or Maroon)	10	8
Journal of Wildlife Enforcement - Vol I	10	8
Journal of Wildlife Enforcement - Vol II	10	8

Some items are in short supply. All promo items will be available at the NAWEOA booth during the 1999 Missouri Conference.



## REGION 3 REPORT

by Brent Cole

Hi everyone! Another winter season is just about over, and everyone is gearing up for the conference in St. Louis, Missouri in July. From what I have gathered, it's going to be an outstanding time. There's still time to make plans, so I hope to see you there!

It's with a saddened heart that I pass along the following information. On February 19, 1999, Conservation Officer David Russell passed away at the Health Science Complex in St. John's, Newfoundland. Anyone who was at the Ohio conference last year will remember Dave as a very fun-filled, happy-go-lucky fellow with a tremendous sense of humour. Dave was an outstanding conservation officer who was dedicated to his work and his family. He will be sadly missed by all.

Sheldon Anstey reports from **Newfoundland and Labrador** that the past year has been a very busy one, with 946 charges laid and 600 warnings issued across the province. There was some controversy over our moose and caribou season dates this year. The Department decided to extend the hunt into the month of January to allow hunters the opportunity of hunting in the snow, which would increase access to remote areas and hopefully decrease crippling losses at the same time. This decision met with some opposition from various groups and pressure was put on the Minister to move the season dates back to early December which was done mid-season. This, of course, upset hunters who had their trips planned for the holiday season and they cried foul! It was a no win situation.

The Province's Special Investigations Unit has been busy as well this past season combating illegal activity in both the forestry and wildlife sectors. Several plainclothes and undercover operations were executed with positive results. A ring of timber poachers was busted up last fall and eventually convicted in Court. They were guilty of buying a substantial number of domestic wood cutting permits and then selling tractor trailer loads of pulpwood to the paper mill. Thanks to the hard work of a few Conservation Officers and many, many long hours of

surveillance, you might say that their little scam was "cut" short.

Speaking of scams, Newfoundland and Labrador seem to be getting an increased number of illegal guiding complaints in recent years. Basically, enterprising guides who work for outfitters during the big game season, make contact with the non-resident hunters that they guide and offer cheap hunts under the table. The non-residents then come to the Province after the regular guiding season is over and hunt with the guide's moose or caribou licence, for which he receives a fee. The difficult part of catching these people is that no laws have been broken until an animal has actually been shot. The real losers are the outfitters and law-abiding guides. A number of convictions have been possible thanks to intensive investigations by our Conservation Officers working in conjunction with investigators from other jurisdictions in Canada and the United States.

The Province has not been without its share of mishaps this year. Sheldon Anstey, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Conservation Officers Association, went off for awhile with a leg injury that required surgery. Also, Officer Howard Lavers just recently had a snowmobile accident while working and broke his ankle (normal men would cry), also requiring surgery.

Dougal MacNeil of **Nova Scotia** reports the Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia held their 14th Convention on February 26 & 27. Kerry Miller, Bridgewater office, organized one of our best to date. President Hugh MacIsaac completed his term of office on a successful note. Among his other accomplishments, Hugh worked hard to maintain and increase membership and active participation in the Nova Scotia Association. This was election year in Nova Scotia with a new executive being elected: Don Gray-President; Kevin Penney-Vice President; Mike Hunter-Secretary; and Maurice Comeau-Treasurer; a very capable group of dedicated members.

Guest speakers included Sgt. Vince Wood, RCMP, and Dr. John Butt, Chief Medical Examiner for the Province of Nova Scotia. Both captivated everyone in the room with their accounts and personal recollections in the aftermath of the ill-fated Swiss Air Flight 111, which crashed into the Atlantic off Nova Scotia's South Shore on September 4, 1998. Three of our CEOANS members, Gergeon Soeder, Danny Fleck and Chip Vienot, were on the recovery team and Dr. Butt's comments made us all feel very proud of our fellow officers.

Efforts being led by Jack Fortune and Mike Lowe toward reclassification of CO's are moving at a crawl. Arbitration hearings have been postponed several times over the past months, apparently at the request of the employer to prepare its arguments to keep staff pay at, or in some cases below, what is called the poverty line. It was obvious during discussions

that patience is running very thin among many officers with DNR. It's a shame that officers who have given their working life to the department should be made to feel so insulted.

Over the past few months Nova Scotia's CO's have been putting a great deal of effort toward trying to deal with unauthorized cutting on Crown land by Native harvesters. This is an extremely complicated issue involving Aboriginal and Treaty Rights going back hundreds of years.

The difficulty seems to be furthered by the land title and land claims question. These will require, as has been the experience in other jurisdictions, court decisions at the highest level, possibly taking many years to hear evidence and arrive at decisions. In the meantime the Mi'kmaq loggers have vowed to keep harvesting whether or not it is sanctioned by the Provincial Government. Obviously these are the things of which conflicts are made and Conservation Officers are enforcing and will continue to enforce the Acts as directed and expected. The spring is anticipated to bring more than showers and flowers this year. Hopefully by issue release, agreements will have been reached that will address conservation and the Mi'kmaq peoples need to have fair opportunity to share in the forest resource. It would sure make life easier for Conservation Officers who are now given the task of effecting a stop to all unauthorized forestry operations.

Richard Kingston reports from **New Brunswick** that in his last report (30th Edition Newsletter) he wrote about the New Brunswick enforcement officers requesting training and the issuance of equipment between empty hand control and lethal force. The conclusion to this matter came as the result of an order by Occupational Health and Safety to the Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy. The meat of the matter was this: Those officers doing enforcement duties will be trained and fully equipped. Officers are trained now in PPCT and sidearms. They are issued flashlights, handcuffs, and sidearms. New equipment and training will be pepper spray, baton, body armour, self-defence against weapons and long guns, and possibly carotid control techniques. Prior to this order, there were approximately 200 full time forest rangers, 25 seasonal forest rangers, 111 seasonal forest wardens, and 7 full time forest wardens involved in enforcement duties at least part of their time.

Following this order, the Department requested a reply from those officers who would be interested in doing enforcement in the future. Upon receiving this information, there will be a selection process, then training and equipping those who will commence enforcement duties. Natural Resource Minister Doug Tyler said, "We want the best possible candidates to carry out wildlife enforcement activities in New Brunswick. It's a tough job, the standards are becoming higher and we are anxious to establish a stronger unit of enforcement officers in New Brunswick."

The forest rangers and forest wardens are

now joined in an association. The sod is turned, ribbon cut, and flag raised. The "New Brunswick Conservation Officers Association" has an interim executive and a constitution in place. One of a number of the objectives is "to allow its members to speak in a united voice concerning conservation in the province of New Brunswick". This may be the step that is needed for the officers to come forward and announce their interest in hosting a NAWEOA conference. Congratulations to the New Brunswick Conservation Officers Association and to the officers on their successful drive for greater officer protection and the formation of your association.

Michel Morin reports from **Quebec** on courageous activity on the part of a number of officers within their region.

**"A BUSY CHRISTMAS EVE"** - Being a wildlife officer is to perform the best duty in the world and who could disagree with that. You might face dangers while at work but enforcing wildlife laws is somewhat enriching. Paperwork is also part of the job but most of the time you are outdoors. From being in the forest, officers gather strength and understanding of things that makes them kind of unique amongst people. In remote areas these men and women, because of their knowledge, become members of the search and rescue teams that are mandated to look for persons who are facing extreme situations.

On December 24, 1998, Gregoire Parent, a wildlife officer posted in Lebel-sur-Quevillon, Northern Quebec, found himself involved in two operations of search and rescue. It is then that courage, determination and professionalism helped him to do this particular job.

In a snowstorm, -25°C (-13°F) temperature and blazing winds, Gregoire Parent and Bernard Fradette were called to search for a couple. The pair was travelling from Montreal to a forest camp north of Lebel-sur-Quevillon to join their family for Christmas when they got lost, less than twenty kilometres from their destination. A snowstorm and extreme cold did not help. The snow covered their vehicle. When they were found by Gregoire and his partner, the engine was running on the last drop of fuel and they could not heat up the vehicle enough to warm up. The man was still in fairly good condition although suffering a few cold burns. His wife, however, could not speak and had hypothermia. If they had been found later, Christmas would have been a different story.

That same day, Gregoire Parent was again called to search for two seventeen year old fellows who had gone on a snowmobile ride that was to last a couple hours. Ice broke under their snowmobile on O'Sullivan River. Fortunately they were able to stay out of the water. The snowmobile, however, was lost. They walked 3.2 kilometres and unfortunately got lost. By sheer luck they found a hunting camp and were able to light the stove and warm up. Relatives had called for help and Officer Parent rapidly tracked down the two teenagers. Other than being a bit shook up and scared, the boys were

okay.

**"TWO LIVES SAVED BY WILDLIFE OFFICER"** When congratulated for his courageous action, Officer Eric Champagne was often heard saying that "anyone would have done the same". But, to do what Eric did means to act in full knowledge of the risks such a situation brings. On Wednesday, August 5, 1998, Fernand Giguere and Marcel Perreault, residents of Ste-Marie de Beauce, were getting ready for dinner in their cottage at Lake Edouard, not far from the town of La Tuque, Quebec. A malfunctioning refrigerator in their camp had been removed for repairs. Unaware that the removal of the refrigerator resulted in a propane leak, the men lit up the stove to cook their meal. A blast resulted, causing damage to the cottage structure, which partly fell down blocking the door and pushing the lower part of a wall outward. Fire spread quickly through the cottage, trapping the individuals inside.

In a cottage nearby, Eric, his wife Nancy and their friends heard the explosion. Running outside, Eric sized up the situation, and from his experience as a volunteer fireman in his community, knew there was little time to lose. Eric unsuccessfully tried to open the jammed door. Desperately, he smashed the door, and was able to help the injured people to safety. Badly burned, they received first aid from Eric and his friends before being sent to a medical centre. Not much could be done for the two cottages. Most important was the successful rescue of two souls.

On behalf of the Quebec Wildlife Officers, U.I.G.P.F. (International Union), NAWEOA and your colleagues around North America, congratulations Gregoire, Bernard and Eric on going the extra mile when someone's life was on the line.

**Outstanding Enforcement Work in Quebec:**  
**GAME WARDENS BAG POACHERS**  
**Co-ordinated raids across province shut down**  
**two rings, could bring in \$1 million in fines**

At precisely 7 am on February 17, game wardens across the province banged on the doors of suspected poachers, signalling the largest concerted action against illegal hunting and fishing in Quebec history.

Almost 300 wildlife conservation officers were involved in seizures and arrests in 5 regions, bringing to an end two extensive poaching networks. The co-ordinated raids were to ensure that poachers could not warn each other. By the end of the day, officials from the Environment and Wildlife Department had arrested 146 individuals and gathered information about another 250 suspects.

So far 883 charges have been laid. It is estimated that fines totalling \$1 million will be handed out - as much as \$70,000 per individual. At Ferment, New Quebec, 75 poachers were charged with illegally killing 1000 caribou from 1997-1998. At the Quebec region, 28 poachers were charged with killing and selling snow geese. Francois Gaumond, information officer

for the Gaspé regional office of Environment and Wildlife, said conservation officers in 8 regional offices based the seizures on 15 months of investigations.

The poachers' way of operating "was to invite friends from outside the region to go on group hunts with them", Gaumond said. "They would then exchange and sell the meat and fish to each other and to family and friends." Charges include hunting and fishing out of season, hunting at night, use of illegal hunting and fishing methods, hunting from vehicles, possession of illegal game, and possession of game above the allowable limit. Suspects can simply pay the fines or go to court to contest the charges. Gaumond says he doubts many will choose to pay outright because of the size of the fines.

Although no salmon were found in the possession of the suspects, conservation officers say they believe the suspects had been jigging for large salmon. "The large salmon are the breeding salmon, and there are special programs in place to protect them in every river", he said. While conservation officers found no direct link between the poaching networks and commercial operations like restaurants and stores, Environment Department officials suspect some of the illegal meat and fish was ending up in restaurants. Both venison and salmon can be legally bought from farms, but it is impossible to buy moose meat legally. However, it does on occasion turn up on restaurant menus. Suspects in the two poaching networks live in the Gaspé, on the North Shore, in the Victoriaville area and in the Quebec City and Montreal regions.

Six individuals were arrested during raids in Montreal, St. Leonard, Chateauguay, Saint-Jean, Terrebonne and Sainte-Marie de Monnoir. In Gaspé, Environment and Wildlife officials invited reporters on the raids in an effort to put more pressure on the suspects and their families. Arrests were filmed and photographed in Carleton, Nouvelle and Causapsca. More than 500 packages of moose meat and venison, 7 rifles, several hunting knives, 2 pick-up trucks and 2 all-terrain vehicles were seized. In that region, 26 individuals including 2 from New Brunswick were arrested and questioned. Conservation officers say they have gathered evidence against 2 other New Brunswick residents, and have alerted that province's Wildlife Department. Officials estimate that the poachers have illegally killed at least 30 moose, 50 Virginia deer and more than a dozen salmon in the Matapedia Valley alone.

Lewis Thomson from **Canadian Wildlife Service - Atlantic** reports that another mild winter has come and almost gone and the number of overwintering migratory birds is very large, with Canada Geese and Black Ducks staying in record numbers. The large number of birds has probably contributed to the high number of violations encountered with over bagging and hunting out of season. In Newfoundland, Ken Tucker reports that over bagging of

seaducks and the hunting of protected species of seabirds continues to be a problem. One Newfoundland hunter was fined \$3,500.00 and forfeited his hunting equipment for hunting eiders (7) out of season. Provincial conservation officers, RCMP officers, fishery officers and park wardens throughout the Atlantic continue to be important partners in combating these ongoing problems. Canadian Wildlife Service Head of Enforcement, Wayne Turpin is off on extended sick leave, and all wish him a speedy recovery.

**Parks Canada - Atlantic Region** This spring a new National Parks Act was passed that will assist wardens to better protect park lands and wildlife. The new act now defines trafficking as an offence and imposes stiffer fines for some species (from \$10,000 up to \$50,000). National park wardens have always appointed under other acts to assist in enforcement around our boundaries (i.e. as fisheries officer and provincial officers). A new clause in the this act allows for the reverse appointments of other federal, provincial and municipal officers as park wardens who work in the vicinity of national parks. Finally, this new act gives Gros Morne their status as a gazetted national park. Wardens there can now use this federal act to enforce regulations instead of using provincial acts.

At Cape Breton Highlands National Park last year a vandalism spree took place that cost

Parks Canada over a quarter of a million dollars in damages. This vandalism was a result of local disagreement as the province proceeds with its protected spaces plan.

Law Enforcement Plans are in their final drafts throughout the region. As Parks Canada moves to agency status, these plans will define levels of service in each park and secure funds to maintain an efficient program in each area.

Wardens in Gros Morne were successful in the prosecution of three Trout River men for illegally cutting wood in the Park. All three pleaded guilty and accepted \$200 fines plus forfeiture of the logs. Also when wardens responded to a report of an impaired driver at the Park gateway, the vehicle was ultimately located by the RCMP and a firearm and a number of illegal salmon were seized. Neither are strangers to park wardens and both have a violent history.

Last year the Contraventions Act was implemented in various parks in the regions. This resulted in Prince Edward Island National Park having a busy summer with over 100 charges of various descriptions being laid.

In Kouchibouac National Park, New Brunswick, closure of fishing for soft-shelled clams was in its second year of enforcement, having been closed due to low population. Management of this fishery will be more prudent than before, with the installation of a stringent

permit system and quota verification system in place in 1999. The closure of this fishery has kept wardens busy with law enforcement, resulting in 27 warnings being issued and 4 charges laid.

Jackie Vautour has been keeping Wardens busy once again. As most of you know, Mr Vautour and his wife and two adult sons have continued to reside illegally in the northern sector of the Park for the past 30 years. Mr Vautour is once again attempting to take his case to court, arguing that the Park is not in fact a legal park. Illegal clam fishing activities in September 1998 have resulted in charges being laid against both him and his wife for illegal fishing, assaulting a peace officer, and obstruction.

Another interesting law enforcement case at KNP included wardens teaming up with DFO officers to help bring down some lobster poachers at one of our wharves.

On a final note, the St. Louis Conference is just 4 ½ months away and July will be here before you know it. So take the time to plan to attend the conference, which promises to be outstanding. There is no better opportunity to meet so many colleagues and to make so many friends.

Take care all and I look forward to seeing everyone in St. Louis.

## MUSEUM REPORT

by Del Tibke

As most of you know, the Northern American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association has undertaken a capital project to build a museum and educational center in North Dakota at the International Peace Gardens on the Northern Dakota – Manitoba Border.

The ambitious plan to build a North American Wildlife Enforcement Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the Peace Gardens, grew out of NAWEOA's concern for public education about resource protection and for promoting wildlife enforcement as a profession. As well as the professional activities, there will be a Hall of Honors to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of officers who have died in the performance of their duties.

The total budget is \$3 million to bring this project to completion. Members of NAWEOA in some 60 jurisdictions have already started the ball rolling with their own fundraising events. To date \$258,500.00 has been committed to the building construction fund.

The government of Manitoba has been approached to provide lead funding for the project. They seem receptive to the idea and have been working closely with the museum fundraiser to identify various sources of funding. We should receive an answer this spring.

The government of Canada has also been approached and is waiting until Provincial funding levels have been confirmed before making a decision about its level of support. Finally, a comprehensive list of corporate donors has been developed, with letters to these folks scheduled to go out in the near future.

In the USA we have been gathering names of individuals for our fundraiser Jackson and Associates to interview for a feasibility study to see if it is possible to raise \$3 million at the present time. This study should be completed within the next few months. The museum board wants to thank the officers who made contacts and provided us with several names for the fundraiser to interview.

While we are grateful for the support of many outside donors, it is important to remember that they will not build this museum for us. We, as members of NAWEOA, must do our share. If you have something to contribute, be it time, money, artifacts, or ideas, please let us know.

The project is administered by a joint Canadian – American board of NAWEOA members headed by Del Tibke, President of Museum Board, of 560 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072-2806. Phone (701) 845-3780 with e-mail address of [dtibke@fm-net.com](mailto:dtibke@fm-net.com). In Canada contact Vice President of Museum Board, Dwayne Strate of Box 2380, Swan River, Manitoba R0L 1Z0. His home phone is (204) 734-4596 and work phone is (204) 734-3429. Feel free to contact us at any time about the Memorial Museum and Educational Project.

The museum board has openings from time to time. For those who are interested in working on the museum project to its completion and beyond, and are willing to work hard as a museum board member, send a resume on why you would like to become a board member to NAWEMMEC, Inc., P.O. Box 28, Valley City, ND 58072-0028.



## REGION 4 REPORT

by Jerry Claasen

So far this year the winter in **Region 4** has been mild and great. We only hope things will hold until spring and we get the needed moisture to curb summer fires. I would like to thank Bill Brace, Bill Collins and the East Mississippi Sportsman Association for their hospitality at the winter executive meeting. In addition to great savings to NAWEOA on travel expenses, we were able to form the lower Mississippi syncopated snoring chorus.

In **New Mexico** Brian Gleadle reports that they are mopping up after the fall hunting season. Eleven vehicles were seized for spotlighting violations. These vehicles are now subject to Department forfeiture once the suspects are convicted in Magistrate Court. (That should slow them down.) There has been discussion on a bill to increase the powers of the New Mexico Game and Fish Officers on specific state statutes that officers encounter but cannot enforce. Negligent Use of Firearms and Open Container are a couple examples of these violations. With the 1999 Law Enforcement action plan, the goal is to increase field officers law enforcement effort up to 70% of an officer's time. It is still unclear what will be dropped to achieve this mark.

**Oregon** officers have been busy working on action plans relating to a variety of fish species (Sea-run Cutthroat Trout and Chinook) reported Dave Rzewnicki. As always violations during hunting season take up most of the time. Cadets in the Deschutes River Area have tallied over 50 river rescues at the Oak Springs Rapids. Cadet Moyer was able to assist an unconscious male in his 20's who was floating face down in the river. After throwing a line to someone assisting the subject in the water, Moyer was beginning CPR when the victim began breathing on his own.

Trooper Carter and Recruit Banks of Pendleton responded to a complaint of a subject trying to gut a roadkill deer. The bow hunter (that is a person with a bow tag) maintained that the deer was still alive and was fresh enough to take home (on his bicycle). Recruit Banks broke his bubble when he told him he

checked the animal several hours before and it was dead and bloated at that time.

**DID YOU KNOW:** There are more different species of fish in the world than mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians? Jim Conner of **Montana** reports that the past fall seasons have been somewhat slow due to the decline in deer numbers. They did pull off a check station on I-90 at Saltese that checked 400 hunters resulting in 28 violations. Mike Mehn and Sgt. Anderson were able to process the first state case of using electronic communications to pursue game. Not only did the culprits broadcast over the state mutual aid frequency, they put the target on themselves by describing the "two brown trucks" warden rigs moving in on elk. Mehn recorded the conversation and it should make an interesting court case. Brandon Carpenter wrapped up a big residency case citing a Minnesotan for 14 citations covering 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Two of Montana's finest are moving into retirement. Floyd Thomas, who had a penchant for horseback patrol, was one of the slowest writers Jim has encountered. He states he always wanted to get him a pen with a spark plug on it. The other retiree is Tom Bivens, a founder, past president of NAWEOA and outstanding spokesperson for wildlife officers everywhere. We wish them well in their new endeavors and welcome them to the conferences as the Retired Officers.

The new representative from **Nevada** is John Johnson. John's duties center primarily on boating accidents, stolen boats and the Lake Mead Recreation Area, where temperatures can reach 120+ degrees in the summer. There are 20 officers in the southern Nevada area that do boating enforcement and get about 1 month "land time" to remember why they took the job.

Out of **Idaho**, Jim Collom states the top agenda item for the Idaho Fish and Game in the legislature is to increase the budget through license and tag increase, indexing and public funding through sales tax. If an increase in budget is not realized by 2001, the department projects cuts in personnel and special operations.

Congratulations to Officers Craig Walker and George Fischer for being selected Conservation Officers of the Year from Idaho. In the Clearwater Region CO's Haynes and Erickson got a tip from a sportsman about three illegal elk. The shooter, along with seven others, drove behind a road closure gate to retrieve the elk and met with CO Haynes. The shooter spent 30 days in jail, paid a \$1000 fine and a \$3500 civil penalty for the elk and received 2 lifetime license revocations. CO's Dave McGonigal and Bill London cited a Boise County resident for poaching 5 deer and an elk within a 14 month period. Three felony charges were filed but plea bargained to eight misdemeanor counts. The individual received 120 days in jail, 6 years probation, a \$6700 civil penalty, and \$2500 fine plus a lifetime suspension. The man claimed he was only poaching to feed his family. As it turns out, he had 376

pounds of illegal deer and elk meat in a locker since 1996 that he had never picked up.

Lastly, 20 moose have been poached in the Panhandle Region this past year. One suspect was fined \$2278 and received a 3 year license suspension.

"The only good thing about being on the bottom is that there is nowhere to go but up." So says Todd Vandivert of **Washington**. As most of you know, Washington has had a rough couple of years. Things appear to be improving as a few of the RIFed officers are being rehired. Newly appointed Chief Bjork says he is committed to bring budget stability to the Program and do everything possible to return officers to Enforcement. We hope he is successful.

**California** has joined a few other states which have a total ban on trapping, according to Bill Peters. Undoubtedly, this will cause problems in overpopulation, nuisance damage and a general non-use of a renewable resource. Bill is happy to report that his organization is becoming more and more active, with a good contingent planning on being in Missouri in July.

Doug Homan reports the **Colorado** has a new head of their law enforcement section. John Bredehoft has come up through the ranks with his most recent position being in the division's planning, budgeting and evaluating section. Two major investigations were conducted in the NW part of Colorado recently. One involved a joint effort between Colorado, the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service and National Park Service and was tabbed Operation Dinosaur. A former big game outfitter, Michael McGlone was sentenced to a year and a day for guiding illegal hunters on hunts on private and federal property, including Dinosaur National Monument. The sentencing resulted from the taking of trophy deer and elk and transporting them out of state. Fines and equipment confiscation were also a part of the sentence.

In the second case, three men have been charged with willful destruction of more than 30 deer and antelope that were just shot and left. According to Mike Bauman, 43 animals have been found shot along rural roads in Moffat and Routt County. "The assumption is they were probably just driving the roads and it appears target practice was in play," says Bauman. "We only filed charges on the freshly killed animals we found" said Dan Prenzlow, "the actual number could be well over 100". The three men in their late teens were held on \$20,000 bond. Six new officers have been assigned to districts this winter. With retirements and pro-motions, Colorado plans to have a new training class in 1999 to fill the expected vacancies.

I hope everyone is planning on attending this year's conference in St. Louis. I have been assured by Gordon Jarvis that there will be plenty of that fine Missouri catfish to go around.



## REGION 5 REPORT

by Mary Clawson

Well, folks, this will be my last Regional report, as my 2nd term is almost over. I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve in this position; it's been a wonderful experience. I would encourage anyone who is remotely interested in running for this position to do so. You'll never regret it! Now, for the news

In **Missouri**, John Hart is the new NAWEOA state rep, replacing Gordon Jarvis, who is extremely busy with this summer's conference. John tells us that the MO Conservation Agents Association and Core Committee for NAWEOA 99 have been spending many hours in preparation for the conference this next July.

They have planned a trip on the Mississippi river, golf, a float trip on the Meramec River, tours of the Arch, sporting clays, good speakers, a hotel that is world class, St. Louis Cardinals baseball, and on and on. They would like to remind everyone that they can use a little help from the NAWEOA members, in the form of hunting and fishing trip donations, merchandise from your part of the world, and anything else that they can auction off to help raise funds for NAWEOA. John reminds everyone to bring their families, as there will be lots for the spouses to do as well as the kids. Be sure to get your room reserved, as they are going fast. (The number is 1-800-325-7353). The MO officers just completed their spring conference of their Protection Division at Tan-Tara Resort. There are now 200+ in the Protection Division, including administrative personnel. The MO Governor has appointed a committee to look into the state employee retirement system. The MO Agents Association has joined forces with the MO State Troopers Association to have a bill giving all POST-certified state employees a similar retirement plan to the MO State Troopers. MO set a new record for the number of deer that were harvested in a single year, despite a decline in the number of hunters.

The new 3 week spring turkey season is working well; this year's season is April 19 through May 9, if anyone is interested. MO

continues to experience a decline in the number of bobwhite quail and cottontail rabbits in parts of the state. The cause for this decline has not been determined as yet, although Kentucky 31 fescue is probably the big culprit.

The first confirmed sightings of wild mountain lion or puma have occurred in Missouri recently. Several deer have been found that were apparently killed by a lion. These sightings have been in deep Ozark country just north of the Arkansas/Missouri state line. Agents are anticipating the spring fishing seasons and the opening of trout season. They will also be looking into the illegal take of paddlefish for the caviar market. When the price of eggs gets up above \$50-60/lb, they seem to come out of the woodwork to cash in.

As a final note, the Missouri Agents' Association hopes that everyone will consider coming to Missouri in July of 1999. They want to show you Missouri, and show you a good time for a few days in the middle of the hot summer. The hospitality room will be open from 3pm to 3am. Just remember ALL PATHS LEAD TO ST. LOUIS IN JULY '99.

From **Nebraska**, Levi Krause reports that their labor contract dispute with the State (which has lasted since 1996) has just been settled. Nebraska Conservation Officers are in the State Law Enforcement Bargaining Council (SLEBC) with the State Patrol, state Fire Marshals, and Carrier Enforcement. They just approved a labor contract, which will provide for salary and benefits during two contract periods from July of 1997 through June of 2001. They now have a 13 step pay plan so that officers can actually attain the top pay. Back pay for the dispute period and a comp time "buy down" were also agreed upon. They are finally at, or very near, comparability with our array states which are our six neighboring states. Nebraska's Law Enforcement Division Administrator (Chief) Dick Turpin has retired. His position is temporarily vacant. Ted Blume, Assistant Chief, is currently Acting Chief. Two new Conservation Officers were hired in December - Patrick George and Stacey Lewton. Both had previously completed the State Law Enforcement Training as police officers, so they are now in their Field Training program. Two more are scheduled to begin employment in March and attend the State L.E. Training Center prior to Field Training.

Administration is considering paying for Lyme Disease vaccinations for field personnel now that the new vaccine, Lymerix, is on the market. They already have two CO's in eastern Nebraska diagnosed with the disease and more who have taken the precautionary antibiotics after removing deer ticks.

Nebraska had one retiree during 1998 - Larry Bauman, last stationed at Atkinson, NE. Larry had nearly 40 years of service. They are attempting to develop plans for some sort of commemorative events, promotional items, raffles, etc. by 2001 to commemorate the appointment of the first Nebraska Game Warden in 1901. They'll advise you of plans as they

develop. Nebraska officers are looking forward to a visit at their February Association meeting by their new governor, Mike Johanns. They hope to develop and maintain a good avenue of communication so that they can continue to enlighten him about all aspects of Nebraska Conservation Officers.

Tim Phalen says there's not a lot to report from **North Dakota**. Fall work and hunting went well. The beautiful December set back the ice fishermen but prolonged the interest in pheasants. As soon as the weather pattern changed, it went to extreme cold, but has finally moderated. Ice fishermen are having another good season, northern pike can be found just about anywhere. Ben Dekker has announced his retirement. He will be re-placed by Cory Erk. Cory will be starting his FTO training February 1. The Association had another successful museum moose raffle and hunt, a lot of thanks to Gary Rankin for making the hunt a success. Work has progressed with their scholarship committee and funds. They should be giving two scholarships this year in memory of their past fallen officers. The ND legislature is in session, with several bills introduced that could affect their department. Some good, some bad - stay tuned.

From **Kansas**, Dave Hoffman reports that they have finished their first statewide 2 day special January deer season. It was very busy with many deer being taken. Their legislature is in session, and every day something new comes their way in deer programs. It seems everyone has an answer for deer control, even if they have never seen one in the wild. Kansas sadly reports that they lost two retired officers this past year, Jack Dunbar and Ed Brown. Both officers succumbed to cancer. They will be greatly missed. The assistant supervisor in Dave's region has taken a job in MN as regional supervisor and they wish him well. They have many people looking for jobs in other states, mostly due to their 4 year battle in the meet and confer process. Also, Kansas officers are not allowed to spend more than 65% of their time in law enforcement. This creates some considerable problems for many of their officers. Dave finishes with "Hope to see many of you in St. Louis, be careful out there." Owen Meadows of **South Dakota** writes, "Seems like each season of the year that rolls around arrives quickly. And faster as we age. Someone explained that to me once. The younger you are, the percentage one year represents of your life is larger. The percentage one year amounts to at my age is getting pretty small and flies by very fast." At this point in the annual circle of South Dakota Officer's lives they are wrapping up cases that have dribbled on from last fall's seasons. Along with the normal caseload, there have been some very large, involved and successfully handled wildlife violations. Every citation or investigation is important, but the large involved ones usually get the attention because of the huge amounts of time and number of officers needed to handle the complicated cases. Cov-

erage by the press and their Department has been good. The results of officers' hard work are always satisfying to hear. Then one always seems to wonder what else happened around this state that was missed. There is a lot to be sure, just as there is anywhere one might want to look. We can, however, be proud that we have still kept the lid on. You might have read in a previous edition that South Dakota officers were not looking forward to driving Ford Rangers as replacements when their present vehicles wore out. With great help from Operations Director Emmett Keyser, and Department Secretary John Cooper, SD officers are now receiving full size, extended cab 4x4s as replacements.

All officers will soon be completing bi-annual training with firearms and in PPCT. The week long in-service will soon be history also. In July, every officer will drive his/her vehicle to Pierre for EVOC training. Owen ends with, "Call if you enjoy spring turkey hunting. We have great hunting here. See you this summer in St. Louis."

Pat Harkin writes that **Wisconsin** has 21 new wardens in training at this time, 18 of them as a result of an increase by Governor Tommy Thompson last June. These wardens are getting a wide variety of warden training as all 21 were certified officers either in WI or another state prior to being hired on January 5, 1999. They are all doing well to this point and are looking forward to getting to their first FTO assignments in mid April. The WI Legislature is contemplating additional warden positions this spring and recruitment will begin very soon for the class of 2000.

The field warden of the year was recently named by Chief Warden Thomas Harelson. This prestigious award is known in WI as the "Haskell Noyes Watch", as the Noyes family has been making a presentation of a gold pocket watch since 1960 to the outstanding field enforcement warden. This year Mike Bartz, of Sturgeon Bay, WI is the proud recipient.

The Shikar Safari International award is awarded in WI to the outstanding supervisor or manager. This year, the Shikar Safari award goes to Training Officer Gerald Meronk for his innovation and dedication to putting together the latest version of Wisconsin's recruit training agenda. The new program brings in a lot of resource user groups, landowners, farmers and other interested citizens to share perspectives. Mike and Jerry are both very deserving of this recognition, congratulations!!!

Wisconsin is preparing to fully implement the training and issuance of laptop computers to all wardens by the year 2000, with testing going on now. This will be a big step, with a lot of potential to incorporate reports and other data bases to help wardens access information.

From **Texas**, Gary Tarpley tells us that the TX Parks and Wildlife Dept. created an Environmental Crime Unit, consisting of a specialized team of 6 Sgt. Game Warden In-

vestigators and a Captain Game Warden Supervisor to investigate criminal environmental violations that have detrimental effects on wildlife habitat. TPW's law enforcement division had an excellent year on TX waters with the continued success of the "Don't Be a Pain in the Boat" campaign. This year, BUI arrests were up 12% from 189 to 213. Boating accidents were down 13% and fatalities were down from 66 to 40 deaths.

The largest undercover trophy deer poaching investigation ever undertaken in TX resulted in the apprehension of 13 suspects in several south TX counties. Venado Macho, which means "big buck" in Spanish, was a 2 year undercover operation. Information and surveillance provided information regarding illegal walk-in hunting on large ranches in Webb County. Legal hunts in the targeted area are worth from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Fourteen people participated in 20 different illegal hunts, accompanied by undercover game wardens posing a ranch hands working in the area. Violations included hunting at night, hunting during closed seasons, hunting using illegal weapons (including silencers and fully automatic weapons) and possession of drugs. The violators paid for the illegal hunts with cash, drugs (in most cases marijuana) and, on one occasion, with illegal electronic fish shocking devices. The operation concluded with evidence and testimony that documented more than 300 criminal violations, many which were felonies.

Jeff Wells tells us that **Indiana** has increased its ranks with 10 additional officers as the result of a LEAF grant (215 total). The Governor's initiative to put more police on the streets enabled them to expand law enforcement coverage in Indiana's other "wild" areas.

Partly as a result of this increase in personnel, they are currently in the process of establishing 8 new full-time investigator positions. The investigators will be assigned to their new Investigations Section, which is being restructured by combining their Environmental Section with their Special Investigation Section. The new section will, when fully staffed, consist of a section commander (Capt.), an assistant commander (Lt.), 4 environmental investigators, 2 overt criminal investigators and 4 covert investigators. In addition, they are creating 2 new training specialist positions to assist their training officer and 2 new information specialists to assist with their public information programs. All of these positions will come from existing field officer positions. Their intention is to actually free more time for field officers to do their daily duties, as they have historically given special assignments to field officers to accomplish along with their "regular duties". As an example, a recent covert investigation into the commercial trade in reptiles and amphibians took 3 field officers away from their normal duties for about 3 years. They believe this approach will be more efficient and effective and will result in better protection of Indiana's fish

and wildlife and other natural resources. Indiana DNR is in the middle of expand-ing several of their specialized programs. They have increased their SCUBA Search and Recovery Team to 53 (19 new divers) and provided new dry suits to all team members. Their recently established K9 program is soon to be increased from two to eight dogs.

The dogs are trained specifically for fish and wildlife detection and article/person search. The 6 additional dogs and handlers will begin their 8 weeks of training the 15th of March. IN has had many success stories in the short time they've had their dogs. Not only have they assisted in making several cases, the positive PR has been tremendous. All the dogs were donated and they recently received a \$15K private donation toward funding their K9 program. Officer John Canarella was the recent recipient of IN's Pitzer Award (Officer of the Year). IN currently has a bill in their state legislature to get them on board the wildlife violators' compact and are optimistic on its passage. Indiana Conservation Officers will be actively involved in the upcoming National Peace Officers' Memorial Service in Washington DC this May. Several of their officers will be attending the services, along with several members of F/Sgt. Karl Kelley's immediate family. While the focus will be for Karl's loss, they will also be honoring two of their officers killed in the line of duty in 1926 but not previously nationally recognized.

IN's equipment acquisition continues to grow. They have issued hand held GPS units to all officers, new "Class B" field uniforms and 62 sets of night vision goggles. They are awaiting delivery of new swift water PFDs and collapsible batons for issue to everyone. Their new vehicle purchases will not only continue to dramatically increase their fleet of 4 wheel drives (51 new Tahoes) but they will once again be green. If you've ever tried to patrol rural areas in white sedans, you can better appreciate this news. In conclusion, Indiana will soon have a new NAWEOA jurisdiction representative. An election will be held this week at their annual in-service training to select a new rep. While Jeff fully expects to remain active with NAWEOA activities, he feels that the time is right to pass the torch. However, he hopes to see you all in St. Louis.

From the Gamewarden Net, Glenn Sanders of Illinois writes that on February 25 a new Chief of Law Enforcement was announced for Illinois. The new top cop is Tom Wakolbinger, who was formerly their Deputy Chief of Operations. Some of you may know Wakolbinger from his role as Boating Law Administrator for Illinois. Promotions from within the agency are always good news. Their former Chief Larry Closson has moved up to working in the Director's Office. Having a career law enforcement officer in the Director's Office will give IL officers an additional voice in "the big house" and should also be good for the agency.

Tony Cornish tells us that **Minnesota** has a new Commissioner as you might have heard. He is a retired 26-year veteran of the FBI, after which he was Chief of Police in Champlin, Minnesota for 6 years. He is very supportive of Law Enforcement and they look forward to good things from him. He has appointed as his Deputy Commissioner, Senator Steve Morse, an individual who has helped out Minnesota Game Wardens many times. He was the Chair of the Environment and Agriculture Budget Division and has helped them through some pretty tough times with their budget, squeezing out every penny he could for them. The MN wardens look forward to working with this new team.

Craig Roberg writes that in **Iowa**, Rick McGeough, their law enforcement bureau chief, retired in January and Lowell Joslin, the

assistant bureau chief has been promoted to chief. Randy Edwards, a district supervisor for south central Iowa has been promoted to assistant chief. The DNR also has a new director, Paul Johnson. Paul is a past head of the NRCS and also a former Iowa legislator. They don't feel that any of these changes are problems, and in fact are looking to the future with optimism. The Iowa Officer's association as part of the State Police Officer's Council has just recently approved a new labor contract for July 1999 through July 2001.

The contract implements a new pay plan with twelve steps. Officers will get approximately 10% over the next two years, with additional steps in the future. Conservation Officers here are very happy with the contract.

They had their annual statewide enforcement meeting in February. At the annual

awards banquet, Officer Dan Mork was named Shikar Safari Officer of the Year. Craig knows Dan very well, and in fact is probably solely responsible for him being selected for this award because when he was just a rookie 15 years ago, Craig took him under his wing and taught him the ways of the warden! Now he's basking in the glory and not giving any credit where due. Seriously, Dan is a fine warden and Craig congratulates him as does the association. During the award presentation, Dan's wife, Donita also was given an award by Lowell Joslin for being one of the unsung heroes of their bureau, namely the spouses of their officers. It was a real nice touch and an award which has been long overdue. Apparently this award will be made annually as part of the Shikar Safari award. Kudos to Lowell for that.



## **NEW SECRETARY-TREASURER STEVE KLEINER**

Upon graduating from Pennsylvania State University in 1977, Steve was hired by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. After graduating from the Ross Leffler School of Conservation, he was assigned as a District Game Protector to Greene County. In 1986 Steve transferred to his native Blair County where (by title change only) he served as a Wildlife Conservation Officer. In 1997 Steve was promoted to the Land Management Group Supervisor position in south central Pennsylvania. Steve received the CLECA Award in 1996.

Steve is a charter member of the Blair County Conservation Officers Association and the Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association (COPA). He was on the planning committee for the 1995 NAWEOA Conference. Steve currently serves on the Executive Board of COPA as Media Secretary and is Editor of THE GREEN LINE, COPA's own publication.

Steve has been married to his wife Marcy for 30 years and they have three children: Stephanie, a homemaker and mom of three; Steve Jr., a Sergeant in the US Air Force; and Michael, a Sergeant in the US Army.

Not only have Steve and Marcy been regular attendees to NAWEOA Conferences since 1994, but they are often accompanied to the conferences by Steve's mother Darlene and brother Alan who enjoy the fellowship and atmosphere of the conferences as well.

## **NAWEOA AWARDS CRITERIA**

### **Certificate of Award**

Anyone who is eligible for regular membership may be nominated for this award. It is given for outstanding achievement or service in the field of wildlife law enforcement or to NAWEOA (such as outgoing directors).

### **Certificate of Retirement**

Anyone who is eligible for regular membership may receive this award. It is given to honor years of service to the profession.

### **Certificate of Valor**

Anyone who is eligible for regular membership may be nominated for this award. It is given to the officer who risks or receives serious injury in the line of duty in an attempt to protect themselves or others from a dangerous situation. It infers bravery in the face of adversity.

### **Lifesaving Award**

Anyone who is eligible for regular membership may be nominated for this award. It is given for any act, at any time, which saves the life of another person.

### **Certificate of Appreciation**

Any person who, in any way, is helpful to the Association may be nominated for this award. This includes, but is not limited to: speakers, conference or workshop hosts, fundraisers, committee or special project members, citizens or politicians.

### **Honorary Lifetime Membership**

Anyone who has performed an extraordinary service to the Association over a number of years may be nominated for this award. It is one of our most prestigious awards and may only be given in rare circumstances. Anyone who is eligible for regular membership in the Association, upon receiving this award, shall maintain their voting privileges within the Association.

*Note: All above awards, with the exception of the Certificate of retirement, must be submitted to the NAWEOA Executive for review not later than June 30th in any year for presentation at the annual conference. Contact your Regional Director for of certificates of retirement as needed throughout the year.*



## REGION 6 REPORT

by Bruce A. Lemmert

**Migratory Bird Treaty Act and NAWEOA:** The most significant happening that will impact the South, and indeed the continent, is the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act of 1998. NAWEOA was opposed to the aspect of this bill that would change hunting over bait from a "strict liability" standard to a standard that the warden must prove that the hunter "knew or reasonably should have known" that bait was present. NAWEOA opposed this change simply because it was felt that many waterfowl baiting instances would become "unenforceable".

I was able to attend the United States Senate hearing on this issue, which was chaired by Senator John H. Chafee, Rhode Island. In addition to opposition submitted by NAWEOA, the changes to the baiting law were not supported by The National Wildlife Federation, and Defenders of Wildlife. The National Rifle Association and The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies spoke in favor passing the new baiting standard. Senator Chafee acknowledged that the bill generated strong views on both sides of the issue.

The second aspect of the MBTA-98 has made the act of putting out bait for the purposes of subsequently hunting over that bait, to be a separate offense.

In a follow up letter after MBTA-98 was passed, Senator Chafee offered the following statement: "Based on testimony at the hearing, I offered two amendments to the bill. The first increases the fines for violations of the MBTA from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and establishes stricter fines for commercial establishments engaged in baiting. I believe that because this bill requires some degree of knowledge of the facts surrounding a baiting violation, it is only fitting that the sentence reflects this new requirement. The second amendment requires that the Secretary of the Interior prepare a report to Congress analyzing the effects of this bill, and baiting generally, on migratory bird conservation and law enforcement efforts under MBTA. The purpose of this study is to give Congress better information with which

to consider this issue in the future."

All wildlife enforcement officers that I have discussed this matter with have indicated that they will continue to "fight the good fight", and of course this means that the new standards are duly accepted as part of our mission.

**Alabama Re-Districts / Pay Increase - J. D. Woodard reporting:** The past year has brought many changes to the Game and Fish Division. Enforcement districts have been combined to make 6 districts from the 12 districts we previously had. We now have a District Supervisor (Capt.) and 2 Assistant Supervisors (Lt.) in each district, with some districts having an additional captain. This has allowed the creation of three Sgt. Positions in each district. There have been some problems in implementing these positions, but they seemed to have been ironed out and these positions will be filled in the near future.

On the training side, we have been training on firearms and PPCT on a semi-annual basis and this will now be changed to quarterly training. We have also been trained in SSGT (Strategic Self-defense and Grappling Tactics). This is the best training we have received. It is a very good ground fighting system developed from Brazilian Jujutsu. Learning just a couple of these techniques can save your life in a bad situation.

Implementation of a new digital radio system, used in conjunction with our old system, has dramatically improved communications, although the system does not completely cover the state at this point. New repeaters are being turned on monthly and we should have full .6 watt coverage in about a year or less.

Governor Don Seigleman took office in January and has appointed Riley Bokin Smith as Commissioner of Conservation & Natural Resources. We look forward to working with both during their administration. We also would like to wish Game & Fish Director, Charles Kelley all our best in his retirement. Mr. Kelley has served the state well for the last 39 years.

After years of trying, we got our duck season extended to January 31. This provided our hunters a better opportunity to harvest ducks. We are not located in any real flyway and our waterfowl tended to arrive after the season was over.

Our antlerless deer season was also lengthened this year. This gave hunters up to 30 days to harvest antlerless deer and each could harvest one antlered and one antlerless deer per day. Changes in the Deer Management Program allowed co-operators to harvest one antlered and two antlerless deer per day.

Saving the best for last, we received an 8% pay raise that was effective October 1, 1998. This puts our top pay at \$37,377 for a field officer. We also receive \$12/day subsistence for each day we work. Be safe.

**Natural Resources Merger Impacts Florida - Hampton Yates reports:** A recent public initiative revision to our state constitu-

tion passed this past fall, reorganizing and merging various natural resources related agencies in Florida. Revision 5 combined the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFC) to form the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) effective July 1, 1999.

Currently, the GFC is the only constitutional agency involved, but the new FWCC is modeled mirroring the current constitution makeup of GFC. The legislature has requested recommendations on the structure of the new FWCC from the various agencies it will affect.

As far as law enforcement is concerned, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Law Enforcement, namely the Florida Marine Patrol (320 sworn L/E) with the exception of the Park Patrol, will be merged with the current GFC law enforcement arm under the new FWCC. The proposals include the various needed support personnel, bureaus, funding and facilities from DEP and MFC.

We, the GFC, have also proposed that boating safety and enforcement be added to the new FWCC's law enforcement responsibility. Currently, the FMP and the GFC both have this. Also, the new FWCC law enforcement would have two bureaus established from the merger. These would be the Bureau of Marine Enforcement with 370 full time employees (FTE's) and current field officers with the GFC would form the Bureau of In-land Enforcement with 363 FTE's. Combined, the two bureaus will be in the FWCC's Division of Law Enforcement, with two other bureaus and Office of the Director for a total of 855 FTE's. To summarize, the overall FWCC as proposed would consist of: all GFC employees (990), 10 MFC employees, and 788 DEP employees. This would total 1,788 employees in the new FWCC.

As mentioned, the legislature is reviewing the proposals and there may be additional changes before the legislature finalizes the structure of the new FWCC.

The GFC intends to have periodic updates on the GFC Home Page - <http://www.state.fl.us/gfc/gfchome.html>. Review this for news releases, hunting seasons and opportunities, and other information and links relating to the Florida outdoors.

**Georgia Officer Promotions and Awards - Elysia Greenlee reporting:** Col. Joel Brown retired in October 1998. Captain Walt Taylor, Albany LE Regional Supervisor, was promoted to fill his shoes as Chief of Law Enforcement. Sgt. Ashley Darley was promoted to replace Walt in Albany as Captain and Regional Supervisor. LTC Bob Sires retired in February 1999 and Captain Ron Bailey of the Gainesville Region was promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations (as LTC). His position in Gainesville will be filled by print time.

Other promotions: Sgt. Mike Commander of Albany; Sgt. Scott Klingel and Sgt. Sid Stephens of the Thompson Region (due to

the retirements of Sgt. Rodney Goodson and Sgt. Jerry Duval), plus Sgt. Carroll Chastain of the Calhoun Region and Cpl. Bob Farmer of the Thomson Region.

Our NWTF Ranger of the Year was Cpl. Henry Daniel of the Manchester Region. Sgt. John Pettis was selected the 1998 Officer of the Year by the Southwest Georgia Sheriff's and Police Intelligence Unit. John saved a woman's life when he rescued her from the Chattahoochee River. She had driven her car into the river, so he jumped in the cold and flooding water to save her.

**Update from the Sportsman's Paradise-Louisiana** - Brian Clark reporting: With February coming to an end, hunting seasons are winding down. The weather is still unpredictable in Louisiana. Temperatures are ranging from the low 30's at night to upper 70's by day; this is a common weather pattern for the southeast. Spring is fast approaching and will be welcomed by most agents. Warm weather is always a plus with the peak boating just around the corner.

The enforcement agents are looking forward to the spring and will be participating in a statewide boating safety project that we feel will be an excellent public relations tool. The agents will be handing out T-shirts to children who get caught wearing their personal flotation devices. The T-shirts will have a picture of a Louisiana alligator wearing a personal flotation device, and will read "I got caught wearing my PFD". The Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association, with the support of local donors, will be funding and putting on this program. Thousands of T-shirts will be given out statewide by the enforcement agents while they are out on boating safety patrols.

At present, the department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Enforcement Division has a total of 250 active agents. Each upland parish (county) has 2 agents assigned to it with the coastal parishes having a total of 3. Also, there are specialized units in the division, including special investigations, statewide strike force, saltwater enforcement patrol, oyster strike force and covert section. With the use of coordinated patrol efforts, the results of enforcement are commendable. The Enforcement Division also has a 15 member search and recovery dive team. The members are assigned throughout the state and have equipment to effectively perform their duties. The team has played an important role in the recovery of drowning victims and recovery of evidence that has been tossed overboard by violators.

Recruitment of new agents has been somewhat of a problem for the division in the past few years. We attribute this problem to the pay scale. In the State of Louisiana, the state police, local municipalities and sheriff's offices have been offering substantially higher pay and benefits. We feel that this has hurt us in the way of recruiting law enforcement officers.

In July of 1998, the enforcement division employees received a pay increase of 10%.

This increase has helped us with hiring of new cadets. The seasoned agents were also very appreciative of this increase, and realize the hard work and time that was put in by our division leaders and the DWF Secretary to make this raise possible.

At present, the enforcement division has an academy underway with a total of 23 cadets in training. The division has a very intensive training academy of 26 weeks. During these weeks, the cadets will receive specialized training in conservation law enforcement techniques. The division has a statewide reputation for having one of the best overall academies. We are very proud of the training and recognition we receive as law enforcement officers. The administration has worked hard to get to these standards and constantly work towards new and updated methods of training.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Enforcement Division, is constantly moving toward the future with updated training, new and updated equipment, and by expanding the work force. The administration is to be commended for the efforts that are put forth for the protection of our natural resources in the sportsman's paradise.

**Mississippi Officers Face Physical Fitness Standards-Possible Termination** - Jock Smith reporting: MS wildlife officers are recovering from hunting season, and to date no assaults on officers have been reported.

MS Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association is pleased to inform everyone that the MS Supreme Court has ruled that comp time records are public information. This ruling sets a precedent on what constitutes public records. MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks was ordered to release these records to MWEAOI. MS officers are currently not allowed to earn comp time and are not paid overtime.

MS once again hosted the winter meeting for NAWEOA. We were proud to be chosen again. Bill Brace, Vice President, did a great job. Our thanks to all involved. *(Bruce's Note: For the second year in a row, Mississippi has hosted the NAWEOA winter meeting, and the executive committee extends special thanks for the southern hospitality, especially that extended by Bill Brace and Bill Collins.)*

As the year 2000 gets closer, officers with MS Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks prepare to undergo physical fitness standards imposed by the department. MWEAOI met with the Department earlier and asked that all employees hired before January 1, 1995 be grandfathered, but this has fallen on deaf ears. We at MWEAOI are preparing for this action. At the current time if an officer cannot pass the test, they will be terminated. We think MS Wildlife Fisheries and Park is going to use physical fitness standards to force these older officers out. It is a shame that the administrators have chosen this way. Anyone having information to Representative help MWEAOI please send to Jock Smith, MS.

Officers are spending more time teaching boating and hunter education than working violations. What violations are written, with follow up reports, etc., have turned officers away from field law enforcement. It will not be long before our wildlife resources suffer.

MS Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Parks are getting a much needed new office building in Jackson. Some 5 to 7 million dollars will be spent on this project; the department previously had always leased buildings. Currently, just about all operations in the field are directed out of District offices. With 7 offices, there are 7 administrators with salaries well above the \$50,000 mark, vehicles furnished, etc. Currently, field officers range from \$19,992 to \$34,992 with 20+ years of service.

MS Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Inc. had a retirement bill introduced again this year. It didn't make its way out of the committee. We will continue this fight next year. Currently officers can retire with 46.875% of their highest four years plus 2% for every year over twenty-five. It's hard to live on that. MWEAOI has asked for 25 year retirements with 62.5% plus 3% per year over 25. The MS Highway Patrol currently has this policy. Why not us? We currently have officers working well into their 60's because they can't live on the retirement.

**North Carolina Training and Equipment Improvements** - Tony Robinson, reporting:

*(Bruce's Note: Tony Robinson, the man that has pulled us all together with the Game Warden Internet, has been assigned (i.e. promoted) to a new position of Technology and Internet Development within NC Law Enforcement Division. In essence, Tony will now be the agency's webmaster -Congratulations, Tony!)*

Over the past few months, officers in North Carolina received anywhere from a 1 to 4% pay raise.

We have just finished updating all patrol boats with refurbishing such as new seats and whatever else they needed. New Mustang style PFDs have been purchased and the department have adopted a "wear PFD at all times policy".

Each of the 36 patrol areas received another of the ITT night vision scopes. Each of our 9 districts received one of the high dollar heat-seeking night camera/scopes. Improvements were made to the state's radio system that helped cut out most of the dead spots. All units now have a department provided cell phone that works anywhere in the state. (The officers also do not ever see any of the bills or paper work that goes with it.) New and improved rain gear has been issued to each officer. The state's aircraft fleet is in full force for the first time in several years.

All officers in the state just finished a 4 day in-service training school on various subjects, including endangered species identification. Plans are underway for a new K-9 school within about a year. This would add several units to what we have now. No current plans

for a 1999 trainee school. The earliest will be early 2000.

Improvements in the department's point-of-sale licenses and boating registration system have been implemented and more are expected in the next few months. The system has been on-line long enough now that the officers can run a license check from their radio and tell if someone has a hunting or fishing license within seconds.

North Carolina will be hosting the 1999 SEAFWA (South Eastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) Conference in Greensboro, November 6-10. You can find info about it on a website that I have set up at <http://www.state.nc.us/Wildlife/seafwa/>.

**Tennessee- Interstate Wildlife Case Nets \$1,000,000.00 Restitution** - Mike Stockdale reporting: A 4 year investigation by USF&W Agents in Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia, and state officers from Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Alabama and Louisiana, along with Assistant U.S. Attorneys from Tennessee, Michigan and Illinois, has resulted in the Japanese-owned Tennessee Shell Company pleading guilty to one felony Lacey Count Act. The company agreed to pay \$1 million in restitution, which is the largest amount ever paid as a result of a federal criminal investigation involving wildlife. Over 200,000 documents seized from Tennessee Shell Company were analyzed in making the case, with numerous interviews conducted. Illegal shells were shipped to Tennessee Shell in Camden, TN where they were mixed with legal shells and shipped to Japan. Records recovered during the investigation revealed a \$50 million dollar annual domestic business for shell companies in the U.S. and a \$5 billion annual foreign trade for pearl, fine jewelry and other products.

Tennessee Wildlife Officers are looking forward to a significant pay raise July 1. Officers salaries are figured on the boarder state average plus one step. All officers will receive a 3.8% increase, while those not at the top of their pay bracket will receive an additional 4.5% or total of 8.68%. Tennessee's mandatory retirement law for wildlife officers has also been changed allowing officers to work until age 60 instead of age 55.

Officers will be receiving new Glock Model 22 pistols this spring. Glock has agreed to a trade-in of our 7 year old Glock Model 22 plus \$25. Several weapons due to age are having night sights being replaced, and this is a deal that was too good to pass.

In addition to the normal 40 hours of in-service each officer under goes yearly, TN officers will receive an abundance of specialized training this year. Scheduled are 2 sessions for Underwriters Lab Advanced Accident Reconstruction for boating; Emergency Vessels Operation Instructor's Course; BUI Instructor's Course; First Responder Training and the International Association of Marine Investigations Conference.

TN's Wildlife Officer of the Year for

1998 was Ty Inmon.

TN's Wildlife Forensic Lab continues to grow and stay busy. During fiscal year 97-98 the lab opened 31 cases involving 295 pieces of evidence and performed over 615 tests ranging from DNA to wounds, blood, bones, feathers, and hair. In addition to wildlife officers, cases were handled for other states, federal agencies, and other law enforcement agencies. Shakir Safari Club International has made a generous donation to the Agency to purchase equipment for the lab.

Although the first state game warden was appointed in 1903, the Model Game and Fish Act was passed in 1949, creating the TN Game & Fish Commission and its successor, TN Wildlife Resources Agency. It is our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday so come to TN and join the yearlong celebration!

**USF&W Agents Carry On** - Frank Kuncir, reporting: With the changes in the Migratory Bird Reform Act, the Federal Wildlife Agents will continue to strive to enforce the regulations equitably within the constraints placed upon us.

**Death of A Game Warden - Virginia** - Phil Parrish reporting: (*Bruce's Note-Phil Parrish was game warden assigned to Fauquier County along with Dwight Campbell in October 1979. Phil is the only Department employee still working that was in Fauquier at that time.*) On April 16, 1998 Virginia Game Warden Dwight Campbell, age 51, was buried. Dwight had been on disability retirement since 1979 when he was involved in a violent confrontation that left him maimed and the suspect dead. What follows is the story of that confrontation, and its aftermath.

**October 19, 1979 @ 2300 hours:** Dwight and Gary Dalton, a Game Refuge Supervisor on the Phelps WMA, were staked out in separate vehicles at the foot of Little Coblent Mountain, located just west of Marshall, Virginia. Shortly before 2300 hours, Dwight calls Gary to assist him in changing a tire. After Gary arrives, a vehicle pulls into the entrance of a long driveway across the road from their location and parks. Dwight walks over to the vehicle to investigate. A female drove the vehicle and a subject by the name of Randy Wines was the passenger. No firearms were evident in the vehicle. Dwight had issued Wines a trapping ticket on a previous occasion. Words were exchanged between Wines and Dwight. The car pulls away as Dwight returns to Gary. Unknown to both officers was the fact that Wines lived at the end of the long driveway and had exited the vehicle and walked home before the car pulled off.

Approximately 15 minutes later, at 2315 hours, a different car parks at the same location as the first. Both Dwight and Gary approached the vehicle. They reach the driver's side and are just able to identify the driver as a white female, when the beam of a large handheld spotlight was turned on them from across a fence on the far side of the car.

After exiting the first vehicle, Wines

walked home and phoned the second girl and instructed her to meet him at the end of his driveway. He then blacked his face with ashes, put a hatchet in his belt, and loaded his 12-gauge shotgun with three 00-buckshot shells. He apparently waited in the dark at the end of his driveway for the girl to arrive, knowing that Dwight would approach her vehicle.

Wines pinned both officers to the far side of the vehicle with the large handheld light while he crossed a board fence. He was screaming obscenities and repeating, "I've got you where I want you and I'm going to blow your mother-fucking head off." Both officers and the female in the driver's seat could see the shotgun in Wines' hands. The following events happened fast. Both officers, with guns drawn, along with the female in the car, were yelling for Wines to put the gun down. Wines, determined later to be high on alcohol and drugs, kept screaming obscenities and threats while he quickly crossed the fence and covered the short distance to the vehicle. As Wines came around the vehicle, Dwight and Gary attempted to run in different directions when the gunfire started. Dwight did not get far. At a range of 6 to 10 feet, Dwight's legs were literally blown out from under him. Wines fired twice, striking each of Dwight's thighs with a full load of 00-buckshot and the wadding. Both femurs were shattered. While being fired upon and facing a spotlight, Dwight had emptied his 38 revolver at Wines striking him three times, inflicting one lethal chest wound. Dwight was now screaming that his gun was empty. Even though Wines was badly wounded, he was attempting to clear a jam in his shotgun while ranting repeatedly, "Now I'm going to blow your mother-fucking head off." Wines, under the influence of alcohol and drugs, had apparently loaded a 3" shell into his 2 3/4" chambered gun which caused the jam and thereby preventing him from immediately fulfilling his threat.

While both Dwight and Wines were screaming and Wines still attempting to clear his jammed shotgun, Gary returned and shot across the female's vehicle, striking Wines three times in the back. Wines collapses to his knees stating, "I'm hurt, I give up." He then falls over and dies.

#### Aftermath

Dwight survived the night thanks to air splints and a good rescue squad. A crowd of officers waited at the hospital emergency room with his wife for the rescue squad to arrive. While he was being wheeled into the hospital, he was conscious and screaming to his wife, "Don't let them cut anything off!" referring to his badly mangled legs.

Dwight undergoes all night surgery. Public sentiment splits between Dwight and Wines. Threats are made on Dwight and his family. A 24-hour guard is placed on the hospital room that Dwight is in, and Dwight keeps his pistol under his pillow while there.

Despite the fact that Fauquier County Sheriff's Office and Commonwealth's Attor-

ney are investigating the incident, relatives of Wines contact the FBI to investigate possible civil rights violations. Human nature is such that everyone who wears a badge seems to be second-guessing Dwight.

Bogus hunting complaints are received by Fauquier County Sheriff's Office. (Virginia Game Wardens are typically dispatched through the county sheriff's office.) One week after the confrontation, Gordon Wilkes, Dwight's sergeant, has his house and vehicles shot up while he and his wife are in bed. Twenty minutes later, the house of a "special game warden" is also fired upon. (Special game wardens were similar to deputy game wardens as is still practiced in Pennsylvania.) Gary Dalton receives numerous threats.

Dwight has a full body cast with a bar between the legs. He is in constant pain. Doctors prescribe drugs for the pain, morphine mostly...months of agony...doctors worry about drug dependency. Gordon Wilkes resigns from the Department the day before deer season the following year after 27 years with the department. For liability reasons, the "special warden" program ends within the year. The following spring, Gary Dalton resigns from the Department. (Gary is still farming in southside Virginia.) The community has a fundraiser for Dwight and his family. (Dwight and his wife had a daughter in grade school at that time.)

Dwight believes he will go back to work. He wants to go back to work. Nerve damage to one leg is too great. One leg is one and one half inches shorter than the other. There is no way. The Department has to retire Dwight on disability. He is very, very bitter. Alcohol...the friend...an old friend that can always be relied on to be there ...to numb the pain.

#### Alone

Divorce follows. The bitterness deepens. Dwight isolates himself. The bottle now becomes a constant companion and Dwight later acknowledges that he was drunk for five or six years...straight. By 1991 Dwight's liver is shot and he is on the list for a transplant. He gets one, but none too soon. He is rushed to University Hospital in Charlottesville in a coma. Remarkably, the liver transplant is a success and Dwight begins to take his life back. O'Doul's becomes the closest to alcohol that Dwight can go. In 1994 Dwight concedes his right leg. It is amputated....and there is relief. Maybe, just maybe, in letting go of that inert mass called a leg, Dwight also let go of the past.

#### Looking Forward

In 1997 Dwight remarries. He has a future. Dwight was spending time on constructive things now. He enjoyed woodworking, building clocks and birdhouses. His wife said that Dwight accepted Christ into his life. The "outdoors" again becomes a companion. Dwight was fishing and simply enjoying being out.

By all outward appearances now, it seemed that the man who had already cheated death twice, Dwight Campbell, had his act to-

gether. He seemed to finally be over the proverbial hump, with a future to look forward to and a life to enjoy.

On April 16, 1998 Dwight Campbell died. His body had taken too much abuse.

#### Reflection

Dwight was buried in a little Virginia town on the edge of the Blue Ridge called Luray. This was his hometown. Given Dwight's comeback, the death and funeral seemed almost surreal, untimely. The little church was crowded. Friends, family, about 25 Virginia Game Wardens were in attendance. The game wardens were afforded the honor of being the pallbearers, providing a color guard, and supplying a "21 gun salute" with issued 870 Remington shotguns.

This was not a "line of duty, law enforcement" funeral. No, Dwight didn't die in the line of duty, his body simply gave out. In the end, it didn't seem fair. Dwight's life, that is. One minute he is a fun loving, hell-raising Virginia Game Warden and the next minute he is clinging to life itself. One tragic uncontrollable incident and life spins away. Indeed, it didn't need to be said, as each Virginia Game Warden that walked away from Dwight Campbell's grave was thinking, "There but for the Grace of God go I." There simply was no question to those behind the badge that this death had reverberated back to October 19, 1979.

The incident of October 19, 1979 involving Dwight Campbell and others is a textbook case of what we now call a "critical incident". Law enforcement now has programs designed to catch those spun out of control and hopefully bring them back to sanity and security. All involved needed help in this incident...some more than others. In Dwight's case we can only ask, "What if?"

#### In Memoriam

Virginia Game Wardens are assisting Dwight Campbell's widow with the placement of a modest, permanent memorial on Dwight's behalf. The cost is \$1300. Anyone who would like to contribute to this cause may send donations to: Dwight Campbell Memorial Fund, C/O Phil Parrish, P. O. Box 6, Goldvein, VA 22720.

## A New Editor by Pat Brown

Hi, I want to introduce my wife and I as we are now doing the job that Mike Gabbard did so ably for 8 years.

I'm Pat Brown and my wife and partner is Valerie. I was an Ontario Conservation Officer for over 28 years and retired last August. Val and I have been married for almost 29 years and have raised two sons, Hugh and Colin. Hugh lives in Vancouver, BC where he is pursuing a career as a singer songwriter and still has a day job. Colin is an apprentice chef at Chateau Lake Louise in Lake Louise, AB.

During my career we bounced all over northern Ontario, including a 5 year stint at Moosonee, Ontario's only salt water posting. I spent my last 3 years establishing a provincial communications centre at Sault Ste Marie. I was also, at various times, a firearm instructor and a Critical Incident Peer Supporter. Val and I edited the newsletter of the Ontario Conservation Officers Association for 5 years. We now live on St. Joseph Island, which is in the mouth of the St. Mary's River directly across the border from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

We welcome any comments, suggestions or complaints and will work hard to make this a valuable tool of the Association. We look forward to meeting lots of you at St. Louis in July. Until then stay safe.

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Pictured here is the 1998 NAWEOA patch. These are limited to 1,000 per year and are going fast. Start your collection now while a few of the first issue (1995) are still available. Each patch is \$5.00 (U.S. or Canadian) and can be ordered from:

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## REGION 7 REPORT

by Lisa Trufelli

Greetings everyone! I would like to express my thanks to Bill Brace and Bill Collins of the Mississippi Fish and Game Division, as well as the East Mississippi Sportsmen's Association for hosting the winter executive meeting this past January. They did a great job. I would also like to welcome our new Newsletter Editor, Pat Brown from Ontario and our new Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Kleiner from Pennsylvania.

Tragedy struck the northeast this past November when Connecticut Conservation Officer, James V. Spignesi Jr., was killed in the line of duty. On November 20, 1998 at 1710 hours, CO Spignesi and CO Tony Rose were patrolling in the town of Scotland when they came across a vehicle parked on the side of the road near a field. Upon investigation, they observed hunting related gear in the vehicle. Hunting hours had ended at sunset, which was at 1639 hours that day. The officers entered the field on foot. As they walked along the wood line, a shot rang out and CO Spignesi fell to the ground with a fatal shot to the left side of the chest. CO Rose dropped to the ground and yelled to the figure he saw approaching to put down his gun. The shooter, a Connecticut State Corrections Officer, was using a 30-06 rifle fitted with a scope. He claimed to have seen a shadow and thought it was a deer. He has been charged with second degree manslaughter. CO Spignesi was 45 years old and had served with the Division of Law Enforcement for eight years. He is survived by his father, James Sr., and his brother, Thomas.

Bernie Schmadar reports that the Pennsylvania Game Commission has been under fire concerning their Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer program. Last fall, certain media began reporting alleged misconduct on the part of a few deputy officers. Several politicians got involved, including those on the Game and Fisheries Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives. Hearings were then held by the House Game and Fisheries Committee Chairman. Consequently, the politicians attached several restrictions upon the

Game Commission if they wanted legislative action on their four-year old bid for a general hunting license fee increase. The bill was passed. The following are several of the conditions which were attached by the legislature: The Field Acknowledgement of Guilt (FAG) procedure by which the majority of game law cases were settled was eliminated except for non-residents. Everyone will now receive a citation and be run through the court system. The FAG allowed a violator to admit his/her guilt in the field and pay the fine directly to the Game Commission without involving the courts and avoiding seizures of evidence and court costs. Some officers are glad to shed the FAG procedure while others are not. Also, the Commission must set up a formal system to track complaints about CO's. Additionally, Deputy WCO's can no longer issue citations. They must take field information and turn it over to their District WCO. Finally, the Commission must do a complete assessment of the Deputy WCO program and report its plans for improvement to the legislators. Hopefully, the Deputy WCO program survives this assault, as these dedicated officers provide, at minimal expense, an extraordinary service to Pennsylvania's wildlife resources, its citizens, and to the Game Commission's wildlife law enforcement efforts.

Bob Lewis reports that Vermont wardens were finally issued Safariland body armor. These outstanding pieces of equipment were received as a direct result of the hard work of the Vermont Game Warden's Association.

The Vermont wardens are continuing to utilize DNA in making big game cases. They are also continuing to work their decoy program with great success using a variety of wildlife facsimiles to make cases against poachers. They have been busy enforcing a new perch and crappie limit which has proven to be very unpopular with some fishermen. Their Association is presently working to improve their retirement plan by getting wardens into the same retirement plan as the state police. It is presently pending in the Vermont Legislature and they are hoping it passes. The Warden's Association will be sending 4 officers to the NAWEOA Conference in St. Louis this summer.

According to Rich Marcou, the **New Hampshire Fish and Game Department** will be hosting the 1999 (55th Annual) Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in April. NH Conservation Officers are seeking a significant labor grade increase from the state due to various changes over the years in their "job specification" and duties. All CO's recently completed a "Community Policing" module during their in-service training, and as well as they have all been issued and transitioned to the Ruger mini-14 rifle. Their department has completed upgrading their radio network statewide to a Motorola "Astro" digital system. The NH officers' primary duty this spring is to continue to hold their snowmobile sobriety

checkpoints throughout the state.

Don Lauver reports that Edward W. Manhart retired December 25, 1998 as the Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Bureau of Law Enforcement. His 30 year career began in 1968 as the "Fish Warden" in Luzerne County and, after many promotions and reorganizations, he became their first Bureau Director. Thomas J. Kammerzel was named as the new Chief. WCO Wayne Alfano has been promoted to the Assistant Supervisor position in the northeast region replacing G.W. "Frank" Kahn, who retired in January with 31 years of service. Two new positions have been created to increase supervision and direction of field officers. Assistant supervisors have been added to the southeast and northwest regions. The assistants will be in the field with officers approximately 50% of their time. Two field officer positions were used to create these potential promotions. WCO H. Benjamin Leamer, Perry County, retired in January with 29 years of service. Don also reported that their union is currently negotiating their next contract. They are anticipating the mandatory boating education certification of all personal watercraft operators by January 1, 2000. The Fish and Boat Commission is in the process of hiring up to 15 new seasonal WCO's by August 1999, as well as a new class of Deputy WCO's are scheduled to begin training this spring. Congratulations are also in order for Don who welcomed his new baby, Rachel Elaine, on February 13, 1999. He also just received a lateral transfer to another patrol district in the central part of the state. He's going to have a busy spring!

According to Mike Massey, an important case was recently adjudicated in northern **New Jersey**. Two years ago, northern CO's were working on information regarding an individual taking deer illegally with a rifle. While working in the area one day, CO Tim Williamson heard shots, and when he entered the woods to investigate, found a man in full camouflage with a rifle. The man took off running with CO Williamson in pursuit. When he finally stopped, he turned and pointed the rifle at the officer. A standoff ensued and eventually the suspect dropped his rifle and took off running. He was eventually apprehended. In February, he was tried in County Superior Court and found guilty of aggravated assault, obstruction, unlawful possession of a firearm and persons not to possess a weapon. The individual had prior criminal convictions. Sentencing is pending, but the minimum mandatory requirement is 3 years in prison.

New Jersey CO's received paid overtime for the first time this fall. Instead of the normal accumulation of 100 hours of compensatory time during the hunting season, they were allowed to receive 42 hours paid and accumulate another 60 hours in comp. time. Mike also reports that the NJ Conservation Officers' Association had a 10% increase in membership in its 2nd year. They are planning

on holding a warden skills competition in September 1999. These games will most likely be held every other year and will be open to other agencies in the future.

John Gingerella reports that the officers in **Rhode Island** have recently received some new equipment. A new hi-band radio system was installed in their communications center as well as in some vehicles. They have also received 40 hi-band portable radios with panic buttons and identifier tones. Their department received four new 4X4 king cab pickups and they have ordered a 34 foot HIKE patrol/work boat from Canada. This boat will be primarily used for lobster and marine fish patrols as well as boat safety inspections. They are in the process of installing a new computer system in their field offices that will allow the officers to do all their reports on the computer. Their department is looking into outfitting the officers with body armor.

Ken Hansen, **National Marine Fisheries Service**, reports that the Office of Law Enforcement is in the final stages of interviewing for the position of Chief of Enforcement. The previous chief, David McKinney, -who has served since 1995, recently transferred to a Deputy Special Agent in Charge position in the Southeast Region. Chief McKinney's management skills and open door style of leadership will be greatly missed by the agency. While at the helm, one of Chief McKinney's priorities was to seek accreditation for the Office of Enforcement by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). For the past 2 years, the agency has been standardizing and improving procedures and policies in a myriad of areas. Final inspections for CALEA accreditation are expected to occur in late 1999.

From deep in the trenches of their new Law Enforcement Training Academy on the campus of Oswego State University, Ken Dillion reports that **New York** Conservation Officers are keeping very busy. Their newly hired class of recruits started basic training in February and will graduate in August. Meanwhile, the rest of their officers are working very hard getting ready for NAWEOA 2000 in Albany. An initial installment of new laptop computers has been issued to field personnel, as well as to the entire class of recruits, and have been incorporated into their training. Another group of field officers is expected to be issued computers soon, and eventually the entire force will be so equipped.

Capt. Carol Drury has undergone sur-

gery and chemotherapy in her battle with cancer, please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. She is a remarkable woman, with a strong constitution, and everyone that knows her is confident that she will be successful in her fight.

Bill Myers reports that **Connecticut** hired two new officers, Michael Tavares and James Kane who have been assigned to the State Parks Division. Officer Tavares will be stationed at the Harkness Memorial State Park in the southeast, and Officer Kane will be assigned to the Rocky Neck State Park management unit in the Marine District. An additional 4 Conservation Officers are expected to be hired within the next few months. Two important bills are currently before their legislature, the Capitol Felony Bill and their Full Police Powers Bill. These bills have been proposed for years and they are hoping for passage so that the CO's can be brought up to equality with the local and state police. Also pending, is the "Negligent Hunting Bill" which would increase penalties and limit intoxicated hunters. Other committees have been looking at making some regulation and law changes since the shooting of CO Spignesi last fall.

Region 7 is proud to announce that **Massachusetts Environmental Police** have joined NAWEOA as a group this past winter. Kevin Clayton has been an active member for many years and was instrumental in convincing his department and co-workers to join. According to Kevin, Massachusetts officers just negotiated their contract and have received some pretty good benefits. Some of the highlights include: "injury on duty" will cover everything they do according to position description; if an officer adopts a child through the Dept. of Social Services, that child can go to school tuition free; if an officer receives an "exceeds" on his/her performance evaluation, they receive an extra paid day off; bi-weekly pay and direct deposit; one year to enroll in a criminal justice program with a bonus attached upon completion; tuition remission expanded to the graduate level; and a detail rate of \$28/hr to be paid for 8 hours after 4 hours of work and paid for 8 1/2 hours after 8 hours.

They will also be filling 14 positions, most of which are located along the coast. Kevin also reported that most of their officers participated in the nationally publicized search for a 9 year old boy in Norton, MA. The boy went looking for his dog in a snowstorm and never returned. He was found 300 yards from his doorstep. The apparent cause of death was

hypothermia.

Jim Abrams reports that **Ohio** has had a busy year. Although hosting the NAWEOA conference was a lot of work, they made so many new friends and they are looking forward to seeing everyone again in St. Louis. Ohio was threatened this past fall by anti-hunting factions with a referendum to ban dove hunting. This was a relatively new season in modern Ohio history and it was felt that this was the Division's "Achilles Heel". A concentrated effort was made by the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America and concerned employees of the Division. The final vote was a 60-40 defeat of the anti-hunter agenda. Their parting words were "We will be back." All states and provinces must act now to withstand this emotion-based assault on wildlife management. If you haven't had them attack in your area yet, they will be coming. Just ask Colorado, Michigan, Arizona, California, etc., etc. Sunday hunting was another topic that came up in the last year. Ohio is one of the few states that did not have open Sunday hunting for all species during their respective seasons. In the mid-1980's, the law was relaxed to allow hunting of coyote, fox, woodchuck and waterfowl. The Division of Wildlife made a concerted effort to change this law to permit hunting all species but was met with opposition from the Ohio Farm Bureau and the Ohio Grange. These organizations were not anti-hunting but were afraid of what the change would bring. Education through their wildlife officers and the landowners' strong feelings of private property rights slowly changed their leadership's views and the legislation actually gained their support. Ohio Wildlife Officers recently received "Peace Officer" status with-in the Ohio Revised Code. This adds some benefits and protection for their officers. Ohio also recently elected a new Governor, Robert Taft, who in turn appointed a new Director of Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Samuel Speck. The Wildlife Officers are looking forward to working with and for them.

Jim also reported that Ohio is adopting the "Point-of-Sale" electronic licensing system. Residents with the newly designed driver's license will have them "swiped" similar to a credit card. This will obtain their name, address and personal information. The vendor can then use a keypad entry system to enter the license sales. The benefits include enforcement access to purchaser information and monitoring illegal purchases.

## A MESSAGE FROM PAST PRESIDENT by Rick Pallister

It's time for me to leave the NAWEOA Executive Board behind. I did not say that I would leave service to NAWEOA behind. It has been a wonderful several years of voluntary servitude. Having been intimately involved with NAWEOA doin's since 1990, I have been amazed at the quality of people that I have worked with, and simply floored by the amount of work they have accomplished.

I think that NAWEOA has accomplished a great deal in that decade. We have helped to usher the Museum project into daylight. We have helped, and continue to help in an increasing number of political/conservation issues and it is gratifying that NAWEOA is asked it's collective opinion on issues from officer safety to far reaching law or regulation changes. NAWEOA served on an IAFWA Ad-Hoc Committee on Waterfowl Baiting. The issue devolved into an incredibly contentious issue. Was consensus reached? Was every NAWEOA member satisfied? No, to both. But we were involved in coming up with workable compromises and now are being asked to contribute to an educational outreach which will touch continent wide.

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS by Randy Hancock



What good is NAWEOA anyway? What will it do for me if I join? Why should I join? These are the questions I hear whenever I talk to officers around North America who are not members of NAWEOA, or perhaps are members through their association, but really don't take an active interest in NAWEOA even though they are members.

It all goes back to that old saying "Ask not what NAWEOA can do for you, but what you can do for NAWEOA", or something to that effect. Everyone must remember that an association is only as good as you make it. That means every member taking advantage of everything the association has to offer, and in return, giving back to the organization all that you can.

This newsletter is a prime example. This is YOUR newsletter. The director's reports contained here are being utilized to pass on information to you and your co-workers. If you truly have an interest in NAWEOA, you should read this newsletter from cover to cover. Don't just read what your regional rep is putting in, read the whole thing. There are things going on all over North America that you need to hear about. Some of the information is about super cases being made somewhere, but mixed in with these interesting stories are other tidbits about problems and solutions that are happening all over.

One thing that NAWEOA will teach you is that we all have the same basic working conditions. There is a difference from place to place to be sure, but aside from the geographical differences, we really have a lot in common all across North America. If you take the time to read through the entire newsletter, you will learn things that help you become a better officer. You may find out that your complaints and gripes about your department aren't nearly as serious as in other areas and therefore you should be thankful for your job! You may find out about an incident that occurred to another officer, and learn from their experiences. You may get an idea for some new technique to try. There are many that useful items contained within the pages of this newsletter!

NAWEOA as an organization has become recognized internationally as a valid voice for wildlife law enforcement. We have attended meetings of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, North American Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, etc. We have served on committees, written position papers on law enforcement issues, attended meetings as law enforcement representatives, and performed many other activities as the "official" representatives of wildlife law enforcement. Our role in policy making and wildlife law enforcement representation will be increasing greatly in the future as more and more agencies and organizations recognize our expertise in the wildlife law enforcement field. We have worked diligently to become this voice, and the dividends are now beginning to show.

Another thing that NAWEOA has been doing is to offer regional training sessions. One of the most popular was the DECOY Workshop we gave a few years back. We have been investigating other types of workshops, and have found that interest levels in those types, typically given by the agencies, are very low. For instance, water safety or snowmobile safety were being considered as NAWEOA workshops, but the interest level was just not there. We talked it over at our winter Executive meeting and pretty well decided that we will have to offer workshops with quite a different theme than what is normally offered from an agency. Our goal is to have one in each region at least every other year. If you have any ideas about topics for workshops, please let your regional rep know because NAWEOA is willing to sponsor these workshops.

I think one of the best aspects of NAWEOA is the association we get with other officers. I know I could go to almost any state or province and have a contact that could help me with anything from planning my family vacation to assisting with a law enforcement case. I get calls all the time from officers both within my state and from outside looking for help in contacting an officer in a specific location that may be able to assist them in an investigation. The additional contacts available through NAWEOA are invaluable.

NAWEOA is also the parent partner to the North American Wildlife Enforcement Museum and Education Center. The museum project continues to gain momentum under the guidance of Del Tibke and others who are working extremely hard to bring this project to fruition. Their tireless fundraising efforts are paying off, and we have raised enough money that organizations we contact are now taking the project more seriously. The large foundations help fund museum projects now see that we are viable, and they will be more agreeable to put money into the project. The museum

project will become a reality, and everyone in NAWEOA needs to be solidly behind it. If everyone worked half as hard as the North Dakota officers have, the project would be completed by now. Those officers deserve a big pat on the back, and if any of you meet one of them anytime, give them your thanks. They have carried the bulk of this project on their shoulders for a long time. Hopefully, the load is now being spread out as more jurisdictions are coming forward with pledges of money. The goal of the NAWEM committee is to receive pledges from as many jurisdictions as possible for \$5,000 each. This payment can be lump sum or spread out over several years. If you think about it, one good raffle project would fulfill this need, and would really help the Museum become a reality. If your jurisdiction has not joined in this effort yet, you ought to consider getting something organized so your group can truly be a part of this worthwhile project.

I will get off of my soapbox for a bit and take care of some housekeeping type items. We had an excellent winter Executive meeting in Meridian, Mississippi! Our two hosts, Bill Collins and Bill Brace, kept us entertained and full of great food the entire time. Our very sincere thanks go out to these two southern gentlemen. You did a great job for us. We had representatives from Missouri (NAWEOA '99) and New York (NAWEOA 2000). I can tell you all that these are two meetings you will not want to miss! Missouri has an excellent program lined up and their hospitality will be the best ever at a NAWEOA conference. I am serious, you must try to get to this conference if at all possible. New York's planning is well on the way. They have been so organized from the beginning that I am very confident that this will be another conference well worth attending. Their presentation packet to the NAWEOA Executive last year was the most impressive I have ever seen. Anyone who has never been to the middle of New York State owes it to him/herself to visit this area. Plan on staying extra either before or after the conference. I drove through this area years ago, and there are many beautiful places to visit. I am sure their conference will be educational and fun!

I would also like to take this space to thank our outgoing newsletter editor, Mike Gabbard. Mike did a whale of a job for a long time. I am not sure of the exact number, but Mike has done the newsletter for something like 10 years. He did an excellent job throughout all of this for no more than an occasional "thank you". Mike, we are going to miss you! Thanks for the years of dedicated service.

Another big thank you goes to Merry! "Bull" Bustin! I always thought Bull referred to his stature, but thinking back, it may have pertained to his stories. Bull will be another person greatly missed at the Executive meet-

ings. Merryl performed as our secretary/ treasurer for about the same tenure as Mike on the newsletter. There is no tougher, demanding, thankless job than that of being our association secretary/treasurer. Bull kept the minutes, kept us in line, kept the books, kept us in line, and generally kept us going in a positive direction. His leadership in that position will be greatly missed. Thanks, Merryl, for the innumerable hours you have put in through the years.

Welcome to our new staff: Pat Brown and Steve Kleiner. Pat is the new newsletter editor. He is a funny and knowledgeable guy. He has a dry sense of humor and I know he will help keep our Executive meetings interest-

ting. Steve is our new secretary/treasurer. What a go-getter he is. He has lots of enthusiasm, knowledge, and wisdom. He is going to be a great asset to the team. I know they plan on putting in biographies elsewhere in the newsletter, so read through them, and welcome them to the board if you have a chance.

Last word is to get nominations to any executive board member for all of the awards we present. Categories should be listed elsewhere in the newsletter, but include Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Lifesaving award, Certificate of Valor, and the Torch Award (under 5 years service and a real go-getter!). Get these nominations in so that

NAWEOA can recognize the work these people do. If you can't find the nomination information, all you need to do to nominate anyone if you think they fit any of the awards is to write a narrative and send it to me. We don't want a full book. A page or two will suffice in most cases. Deadline is as soon as possible! Actually, we are fairly lenient, but have to have them at least a month in advance of the conference. June 1st is the usual deadline for most of the awards, but if a lifesaving event occurs at the last minute, let us know. Have a great summer.

Hope to see ALL of you at the Missouri conference. Stay safe.

## NAWEOA EXECUTIVE

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>FAX</u>
President	Gary Martin	RR #4, Campbellford, Ontario K0L 1L0	705-653-3066	705-755-7512	705-755-1757
Vice-President	Randy Hancock	PO Box 990, Buena Vista, Colorado 81211	719-395-2880	719-539-3372	
Past-President	Rick Pallister	Rt. 1, Box 66, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834	304-684-5223		307-684-5585
Sec-Treasurer	Steve Kleiner	607 Baynton Ave., Altoona, Pa 16602	814-942-9432		
Region 1 Director	Kevin Carr	Box 3003, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 6G1	306-	306-953-2944	306-953-2999
Region 2 Director	Ian Anderson	Box 264, Gore Bay, Ontario P0P 1H0	705-282-2874	705-282-2167	705-282-0329
Region 3 Director	Brent Cole	Marc Garneau Pl., Gander, Nfld. A1V 2M3	709-651-4635	709-256-1464	709-256-1459
Region 4 Director	Jerry Claasen	Box 654, Grand Lake, Colorado 80447	970-627-8449	970-725-3557	970-725-3487
Region 5 Director	Mary Clawson	1118 Northview Lane, Aberdeen, SD 57401	605-226-3378		605-626-2217
Region 6 Director	Bruce Lemmert	21 S. Church St., Lovettsville, VA 20180	40-822-4219	540-899-4169	703-771-5470
Region 7 Director	Lisa Truffelli	507 Ocean Park Ave., Bradley Beach, NJ 07720	732-897-9495		732-259-7479

## NAWEOA MEMORIAL FUND

A few years ago NAWEOA started the Fallen Officer Memorial Fund. This program is open to any officer association, individual or business that would like to donate \$50 each time an officer dies in the line of duty. The goal was to have fifty members so that a cheque for \$2,500 could be sent to the survivors of the fallen officers as soon as possible after notification to the Executive Board of NAWEOA.

However, when then Secretary-Treasurer Merryl Bustin lost his home to a fire in 1996, the records listing those associations, individuals or businesses which were participating were also lost in the fire. If you or your association were one of the previous participants, we want to hear from you. Please reconfirm your commitment of participation by notifying the new Secretary-Treasurer Steve Kleiner as soon as possible.

If you were not participating previously, NAWEOA would welcome you to join. If more than fifty associations, individuals or businesses join, the survivor family will receive a greater donation. Along with the cheque, the family will also receive a letter of condolence listing each sponsor.

Upon the fund being paid out, each sponsor will receive a letter from NAWEOA advising of the circumstances and will be requested to send in another \$50 to replenish the fund. If you are a new member, please complete the form below and send a cheque for \$50 U.S. made payable to NAWEOA Memorial Fund.

The Memorial Fund is one of the most important functions that NAWEOA performs and administers. We need to hear from old and new sponsors alike. Drop a line to Steve today at the address listed below.

NAME OF SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON - NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed form and cheque for \$50 U.S. made out to NAWEOA MEMORIAL FUND to:

**NAWEOA, POB 22, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA. 16648**



## David Joseph Russell 1960-1999

On February 19, 1999 the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods lost one of its finest Conservation Officers, David Russell.

Dave started with the Department as a Forest Fire Fighter after his completion of the Forest Ranger course in Stephenville and the Forest Technician course in Fredericton, New Brunswick in 1985.

Dave went on to be a temporary Technician with Silviculture in 1986 and finally became a permanent Technician II in 1989. At that time Dave had an interest in the enforcement section and began performing compliance duties in 1992 as a District Resource Officer. Dave was very effective in protecting the resource and brought this into his wildlife duties which he gladly took on after the restructuring of the Department in 1996.

In January of 1999, after two years of medical problems with his back, Dave was diagnosed with cancer, but because of

other complications which claimed his life, he did not get the chance to show how strong a fighter he was. Dave passed away leaving behind a wife and three children, who along with his many friends, will miss him very much.

Dave was an active volunteer in his community and donated many hours of his time to various committees, as well as the search and rescue team where he was assistant co-ordinator.

Anyone who knew Dave would say that his loud, humorous and aggressive nature left an impression on everyone that he came in contact with. Dave will be greatly missed and never forgotten.

## Ben Attard 1947-1997

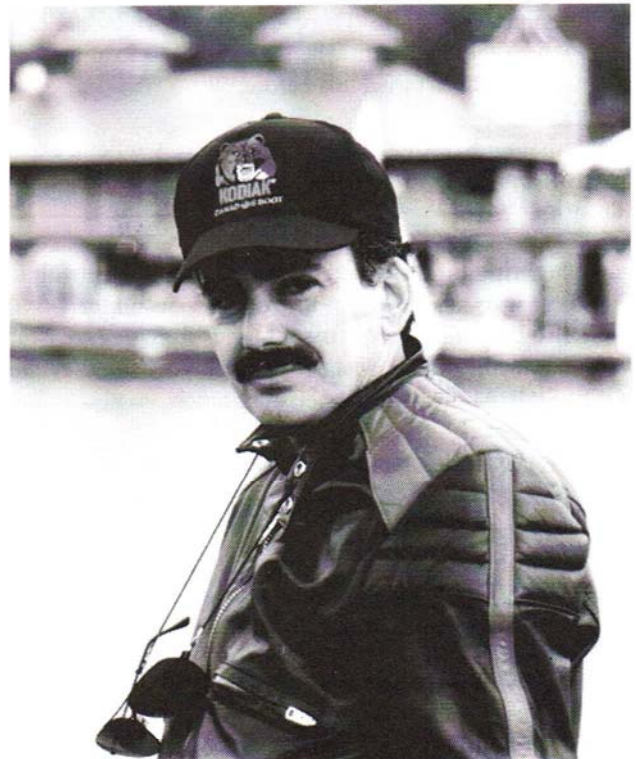
On December 9, 1997 Ontario lost a proud professional. Conservation Officer Ben Attard had the respect of every CO in this province and enforcement agencies across North America. He wrote the book on surveillance techniques, enforcement photography and research into covert technology, making Ontario a leader in these fields.

Ben's focus as a CO was simple: passing along his knowledge to the field to make their job easier and safer. Officer safety was a personal mission of Ben's, and up until his final days with us the first thing he would ask is "How are the guys doing out there, is everybody OK?"

On the job Ben will best be remembered for his love of photography and his never ending quest for the perfect photo. If you ask any CO how long they had to pose in a class photo they would say "for as long as Ben wanted them to."

As a family man Ben was a great example of what being a husband and father were all about. His number one priority was his family and Ben often spoke with immense pride of their accomplishments. Every fish that Mike and Chris caught, every goal they scored was important to Ben and he shared those precious moments with his peers.

Benny was totally committed to the friendships he developed and he never took friendship lightly. He always had time to keep in touch and when he asked, "How are you doing?", you knew that he meant it. He listened to your response. Not many people cross our path in life with these qualities. Those who knew him will not forget Ben Attard.





Dear Conservation Professional:

It is a pleasure to invite you to Missouri for the 18th Annual North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Conference from July 26 through August 1, 1999.

The conference will be held at the Regal Riverfront Hotel. Truly THE PLACE to host the NAWEOA conference. Participants will enjoy first class accommodations and will be treated like royalty during their stay. The Regal offers something for everyone, whether it is the spectacular view from the world-renowned revolving dining facility at the top of the Regal or the relaxed comfort of one of the three other dining facilities within the hotel. We have managed to reserve 350 guestrooms for the conference with a special incentive to our Canadian friends of thirty rooms at Canadian currency rates. We sincerely look forward to having our Canadian friends in Missouri in '99. *The Cardinals will be playing a home stand against the Colorado Rockies that weekend so all area lodging facilities will be filled. Please make your reservations early! Call us for special ticket prices for the Sunday ballgame.*

At past conferences discussions have centered on a facility large enough to accommodate over 1,500 participants at the banquet. The Regal can do that with room to spare. The Grand Ballroom with its magnificent decor will seat in comfort up to 2,000 for our banquet and can seat up to 2,200 if the need arises.

Activities planned for the conference are numerous. They begin with the early bird specials that include the traditional NAWEOA Golf Tournament, Sporting Clays, and a special incentive to arrive early - a Meramec River float trip. This beautiful stream will give participants an opportunity to relax in a canoe and travel approximately ten miles in the quiet serenity of an Ozark stream. Lunch is provided and Missouri Conservation Agents will be on hand in jet boats with refreshments for your trip down the river. So don't be satisfied to let someone else tell you about the Meramec River float trip, register early and let them know what they missed.

The planned day trips will be fun filled. Those choosing the Six Flags trip have a treat in store: a day of fun and games at a truly remarkable amusement park. There are so many rides and events within Six Flags that you will have to hurry to get them all in and will wonder where the time went when the signal to load the buses is given. Even hardened, grizzled old wardens will come away wondering why they hadn't tried this before.

The Mississippi River barge trip will be a truly unique experience. Very few of us have ever had the opportunity to look through on the Mississippi River. If you don't understand what that means come to Missouri and find out. A Missouri style fish fry will be hosted on this trip.

Many other trips are scheduled during the conference with family as the foremost consideration. The St. Louis Zoo will be the site of one of these trips, and is one of the top ten Zoos in the world. Trips to Grant's Farm, the Magic House and the St. Louis Science Center will also be available. Numerous other activities are being organized and we feel confident that when you leave Missouri, you will have fond memories to sustain you on your journey home and a renewed dedication to the position of CONSERVATION PROFESSIONAL that we all cherish so much.

So on behalf of our Director, Jerry Conley, our Protection Division Administrator, Ron Glover, and the rest of the Missouri Department of Conservation Team, we are excited and are looking forward to your participation at the 18th Annual NAWEOA Conference in St. Louis, July 26 through August 1, 1999. See you in '99.

Because we care,

Gordon Jarvis, Conservation Agent  
President, Missouri Conservation Agents Association

**For additional information or other inquiries about the 1999 NAWEOA Conference contact:**

Gordon Jarvis  
606 Nora  
Wahsington, MO 63090  
314/239-4190

Kurt Kysar  
August A. Busch Memorial Wildlife Area  
2360 Hwy D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
314/441-4554 Ext. 232 Fax: 314/926-9125

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**North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association**

**Annual Conference - St. Louis, Missouri**

**July 26 - August 1, 1999**

\*\*\*\*\* DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM AFTER JULY 1, 1999: ON SITE REGISTRATION ONLY AFTER THOSE DATES\*\*\*\*\*

**HOW TO REGISTER**

**BY MAIL:** Protection Division  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180  
**Attention: NAWEOA Conference**

**BY FAX** 573-751-8971

**BY PHONE:** Registrations will be taken over the phone **Monday through Friday ONLY**  
**between the hours of 1:00 and 3:00 pm Central Time.** The telephone number  
is 573-751-4115, extension 814.

**HOTEL**

**RESERVATIONS:** Regal Riverfront Hotel 1-800-325-7353 or 314-241-9500

**The first 100 registrations received by March 1, 1999, will receive a special gift of a knife engraved  
with the NAWEOA logo.**

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**PAYMENT METHOD**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make checks payable to: NAWEOA Conference '99)

Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Exp. Date \_/ \_/ \_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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The official travel agency for the 1999 NAWEOA Conference is Travel, Etc., phone: 800-844-8382.  
Through Travel, Etc., we have negotiated a contract for discounted rates with Trans World Airlines(TWA)  
for conference travel. Please make reservations by calling Travel, Etc.

A shuttle operates on a regular basis from the St. Louis International Airport to all hotels in the downtown  
St. Louis area for a reasonable fee. Call the Regal Hotel for further information. In addition, the Metro-  
Link light rail transportation service operates from the airport to downtown St. Louis as well.

All travel provided during the conference will be provided by Mid-American Coaches, Inc. on air-  
conditioned luxury touring busses.

# NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

## Annual Conference - St. Louis, Missouri July 26 - August 1, 1999

\*\*\*\*\* DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM AFTER JULY 1, 1999: ON SITE REGISTRATION ONLY AFTER THOSE DATES\*\*\*\*\*

### REGISTRATION FORM

#### DELEGATE - SPOUSE/GUEST

DELEGATES NAME:		SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:	
MAILING ADDRESS:		PHONE:	
CITY:	STATE/PROVINCE:	ZIP:	

#### CHILDREN

NAME:	AGE:	SEX:	NAME:	AGE:	SEX:	NAME:	AGE:	SEX:
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#### DELEGATE INFORMATION

AGENCY NAME:	YEARS OF SERVICE:
WORKING TITLE:	RETIRED?                      YES                      NO

(TOTAL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM. PLEASE REMIT IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY - SEE REVERSE SIDE)

RESERVATIONS	CONFERENCE FEES		QUANTITY	SUB-TOTAL
REGISTRATION TYPE	THROUGH JUNE 1, 1999	AFTER JUNE 1, 1999	NO. OF PERSONS	NO. PERSONS TIMES DOLLAR AMOUNT
FULL REGISTRATION NAWEOA MEMBER (INCLUDES ALL DAY PASSES AND BANQUET ONLY. DOES NOT INCLUDE SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)	\$95.00	\$130.00		
NON-NAWEOA MEMBER (INCLUDES ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN NAWEOA)	\$125.00	\$150.00		
SPOUSE/GUEST (DOES NOT INCLUDE SATURDAY LUNCH)	\$55.00	\$80.00		
CHILDREN (16 & UNDER) (NO CHARGE UNLESS ATTENDING BANQUET)	\$10.00	\$20.00		
<b>DAY PASSES</b>				
UNIFORM DAY (INCLUDES LUNCH) (THURSDAY ONLY)	\$25.00	\$35.00		
WARDEN SKILLS DAY (INCLUDES BBQ & TRANSPORTATION) (FRIDAY ONLY)	\$35.00	\$45.00		
PROGRAMS/PRESENTATIONS DAY (INCLUDES LUNCH) (SATURDAY ONLY)	\$25.00	\$35.00		
SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET ONLY (INCLUDES EVENING ENTERTAINMENT)	\$35.00	N/A		
<b>SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</b>				
GOLF TOURNAMENT (INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION) (TUESDAY ONLY)	\$40.00	\$45.00		
SPORTING CLAYS (INCLUDES TRANSP. & LUNCH) (TUESDAY ONLY)	\$25.00	\$30.00		
MERAMEC RIVER FLOAT TRIP (INCL. TRANSP. & LUNCH) (TUESDAY ONLY)	\$45.00	N/A		
SIX FLAGS ST. LOUIS (INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION) (WEDNESDAY ONLY)	\$25.00	\$30.00		
MISSISSIPPI RIVER BARGE TRIP (INCL TRANSP & LUNCH) (WEDNESDAY ONLY)	\$30.00	N/A		
GRANT'S FARM/THE MAGIC HOUSE (INCL. TRANSP.) (THURSDAY ONLY)	\$10.00	\$15.00		
ST. LOUIS ZOO (INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION) (SATURDAY ONLY)	\$10.00	\$15.00		
ST. LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER (INCL. TRANSPORTATION) (SATURDAY ONLY)	\$10.00	\$15.00		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				

# NAWEM NEWS

by Del Tibke

The Northern American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association is an organization with over 7,000 members from all US states and Canadian provinces. As an organization made up of game wardens and conservation police officers, we are dedicated to public service in the field of resource protection. We are also committed to promoting wildlife law enforcement as a profession.

To further these aims and preserve the rich history of our work we have initiated plans for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Memorial Museum and Educational Center. This museum will educate the public of the historical and present day roles of wildlife law enforcement and natural resources conservation. The museum will collect, preserve and exhibit examples of enforcement tools and implements, art specimens, historical data, uniforms, and devices used in illegal destruction of natural resources. Literature and audiovisual media pertaining to wildlife law enforcement will be made available to the public. Also, the museum will contain a "Hall of Honors" for all Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers who lost their lives while on duty.

A great deal of planning for the museum has already been accomplished. It will be located at the International Peace Garden on the US-Canadian border. The site has been selected, the Peace Garden administration has signed the lease, and the building has been designed and approved. Both the US and Canadian Museum Corporations have received their tax-exempt status.

The task at hand is to raise the construction funds. The time has come to ask those who will benefit from this project to commit to its development. Help us preserve the rich history of the officers holding the "thin green line". You can be instrumental in the success of this museum by joining as a Charter patron now.

## Patron Categories

- ☐ \$25.00 Single
- ☐ \$100.00 Organization\*
- ☐ \$750.00 Life
- ☐ \$3,000.00 Organization Life Membership #  
(\$1,000.00 payment for 3 years)

\* The \$750.00 Life Membership can be purchased by paying at least \$75.00 per year for 10 years. Please let the treasurers know if you are going to purchase an individual life membership in this manner.

## Corporate Sustaining Categories #

- ☐ \$1,000.00 Bronze
- ☐ \$5,000.00 Silver
- ☐ \$10,000.00 Gold
- ☐ \$100,000.00 Platinum

## Patron Benefits

- NAWEMMEC Membership
- NAWEMMEC Patch (new membership only)
- NAWEMMEC Newsletter

Membership levels marked by \* receive a benefit of a certificate. Individual life members have a choice of a certificate, plaque or a jacket. Membership levels marked by # receive a plaque.

- ☐ Please apply my donation to the good works of NAWEMMEC. I would rather not receive the additional benefit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to NAWEMMEC and send to the address listed for your country of residence.

All donations are tax deductible.

149(1)(f) Charitable Organization  
Canada #89130 9148 RR0001  
NAWEMMEC (Canada) Inc.  
Box 1239  
BOISSEVAIN, MB R0K 0E0  
\*www.granite.mb.ca/mnroa

501(C)(3) Organization  
U.S.A. #45-0436114  
NAWEMMEC (USA) Inc.  
P.O. Box 28  
Valley City, ND 58072-0028



*Manitoba NRO André Desrosiers at spring goose hunting blind.*

**“WORKING FOR WILDLIFE”**

Pat Brown - Editor  
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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783-0676

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