



**32nd EDITION
NEWSLETTER**

FALL 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 _____

Certificate of Award _____

Award of Valour _____

Certificate of Retirement _____

Lifesaving Award _____

Criteria: _____

(Please use reverse side if necessary)

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)

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The President's Report

by Randy Hancock

Just what the heck is NAWEOA, anyway? Who are we, what are we, what are we doing? Are you able to answer these questions? Have you ever had these same thoughts? Many of these questions are addressed in a new video produced for NAWEOA by Creative Street (Game Warden TV and IGW). These people have created a 10 minute promo that gets right to the point of who we are and what we are doing. Your jurisdictional representative should have received a copy. It is well worth viewing. You should show it at any field officer meetings you have. Get the word out. Let your fellow officers know exactly what NAWEOA is.

The board has also produced a flyer, titled "Working for Wildlife together" which explains (in print) what NAWEOA is and what we have been doing. It details the objectives of NAWEOA, talks about our programs and projects, and identifies benefits that NAWEOA members receive. If you have some officers in your jurisdiction that are not NAWEOA members, and would like them to see this brochure, contact your Regional Director and ask for a copy.

NAWEOA is facing some difficult times. This year, our budget has a \$10,000 deficit. We cannot continue at that pace for very long. Our budget is somewhat over \$60,000 US funds. The cost of doing business keeps going up. Production costs for the newsletters keep rising. The cost of having Executive meetings keeps rising. NAWEOA is doing more than ever before, and when you are active in addressing issues, there are monetary costs involved. We need to increase our income somehow.

One income problem area that the board is looking at is the dues. We hate to consider raising dues, just like you all hate to hear about a possible dues increase. However, we only receive about \$16,000 to \$18,000 in dues each year. You can see that we are over \$40,000 short of our operating costs with this dues structure. The balance has traditionally been made up by the profits from the summer conference, plus some promotional sales. This has placed a burden each year on the host to show a large profit. Some years we are not going to be able to make enough profit to cover the difference between operating expenses and dues income. We want to keep operating at a high level of involvement in international issues. We don't want to work at just a "maintenance" level.

We will be looking at a dues increase at our winter executive meeting in late January. If you have any input on this item, please notify your regional director. We are not going to gouge anyone, but I think we are going to have to raise dues. Our costs are just too great. Right now, because of the dues structure and the fact that jurisdictions pay at a group rate,



we are averaging around \$3 per member in dues. Production and mailing costs for the newsletter alone exceed this amount. Give us your thoughts. We want to hear from you.

NAWEOA has been attending several national and international conferences on your behalf. We have been quite active in the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, having a seat on the Federal Baiting regulations subcommittee. This committee looked at proposed USFWS changes in baiting regulations, and provided input to the Service. Our voice was one of the few on the committee that opposed changing the regulations. We were a loud voice, however, and had an impact on what the committee finally drafted. The USFWS did change some of the regulations, but not as severely as some other committee members had wanted.

Many people on the board had input to these regulations, and many attended committee meetings. Bruce Lemmert, Region 6 Director, drafted much of the language that NAWEOA presented to the committee. Bruce also testified in Washington, DC against a bill introduced that would further restrict law enforcement efforts in reference to baiting. Bruce did an excellent job representing the field perspective and NAWEOA.

NAWEOA has also been attending NACLEC (North American Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs) meetings. We are recognized as a voice for the field officers, and NACLEC has made us feel very welcome.

NAWEOA has been active in setting up Law Enforcement related workshops, such as the decoy workshop. If there are any types of workshops you would like to see, please contact any of the board members. We are looking to sponsor more workshops in each region. Some that have been suggested are man-tracking, waterfowl ID, various safety related workshops (snowmobile, boating, etc.), and critical incident debriefing. We are open and willing to bring a training workshop to your region. Two Canadian agencies, the Canadian Parks Service and Newfoundland/Labrador, are attempting to get approval for their officers

to carry sidearms while on duty. These same issues have been addressed in the past by NAWEOA, specifically in reference to Saskatchewan in recent history. NAWEOA will again be writing letters of support and justification for wildlife officers to carry sidearms, and send these letters to the above agencies.

How many of you have read the article by George Reiger in a recent issue of Field and Stream magazine? In it, Reiger slams our profession calling us over-zealous, heavy-handed, military-minded shock troopers. NAWEOA is drafting a response, and should have it to the editors in time for the November or December issue. We will see if they have the nerve to publish our response. Reiger is far off base, giving a one-sided slant to a case that is so totally different than what he portrays that it is difficult to believe it is the same incident. I have talked to the main officer involved in the Maryland takedown, and they did an excellent job nailing a group of waterfowl poachers that needed to get caught. The man Reiger mentions in the article as having only gotten a few misdemeanors (Mr. Gootee) entered into a plea bargain whereby he is paying over \$7,700 in fines. Sounds a lot more serious than Reiger lets on. Plus, pending Federal charges are not mentioned at all. Many of the others arrested in this operation are repeat offenders in Federal Court. The problem is that Mr. Gootee is the caretaker of a hunting club whose clients include many Washington, DC lobbyists. Get the picture? I commend Maryland for being willing to take on a case like this, one that needed prosecuting, and seeing it through to the end. Mr. Reiger does not like wildlife law enforcement, and uses his position with the magazine to badmouth our profession.

I would ask all of you to get the article by Reiger, read it, and then write Field and Stream your feelings. Cancel your subscriptions, talk to your friends, get them to write and cancel. Let's put the heat on Field and Stream on this issue. Our ranks are more professional now than they have ever been throughout history. We don't need people like Reiger throwing out misleading information that slams our profession. We are all in this together. Let's give them a piece of our mind. (Field and Stream letters to the editor e-mail address is: Fsmagazine@aol.com. The Editor's e-mail is slaton.white@tmm.com)

Now, for some more lighthearted items. This summer's conference in St. Louis, Missouri was fantastic! The "show me" state really showed everyone who attended how it is done! These were probably the best speakers and programs that NAWEOA has had to date. The Missouri Conservation Agents Association, John Hart (MCAA president), Gordon Jarvis (MCAA past president and conference Chairman), Kurt Kysar (conference Vice-Chairman), Dave Beffa (conference Secretary-

Treasurer) and all the others who worked on the conference are to be commended. The conference ran smoothly, was educational and entertaining, and was well attended. If only they could have turned down the thermostat just a tad.....

I have to tell everyone what excellent jobs our new Secretary Treasurer, Steve Kleiner of Pennsylvania, and Newsletter Editor, Pat Brown of Ontario are doing. These two gentlemen are working their tails off, producing excellent material, and have us headed in the right direction. Steve has brought most of us into the modern technical age and is educating us on how to use computers, e-mail, etc. (Or at least he is trying to educate us!) I can't say enough how much the Executive Board appreciates these two men. If you get a chance, tell them thanks. They are really working hard for you.

I would like to thank everyone for supporting me in the elections for NAWEOA President. I will try my hardest to live up to your expectations and needs. I want to thank Bernie Schmader (President of the Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania), my opponent in the race. Bernie is a class act. He did an excellent job of running, and would have made an excellent President himself. I am glad to be able to call Bernie a friend, both before and after the election.

Lastly, if you have ever been to a NAWEOA conference, I know you will be trying hard to attend next summer in New York. If you have never been to a conference before, pack up your family, take a family vacation, and come to Albany. I guarantee you will not regret the trip. It is well worth the time and money spent. My family has made the annual NAWEOA conference part of our summer vacation most years since 1985. What a great time and place to meet people you will call your friend for the rest of your life. Good people, good times, fun, education, family, what more could you want? See you in New York!

NAWEOA STUFF

Richard Kingston, past director of Region 3, is now responsible for distribution of NAWEOA promo items. Orders over \$100 will include postage. Other orders please add \$3.00 postage. Make cheques or money orders payable to:

NAWEOA

4 Stacker Rd., Whitney, NB E1V 4J6

<u>AVAILABLE ITEMS WITH PRICES</u>	<u>CAN \$</u>	<u>U.S. \$</u>
Print (Where Game Abounds)	200	150
Print (Quiet Watch)	45	35
Golf Shirt (black, NAWEOA logo)	25	20
Buckle (1999 Missouri Conference)	20	15
Buckle (1996 Saskatchewan Conference)	20	15
Buckle (1995 Pennsylvania Conference)	20	15
Buckle (Original Design – First Issue)	20	15
Ball Cap (black, green, maroon or camo) (Special on caps per dozen)	10 100	7 70
Journal of Wildlife Law Enforcement Vol. I or II	6	5
Tape (Innovative Sentencing)	6	5
Lapel Pins (Saskatchewan & Missouri Conferences)	1	1

Some items are in short supply. All promo items will be available at the NAWEOA booth during the summer conferences. These prices will be in effect until the 2000 conference in Albany, New York.

NAWEOA 2001

Come one, come all to the 2001 Conference. Your hosts are the friendly folks in Nebraska and the site of this extravaganza will be beautiful downtown Omaha! Reserve the week of July 30 – August 5, 2001 and plan to travel east or west or north or south to be there. More details when Levi figures out what they are.

The Nebraska Conservation Officers and Nebraska Game & Parks Commission are definitely excited and enthusiastic about being able to host the 2001 NAWEOA conference in Nebraska. 2001 will be our centennial year as well, and we plan to tie the two events together to provide both an enjoyable and educational time for everyone in attendance.

If you want more details please contact Levi Krause at (402) 234-2212 or e-mail him at kraushaus@yahoo.com



Region 1 Report

By Kevin Carr

Hello from the Canadian northwest. Reporting time sees most hunting seasons underway and fisheries protection programs in full swing. It has been hard finding officers at home or in the office as most game wardens are in the field this fall to protect the resources or partake in hunting activities. Those I have been able to touch base with talk about similar problems such as tight budgets and reorganization.

Dan LeGrandeur from **British Columbia** reports that as a result of the new fiscal budget the BC Conservation Service was once again a victim of more budget cuts. Most of the cuts were not direct, but in many district offices the administrative support staff had their hours reduced dramatically. This has resulted in many of the admin staff relocating to other positions within government. Consequently, the vacancies have not been backfilled leaving several offices with no admin support. Not only has this increased the workload on the officers, but it has negatively affected the service to the public.

There has been some movement in-service with some officers promoting and others taking lateral transfers. One notable promotion was past NAWEOA President and rep. Rick Hildebrand taking over the Senior Conservation Officer position in Kamloops. Rick will be missed in the Lower Mainland as the Southern Interior will benefit greatly from his years of experience as a Conservation Officer.

The Special Investigation Unit has been hard at work. As a result of an investigation spearheaded by the Golden CO's, a two year undercover operation on a local guide and outfitter netted a conviction and fines totaling \$56,000.00. This is the highest fine to date regarding charges of this nature. This is just one small example of the excellent work done by our undercover unit and CO's throughout the province.

The NAWEOA 2005 Master Committee has also been busy narrowing down a short list of locations for the convention. If all goes well, BC will be hosting the 2005 convention.

Dan invites you all to help celebrate British Columbia's 100th anniversary as well as NAWEOA's 25th.

Rob Lamont from **Alberta** indicates it has taken some time to find some positive news to report. Alberta is continuing to work through the amalgamation of Fish and Wildlife Officers and Park Rangers. The title of Conservation Officer is expected to be adopted soon. Like any other major restructuring it will take some time for the kinks to be worked out. A recent cabinet shuffle resulted in a new Minister and Deputy Minister for their department. Four members of the Association Executive met with the new Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister on August 24. Their presentation seemed to be well received and members of the Association attending left the meeting feeling confident that some of their concerns would be addressed. Officers are optimistic that the Association will continue to have an open line of communication with the Deputy Minister which will allow officers and the department to work together to address some of the major issues that officers are struggling with today. Management has made a commitment to address the issue of low morale amongst staff and the officers are cautiously optimistic that some positive changes are forthcoming. It is anticipated that several new officers will be hired by the end of the year, which is welcome news for those officers who have been working in understaffed districts.

Raymond Bourget of the **North West Territories** reports that he has replaced Bernie Bergman as the NWT representative and that he and Ian McLeod were able to attend the NAWEOA conference in St. Louis this year. Both men had a great time despite the heat wave that threatened to melt them, but were glad to get home to more normal temperatures.

The biggest thing to hit the territories the past few months has been the division of the Northwest Territories into two Territories. Nunavut was officially created on April 01, 1999. This has led to some very interesting questions and problems relating to who can hunt where and movement of wildlife parts between the two Territories.

Officers are still working on obtaining enforcement tools for their work. At present officers do not carry any enforcement tools. *That is right - nothing.* Policies have been prepared to allow us to carry cuffs, spray and batons, and it appears that they will be signed off. The next step is training, and then issue.

The NWT is in the process of rewriting the Wildlife Act and anticipate many months of public consultation. Officers hope and look forward to an Act that will be easier to work with.

Steve Pinksen of **Iqaluit, Nunavut** reports that the organization of the New Territory is on going and will have more to report in the next edition. The NWT officers association which had 3 separate regional associations will be reorganizing with much to be decided

at their departments' January conference.

Neil Jensen of the **Pacific Region Society of Fisheries Officers** reports that officers have been and are continuing to be very busy with investigations and monitoring the fishery. Neil promises some news for the next report.

Saskatchewan Officers are hoping for a quick recovery for Conservation Officers Bob Lidster and Michael Pashke who were involved in vehicle rollover during a night hunting exercise on August 29. Bob suffered severe neck injuries which at the moment leaves him paralyzed from the mid chest down. Bob has started rehabilitation and is working hard to regain the fine motor skills in his hands and arms. He has a positive attitude but can use some words of encouragement over the next few months when he will be going through some intense, hard work with his rehabilitation. If you would like to send a letter or card to Bob, please send it to Bob Lidster c/o Enforcement & Compliance Branch SERM, Box 3003, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 6G1 and we will see the messages are delivered. Michael Pashke is a part time Conservation Officer and has currently finished his period of work. Michael had some minor neck and back problems but indicates he is fine.

Officers are chomping at the bit to get busy with the fall seasons. Lots of crop still out which will make for an extremely late harvest and lots of wildlife complaints. Tight budgets are still a problem in Saskatchewan which still affects the updating, replacing and repair of equipment and also officer travel. The recent provincial election also initiates a change in department minister. I'm sure there will be lots to report in the next newsletter. The Saskatchewan Special Investigations unit has been busy concluding a number of files this past spring which resulted in walleye trafficking charges throughout Saskatchewan and Alberta. Most cases are still before the courts at this time.

We were lucky to have 7 Saskatchewan Officers at the NAWEOA conference in St. Louis and it has indeed one fine conference. Good job Gordon Jarvis, Dave Beffa and crew - it was a fantastic conference. When we are out there doing the job we love to do, please remember to be safe. Have a great fall.



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Region 2 Report

By Ian Anderson

St. Louis, Missouri was everything it was billed to be and more! Hats off to Gordon Jarvis and company for an outstanding conference. I still don't know how those folks work in that kind of heat, those of us from the "near North" just about melted. Thank goodness for air conditioning.

I would like to welcome Chris Atkin from **Manitoba** as their new correspondent, and thank Jim Kamann for his good work in the past. Chris reports a busy summer with fires and fisheries work. Manitoba Natural Resources officers are still multi-disciplined and spend much of their time on fires during the spring and summer. Sport fisheries kept their officers busy as well with regular patrols and roadside check stations.

The canine team is still be used extensively on these check stations with a lot of positive comments, leading officers to believe that the department could use another team or two. From the Manitoba Association's standpoint, the summer has been an active one with the long awaited wage package for the Natural Resource Officer's series going forth to management just in time for an election! Hopefully this will mean a wage increase in line -with other jurisdictions doing the same work. Officers are optimistic as the idea for this package was mainly management driven.

Work continues on issues such as housing and trying to get a Northern Benefits Package together. With the issue of housing, the Association has requested a meeting with the Minister of Government Services. Hopefully this will see some movement on a frustrating issue for many officers who live in less desirable locations where purchasing a home is not an option. On the topic of the Northern Benefits, the Association is putting together a package for inclusion in the next round of contract negotiations starting in the New Year.

As of the end of August, all Natural Resource Officers have been through Regina for sidearm training. For those officers who already had their sidearms, a requalification was run in July/August. Word has it that everyone

has maintained his or her skills from training. Centralized training is ongoing, with one group going through in August and a second group in September. It's great to see management support this invaluable training tool.

Gerry Brunet from **Environment Canada (EC), Wildlife Enforcement Division, Ontario Region** reports that the Missouri Conference was attended by 2 of their members and their families and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. One of the conference's guest lecturers, Lt. Col. Grossman, came to Hamilton, Ontario after NAWEOA and delivered the same lecture at the Canadian Chiefs of Police Conference.

A second person has been convicted with respect to an investigation reported in the Fall 1998 newsletter. The file dealt specifically with an international reptile smuggling ring that had ties to Madagascar, Germany, Canada and the USA. The file was initiated by the USFWS and as result of evidence sharing secured via an MLAT, led to a joint investigation in Ontario involving Revenue Canada-Customs Investigations and EC.

On June 30, 1999 Marc Lachaine of Toronto, Ontario was convicted and sentenced to a \$4,000 fine plus forfeiture of 6 snakes worth an estimated \$7,000 Cdn. In a Windsor, Ontario court, Lachaine was convicted of purchasing 4 ringed pythons that had been illegally imported into Canada, and illegally importing 2 Madagascar tree boas into Canada.

This investigation has still not ended as charges against 3 additional Canadians and 1 German National are still before the court. The 3 Canadian subjects are scheduled for a preliminary hearing in September at Windsor, Ontario. In another CITES related matter, Johanne and Mike Flikkema (of Flikkema Aviaries), Fenwick, Ontario, were convicted in a Welland, Ontario court on June 9, 1999. This investigation involved illegal imports, possession and transportation of CITES listed finches and macaws. Charges were laid under the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act resulting in total fines of \$8,500.

Ontario Region currently has 2 new investigators: Armando Almeida, deployed to EC from Revenue Canada-Customs Investigations (Toronto), and Ray Croccolo, who comes to EC on an assignment basis from Revenue Canada (Ottawa). Richard Labossiere of EC Manitoba reports that they just completed a one week migratory bird enforcement training course for the Manitoba DNR and RCMP. The fall waterfowl hunting season is in full swing, so this training will be put into practice soon.

On June 30, 1999 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, an Indiana black bear hunter was fined \$3,000 plus court costs, and forfeited a full mount black bear valued at \$2,000 for violations under WAPPRITA. Robert Craig Sibbett of Green Castle, Indiana pled guilty to 1 count of transporting parts from an illegally taken black bear from Ontario to Manitoba, and 1 count of exporting black bear parts to the

US without proper permits.

The convictions stem from a May 1998 hunting and fishing trip in Northwestern Ontario by the accused and 3 other US residents, during which they hunted and fished without valid provincial licenses. A joint investigation between Environment Canada, Manitoba DNR, Ontario MNR, USFWS and Indiana DNR resulted in 3 search warrants executed and the seizures of a fully mounted 400 lb. black bear and trophy bear skull, which would have ranked as Ontario's third largest in 1998.

Bruce Ward of Ontario sends a special thanks to all the Missouri agents and their families for such a fabulous conference. In particular, Larry Yamnitz and crew who organized the guest speakers deserve a lot of credit both the professional and timely topics but also for the certificates of accreditation after each session (sign up forms for later mail out). This goes a long way to demonstrate to home agencies that this conference is good for professional development.

The timing of the hospitality suite (generously provisioned) throughout the conference ensured that delegates always had a place to meet and socialize at the conclusion of the day's business. It facilitated interaction and meeting new folks, and was a real success which future hosts might try to repeat if possible.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario was the location for Ontario's Officers Association annual summer conference in August. Approximately 40 officers and families attended with a good time had by all. Among the highlights was a presentation by Conservation Officer Scott Berg from Michigan's DNR updating recent developments in their state program. It appears to be on the leading edge of technology, content and political support, perhaps on the continent! Their success can be attributed to much hard work on the part of both officers and supervisors, and in particular their Director, who is farsighted in striving to enable their senior administrators to nurture the agency's development of better technology, equipment, cost tracking and licensing. Too bad our Canadian dollar is too weak to entice him north! It sure is nice to see this kind of profess in these hard times.

Ontario's Premier announced that a further \$950 million would be cut from his provincial government agencies over the next 2 years, with most of this money coming from Natural Resources and the Environment Ministries. The last round of cutbacks cut the -MNR work staff by almost 60%, we're all wondering whether there's any blood left in that stone for this round.

Ontario's COs are collecting former uniform parts to ship to Malawi game protectors who are not well equipped and would benefit from these old uniforms. The first shipment is this fall. I believe that a US jurisdiction did something of a similar nature in the recent past with another agency. This is a good use of outdated uniforms and provides someone else

with something they need but can't afford.

Ontario's Provincial Government extended the fall black bear season in an effort to increase hunting opportunities lost from their ban of the spring hunt. Repercussions from the ban are yet to be determined.

Of interest to Ontario officers and likely other Canadian officers is the tax rebate that can be applied for on your income tax return for attending NAWEOA's Annual Conference. Revenue Canada allows members of a profession to include as deductions on their personal income tax returns, portions of their expenses for attending up to 2 professional meetings/training sessions per year that were NOT covered by your employer. Save all your receipts, total and itemize trip expenses on a separate sheet and let the tax man return some of your hard earned cash. Call Revenue Canada for full details.

An interesting wildlife investigation to report on from Wawa, Ontario. On July 5, 1999 Kenney Martel of Missinabi was con-

victed on 6 charges under the Fish & Game Act and was fined \$4,974, received a 10 year hunting license suspension, and forfeited a .22 rifle. Convictions included 3 counts of illegally hunting black bear, 2 counts of selling game and 2 count of offering for sale a black bear.

On September 18, 1998 Indiana bear hunters attended at the Wawa MNR office and informed COs Leo Lacoursiere and Tammy McKellar that they had been approached by an Ontario resident asking if they wished to purchase a black bear. They also advised that they believed that 4 Kentucky hunters had in fact purchased a black bear from this same person.

Subsequent investigation revealed that the Kentucky hunters had purchased 2 bears at a cost of \$100 US per bear. Further investigation revealed that Martel had found damage to a building on Dog Lake near Missinabi on September 15, 1998 and later returned with a .22 rifle and shot a large black bear that was in the area. Martel noticed some non-resident bear hunters at a nearby camp and offered to

sell the bear.

Upon returning by boat with 1 of the non-resident hunters to the location where the bear had been shot, a second bear was seen swimming in the lake. Martel shot this bear as well and sold both. Two days later Martel returned with a third bear, attempted unsuccessfully to sell this one to the hunters and then disposed of it in a landfill.

On February 5, 1999 the 4 Kentucky hunters, Christopher E. Couch of Taylorsville, Brian D. Phillips of Frankfort, Joseph Ballard of Taylorsville, and Melvin R. Chesser of Bloomfield, were convicted and fined a total of \$25,000 and received 16 years of hunting suspensions. The high fines and license suspensions should act as a deterrent to others – who are thinking of illegally dealing in Ontario's wildlife. Timely and accurate information from the public once again made a great case happen.



Guy Whitty 1964 - 1999

Guy Whitty had been with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Quebec since 1987. He was first hired as a student, and then in 1989 became a permanent employee as Fishery Officer. From 1989 to May 25, 1999, the day of his accidental death in a house fire, he worked in Ste-Anne-des-Monts District.

Guy was a devoted employee, professional and open minded. He always sought to get his "good" better and "better" best. His deep sense of respect made Guy a customer oriented person. All through his career Guy developed an expertise in fishing gear and fishing techniques which made him a perfect teacher for all the recruits and other groups.

Guy was also a recruit trainer in Ste-Anne-des-Monts District. All of his advice and decisions was oriented towards the conservation and protection of the marine resources. Guy was steadily happy and deeply committed to his work. He was proud to be a Fishery Officer. Even after 13 years within the department, bright sparks were still as visible in his eyes as they were on his first day of work, and that always impressed his colleagues. Guy always kept looking in his everyday life for new ways to get his work done or to find new types of evidence for court purposes.

We lost a colleague and a friend, but worse, his family lost a son, a husband, a father and all their memories in the loss by fire of their home.



James V. Spignesi, Jr. 1953 - 1998

On November 20, 1998, Connecticut Conservation Officer James Spignesi was killed in the line of duty. Jim and another officer had entered a field to investigate a possible late hunter when a shot rang out and fatally struck him. The shooter, claiming that he thought he was shooting a deer, had shot a half hour after legal shooting hours.

Jim was 45 years old and had worked for the Department for 21 years. He began with the Department as a biologist and had worked as a Conservation Officer for the last 7 years. He was the first Connecticut CO to die from a shooting in the over 100 year history of the Department. In August 1998 Jim had been awarded the Department's Medal for Meritorious Service. He was part of a search group looking for a runaway boy in the Natchaug State Forest. The group gave up when they were unable to locate the boy, but Jim persisted and eventually found the boy unharmed.

In tribute to Jim, the Pudding Hill Management Area near where he was shot has been renamed the James V. Spignesi, Jr. Wildlife Management Area. Jim was not married, but is survived by his father, sister and several brothers. He is greatly missed by those who knew and worked with him. He is gone but not forgotten.



Region 3 Report

By Brent Cole

Congratulations to Gordon Jarvis and company and all the gang in Missouri for an outstanding conference in St. Louis. It seems all had a great time and a lot of great ideas were shared amongst everyone – thanks!

New Brunswick's Richard Kingston reports that the Forest Rangers and Forest Wardens of New Brunswick's enforcement section wish to express their thanks to the Province's support services in continually sponsoring delegates to annual NAWEOA conferences. Two officers were sponsored this year and four others traveled on their own time and expense. While at the conferences, officers become better informed on wildlife enforcement issues by learning the tricks of the trade from their peers, and their families are also afforded an opportunity to meet and greet new friends.

Our Department Regional Support Services Director, Richard Monroe, recently announced the appointment of Brian Jenkins as Manager of the Enforcement Section. He states, "Brian has a wealth of expertise and experience with the Department, including in the field of enforcement, and there is no doubt he will be a most valuable asset to the Department's enforcement personnel in this position." We have seen Brian rise from a field officer through to this position and wish him well.

As of this writing, there has not been a final number released of the number of officers who will continue to do enforcement duties. A guesstimate would be 200-210. Training is ongoing and equipment is trickling in slowly. As soon as this matter is finalized, we'll get caught up on NAWEOA membership dues and issue an updated officer roster to the Sec/Treas. and Newsletter Editor.

Last fall, an interesting trapping case was uncovered in my Sunny Corner District. While checking the surrounding grounds of a hunter's temporary camp, a marten trap was found, which was set 2 weeks before the opening of the marten trapping season. This was staked out and the hunter was seen carry-

ing a marten into his camp. He left the area and was checked. However, he did not report catching an incidental marten. After being released, he was directed to stop again but made his way into his camping area where he was seen rolling down his vehicle window and heard shouting to his partners, "Hide the marten!" After being told of the charges, he was requested to turn over the marten. His first attempt to find the marten was unsuccessful as his partner hid it in a sleeping bag. When this case was concluded, the hunter/trapper was fined \$1,200 and placed on the restricted list for 3 years. When asked why he set the trap, he said he was just checking to see what animals were in the area.

Conservation Officer Dougald MacNeil from **Nova Scotia** reports that Nova Scotia officers participated in their Annual Enforcement training workshop, coordinated by Chuck Moore, Manager of Enforcement, and held at the Coast Guard College in Cape Breton. Brian Gilbert, Executive Director of Regional Services, was on hand and had some fine words of encouragement for all officers. The week long agenda beginning August 23 included discussion and training in current federal firearms legislation changes, provincial statute and regulation updates, media relations, source development, records management and Verbal Judo.

A very informative and interesting presentation on the CISNS (Criminal Intelligence Service of Nova Scotia) was made by Jan Gorman and Bruce Nunn. Bruce, we are very proud to add, is a CO who is presently on a 3 year secondment to the Service as an Intelligence Analyst.

Communications skills training was a major part of the workshop sessions. Instruction was ably handled by Inspector Bob Harris of the Atlantic Police Academy. On target, skilful communication is a must for all professional enforcement officers. John Mombourquette, Director of Law Enforcement, has set high standards for the enforcement personnel and is dedicated to providing current and quality training.

During the week, NAWEOA Life Saving Awards, originally announced at the St. Louis Conference, were presented to Allan Bland, Donnie Anderson and Merryl Bustin. The officers are very appreciative and want to pass along thanks to the NAWEOA Executive for the special recognition.

Reclassification efforts continue for CO's in Nova Scotia. There is not much to report other than that a hearing is scheduled for this October. We all hope that this will be over soon with a fair and honest review of our classification and remuneration.

We hope everyone has a safe, successful and enjoyable hunting season.

Roland Richard of **Prince Edward Island** reports that PEI Conservation Officers have the go ahead to carry sidearms as part of their personal safety equipment. The 9mm Smith and Wesson sidearms have been ordered and will

hopefully be issued by the opening of the fall waterfowl hunting season. Provincial Conservation Officers would like to thank Gary Martin for the letter of support on behalf of NAWEOA.

Also, PEI officers are busy investigating 9 fish kills as a result of pesticides being sprayed on potato crops. A large number of trout have been killed, as well as other aquatic life. With the growing number of potato kill on the Island, numerous talks among industry are being held to try to solve this problem.

Sheldon Anstey informs us that Newfoundland and Labrador experienced a very busy summer fire season. With record high temperatures ever since late April and record low rainfalls throughout the summer, the result of course, was an unusually high number of fires (215 on the island portion of the province and 43 in Labrador), with some of these fires being the largest in recent history.

On the wildlife and inland fisheries side of things, we have yet to reach a deal with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on a co-operative enforcement program for inland waters. The Department's policy right now is hands off inland water enforcement until we get some funding from the Feds. This is frustrating to a lot of conservation officers who want to do this work as part of their regular duties, and are being called on by the public to respond to complaints. As an Association, we support the idea of joint enforcement and the spirit of cooperation, and we urge our Provincial and Federal governments to hammer out a deal so that we can get on with the task of protecting this dwindling resource.

Wildlife violations are still an ongoing concern and the number of charges laid is a direct indicator of this. Our Provincial government has responded to some of the concerns brought forward by the general public at recent consultation meetings on outdoor resource use. Effective this fall we have reinstated the use of the .22 caliber rifle for the hunting of small game (.22 cal has been illegal for hunting since the late 1960's). As well, there was a regulatory change to the ATV Act to allow the use of an ATV in restricted areas for the retrieval of a big game animal taken by a hunter. There are other recommendations in the report that will also be considered by government and possibly implemented. They will have to be closely monitored to determine whether or not the changes are positive.

A big thank you to the Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods for their continued support of NAWEOA. This year the Department sponsored 2 officers to attend the St. Louis conference, and as well, 1 officer was sponsored by the Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Officers Association. Once again, thank you for your support.

One more bit of information for those of you who don't already know. Brent Cole was elected as president of our Provincial Wildlife Officers Association on September 7, 1999. Yours truly will pass the reins and serve for

the next 2 years as past president. Congrats to Brent and we wish him all the very best of luck in his new position (because it ain't getting' any easier).

Heather Davis reports a busy summer across the **Atlantic National Parks** due to extremely great weather. Prince Edward Island National Park reports high levels of minor infractions as typically occurs in the park annually. The wardens at the Fortress of Louisbourg are working on an interesting case where 12 ATV's and their riders were caught within park boundaries, damaging sensitive bog vegetation. High fines are expected. Cape Breton Highlands National Park wardens are gearing up for another busy fall with the upcoming hunting seasons. Joint patrols between park wardens and provincial game wardens are being planned for boundary areas, both at Cape Breton Highlands National Park and the Fortress of Louisbourg.



PATCHES AVAILABLE

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:

Randall Reigh
802 E. Erie
Yale, OK 74085

MUSEUM REPORT by Del Tibke

For those officers who did not attend the NAWEOA conference in St. Louis, Missouri this summer, you missed a great conference. Hats off to the CO's from Missouri who did a great job of hosting this year's conference. Hope to see you all in New York next year.

The museum board members want to thank all the officers who stopped at the museum booth and participated in the fundraising activities for the museum project. Many officers became new patron members of the museum. We did raise a good amount of money for the project at this conference.

On October 22 & 23, 1999 the museum board will be meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba. At that time Jackson & Associates will make a presentation on the feasibility study which was conducted this summer to assess the possibility of raising \$2.7 million in the USA to complete the museum project. A big thank you goes out to the officers who provided names for the 100 people to be interviewed by this company. We will keep the NAWEOA members informed of the outcome of this important study. We have hired a fundraising company in Canada, Contract Solutions of Brandon, Manitoba, and they are at work raising money in Canada.

This past summer a temporary facility was opened at the museum site on July 23 and ran until the end of August. It was staffed by two young ladies pursuing studies in biology and interested in conservation and natural resources as eventual careers. Funding for these positions was made possible by the Province of Manitoba through the Green Team initiative and the State of North Dakota's Student Conservation Team program.

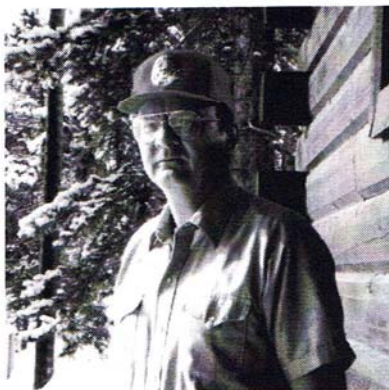
The facility received many visitors this summer, more than had been anticipated. Programs included fishing demonstrations and visits by notable personalities, such as Pierre Bottineau and the Dogman, Natural Resource Officer Tim Cameron and his Labrador retriever Duke, a K9 dog. Media coverage for the facility and the campaign was extensive, with coverage in the Minot Daily News, Brandon Sun, Winnipeg Free Press, CBC Radio, CKX Television, Fargo Forum and several rural weeklies in both Canada and the US.

During the winter months, displays and collection for the facility will be developed by Jim Carson, a design professional with many years of museum experience. The displays and collections will be transferred to the permanent facility following construction. A grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has been applied for to assist with this aspect of the project. This facility will be open during the months of June, July and August 2000.

The museum board has another project underway – a cookbook that is now for sale. We are offering these cookbooks to jurisdictions and associations at a wholesale rate of \$10.00 per book in the US, and \$12.00 per book in Canada. Several warden associations picked up case lots at the St. Louis conference. They are using this cookbook as a fundraising project for their associations.

There are 25 cookbooks per case @ \$250 per case plus shipping costs for US sales (or \$10 US per book plus shipping) and \$300 per case plus shipping costs for Canadian sales (or \$12.00 Cdn per book plus shipping). For sales to the public the cost of the cookbook in both the US and Canada is \$15.00 plus \$5.00 shipping fee. To order in Canada contact Dennis L. Hlady at 1129 Queens Ave., Brandon, Manitoba R7A 1L9, telephone (204) 726-6446. To order in the US contact Richard Knapp, Warden Supervisor, P.O. Box 309, Jamestown, ND 58402, telephone (701) 253-6476, or you can contact me at NAWEMMEC, Inc. at P.O. Box 28, Valley City, ND 58072-0028, or telephone (701) 845-3780 or e-mail dtibke@ictc.com. Let's get this cookbook out and sold as soon as possible. Also check our museum website at <http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/trails/8475> for information on the museum.

Feel free to contact me at any time about the museum project. It's your project, so let's all support it. Take care and be careful out there.



Region 4 Report

By Jerry Claassen

If you weren't in St. Louis this July, you missed a great conference. Thanks to all the Missouri folks for a job well done. And thanks to Mark McGwire for the Big Macs as Mark blasted his 497th, but the Rockies beat the Cardinals on Sunday. A couple of the jurisdictional reps from Region 4 were up north on recreational trips so they can be excused for not showing up.

Jim Collom, Idaho reports that Idaho is going for a license fee increase which would bring in \$4.4 million annually and help in capital outlay, restoring temporary help, and hatchery improvements. Four teenage boys pled guilty on January 25 to illegally shooting 11 buck deer and one bull moose. All of the meat was wasted. Fines, civil penalties and court costs totaled \$14,544, 12 years of probation, 28 days in jail and 27 years of hunting and fishing license suspensions. The deer were killed where they congregated on the winter range. Matt Erickson and Marshall Haynes recently took an investigation interstate when they received word that 2 of Idaho's elk ended up hanging on a porch in a trailer park in Clarkson, WA. They worked with Ken Woltering of Washington Fish and Wildlife to obtain a search warrant for the trailer and vehicle. It seems a tribal member killed an elk on private property outside the reservation. With good DNA evidence obtained at the scene, the prosecutor expects felony warrants for both to be forthcoming. The pictures of the full term calf in the gut pile really pissed her off.

On March 26, 1999 the Wood River Fire and Rescue received a 911 call for a 70 year old man involved in an auto accident and not breathing. Senior Conservation Officer Lee Garwood is highly commended for taking control of the situation and pulling the pulseless man from the car. He then administered CPR until other medical assistance arrived. A pulse was reestablished several times at the scene and Lee's quick action is credited with saving the man's life. Lee was recognized with a NAWEOA Life Saving Award at this year's conference.

Jim "Muskrat" Conner, Montana reports that the 1999 legislative session ended with several new pieces of legislation that will have an impact on wildlife law enforcement in the state. The enforcement division had been authorized 1.5 FTE and operating expenses to hire seasonal Water Safety Officers to address the growing popularity of water based recreation. All hunters must formally obtain permission to hunt on any public land. Previously, only posted lands needed permission to hunt for bird and non-game hunters. In a move to stop illegal trophy hunting, restitution for illegal trophy animals has increased to: \$30,000 for a bighorn sheep $\frac{3}{4}$ curl or greater; \$8000 for 6pt bull elk and 4 pt bucks; \$6,000 for 30 inch moose and any mountain goat. The violator could also be fined from \$500 to \$3,000, up to 6 months in jail and 5 years suspension for taking a trophy animal. Another novel approach is that any person suspended beginning in 2001 must take a hunter education class for violators.

Warden Bruce Knutson with the aid of retired game warden Stan Peck (just can't get it out of your system) put together an excellent case on a previous violator by the name of Larry Mee. It seems Mee along with two young men were involved in the illegal shooting and transporting of 3 elk (1 cow and 2 bulls). Mee finally confessed to the crime and that the animals were at his parents. On the way to pick up the animals Mee implicated his brother who took 1 of the animals home, a nephew who tagged the cow and another man who also took an animal home. After the 2 juveniles decided to talk a little more about Mee. In addition to the 3 elk, he was also charged with killing a bull with a rifle during the 1997 archery season, transporting an overlimit of elk during the first week of the 1997 season, failing to void his license for an elk he killed during the 1997 archery season, and attempting to kill a 7x7 bull in March of 1998. Several other officers participated in the investigation. It seems Mee will be spending a lot of time in the hunter education class if he ever gets his privileges back.

In an interesting tidbit Jim includes a report from 1901 on case was described as "December 20, 1901, Henry McMinn and Dave McCarhy were charged with killing elk out o season. Complaining witness James McBride, deputy State Game Warden. A guilty plea was entered and a fine of \$100 and costs was assessed. McBride sold the meat to two people in Cinnibar and the proceeds of \$21 was turned over to Justice F.H. Pratt of Gardiner."

Recently the following officers received accolades: Jeff Scott was awarded the Pogue-Elms award. Officer of the Year was won by Floyd Thomas and the Shikar-Safari award to Jim DeBoer. Congratulations men.

Randall Kendrick, National Park Service reports their FOP has been involved in many issues relating to pay grades and more recently the agency's new medical standards. It appears that the standards are either being

ignored by some parks and vigorously implemented at others. The lodge want two things to happen: That the medical standards be no more stringent than those in other federal law enforcement agencies, and that all commissioned personnel be treated equally from park and GS-9 to Chief Ranger.

Kurt Bahti, Arizona advises officers have been busy improving standards for officers in the state. Most notable is a 16% pay raise that is anticipated July of next year (assuming the legislature allows them to spend their own money. This came about in what is called a Special Market Adjustment of the 'Wildlife Series' which included officers. In other matters, the Game Ranger association and agency settled the required physical testing plan. Officers are no longer required to pass a PT test to keep their commissions. They had hoped for a wellness program, but that was not accomplished. The dept. will be contributing up to \$400 in the purchase of new/replaced body armor. Officers will now have a new Off duty Work for Commissioned Officers Policy. Officers may now use their commission in off duty employment and quite a few allowable jobs have been identified. The legislature passed a law allowing the use of state equipment during the employment and the agency is working out the details.

For the next 2 years the direction of the association will be to establish a salary system based on merit/tenure. As it is now, the vast majority of officers are in their first or second quartile of their pay grade.

Todd Vandivert, Washington is starting the climb out of the hole. The new chief, Bruce Bjork has worked diligently to bring the RIF'd officers back on line. They are also looking at a 13% pay raise for officers and sergeants. Washington will also be receiving a new radio system and the removal of mileage restrictions. Congratulation folks. He and Asst. Chief Don Gatlin seem to have the confidence of the troops. And they have made great strides in gaining legislative support.

Fish and wildlife Officers Chris Anderson and Dan Rahn were instrumental in a case near the city of Moses Lake. It seems that a local family, which owns a heavy equipment company, leased a piece of Bureau of Reclamation land. They posted it, threatenws and chases hunters off. After doing some background work to assure that it was indeed public land, Dan and Chris dressed as hunters and went onto the property. They were confronted by the sons of the lessee. The officers were told several times they were trespassing and had to leave.

I can imagine the look on their faces when the officers opened their coats and identified themselves. During the following investigation, they uncovered 10 game violations including hunting without licenses/stamps, unplugged shotguns and possession of loaded firearm in a motor vehicle. Each suspect was also charged with the hunter harassment/ intimidation statute. The patriarch of the family

also showed up and wanted to know what they were doing on "his property". He was charged with illegal posting. The officers are now pursuing cancellation of the lease as well as the anticipated jury trial.

In another excellent case the Statewide Investigation Unit (SIU) worked collaboratively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State of Idaho to bring down illegal houndsman Richard "Dale" Harris. After years of intelligence gathering, Harris was arrested and charged with 13 criminal counts of trafficking in wildlife, 3 counts unlawful possession of wildlife (2 cougars, 1 bear gall), 1 count possession of wildlife taken illegally in another state (Idaho gall bladder), as well as unlicensed guiding and outfitting in 2 separate counts in Idaho. After a 2 day jury trial he was found guilty and sentenced to 365 days in jail on each count and actually serve 24 months in the county jail, not to hunt or fish or possess firearms or hunting related equipment for 2 years, and pay \$12,000 in civil fines and \$20,000 in court costs and restitution. So far Harris has violated his probation and is looking at more jail time.

Brian Gleadle, New Mexico reports that his state is experiencing a flood of retirements and they are in the course of hiring more re

cruits to fill the slots. In addition the legislature has approved 8 new full time slots for the Department, some of which will be field officers, while the others will take on the role of Area Depredation specialists.

For some time the Department has been actively pursuing the use of artificial wildlife in daytime activities. Currently, artificial wildlife in the State of New Mexico is limited to night use. Recently, the use of decoys during the day has received the blessing of District Attorneys, the Attorney General, and Risk Management and may pave the road for this year's fall hunts. Those individuals apprehended will be cited and asked to fill out a questionnaire. The questionnaire is intended to find out the specifics on what the violation or ethics are actually being addressed, i.e. exceeding the bag limit, party hunting, hunting from the road, etc.

Doug Homan, Colorado reports that in a recent poll conducted by a private company, the Colorado public felt the Division of Wildlife was doing a good job. In that poll, people were asked what the most important job the agency does. Enforcing the laws was the number one task the citizens thought should be accomplished. This was good news and hopefully will have some influence on the future

wildlife management decisions.

The agency is looking to financial cutbacks in the future due to reduced deer license sales and a voter induced cap on state income (taxes and license fees). There is some effort to get out from under the Taxpayers Bill of Rights. Some of the cutback will come from not filling positions when employees retire. Since there is a large contingent of field officers eligible to retire in the next 5 years, there is fear that the field positions will suffer if these aren't replaced.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Employees Assn. (PAW) voted to retain a law firm to cover suits against officers for up to \$50,000. The decision, which required an increase in dues, was controversial and resulted in some officers dropping their membership. Unfortunately, those officers also lost their membership in NAWEOA through the association. We hope they will opt to rejoin as individual members.

A trend which is apparent in most of the western states is that a lot of officers are looking toward retirement. Hopefully, administrations will address this turnover and plan ahead. There are a lot of years of expertise and knowledge to be passed on to the next cadre.

Have a safe fall!

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 welcomes 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 US 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 US made out to NAWEOA MEMORIAL FUND to:
NAWEOA, POB 22, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA. 16648



Region 5 Report

By Dave Nichols

Missouri: John Hart reports that the Missouri Conservation Agents Association completed the 1999 NAWEOA Conference and it was a success (Understatement - Ed.) To those who have put one of these on, you will know what I am talking about when I say it was fun but let me rest for a while before we try it again. There were almost 1,000 officers, spouses, children and guests who attended the conference. Many of our jurisdictions were represented very well. To those who couldn't make it, we missed you, and hope to see you at future conferences. The success or failure of any meeting of this size is contingent upon the cooperation of a lot of people. We start with our Director Jerry Conley and thank him for his support from the very beginning. It began in Colorado, on that fine summer day, when he asked us if we felt that we could do this. His support did not falter one bit throughout the whole process. Protection Division Chief Ron Glover was in there all the way with his support and encouragement. He, I am sure, wondered if we were going to ever get back to being game wardens again. But he stuck with us and supported us to the finish. That shows in the success side of the ledger. The other Department of Conservation employees who worked tirelessly to make this a success should know that without them it never would have gone off. Now last, but not the least, by any stretch, is the work that was done by the members of the Missouri Conservation Agents Association and especially Gordon Jarvis and the Core Committee. We worked hard for 24 months to plan and put the monster together. The rest of the folks implemented the plan and I am sure that Lewis and Clark would have been proud to view the end result. I am sure that from reading the stories of their expedition, they would have enjoyed the hospitality room. I think that they would approve of what we did in their name. As the President of the MCAA, I take this opportunity to thank all of you that attended and helped make this the successful conference that it was. Without all

of you it would not have even been necessary to have it. It really is great when a plan comes together. To those of you that are about to enter into this event, good luck and take all the help that you can get. You will need it.

Back in the real world we were not successful in our bid to raise the Missouri Conservation Agent up to the retirement level of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Water Patrol in this last session of the legislature. We learned a lot and have a lot of support to try to get this accomplished in the next session of the legislature. We do have a somewhat improved retirement available to us in the new program passed for all state employees. It is slanted to encourage retirement at a younger age. This is bothersome to those who feel that they want to dedicate their careers to the long pull and be there when the sun goes down. But for the person who wants to retire at 50 to 57 it is a good improvement over the one that we had.

Our Department is looking at a new pay system. This is called "pay for performance." The jury is still out on the issue. We hope that the decisions will go with the common sense side of the matter and stay with the fine compensation plan that we presently have.

Missouri is looking at a record year in our fall deer seasons. We seem to have lots of deer in most areas and our only problem is getting enough hunters out to harvest the surplus. We have the same problem with turkeys and all of our hunting seasons. Our society is changing and our children are not taught how to use the implements of hunting like my generation and a few later generations. If this trend continues we may be looking at some drastic measures in controlling the numbers of wildlife. Missouri has a big problem developing in the otter trapping arena. There is a petition that is circulating to place a ban on otter trapping. This would lead to a vote by the people. If the ban is successful it will then be a stepping stone to stopping of all trapping. With Missouri having a large percentage of our population in urban areas, we may be looking at passage of this type of law. That is what we have stood against since 1937 when our Commission was formed by just the same system.

Illinois: Jeff Bailie reporting: Officer Neal Serdar was nominated by both the Lake Michigan Enforcement Operations District and the Special Operations Unit for Illinois Officer of the Year. Although his regular area of enforcement is the Lake Michigan Operations Unit, he was assigned to the Special Operations Unit for 3 years and worked undercover as a taxidermist in a small town in southern Illinois. The end result was over 35 defendants arrested on various wildlife charges. Fines totaled over \$20,000 in state and federal court. He did his job so well that during his 3 years the local residents wanted him to run for town council!

Awards of Merit were given to Officer Dennis Michael and Officer Kurt Defenbaugh for their role in catching an armed bank robber near Peoria, IL.

Officer Glenn Sanders was selected as the "1998 Mississippi Flyway Council Waterfowl Officer of the Year." Glenn received the prestigious award after shining in the categories of Waterfowl Education, Wetlands Protection, Involvement with Youth in Waterfowling, Participation in Waterfowling Organizations and Enforcement Activities.

A scary thing happened to Officers Greg Ritter and Scott Travi in May. They answered a call of a person waving a loaded 9mm pistol at his family. When the officers arrived the suspect pointed the gun in their direction many times. Both officers kept their cool and eventually talked their way close enough to him. The suspect was tackled, the gun secured and the suspect handcuffed. Good communications skills and defensive tactics training both came into play in ending this volatile situation. Greg and Scott are to be commended for their cool heads.

Officer Rick Schulte investigated a bizarre boating accident. A tuber's hand became entangled in a towrope which led to two fingers being severed. One finger was located and surgically reattached.

Nebraska: Levi Krause reports: We've been fortunate to hire 4 new officers within the past year - Stacey Lewton, Patrick George, Darin Gress, and Jeff Clausen. With their employment, we will only be 1 short of our "normal" field officer contingent of 51. One vacancy was created when Duane Arp was promoted to District Supervisor. Other recent promotions include Ted Blume to Law Enforcement Division Administrator and Craig Stover to Assistant Administrator.

After attending a NAWEOA Museum meeting in Sioux Falls last March, we began discussing the idea of hosting the 2001 NAWEOA conference in conjunction with our Law Enforcement centennial. Since that time the wheels and cogs have been spinning an ever increasing speed. Not only did upper agency administration like the idea, they sent 4 Nebraska Conservation Officers to the conference in St. Louis! Once there we received the bid to host the 2001 conference. Needless to say, things are going to be rather hectic until August of 2001.

In January of this year, Mike Johanns became Governor. Fortunately for the State Patrol and us he is an avid supporter of law enforcement. Within 2 weeks of taking office, our 2 year labor contract impasse was settled. We received a 13-step pay plan, which will allow officers to actually reach the top of the pay schedule in 13 years. Many officers received a substantial pay increase or at least the real prospect of one. During this past summer, a national environmental group, PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) sent surveys to most of the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission permanent employees in the Law Enforcement, Parks, Fishery, and Wildlife Divisions. The survey was supposedly geared toward determining the effectiveness of the NGPC director and upper admini-

stration, the employees' trust in them and employees' fears of retaliation, among other things. They assured recipients that the results would be totally confidential and anonymous. However, when the results were released to the news media they were broken down by Division. In an agency and division as small as ours this is essentially the same as putting individual names on each answer and comment. Even though our officers and Association did not originate the survey, its results have caused unnecessary problems for us. The moral of the story -- be very careful about becoming involved with any environmental groups (or even answering their surveys) who claim to have your best interests at heart.

Oklahoma: Hank Jenks reports that a recent Attorney General's ruling says that State Agencies cannot publish employee telephone numbers. This has caused concern within the agency. Reaction from employees is mixed.

Many wardens feel that it will make it difficult for sportsman to contact them concerning violations, while others are ready to have their numbers changed and unpublished. Suggestions to solve the lack of communication problem range from cell phones to increased pager use. Hank also reports that their division purchased new body armor for 30 officers in September. The body armor has been provided for its personnel for several years and the new acquisition continues this tradition. About half of the wardens received new armor 4 years ago but several officers were left with outdated armor. The new armor is Second Chance Monarch series, which is rated at threat level IIA and weighs 2.13 lbs. The optional assault shell carriers and coolmax carriers were ordered with the armor.

Tony Clark has been elected President of OGWA (Oklahoma Game Warden Association) at the August 11 Directors Meeting. Tony

is from Cherokee County and a 5 year veteran of the department. Tony's combined warden experience and nearly 15 years as a street cop with Broken Arrow PD brings a wealth of Law Enforcement knowledge to the top OGWA position. Tony has played an active role in many officer organizations and brings with him an honest desire to improve all facets of the Oklahoma Game Warden Association. Cherokee County Game Warden Brady May was selected as the 1999 Oklahoma Game Warden of the Year. May, a 13 year veteran of the Oklahoma department of Wildlife Conservation, has been selected as District Warden of the year 4 times prior to being selected as the top warden in the state for 1999. May currently resides in Tahlequah and was assigned to Oklahoma County for 2 years prior to his move to Cherokee County. May has been involved with OGWA his entire career, serving as District director from 1989-1990.

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

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 Box 165, Salem, MO 65560
 21 S. Church St., Lovettsville, VA 20180
 507 Ocean Park Ave., Bradley Beach, NJ 07720

HOME
 719-395-2880
 306-628-3900
 705-653-3066
 814-942-9432
 306-764-9715
 705-282-2874
 709-651-4635
 970-627-8449
 540-822-4219
 732-897-9495

OFFICE
 719-539-8413
 705-755-1512
 306-953-2944
 705-282-2167
 709-256-1464
 970-725-3557
 573-729-7832
 540-899-4169

FAX
 719-539-3327
 705-755-1757
 306-953-2999
 705-282-0329
 709-256-1459
 970-725-3487
 703-771-5470
 732-259-7479

JURISDICTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

JURISDICTION

Alabama
 Alaska
 Alberta
 Arizona
 Arkansas
 British Columbia
 California
 Canadian Parks Service
 Canadian Wildlife Service
 Colorado
 Connecticut
 Delaware
 F&WS Refuge
 Federal Indian Tribes
 Fisheries & Oceans Canada
 Florida
 Georgia
 Guam
 Hawaii
 Idaho
 Illinois
 Indiana
 Iowa
 Kansas
 Kentucky
 Louisiana
 Maine
 Manitoba

NAME
 James Woodard
 Ken Merrill
 Pat Dunford
 Kurt Bahti
 Gary Wallace
 Dan LeGraneur
 Lorraine Doyle
 Mark Halley
 Gerry Brunet
 Doug Homan
 Bill Myers
 None Listed
 None Listed
 None Listed
 Neil Jensen
 Hampton Yates
 Elysia Greenlee
 Robert Anderson
 None Listed
 Jim Collom
 Jeff Bailie
 Jay Baker
 Rona Miner
 Dave Hoffman
 Kenny Kent
 Keith Lacaze
 David Georgia
 Chris Atkin

ADDRESS
 1055 Kentucky Ave.
 877 Sawmill Creek Highway
 Main Fl., S. Tower Petroleum Plaza, 9915-108th St.
 HCR 1, Box 15
 P.O. Box 1041
 Squamish Conservation Officer Service, Box 187
 P.O. Box 271
 Box 145
 126 Childerhorse Cres.
 878 3675 Rd.
 18 Ranger Rd.
 5550-268th Street
 8906 US Hwy. 301
 2109 US Highway 278, S.E.
 P.O. Box 24473 GMF
 P.O. Box 156
 1821 W. Co. Road, 650N
 412 Sunny Lane St.
 413 Oregon
 697 Coal Rd.
 P.O. Box 98000
 Maine Warden Service, 12 Tallwood Drive
 Box 389

HOME
 (256) 363-4635
 (907) 747-3248
 (780) 473 4785
 (501) 431-8876
 (604) 892-5971
 (509) 655-6487
 (519) 596-2624
 (519) 752-8627
 (970) 872-2175
 (860) 526-5921
 (604) 870-8811
 (352) 468-2328
 (671) 472-8525
 (208) 366-2750
 (812) 397-2633
 (319) 984-5192
 (785) 742-2156
 (270) 526-2371
 (504) 765-2985
 (207) 827-8586

Maryland	David Hohnman	6904 Colonial Drive	Thurmont, MD 21788	(301) 898-5256
Massachusetts	Kevin Clayton	P.O. Box 1311	Harwich, MA 02645	(508) 224-2264
Michigan	Peter Malette	P.O. Box 201	Onekama, MI 49675	(616) 889-9902
Minnesota	Tony Cornish	Box 31, Hwy. 1	Northome, MN 56661	(612) 845-4767
Mississippi	John Collins	902 Hackberry Lane	Canton, MS 39096	
Missouri	John Hart			
Montana	Jim Conner	RI #1, Box 1563	Lewistown, MT 59457	(406) 538-7683
National Capital Commission	George Tardiff	5385 Ridge Road	Gloucester, ON K0A 2Y0	(613) 521-0960
National Marine Fisheries	Ken Hansen	NMF's, 1211 Givson Cove Rd.	Kodiak, AK 99615	(907) 486-3298
National Military F. & WS	William Armstrong	2159 Liberty Grove Rd.	Colton, MD 21917-1317	(301) 658-6271
National Park Service	Randall Kendrick	P.O. Box 51	Fancy Gap, VA 24328	
Nebraska	Levi Krause	P.O. Box 424	Louisville, NE 68037	(402) 234-2212
Nevada	John Johnson	7508 Whitedeer Ct.	Las Vegas, NV 24328	(702) 645-7542
New Brunswick	Richard Kingston	P.O. Box 305	Red Bank NB E9E 2P2	(506) 622-7615
New Hampshire	Richard Marcou	7 Lower Templeton Rd.	Fitzwilliam, NH 03447	(603) 352-9669
New Jersey	Mike Massey	5716 Birch St.	Mays Landing, NJ 08330	(609) 625-2770
New Jersey State Park Police	Vacant			
New Mexico	Brian Gleddie	P.O. Box 8	Chama, NM 87520	(505) 756-2718
New York	Ken Didion	P.O. Box 527	Cranberry Lake, NY 12927	(315) 785-2231
Newfoundland-Labrador	Sheldon Anstey	10 Birchview Pl.	Deer Lake, NF A0L 2E0	(709) 637-2922
North Carolina	Tony Robinson	3305 Hooihill Circle	Valdese, NC 28690	(828) 874-1915
North Dakota	Tim Phalen	P.O. Box 217	Wyndmere, ND 58081	(701) 439-2663
Northwest Territories	Raymond Bourget	P.O. Box 2668, Forestry Bldg., #2 Bretsaff Dr.	Yellowknife, NT X1Z 2P9	(867) 873-1130
Nova Scotia	Dougal MacNeil	General Delivery	Whycocomagh, NS B0E 3M0	(902) 756-2112
Nunavut	Stephen Pinksen	Legislation and Enforcement Section, P.O. Box 1340	Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0	(867) 979-3041
Ohio	Jim Abrams	P.O. Box 183	Vanlue, OH 45890	(419) 387-7071
Oklahoma	Hank Jenks	Rt. 2, Box 490	Westville, OK 74965	(918) 723-4515
Ontario	Bruce Ward	2095 Southview Ave., RR #7	Stroud, ON L0L 2M0	(705) 431-9066
Oregon	David Rzewnicki	P.O. Box 363	Boardman, OR 97818	(541) 481-3165
Pennsylvania Fish	Don Lauver	P.O. Box 91	Duncan, PA 17020	(717) 567-9504
Pennsylvania Game	Bernie Schmader	General Delivery	Millmont, PA 17845	(717) 922-4489
Prince Edward Island	Roland Richard	P.O. Box 58	Willington, PEI C0B 2E0	(902) 854-2777
Quebec	Michel Morin	143 Rue Principale	Windsor, QC J1S 2E1	(819) 845-2434
Rhode Island	John Gingerella	21A Old Boom Bridge Rd	Prince Albert, SK S6V 6G1	(306) 764-1480
South Carolina	Michael Hardy	317 Carriage Trace	Seneca, SC 29678	(864) 882-0464
South Dakota	Owen Meadows	Box 423	Hot Springs, SD 57747	(605) 745-4213
Tennessee	Michael Stockdale	P.O. Box 95	Big Sandy, TN 38221	(901) 593-3568
Texas	Gary Tarpley	5400 Airport Freeway, Suite E	Fort Worth, TX 76117	(817) 831-3128
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Frank Kuncir	2120 SW 8th Court	Cape Coral, FL 33991	(941) 458-2078
Utah	Rudy Musclove	2810 Nuevo Ct.	Moab, UT 84535	(801) 259-8983
Vermont	Robert Lewis	41 Bates Hill Road	Derby, VT 05829	(802) 766-8824
Virginia	Robert Mitchell	P.O. Box 165	Rural Retreat, VA 24638	(540) 685-5151
Washington	Todd Vandivert	1411 S. 5th St.	Dayton, WA 99328	(509) 382-1009
West Virginia	David R. Long	Rt. 1, Box 141-L	Keyser WV 26726	(304) 788-0923
Wisconsin	Patrick Harkins	101 S. Webster St., Box 7921	Madison, WI 53707	(608) 266-2141
Wyoming	Joe Gilbert	2642 E. A Street	Torrington, WY 82240	(307) 532-2433
Yukon Territories	Brian Lacey	Box 40	Mayo, YU Y0B 1M0	(403) 966-2631



REGION 6 REPORT

By Bruce Lemmert

Officer Safety, Be Ever Vigilant –

Bruce Lemmert reporting: On my drive back to Virginia from the funeral of Georgia Ranger, Rocky Wainwright, there was ample time to contemplate the hazards of wildlife law enforcement. Rocky was killed in an ATV accident while on a search for a missing 11 year old girl in rural Georgia. In one unfortunate instant, Rocky Wainwright went from a young, vibrant, wildlife enforcement officer, to another fatal casualty of the business. As is typically the case, it is not just an outstanding officer that dies too young. It is also friend, soul mate, spouse, parent, and community leader that we lose.

Too often, I believe, when we think of the danger of the profession, we dwell on a hostile assault as the dangerous situation we must be most aware of. The fact that most of the constituents we check in the field are carrying firearms tends to reinforce this awareness. However, as with Rocky's death, the sheer number of variables we face in the field on a daily basis is our greater hazard to health and well being.

Our respective departments respect the dangerous nature of our jobs. They are giving us good training and equipment. The vagaries of terrain, weather, equipment, animals, and the people we deal with dictate that accidents can and will happen. The day-in, day-out variables of the job are surely an important aspect that attracted us to this profession. The commitment level of wildlife enforcement officers is high, and therefore we accept the possibility that one unfortunate incident can change or take our lives.

Here in Virginia, I think of Game Warden Robbie Everidge, who was accidentally shot by a hunter with a .50 caliber blackpowder rifle during the past hunting season. The hunter subsequently transported Robbie to the hospital. I think of our 1999 Game Warden of the Year, Steve Pike, who seriously injured his back in a recent boating mishap. In Colorado last year, Officer Jim Haskins injured his leg in an ATV accident while trying to retrieve the

body of a heart attack victim from difficult terrain. Also in 1998, Saskatchewan Officers Dan Robinson and Marc Painchaud nearly lost their lives when the ATV they were riding went through some "bad ice" on frozen Mystic Lake. This cross section of accidents comes not from an accumulated list, but simply from my limited awareness of what goes on across the continent in our profession. All officers mentioned are back at work, wiser, a bit worse for wear, and most importantly alive.

Probably the best way to avoid accidents is simply to avoid doing anything. Since that is not the nature of the game warden, we won't even consider that option. But, between the dullard and the foolhardy there are mistakes and simple bad luck. Every one of us has walked away from mistakes that we probably laughed about later. Every one of us has seen fate deal a bad hand. Confidence, woods wise savvy, self reliance, and optimism can overcome many obstacles. Carry on! Be safe!

Florida Merges Agencies - Hampton

Yates reporting: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has officially become an agency in FL with sole constitutional authority over FL's fish and wildlife, including the saltwater marine species and boating safety enforcement. On July 1, 1999, the FWC was the result of a public vote changing the state constitution by merging the entities and functions of the former Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFC), the FL Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC), the FL Marine Patrol (a former subdivision of the FL Department of Environmental Protection-DEP), and various biological divisions out from under DEP. For further updates, seasons and newsreleases, see our home page at this link <http://www.state.fl.us/fwc/> Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Home Page <http://www.state.fl.us/fwc/>

The new FWC consists of approximately 1850 employees. The FWC Division of Law Enforcement is a little over 800 strong, making it one of the largest conservation enforcement agencies in North America, if not the largest. Our aviation section is now approximately the 4th largest police aviation section with regards to planes and helicopters, in the US. I understand some downsizing is planned though by selling some of the airplanes.

On the July 4 weekend, the FWC Division of Law Enforcement's Inland and Marine Divisions conducted a boating safety and BUI patrol blitz throughout the state. The media got involved with positive results and press for the new agency. Multiple BUI's were made during the holiday weekend patrols. The Investigations Section continued by assisting in boating accident investigations and assistance to the wildlife officers during the details.

The next planned academy for recruits is January 2001. Currently, the L/E Division has only approximately 10 openings. Also, there are several committees being formed to decide on such issues as our agency logo and patch design (see this site <http://www.state.fl.us/>

<http://www.state.fl.us/fwc/logo.html>), our uniform colors and type, and uniform promotional standards for lieutenants in the division.

The morale is low as far as salary on the officer to lieutenant levels. PBA is the union representative for state L/E officers in FL. Our agencies PBA rep reports the merger was good to the rank of major and other select personnel in upper administration. An average salary increase of approximately 13 - 18% respectively was added to their salary to bring them to parity with other similar ranking personnel with other agencies. To solve some of the pay increase and parity issues on the officer level between the various state L/E agencies, the PBA has planned a Dignity 2000 campaign. Initial reports indicate Governor Bush is fully supportive of the issues to be brought on by the 3 year campaign of the PBA. The first year, if passed by the legislature, would yield an approximate 13% the first year and 8% increase the second and third year of the campaign. This, hopefully, would yield an approximate 29% pay increase by the year 2003 for FL's state law enforcement.

Georgia Officer Killed in Line of Duty

Elysia Greenlee reporting: A ranger with the state Department of Natural Resources was killed in an ATV accident Thursday while searching for a missing 11-year-old girl in Twiggs County. DNR officials said Conservation Cpl. Rocky Wainwright, 36, of Meansville in Pike County died when he was thrown from his ATV after it had struck a tree. He was returning to his assigned search area from the command center when he apparently lost control of the vehicle on a secondary road, the officials said. Wainwright was the first conservation ranger killed in the line of duty in at least 25 years, said DNR Commissioner Lonnie Barrett. Wainwright, who had been promoted to corporal 3 weeks ago, had worked in DNR law enforcement since 1987.

"He was well regarded by fellow conservation rangers and had a fine reputation in his community," said Col. Walt Taylor of DNR's Wildlife Resources Division.

His wife and 2 children survive Wainwright. There has been an education/trust fund set up for Cpl. Wainwright's 2 small children, Austin and Laranda. People can send donations in lieu of flowers to: Rocky Wainwright Fund, Account #176785, Attention: Anisha Thompson, Bank of Upson, P.O. Box 790, Thomaston, GA 30286

Here's some more info from the L/E section of GA's WRD: Ranger of the Year: RFC Stan Elrod of the Gainesville Region II James Darnell Award (Second place to ROTY): RFC Brian Keener of the Calhoun Region I-Shakar-Safari International Investigative Ranger of the Year: RFC Sam O'Neal of the Calhoun Region I-Southern States Boating Law Administrators Assoc. Boating Safety Ranger of the Year (for GA and SSBAA): RFC Stephen Adams of Gainesville Region II. We have also had several promotions since the last newsletter, particularly 2 excellent field sergeants who are

now regional supervisors (Captain's rank): Eddie Henderson for the Gainesville Region II (when Capt. Ron Bailey was promoted to Lt. Col.) and Howard Hensley for the Metter Region VI (for the pending retirement of Capt. Mac Gignilliat.) Of course, Rocky Wainwright had just been promoted to Corporal just before his death, along with Brent Railey from the same region (Manchester Region IV.) Other promotions: Sgt. Carroll Chastain and Cpl. Mike Barr of the Calhoun Region I; Sgt. Sid Stephens and Sgt. Scott Klingel of the Thomson Region III

Maryland Update - Dave Hohman reporting: Things here in Maryland have been very hot and extremely dry. We have had a water and burning ban here for most of the summer. When we did get some rain it came with a vengeance. Some tornadoes and several areas received 8 inches of rain in a short amount of time causing some flash flooding but fortunately no injuries.

We will be graduating a new crop of officers this September 29th and they will be able to fill in some of the areas where we have had an officer shortage. Something of note which has been somewhat controversial is the possible merging with the State Police. This could enhance our retirement and possibly help with the funds for some needed equipment but there is some concern as to how it will affect how we do the job of conservation law enforcement. Stay tuned for any news in this major issue for those of us here in Maryland.

On July 26, 1999, Dr. Sarah Taylor-Rogers replaced John R. Griffin as our new secretary. Mr. Griffin had been involved with Maryland Department of Natural Resources for more than 15 years and I want to wish him all the best. The transition has been very smooth with no major changes in the day to day works of the department.

Finally I want to thank the officers of Missouri for the informative and well attended conference held this past summer in St. Louis. What a great place to have the conference with so many places to see and do.

Mississippi Wildlife Enforcement Officers' Association - Jock Smith reporting: MWEOA is currently involved with the International union of police Associations I.U.P.A and beginning September 1, 1999 we will be union! This legislative session all state employees' retirement was increased 2.5%. This will help, but there will be other legislation to increase law enforcement throughout the state this session. Officers are in the wait and see mode because this is an election year for state officials. We are hoping for some changes with current administration we are also dealing with a 4 million dollar shortfall with MS wildlife fisheries parks. At the field level we know so well who is at the bottom of this hill and what always runs down hill. Many officers went up in rank this July 1st. Their raise was supposed to be 7.5%. The good news is all of-

ficers are doing well and are looking forward for better things to come.

Tennessee Chief of Law Enforcement Retires - Mike Stockdale reporting: Bob Harmon, Chief of Law Enforcement, retired on Sept. 30, 1999. Bob started as an Officer and worked his way through the ranks until reaching the Chief's position. Bob has been very instrumental and outspoken over the years to see that law enforcement officers received the equipment they needed to do their job. As a result all officers drive state vehicles and our equipment is in the best condition possible. Bob will be missed but not forgotten.

Congratulations to Clyde "Sonny" Richardson, Law Enforcement Supervisor in Area 21, who has been selected to replace Harmon as Chief of Law Enforcement. Many of you know Sonny, since in addition to his enforcement duties he has been in charge of Tennessee's Swift Water Rescue Team.

Two other notable retirements include Harold Hurst and Reid Tatum, both Regional Managers. They have been replaced by Gary Cook and Clarence Coffey. Jerry Strom replaced Gary Cook as the Assistant Regional Manager. All 3 of these individuals started as Wildlife Officers.

Wildlife Officers were denied their 3.8% boarder state average salary adjustment July 1, since the Highway Patrol did not have money to give their boarder state adjustment. This appears to be the first time that we have been considered equal to the Troopers. Wildlife Officers who were not at the top of their pay range did receive a 4.5% pay increase. It is hoped that by October or November the 3.8% adjustment will be allowed.

Virginia Game Wardens Get Law Enforcement Retirement -Two major legislative bills of this year's Virginia General Assembly impacted game wardens in a positive way. Both bills were adopted to improve law enforcement across the state. Practically all law enforcement that had not previously been covered by a law enforcement retirement was impacted by this welcome legislation. Game wardens were included in both legislative mandates, along with a host of other agencies.

The retirement bill gives Virginia Game Wardens the opportunity to retire with 25 years of service at age 50. Virginia Game Warden Association President, Jerry Jones, has worked many long hours on this bill and deserves a hearty pat on the back for his leadership on this issue. This has been a long time coming here in Virginia.

The second legislative bill gives most law enforcement across Virginia approximately a 13% salary increase effective November of this year. This is certainly welcome, as game wardens have faced many years in the last decade without scheduled salary step increases.

Congratulations to Game Warden Sergeant Steve Pike for being named the 1999 Virginia Game Warden of the Year. Steve is assigned to Smith Mountain Lake in Bedford

County. Steve has developed a firm but fair approach to wildlife law enforcement and is well respected in his community. Steve has developed a multi-faceted approach to attaining wildlife and boating compliance.

Game Warden Lt. Bill Rose is involved in developing a Wildlife Watch program based on the Neighborhood Watch program. The intent of the program is to stress wildlife and environmental issues as well as traditional crime prevention issues. Bill is seeking information pertaining to proactive techniques for citizens/landowners in dealing with wildlife crimes. Anyone with suggestions for such a program should contact Bill directly at brose@dgif.state.va.us.

Federal Legislative Action Proposals - Frank Kuncir reporting: SB 1202: Would require federal agents and USDGW's (state CO's) to obtain advance written permission or a search warrant to enforce any DOI law (Migratory Bird Treaty Act, ESA, Lacey Act, etc.) on private lands.

HR 2253 (Property Owners Protection Act): Amends the ESA, to require the permission of landowner to trespass, for purpose of enforcing the ESA. Without the permission, no evidence will be admissible in a criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding.

HR 496 (ESA Criminal and Civil Penalty Reform Act): Amends the ESA to require the Interior Secretary to notify a person they are in violation of the ESA, and gives 30 days to correct the violation, before the person would be liable for civil or criminal charges.

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 7 REPORT

By Lisa Truffelli

Greetings everyone! It's hard to believe that this year is almost over. Is it just me, or has time really starting flying by? For those of you who missed it, the 1999 NAWEOA conference in St. Louis was a great success. Gordon Jarvis and his crew did a fantastic job. Mother nature provided a real test for the thick-blooded northerners though with temperatures in the upper 90's and 100's. I think New York has some real surprises in store for us next July. I also hope to pack the house with officers from the Northeast. We had a nice showing in St. Louis, with officers from Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. For New Hampshire, it was the first time they ever sent officers to the conference. Next year, I hope to have all the northeastern states represented.

After a very busy summer last year, officers from the northeast decided to hold only 2 Field Days a year from now on. Last year, there were just too many to attend, and it was getting to be too much for the hosting state to do them every other year. We are now on a once every 3 year schedule for the states. This year was to be Connecticut and Quebec. However, Connecticut is still facing financial problems after hosting the funeral reception for James Spignesi, Jr. and they decided to hold off this year. Quebec hosted their Field Day in August, and all who attended had a great time. I will have to say that the side trip to one of Quebec's well known attractions was definitely interesting. I guess it is one of those things that I needed to experience once in my lifetime. Need I say more? Next year, Massachusetts and Maine will be hosting the Field Days.

I am hoping that the lack of information coming in from the northeastern jurisdictions means that everyone is busy and having a good time. As the saying goes, no news is good news. I did not receive information from the following jurisdictions: Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York, Ohio, and NMFS. The following are the updates from the remaining jurisdictions.

Bob Lewis, **Vermont**, reported that he and three other Vermont wardens attended the NAWEOA conference in St. Louis and had a great time. They sent out a big thank you to the Missouri officers for an outstanding job. Bob highly recommends that everyone should try to attend next year's conference. The Vermont Game Wardens' Association is continuing in its attempt to improve their retirement plan to equal that of their State Police. They have been working with the legislative study committee this past summer in hopes of getting a bill passed in the next session. They are also working on an upgrade that will give all field wardens a pay grade raise if it is accepted. The last legislative session approved a bill that gave up to three years of military time to Korean and Vietnam Vets. This time will be added to their State service and help in calculating their retirement benefits. There are a number of wardens that this bill helped and some are going to be able to retire earlier with better benefits.

According to Kevin Clayton, the **Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers** had a busy summer assisting with the search for J.F.K. Jr.'s plane when it went down in the waters of Buzzard's Bay off Martha's Vineyard. The resources used included a 4WD ATV for beach search conducted in part by Sgt. William Searle, who lives and works on the island. Other officers and assorted vessels assisted in the maintenance of at-sea security zones and assisted Navy and State Police divers by providing ingress and egress. Officers, including Kevin, provided security at the Woods Hole USCG Station during the arrival of the family and the departure of the family and the Medical Examiner following the recovery of the bodies. They were also present for security during the burial at sea. Sgt. Searle and other officers assigned to the Patrol Vessel "Jessie" assisted the US Secret Service on Presidential Detail on Martha's Vineyard. They provided transportation for the advance team and performed at-sea security duties. Phil Desroches, a coastal officer, was assaulted on the Back River in the Scituate area by an intoxicated male boater who was boating with his 5 year old daughter. The subject punched Officer Desroches in the face and attempted to throw him off the patrol boat into the water when he failed the field sobriety tests and discovered that he was to be arrested. Officer Desroches overcame the threat and subdued the man. The man was charged with attempted murder, assault on a police officer, possession of marijuana, assorted boating violations and BWI. Apparently, the Assistant District Attorney didn't think that attempted murder was an appropriate charge because the events only involved a boating violation!

Pete Malette reports that **Michigan** will be hiring 18 new Conservation Officers this fall. The State is also in negotiation with 5 Indian tribes which were participants in a treaty dated from 1836. It was determined through a Federal Court decision in the early 1980's, that

the tribes have the right to fish in any manner they wish free of state regulation as a result of that treaty. Because of this, the State entered into a fisheries allocation agreement with the 3 existing tribes in 1985 and that agreement is due to expire in 2000. Now, 2 additional tribes have been organized and are Federally recognized. These 2 are also principals in the new agreement which is being hammered out and adds to the complexity of the negotiations. The Michigan Conservation Officers will be involved in enforcing provisions of the agreement once it is finalized in conjunction, and for the most part cooperatively, with the Conservation Officers employed by each tribe. Last year, Michigan installed automatic vehicle locators with GPS in several of their patrol units which will enhance officer safety once the system is fully implemented. Unfortunately, as with all new technology, they have developed some problems. In some cases, officers have been shown to be located on the computer screen in a different county than they were actually in at the time. Only time will tell if the system actually works the way it was designed, but if it saves the life of one officer it will have paid for itself. To find out exactly what Michigan Conservation Officers have been up to, log on to the Michigan DNR homepage and click on law enforcement. Every Monday morning, the officers have to call their Sergeant with a report of any unusual activities. This in turn, is compiled into a weekly report which is then passed onto newspapers, other media, all officers and the Division homepage. It is usually very entertaining reading and has been a great public relations tool for the Division. The Michigan DNR homepage address is: www.dnr.state.mi.us.

According to Bernie Schmader, **Pennsylvania Game Commission** recorded a record number of nesting bald eagles this past spring and summer. They know of 41 nesting pairs and expect 41 eaglets to be fledged. Consequently, within the next year or so, the Commission may move to reclassify the eagle's state status from endangered to threatened. Over the past couple of years, the Game Commission has also been actively trying to expand their elk range. They have a herd of approximately 500 animals. The majority of Pennsylvanians are happy that the Commission is expanding the herd and improving its range, however, some farming interests are less than thrilled with the prospect that this majestic animal might range over a wider area of the state. Some Wildlife Conservation Officers have been given computers including the most recent class to graduate from the Ross Leffler School of Conservation. Hopefully, all officers will have them soon. A new class of recruits were enrolled at the school in early June and are currently working field assignments with Wildlife Officers throughout the Commonwealth. This is an important part of the student officers' initial training.

Mike Massey reports that the **New Jersey Conservation Officers Association** is plan-

ning on holding its first Warden Games in early October. They are hoping that their first big endeavor will become an every other year event. The conservation officers are in the middle of contract negotiations and are working on an upgrade package that would provide for their first non-contract salary increase in over 15 years if approved. Some major changes to the New Jersey deer hunting regulations will provide for perhaps the most liberal deer hunting in the US and Canada. Deer hunters in NJ will only be allowed to take one antlered buck per season or permit for all seasons except the six day firearm season which will remain at two. However, hunters will be allowed to take an unlimited number of antlerless deer for all seasons. This is in response to an over-expanding deer herd and increasing farmer complaints. Last hunting season, NJ topped 60,000 deer taken for the year. Last year using bait for deer hunting was legalized for an 18 month trial period. The final Bait Law is currently sitting on the Governor's desk waiting for approval. With the retirements of Captains Martin Morales, Steve Murza and Lt. John Mihatov, NJ officers are finally seeing some promotional advances. There is hope to finally hire new field officers by next spring.

Don Lauver, **Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**, reports that on May 13, 1999, William Shoemaker was accepted into the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Officer Shoemaker was killed in 1921 and is the only officer known to have been slain in the performance of his "Fish Warden" duties in Pennsylvania. Officer Shoemaker was shot in the back with his own pistol while escorting an unlicensed fisherman from a stream near Spring Hill, Bradford County. The agency approved a contingent of uniformed officers to attend the induction ceremony. In August, the 15 cadets of the 15th Waterways Conservation Officer training class began their intensive 1 year of specialized instruction. The cadets will first attend Act 120, Municipal Police Officer Training, and follow through into the PA Fish and Boat Commission's Stackhouse Training Center. The final portion of the formal instruction involves approximately 1 month of field training with experienced officers throughout the state. A statewide meeting for all officers is scheduled to be held in Altoona on January 18-20, 2000. It has been several years since the last statewide meeting and it will allow many officers to meet for the first time. An election for the PA Fish and Boat Commission's Jurisdictional Representative to NAWEOA will be held during the gathering. On the contract front, the statewide Master Agreement for AFSCME members passed unanimously. The new contract is in place for 4 years instead of the usual 3. They received a 3% increase in July 1999. The next 3 years will see 3%, 3.5%, and 3.5%, respectively full health benefits were maintained for employees and their dependents. Language was included

to broaden the ability to use sick leave for sick family situations.

Bill Myers reports that **Connecticut** recently hired 4 new Conservation Officers and are hoping for an additional 10 new positions to be opened. Bill was recently certified by IPMBA to patrol by mountain bike. He is the first Connecticut officer to be certified. Bill would like to credit Jim Spignesi with starting the program. Jim graduated from the course in the fall of 1998, but was tragically killed before being assigned a bike. Jim Spignesi was honored during this past May's Law Enforcement Memorial Week. Jim's name was inscribed on the wall of the memorial. In June, the Pudding Hill Wildlife Management Area was renamed the James V. Spignesi, Jr. Wildlife Management Area. Jim's name was also inscribed on the Connecticut Police Academy's Police Memorial. Connecticut officers made a good case this past May in Guilford. Officers Healy and Wolfe were investigating a TIP complaint regarding the fishing vessel Capt. Mike. The captain of the vessel was allegedly landing lobster parts and short fish at the town dock. Upon inspection of the vessel, lobster parts, striped bass fillets and egg bearing female lobster were seized. The captain and deckhand were both charged with 6 counts of possession of egg bearing females, 4 counts of possession of short lobsters, 3 counts of possession of blackfish during closed season, 8 counts of possession of striped bass fillets and 141 counts of possession of lobster parts.



"On Call"
250 Limited Edition Prints
in recognition of the
Vermont Game Warden

Original Watercolor by
Ramone Hanley-Warren

The Bear Complaint

by Mike Reid

District Wildlife Manager, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

The campers were frightened, a bear had been seen,
Huge, and brown colored, undoubtedly mean.
A black bear, or grizzly, they couldn't decide,
But a bear in the campground? They wouldn't abide.

They went to the pay phone, came up with a dime,
And called the Game Warden, who came in good time.
'What should we do?' and 'How should we act?'
'To avoid that trip down the intestinal tract?'

Bears hunt with their nose, they are driven by scent,
Put your food in the car, get it out of your tent.
Get rid of your garbage, and clean up your camp,
and if you're still worried, leave on your lamp.

"But what about hiking is that safe to try?"
"Another encounter, and we know we'd just die."
Then hike in large groups, and make lots of noise,
And stay all together, the girls and the boys.

Some hikers whistle, and others give yells,
And some like to carry small, silver bells.
Most bears will shun people, or so we have found,
And the jingle of bells, warn the bears you're around.

They then asked the Warden, what kind of bear,
Had come through their camp, scaring everyone there.
Was it a black bear, as some of them say?
Or was it a grizzly that came through that day?

Tracks, they were searched for, but none could be found,
But a pile of droppings, were there on the ground.
One look told the Warden, what he needed to know.
A black bear was the culprit that started this show.

'What clues did you look for, and what did you see?'
'That told you the species of bear this might be?'
The droppings of black bear, look exactly like that,
While a grizzly bear has little bells in its scat!

WILDLIFE TRADITIONS

WILDLIFE ART
WILLIAM PETERS
P.O. Box 1954, QUINCY
CALIFORNIA 95971
(916) 283-4355



VERMONT GAME WARDEN PRINT

"ON CALL"

There are approximately 50 prints
(18" x 20") left out of 250 Limited
Edition Prints. The price is \$55.00 US which
includes postage. Make checks payable to
Vermont Game Wardens Association
and contact:

David Gregory
RR #1, Box 90-B
Groton, VT 05046
Tel: (802) 584-4308

VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS by Kerry Wrishko



By the time you read this, most officers throughout North America will be well into the fall hunting seasons. Certainly an enjoyable time for most, but also a time to keep your safety in mind.

To begin this column, I'd like to introduce myself as your new Vice President. I was elected for this position at the summer conference in St. Louis.

I am very pleased to return to the Executive Board of NAWEOA. I say return because from 1994-98, I served as the Region 1 Director. NAWEOA is an organization I strongly believe in and am grateful to be given the opportunity to serve you again.

I make my home in Leader, Saskatchewan, with my wife Mary and four children, Steven, Danielle, Morgan and Elyse. I am a Conservation Officer with Saskatchewan En-

vironment and Resource Management with 22 years service.

I've been stationed in Leader for 9 years. In years past, I served over 11 years on the Executive of the Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers, including time as Secretary, Treasurer and President.

Currently, my volunteer activities include Treasurer of our local Lions Club, Boy Scout Leader, involvement on the local Tourism Committee and a baseball coach (in season). I also teach Hunter Education-Firearm Safety.

My involvement with NAWEOA actually began when I attended the first conference in 1982. I've been to the last 9 consecutive NAWEOA conferences and was instrumental in Saskatchewan hosting the 1998 NAWEOA conference.

As the Vice President, my key role is one of recognition. What I mean is NAWEOA annually provides awards of recognition including ones for Lifesaving, Valour, Retirement and Appreciation to officers across the continent. As well, we have one Outstanding Officer of the Year Award and a Torch Award for each of our 7 regions. Elsewhere in the newsletter you'll find an application/nomination form, but feel free to contact me for additional details. My duty is to see these awards are recognized in a timely manner, but I can only do it with your help!

Further in my role as Vice President, I expect to assist Randy Hancock, your new President, in whatever manner he might see fit.

I know that previously the Vice President has acted as liaison for future conference hosts, attended special international meetings representing NAWEOA, and so on. I know Randy will call on me when he needs help!

Finally, as your new Vice President, I want to make myself available to all NAWEOA members across the continent. If you as an individual or your association have a problem or concern that you want assistance with, feel free to contact me or any executive board member, and I'll be sure that your issue is represented at the NAWEOA Executive Board level. NAWEOA has made some excellent progress at having officer concerns raised to senior levels of government and non-government alike. Increasingly, NAWEOA is an association that is being recognized and respected. This is as a result of the annual conferences, executive meetings and training seminars held throughout North America where non-NAWEOA people have come to recognize we are a proud and professional organization. And as such, when NAWEOA speaks, others are starting to listen!

I think I'll leave it at that for now. I encourage everybody to keep informed about NAWEOA through the NAWEOA web page, this newsletter, your executive board, and annual conference.

At the same time, please do your part and help keep the executive informed about happenings in your neck of the woods!

Stay safe and work hard!

Past President's Corner by Gary Martin

Deputy Wardens & NAWEOA - At the 1994 annual meeting held in Halifax, there was a new category of member created called "Deputy Warden Membership" [Bylaw 1(g)]. Since then, there have been a number of questions regarding this membership category. The answers to these questions are as follows:

Q. Is this the category for those officers employed on a seasonal (contract) basis?

A. No. This category is for volunteers or individuals whose primary duties are not those of a wildlife enforcement officer. This includes individuals who may pursue other careers as dentists, carpenters, or businessmen, but believe in what we do strongly enough to give their time to help out. Pennsylvania is probably the best example of this type of situation, having over 1,000 dedicated volunteers as a part of their deputy program. Other members of this category may also include biologists or other technicians who have a career in resource management, whose primary duties do not include enforcement, and are appointed as deputy wardens. Individuals who are hired as 'contract' or 'seasonal' officers, whose primary role during the duration of their employment is "administration of regulations" (i.e. law enforcement) are eligible to join as regular members.

Q. What are the dues for Deputy Warden Membership?

A. Deputy Wardens are welcome to join NAWEOA at the same rate as regular and retired members. That is, an individual may join for the annual \$10 membership, or he or she may join as a part of a group for the sliding scale group rate. Officer associations or agencies which include deputy and retiree members, as well as regular members in their membership rosters, are asked to identify which of these categories each of the individuals on their list belong to.

Q. Why do you need to know whether members are regular, retiree, or deputy warden members?

A. There are a few reasons. First, because deputy members have all of the privileges of regular members, EXCEPT they are not entitled to cast a vote at annual meetings. Many of our elections and motions are very close races/decisions and we want to ensure that everyone knows who may or may not vote. Second, because we have an active retirees group which has held retiree specific functions, this will allow us to contact those members of our family who 'broke trail' for our profession. Finally, it will give us a true count of how many regular members of the profession are members of NAWEOA. This is important to know, for example, before we can state that we speak for the majority, or eighty, or ninety percent of the wildlife law enforcement officers on the continent.

All members are a valuable resource to NAWEOA. They support our goals and our projects and help make us stronger. We welcome regular, retiree, deputy, and associate members and thank all of you for your continued support!

REMEMBER: Dues are paid on an annual calendar year basis. Are yours up to date?



**THE NEW YORK CONSERVATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
PROUDLY PRESENTS
NAWEOA 2000, ALBANY, NEW YORK
JULY 10 – 16, 2000**

The New York Conservation Officers Association, along with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, extends a warm greeting to the friends and family of NAWEOA. We would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you to attend the 19th Annual North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Conference to be held from July 10 – 16, 2000 in Albany, New York.

The Omni Hotel, located in beautiful, historic Albany, the Capitol of New York State, will be the conference headquarters. Located in downtown Albany, the Omni has much to offer our guests. We have blocked 300 luxury guest accommodations at the Omni for the convenience of our NAWEOA attendees. Our guaranteed rate of \$89.00 US (for Americans) and \$79.00 US (for our Canadian brothers and sisters) makes this a most affordable conference. The price includes free parking in the hotel's covered parking garage. The Omni offers an indoor heated pool, whirlpool, and exercise room to relax, unwind and revitalize oneself. In addition, you will find Fitzgerald's Restaurant within the confines of the hotel which is an excellent place to have breakfast, lunch or dinner. You will also find fun-loving Kelsey's Bar, which offers the cozy ambience of an authentic "Irish Pub".

The Omni is within 2 blocks of the Empire State Plaza, where much of our conference activities will be taking place. Located at the Plaza, is the New York State Museum (one of the largest museums of its kind in the world), where we will be hosting an evening reception. The Museum will give our guests their first "Taste of New York". Also located at the Plaza is the 42 story Corning Tower. The Tower is the tallest building in New York State outside of New York City. From the 42nd floor observation deck, which is open daily, breathtaking views of Albany, the Plaza and surrounding areas can be enjoyed. Also visible is the Hudson River Valley, the Port of Albany, large portions of the city and its historic buildings, the foothills of the Adirondacks, the Catskills and the Berkshires of western Massachusetts. Our conference banquet will take place in the Convention Hall, which can accommodate over 1600 people. All these facilities can be reached via an underground system in case of inclement weather.

Our group photo will be taken on the steps of the historic New York State Capitol. Another evening reception is planned at the Capitol. Tours for families will be available at that time to view the historic seat of government for New York State.

In addition to all the activities taking place in Albany itself, we will have a number of side trips for you to choose from. For all you baseball fans, a day trip will be offered to the historic Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York (this is a must see trip!). We will also be offering a bus tour of beautiful, historic Saratoga Springs and battlefield, a trip to Howe Caverns – the "Wonder down Under", and much, much more.

Our warden skills games and traditional barbecue will be held at the The Great Escape and Splashwater Kingdom. Set on 140 scenic acres, The Great Escape and Splashwater Kingdom offers an entertaining array of theme areas, action-packed rides and live shows.

While the main agenda has not been completed, delegates can expect to hear world class speakers on a variety of topics. There will be plenty of opportunities to network with your peers and come away from this conference with a sense of camaraderie and brotherhood.

For additional information or inquiries on NAWEOA 2000, contact Chairperson Marion Hoffman at 1-914-331-0899 or e-mail at MJFishcop@aol.com.

**Please plan on joining us in Albany, New York
'MAKE TRACKS TO ALBANY, NAWEOA 2000'**



NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Conference - Albany, New York
July 10 - 16, 2000

REGISTRATION GUIDE

THE CITY OF ALBANY - Capitol of New York State

Step back into America's history - its discovery, colonization and formation as a Union: the growth of its commerce and politics, the grandeur of its geography and its architecture. A journey to Albany is like finding a rare and valuable manuscript whose words impart the beauty and values of its history. The banks of the great river now bearing his name, served as a stopping place for Henry Hudson and his ship the Half Moon in 1609, as the explorer sought a Northwest Passage to the Orient. Later, a fur trading post called Fort Orange would be established by the Dutch West India Company. After the British drove the Dutch out in 1688, the settlement was granted a city charter and renamed for the Duke of Albany. The charter is still in effect today in the Capital City, the oldest one in the country.

Nothing evokes Albany's past more, than its magnificently designed and preserved buildings.

The Capitol with its grand staircase, restored Senate Chamber and breathtaking exterior, is the historical centerpiece of New York State. Central to downtown Albany is the contemporary design of the Empire State Plaza. The Plaza was built not only to serve government offices, but as a center of arts, culture, and community activity. The New York State Museum (the largest State Museum in the country), the Empire State Art Collection, and the Empire State Performing Arts Center (known as The Egg for its unusual and distinctive design) are all contained in the Plaza. The Pepsi Arena is located within blocks of the Omni Hotel and is home for action-packed sports for every season. Shopping abounds at area malls with diversity you will find astounding and values that are irresistible.

LODGING

The luxurious Omni Albany Hotel in downtown Albany has been selected as the headquarters for the NAWEOA 2000 conference. Located only blocks from the Capitol Building, the Empire State Plaza, the New York State Museum, and the Pepsi Arena, the Omni is one of the focal points of the area. Shopping at area malls is easily accessible with the public transportation system. The many amenities at the Omni include an indoor heated pool, whirlpool, and exercise room. Within the confines of the hotel, Fitzgerald's Restaurant offers delegates a place to have breakfast, lunch or dinner. Kelsey's Bar, a popular gathering place for the Albany crowd, offers the cozy ambience of an authentic "Irish Pub".

LODGING CONTINUED

The Omni has agreed to hold 300 rooms at \$89.00 (US)/night until June 26, 2000 for conference delegates. This rate is for single, double, triple or quadruple. In addition, we are able to offer our Canadian delegates a rate of \$79.00 (US)/night. Quoted rates do not include state and local taxes.

For reservations, call 1-800-THE OMNI or 1-518-462-6611. When calling identify yourself as part of NAWEOA.

ALTERNATE ACCOMMODATIONS

The Omni has reserved a block of rooms for the conference. However, in the event that all the rooms are taken, they will direct your calls to our overflow hotels, conveniently located within a short drive from the Omni.

We have found a number of campgrounds within a thirty minute drive of the conference hotel:

Alps Family Campground, Rt. 43E, Averill Park (518-674-5565)
Arrowhead Marina & R.V. Park VanBuren Lane, Scotia (518-382-8966)
Deer Run Campground, Schaghticoke (518-664-2804)
Kinyon's Canyon, Rt. 66 S of Rte. 20 (518-766-3785)
Frosty Acres, Skyline Drive, Schenectady (518-864-5352)
Prices range from \$15.00 - \$32.00.

There are also State Campgrounds located with a 45 minute drive of the conference hotel.

REGISTRATION TYPES

FULL REGISTRATION

This is for officers, spouses, guests and civilians who want to attend all regular conference activities (items from the "Special Activities" list are extra).

Included in this registration for officers and Non-NAWEOA members:

Opening Ceremonies; Programs; Presentations; Warden Skills Games and Barbecue;
NAWEOA Business Meetings; Hospitality Functions; Saturday Night Banquet, Auction
and Entertainment; Officers Luncheon on Thursday.

SPOUSES / GUESTS

Included in this registration: Opening Ceremonies; Programs; Presentations: Warden Skills Games and Barbecue; NAWEOA Business Meetings; Hospitality Functions; Saturday Night Banquet, Auction and Entertainment; Spouse Luncheon on Thursday.

CHILDREN

Included in this registration: Opening Ceremonies; Programs; Presentations; Warden Skills Games and Barbecue; NAWEOA Business Meetings; Hospitality Functions; Children Activities

DAY PASSES

UNIFORM DAY

On Thursday, July 13, 2000, officers are requested to wear their uniforms without sidearms. We will be holding opening ceremonies during the morning, including the tribute to fallen officers. A photo session at the Capitol will follow. Lunch is also included with this pass. There will be programs during the afternoon. (No Sidearms)

WARDEN SKILLS DAY

This popular NAWEOA tradition will be held at the Great Escape, Splashwater Kingdom Amusement Park, in Lake George. Activities are planned for spouse/guest and children. Lunch will be on your own (vendors will be on site) Pass includes your admission to the park and includes all rides. There will be entertainment and a barbecue served for the evening meal. All attendees must ride on provided transportation. There is a possibility of running buses into the Village of Lake George during the day for those wishing to visit the shops or cruise the Lake (details are still being worked out).

PROGRAMS AND PRESENTATIONS DAY

The programs will include world class speakers on a variety of topics pertaining to Natural Resources Enforcement.

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET

The traditional conference banquet will be held Saturday night with the annual auction and dance. **You must sign up for this event by June 1, 2000.**

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

NAWEOA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Includes transportation to one of Albany's finest golf courses.



NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



Annual Conference - Albany, New York

July 10 - 16, 2000

*****Do not mail this form after July 1, 2000: On site registration only after that date*****

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, 2000	AFTER JUNE 1, 2000	NO. OF PERSONS	NO. OF PERSONS TIMES \$ AMOUNT
FULL REGISTRATION NAWEOA MEMBER INCLUDES ALL DAY PASSES & BANQUET ONLY. DOES NOT INCLUDE SPECIAL ACTIVITIES	\$105.00	\$135.00		
NON NAWEOA MEMBER INCLUDES ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN NAWEOA	\$135.00	\$150.00		
SPOUSE/GUEST INCLUDES SPOUSE LUNCHEON ON THURSDAY	\$ 65.00	\$ 80.00		
CHILDREN ACTIVITIES INCLUDES PIZZA/POOL PARTY & 5 RIVERS TRIP	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00		
DAY PASSES				
UNIFORM DAY INCLUDES OFFICERS LUNCHEON ON THURSDAY	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00		
WARDEN SKILLS DAY INCLUDES BBQ & TRANSPORTATION ON FRIDAY	\$ 40.00	\$ 45.00		
PROGRAMS/PRESENTATION DAY SATURDAY	\$ 25.00	\$ 35.00		
SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET ONLY	\$ 40.00	N/A		
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES				
GOLF TOURNAMENT TUESDAY	\$ 45.00	\$ 50.00		
SPORTING CLAYS TUESDAY	\$ 35.00	\$ 40.00		
COOPERSTOWN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME WEDNESDAY	\$ 25.00	N/A		
SARATOGA HISTORICAL TOUR(INCLUDING BATTLEFIELD) TUESDAY	\$ 20.00	N/A		
HOWE CAVERNS THE WONDER DOWN UNDER SATURDAY	\$ 25.00	N/A		
GRAND TOTAL				

NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Conference - Albany, New York
July 10 - 16, 2000

*****DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM AFTER JULY 1, 2000 - ON SITE REGISTRATION ONLY AFTER THOSE DATES *****

HOW TO REGISTER

BY MAIL: NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
1150 NORTH WESTCOTT ROAD
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12306

BY FAX: 1-518-357-2291

BY PHONE: Registrations will be taken over the phone **Monday through Friday ONLY between the hours of 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm Eastern Time.**
The telephone number is 1-518-357-2082, ask for Sue or Chris.

HOTEL

RESERVATIONS: Omni Albany Hotel 1-518-462-6611
Tell them you are with the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Conference.

PAYMENT METHOD

Check # _____ (Please make checks payable to: NYCOA-NAWEOA 2000)

Credit Card Visa _____ Mastercard _____

Card Number _____ **Exp. Date** ____/____

Name as it appears on the card: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

A complimentary shuttle will be provided by the Omni Hotel for those arriving via the Albany International Airport or the Amtrack Train Station.

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 _____

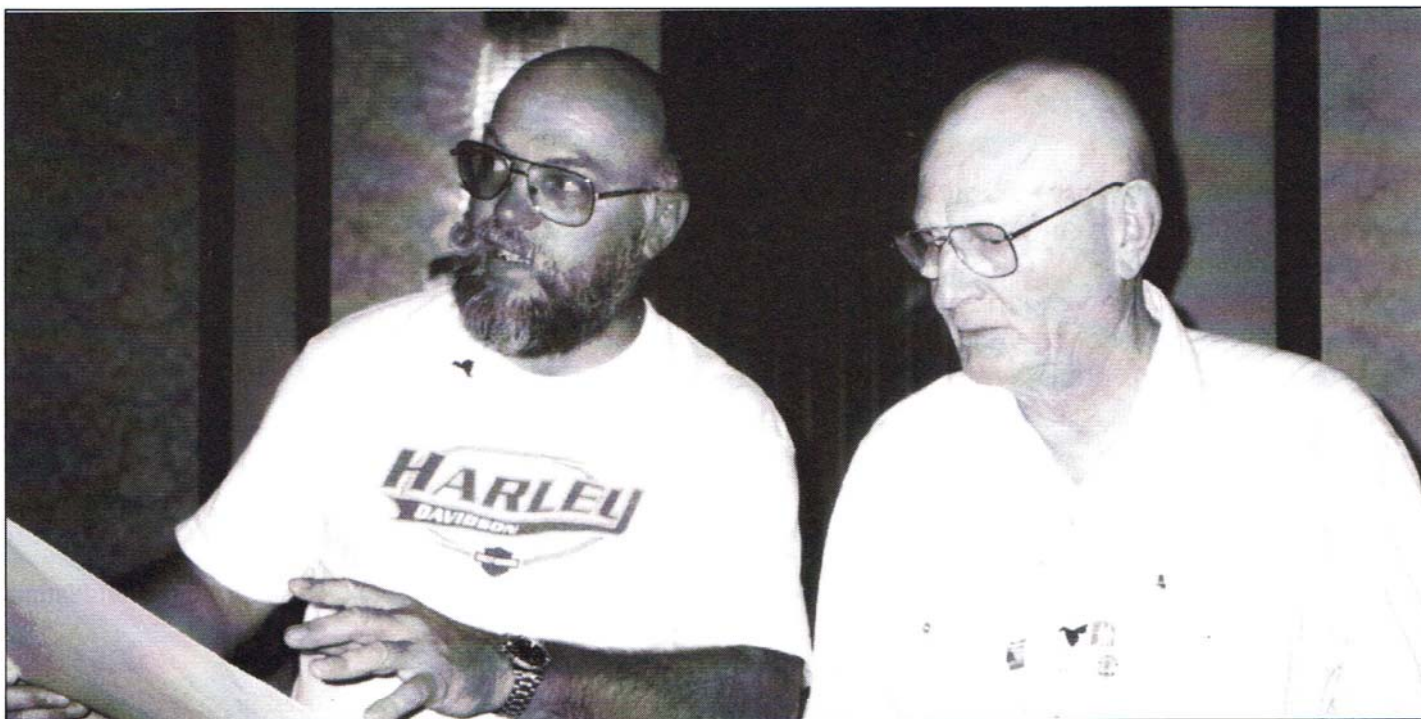
State/Prov _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

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



*Wisconsin Warden Cletus Allsteen and Del Tibke discussing the new museum.
"So Del, what do you say we call it 'Warden World'?"*

"WORKING FOR WILDLIFE"
Pat Brown – Editor
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