

NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"



2007 NAWEOA Wildlife Officer of the Year
Conservation Officer Brian Mies
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

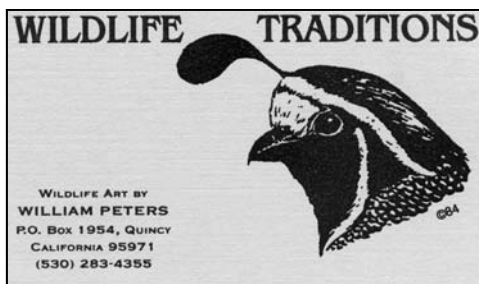
FALL 2007
48th Edition NAWEOA Newsletter

NAWEOA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President Marion Hoffman 959 Ashokan Road Kingston, NY 12401	(845) 331-0899 H (845) 256-3013 W	president@naweo.org
Vice-President Kevin Schoepf 1610 North Fenwick Crescent Regina, SK S4X 4N4	(306) 924-5837 H (306) 787-9494 W	(306) 787-8280 Fax vpresident@naweo.org
Past President Doug Forsdick Box 980, 189 E. Stewart Street Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0	(250) 567-3106 H (250) 567-8929 W	ppresident@naweo.org
Secretary/Treasurer Steve Kleiner PO Box 22 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648	(814) 942-9432 H (814) 643-1831 W	(877) 569-4255 Fax secretarytreasurer@naweo.org
Director Region 1 Dave Webster Box 7290 2nd St., Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0	(250) 442-4312 W	region1@naweo.org
Director Region 2 Earl Simmons Box 1158 Lac du Bonnet, MB R0E 1A0	(204) 345-8888 H (204) 345-1408 W	(204) 345-1415 Fax region2@naweo.org
Director Region 3 Rick Nash 60 Menzies Drive, Hanwell, NB E3C 1M6	(506) 455-9698 H (506) 367-7677 W	region3@naweo.org
Director Region 4 Steve Tomac 37 Panavista Circle, Yerrington, NV 89447	(775) 463-5531 H (775) 848-5836 W	(775) 463-4422 Fax region4@naweo.org
Director Region 5 Mark Webb 5500 Aaron Circle, Lincoln, NE 68516	(402) 423-0551 H (402) 423-0068 W	region5@naweo.org
Director Region 6 Hampton Yates 2125 Brown Road, Ponce de Leon, FL 32455	(850) 956-2155 H (850) 258-8630 W	region6@naweo.org
Director Region 7 Rich Cramer P.O. Box 116 Tionesta, PA 16353	(814) 755-3249 H	region7@naweo.org
Webmaster Robin Brandenburg 352 Hwy 'M', Steelville, MO 65565	(573) 775-2270 H	webmaster@naweo.org
Conference Liaison Randy Hancock P.O. Box 990, Buena Vista, CO 81211	(719) 395-2880 H (719) 539-8413 W	conference @naweo.org
Newsletter Editor Levi Krause 13138 - 132nd St., Louisville, NE 68037	(402) 234-2212 H (402) 234-2212 W	editor@naweo.org

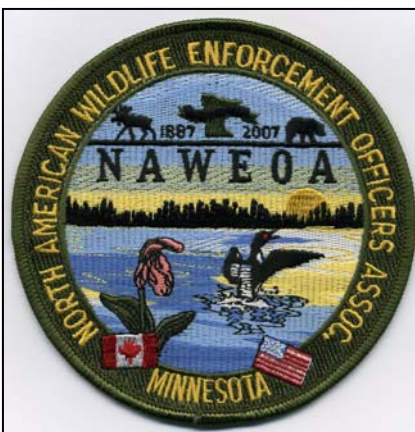
Front Cover Photo By Bill Peters

Vice-President Marion Hoffman (left) presents the Officer of the Year plaque to Minnesota Conservation Officer Brian Mies (right) as President Doug Forsdick looks on.



Newsletter Deadlines

	Spring	Fall
J-Reps to Regional Directors	Feb. 15	Aug. 15
Directors to Editor	Mar. 1	Sep. 1
Membership/mailling	Apr. 1	Oct. 1
List Updates <u>to Sec/Treas</u>		



SOUVENIR PATCHES AVAILABLE

← Only three hundred **2007 NAWEOA conference patches** were produced. The cost per patch (including shipping and handling) for all patches from 2002 through 2007 is \$7.00 US.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAWEOA

Mail to: WCO George A. Wilcox
P.O. Box 480

Millville, PA 17846

[1996 through 2001 patches are only available from
the Game Warden Museum (www.gamewardenmuseum.org)]

“RECOGNIZING THE GOOD GUYS”

is a special column which was initiated by Pat Brown a few issues back. We will continue to recognize Wildlife Enforcement Officers who have received awards or recognition in the Spring issue of the NAWEOA Newsletter. This recognition may be from their own agencies, officer associations, civic groups, outdoor-oriented organizations, etc.

So be prepared to send appropriate information about your fellow officers who have received awards since the previous Spring issue of the NAWEOA Newsletter.

This information should be sent to your NAWEOA Jurisdictional Representative so that he/she can compile a list for your Region. It should be received by your J-Rep no later than February 15th.

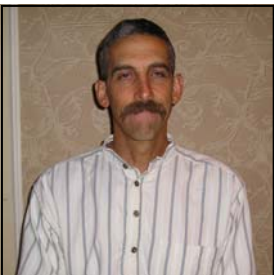
Fortunately, we hear of many Wildlife Enforcement Officers who have been honored by a variety of awards and recognition.
Make sure that we hear about your fellow officers!

Unfortunately, there is limited space to recognize these officers in the Newsletter, so the information will be limited to:
Name, rank or title, agency name, award name, and year if appropriate.

Meet New Region 1 Director Dave Webster →

Dave has been with the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service for the past 14 years and is currently working in the South Okanagan of the Southern Interior Region. In his off time Dave enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, playing sports and spending time with his family.

Dave and his wife Terry have 2 young children and live in Grand Forks, BC.



← Meet New Region 4 Director Steve Tomac

Steve has been with the Nevada Department of Wildlife for 21 years. He is a field Game Warden and lives in the town of Yerington. He enjoys hunting and spends winters chasing Chukars with his two dogs. He has been married to Laura for 19 years, no kids (just two dogs and two horses). He's active in their church and enjoys working on their small ranch when time allows.

Meet New Region 5 Director Mark Webb →

Mark started his career with the Colorado Division of wildlife in 1976, as a wildlife technician. In 1977 he was hired as a Conservation Officer with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, where he spent 10 years working Gage and Jefferson Counties. In 1987 he was hired as a Special Agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He served one year in Sacramento, CA, 10 years in Fairbanks, AK, the last 4 as the Supervisor for the northern half of Alaska and the past 10 years he has been stationed in Lincoln, NE.

Mark and his wife Kathy have two grown sons and one granddaughter. His interests include hunting, fishing, trapping and flying. Mark jokingly states that Kathy lives in Lincoln, NE and on occasion, he stops by to visit.



← Meet New Region 6 Director Hampton Yates

Hampton Yates is currently a lieutenant with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in the Northwest Region. Hampton started his career with Florida in 1987 as a wildlife officer in Palm Beach County. During his career, he has moved eight times on either laterals or promotions, from investigator to lieutenant, touring the great state of Florida. During this timeframe, Hampton returned to college to complete a master's degree in public administration.

Hampton has a lifetime membership in NAWEOA and has attended conferences since the Missouri Conference in the late 1990's. He has been the jurisdictional representative for Florida and NAWEOA over the last 10 years, turning the reins over to Officer Brian Baine in Central Florida.

Hampton and his wife Angelique have been married for over 10 years and have three children. They are dealers representing B K Cypress Log Homes and are currently building a new cypress log home in Holmes County. Hampton's interests include hunting, fishing, playing with his kids and, of course, working with wood and log homes.



Rogers, Minn.

WELCOME TO THE GREAT INDOORS.

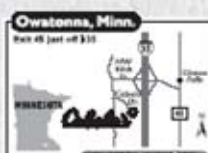
With more than 200,000 outdoor products in our store, you're sure to find exactly what you need to turn your next hunting trip into a success. You'll find only the best in quality products to make your time outdoors more productive.



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Owatonna, Minn.

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Doug Forsdick

On behalf of the NAWEOA executive, I would like to thank all of those involved in the planning and implementation of the 26th annual NAWEOA conference, which was held in St. Paul, Minnesota, in July. Once again, it was a great conference and everyone had a great time, met new friends, visited with old friends, and learned a great deal at the terrific training sessions.

There were considerable changes to the Board of Directors during the conference. We had to say goodbye to Kurt Bahti, Lorraine Doyle, Bill Brace and Levi Krause. Levi will still be heavily involved as our newsletter editor. I would like to personally thank each and every one of these past Board members for their countless hours of hard work. They have all done a great job.

I would like to welcome Hampton Yates, Mark Webb, Steve Tomac and Dave Webster as new directors on the Board. I wish them all the best in their new positions on the Board.

Congratulations to Marion Hoffman who is your new NAWEOA President and Kevin Schoepp who is your new Vice President. Marion, Kevin and the new directors make a great team and I know they will work hard for you throughout their term.

It is not too early to start thinking about next year's conference. I encourage everyone to start planning their holidays around the conference. In 2008, Montana will host the annual conference July 13-20 in Great Falls.

For those of you who do not know, NAWEOA was founded 26 years ago in Great Falls and has grown to include members from all across the United States and Canada. So, as you can imagine, the conference in 2008 will certainly be a special one. You can find more information at the following web address:

<http://www.montanagamewardens.org/conference.html>

I would like to thank everyone who helped me during my term as President. I have enjoyed every minute of it. I wish Marion and the rest of the Board all the best in the road ahead.

Take care everyone and have a safe season ahead.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

By Doug Forsdick

During the conference there were several business meetings, including two executive meetings, two general membership meetings and a third general membership meeting that was held during the officers luncheon. A great deal of issues were dealt with at all of these sessions.

I would like to thank all of the NAWEOA members who attended all of the business sessions at the conference. I believe that it was the largest turnout I have seen at all of the business sessions. It is very important to have as many members as possible attend these meetings to provide input and comments to the Board of Directors.

Some of the issues discussed this year at the general membership sessions included the following:

The financial statement was of great interest to many as the income was considerably lower than projected for the past year. This is in large part due to the lack of profits

that were received from the Quebec conference. After considerable adjustments to the current proposed budget, the Board was able to propose a workable budget for the coming year. Some great dialogue and questions were received from the general membership related to this issue.

A report was presented about the status of International Game Warden Magazine. The magazine continues to be successful and is poised for future growth.

A report was also made relating to the newsletter and the efforts that are being made to consider an on-line version to further help in reducing cost. As well, there is work ongoing to receive 501(c)(3) status for the newsletter.

An update was made on the journal project as well as the survey project.

Several awards were presented to many great officers for the terrific work that they do.

During the second general membership session, there was an opportunity to have Regional Breakout Sessions. We have not been able to have these sessions for a few years due to the limited time available. It was great to be able to have them again as everyone seems to think they are very valuable.



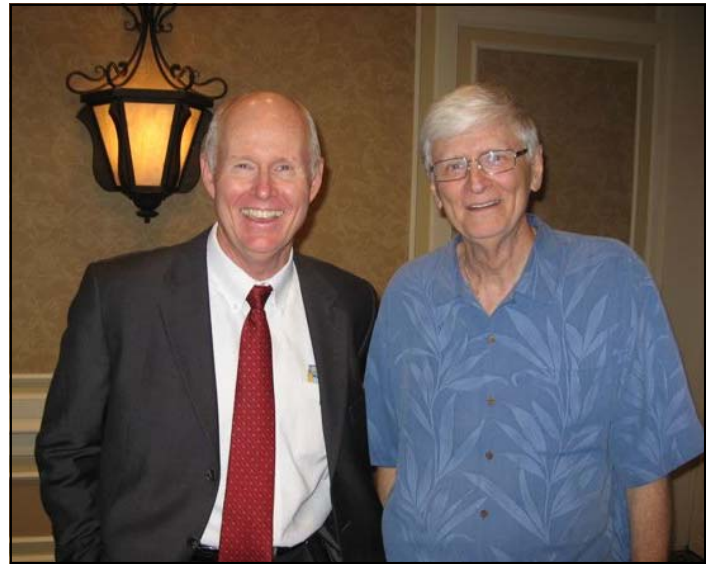
OPENING CEREMONIES

by Marion Hoffman

The 26th annual NAWEOA Conference was held in the beautiful city of St. Paul, Minnesota. Opening ceremonies took place at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel and began with the honored guests and dignitaries being escorted to their seats. In this year's audience we were honored to have family members of fallen Texas Game Warden Justin

heroes — Texas Game Warden Teyran "Ty" Patterson, end of watch 5/30/07; Texas Game Warden Justin Hurst, end of watch 3/17/07; Florida Conservation Officer Delmar Teagan, end of watch 4/13/07; and Quebec Wildlife Officer Richard Cayouette, end of watch 3/1/07. They were remembered through prayers and song. Following a moment of silence "The Ballad of Pogue and Elms (a song by Brenn Hill/Scott Bragonier) was played. A prayer of comfort and a scripture reading was given by Pastor John Preatorius.

The Opening Ceremonies then concluded with a presentation, "Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement Families" by Dr. Kevin Gilmartin.



Conference keynote speakers

Left: Kevin M. Gilmartin, Ph.D.

Right: Dr. James T. Reese

Hurst present. The Presentation of Colors was followed by wonderful renditions of both countries anthems' done by Lt. Bob Meyerson from the Minnesota State Patrol and Leisha Tietz, wife of Minnesota DNR Major Roger Tietz. Following the musical tributes, a series of welcome speeches were given. Captain Cathy Hamm, Steering Committee Chair, Conservation Officer Dean Olson, President of the Minnesota Conservation Officers Assn., Colonel Michael Hamm, Chief of Minnesota DNR Enforcement, and Anthony Cornish, Minnesota State Representative, all spoke and welcomed the delegates to the great state of Minnesota. A Proclamation from Governor Tim Pawlenty proclaiming it to be "Minnesota Game Warden Day" was read.

Following the conference call to order and the roll call of jurisdictions by President Doug Forsdick, Vice President Marion Hoffman presented the NAWEOA Officer of the Year. The 2007 recipient of NAWEOA's highest award was one of Minnesota's own, Conservation Officer Brian Mies.

The tribute to our Fallen Officers came next. This year NAWEOA honored four fallen



IN MEMORY OF

*THE OFFICERS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES
IN PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES THAT THEY LOVED*



Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Lt. Delmar Teagan,

32, of Lakeland was killed in a traffic accident on April 13, 2007, while on duty and returning home from a week-long training session in Tallahassee. A truck swerved into Lt. Teagan's lane and collided with his government-issue Chevrolet Blazer. He died at the scene.

Lt. Teagan was born March 12, 1975, in West Palm Beach, Florida. He was a champion BMX rider as a young boy. He was active in his church youth group and accepted the Lord at that time. He graduated from Santaluces Community High School in Lantana in 1993. He was a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University where he was very active in campus ministries. He graduated in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography.

Del and his wife, Melanie, were married January 4, 1997. He joined the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in January of 1998. Del and Melanie had two children, Merrick Robert and Morgan Walker, and were expecting a third to be born in September. Del and Melanie's last trip together was a mission trip to West Virginia where they helped launch a new church ministry.

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## **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

### **Game Warden Teyran "Ty" Patterson,**

28, died in the line of duty on May 30, 2007, during a search and rescue operation on the Puluxy River. Warden Patterson drowned after his boat capsized in floodwaters. Patterson and his partner were attempting to recover the body of a suspected drowning victim when the accident occurred.

Patterson earned his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Texas State University and was a graduate of the 51st Texas Game Warden Academy in 2005. He was stationed in Johnson County. He is survived by his parents, Viann and Joe Patterson, of Seguin, Texas.

"Ty died doing what he loved. He died serving a Texas family dealing with its own tragic loss," said Col. Pete Flores, Law Enforcement Division Director with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "We are going to miss this courageous young game warden, and our hearts and prayers go out to his parents and loved ones".

# 2007 CONFERENCE TRAINING SEMINARS AND SPEAKERS

## **EMOTIONAL SURVIVAL FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT — Kevin M. Gilmartin, Ph.D.** **A guide for officers and their families**

We enter public safety jobs as idealistic and committed employees and along the way have to find ways to avoid becoming cynical, angry and self-destructive. Eventually, some officers come to view themselves as the victim. Officers may feel that no one understands what they experience out on the job. Instead, they turn to each other to solve their problems, thereby losing the emotional support of family and friends. Dr. Gilmartin is a behavioral scientist specializing in law enforcement-related issues. He previously spent twenty years working in law enforcement in Tucson, Arizona. During his tenure he supervised the Hostage Negotiations Team and the Behavioral Sciences Unit.

### **Dr. James T. Reese**

Dr. James T. Reese, Ph. D., is an internationally known author, lecturer and consultant in the specialty areas of stress management, ethics-based leadership, personality profiling and motivation. Dr. Reese is a Board Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. He is a faculty member of: the National Executive Institute, the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, the Institute for the Advanced Study of Crisis and Disaster Management and the prestigious FBI Academy. Dr. Reese blends wit and wisdom as he addresses groups of all compositions, from rank-and-file and supervisors to CEOs. Dr. Reese has addressed representatives of more than 350 Fortune 500 Companies. An original FBI criminal profiler (Silence of the Lambs), he retired as Assistant Unit Chief of the FBI Behavioral Science Unit. He is now CEO of James T. Reese and Associates, [www.jamestreese.com](http://www.jamestreese.com).

## **GETTING OUT ALIVE! — Dr. Gordon Giesbrecht**

Professor, B.P.E. Program, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Studies,  
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

### **How to survive cold-water immersion, hypothermia and surviving a night out in extreme cold weather**

Dr. Giesbrecht discussed cold-water immersion, cold shock, and how to survive a winter night outside after cold-water immersion. Dr. Giesbrecht discussed how the right clothing can save you and the wrong clothing can kill you. He's done his research by crashing snowmobiles, cars and trucks into icy water. He has used his research to film survival videos on subjects including how to escape submerged vehicles and how to survive a fall through ice. Dr. Giesbrecht has had three specials on the Discovery Channel, has been a guest on "The Late Show with David Letterman" and has been featured in numerous outdoor magazines and medical journals.

## **LET THE VICTIMS SPEAK — Richard K. Stroud, D.V.M.**

Veterinary Medical Examiner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Forensics Laboratory  
**Game and Fish Forensics**

With 16 years of veterinary experience at the Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, Dr. Stroud has compiled a large collection of photographs documenting various conditions of forensic importance to wildlife investigators. This leading expert advised us on how to preserve and package evidence for processing to the Wildlife Forensic Laboratory in Oregon. An amazing presentation on causes of death in wild animals and how the field officer can determine which cases need further examination by a pathologist was viewed. Dr. Stroud explained the importance of documentation of the sequence of events, recovery of trace evidence, estimation of time of death, evaluating gunshot and arrow wounds, wildlife poisoning and differentiating between a natural or unnatural death.

## **HOW IT REALLY HAPPENED — Sgt. Ken Drevnick**

Minnesota State Patrol Metro Reconstruction Team  
**Crime Scene Reconstruction**

Using the resources and tools from the Minnesota State Patrol Accident Scene Mapping Program, officers are able to reconstruct a crime scene and lay out a computer-generated crime scene map. The program can generate computer modeling of shot pattern, shot location, evidence location, shooter location in reference to the victim location, bullet or shot angle, blood trail, tire tracks, and other items in a crime scene. The program is also invaluable in reconstructing recreational vehicle accidents. This tool was used in the boating accident that resulted in the deaths of five people on the St. Croix River in July of 2003. The computer-generated map

showed the location of the boats and victims and evidence in the aftermath of the accident. Officers were able to reconstruct what occurred in the moments prior to, during, and after the fatal accident.

## **LEARN HOW TO “REID” BETWEEN THE LINES — John E. Reid & Associates, Inc. The Reid Technique of Interview and Interrogation**

They began developing interview and interrogation techniques in 1947. The Reid Technique of Interviewing and Interrogation is now the most widely used approach to question subjects in the world. In a recent survey of Minnesota and Alaska law enforcement investigators trained by John E. Reid & Associates, 3,153 (99.4%) of their 3,162 confessions were admitted by the courts. Every year, thousands of individuals from businesses, law enforcement, and government organizations utilize their services, law enforcement training programs, and products to help them select new employees, conduct investigations, and develop interviewing and interrogation skills.

The Reid Technique of Interviewing and Interrogation is widely recognized as the most effective means available to exonerate the innocent and identify the guilty. Excellent interrogators are not born, but are a result of hard work and proper training.

## **THE BONE SEEKER — Brian Beard, University of Wisconsin—Madison Strontium Research**

Strontium (Sr) is an earth metal found in the soil that will assist with proving where animals come from. Strontium is chemically similar to calcium and it tends to deposit in bone and blood-forming tissue (bone-marrow). Thus, strontium is referred to as a “bone seeker”. The Sr isotope composition of rock is passed along to soil, to plants, and finally to animals without change. The result is the Sr isotope composition measured in an animal is a function of what the animal ate. One can evaluate where an animal lived at different times by analysis of its different parts. For example, tooth enamel will represent the Sr isotope composition of the time the animal grew the tooth, whereas the Sr isotope composition of the bone will represent the lifelong average of what the animal ate because bones are constantly remodeled. The use of Sr isotope analysis in wildlife investigations will be illustrated using three different criminal investigations that include determining if a trophy white-tail deer was taken in Wisconsin or Michigan, if a trophy elk was taken in western or central Montana, and if otter were trapped in Wisconsin or Mississippi.

## **TAKE THE PLUNGE! — Minnesota Conservation Officer Jason Jensen Drown Proofing**

This session took place at the pool where you received first hand knowledge and (if you didn't mind getting wet) experience how everyday items that you carry in your boat or vehicle can be used to keep you afloat. There was a demonstration of our underwater immersion training vehicle. If you took the plunge, you “crashed” into the water in a simulated car that flipped over and had you hanging upside down under water. Real-life practice is the best way to learn how to save your own life and perhaps the life of someone else trapped in an underwater vehicle. These were controlled demonstrations with diver and lifeguards in the pool at all times.

## **BRING BACK THE DUCKS — Joe Schneider; Ryan Heneiger; MN Ducks Unlimited Biologists The Shallow Lakes Initiative in Minnesota**

What happened to the north end of the Mississippi Flyway? Is the shift of duck migration west a permanent change? How do we bring the ducks back to Minnesota? Joe Schneider and discussed the Shallow Lakes Initiative in Minnesota. Organizations like Ducks Unlimited (DU) and the DNR can work together to lure the waterfowl back to the area. DU is receiving \$120,000 during the next two years from the Bush Foundation to accelerate outreach and conservation efforts on Minnesota's shallow lakes and their watersheds through its Living Lakes Initiative. DU's Living Lakes Initiative focuses on improving the ecological health of shallow lakes by working with farmers, shoreline owners, and public agency partners to increase the adoption of beneficial conservation practices.

## **Eye in the Sky, Crisis in the Marsh MN DNR Enforcement Pilots and Wetland Enforcement Officers**

Minnesota DNR Enforcement has its own aircraft —supported program complete with fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. Aircraft are used everyday for wildlife surveys and fish stocking. Most importantly, these crafty aircraft are the eagle-eyes of the enforcement division. Our pilots spot violations from poaching, baiting and illegal hunting, to wetland, watercraft and snowmobile speed detection from the wild blue. One highly successful program that helps answer the question, “Where have all the ducks gone?” and puts pilots and wetlands officer together to enforce the laws to protect and restore the wetlands, prairie potholes and marshes of Minnesota from the sky was featured.

## **DEFENSIVE TACTICS/FIREARMS LE**

### **MN CO Todd Kanieski and other Use of Force Instructors**

MN DNR Firearms Instructors discussed how we use dynamic training for officers, such as, cover and concealment courses, movement courses, handgun/shotgun transition training and "walk through the woods" courses to simulated real-life experience. Some of our targets are reactionary so the officer has an instant response to the hit on target. Watch out though, sometimes the target gets back to fight again. MN DNR also uses scenario training with Simmunitions guns so that the officer has the opportunity to train against a live assailant. We utilize this Defensive Tactics training and adapt it to the Wildlife Enforcement Officers' unique working environment. A training system that uses the best of many different defensive tactics programs was introduced. The "Redman" suits are used for real-life tactical experience. "Transition training" which trains officers to react in a dynamic situation to varying degrees of force was emphasized.

## **BUILD IT AND THEY WILL LEARN**

### **MN DNR Regional Training Officers**

MN DNR's Regional Training Officers discussed hunter education and recreational vehicle safety education. The age of technology has changed the face of Minnesota's education presentations. MN DNR Enforcement Education Section presented their CD-ROM-based safety training programs. Minnesota showed how the CD ROM training has been used to reach more students than ever before. We believe we are reaching the clientele that would never "take the time" to attend a traditional classroom training session. When we make the training available to the student at their own home and at their own pace, we are increasing our student numbers exponentially.

## **SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT**

### **MN DNR Special Investigators**

Our Special Investigators solve wildlife crimes by using technology, surveillance equipment and undercover operatives.

## **DROWNING BODY RECOVERY**

### **MN DNR Conservation Officer Brad Schultz** **Chisago County Sheriff Deputy Joe Pung**

When a life is lost through drowning, the next stage is recovering the body. Using divers is often the traditional method used by many agencies. The use of divers is often costly, time consuming, and in many cases, unsuccessful, because of poor water clarity, weedy or hazardous bottom conditions, or poor witness location information.

The MN DNR Enforcement and the Chisago County Sheriff's Department have developed a recovery system that is extremely efficient, economical and effective. It is especially suited for agencies that have small staffs and limited resources. It has been used and refined over the past 25 years resulting in over 75 recoveries with an average on-water recovery time of less than eight hours. This course covered basic recovery equipment, determining boundaries of the search area, recovery strategy and operation, and recovery follow-up.

For the loved ones, recovery of the body is of the utmost importance, both for closure and for preservation of the body. Our initiative is to recover the body as quickly as possible.

## **POACHERS CAUGHT!**

### **Tom Chapin, MN Conservation Officer (retired)**

Tom Chapin, formerly known as "Conservation Officer", and now known as "Successful Author", retired after 29 years as a DNR Conservation Officer and then wrote and self-published two successful books about his experiences as a "northwoods game warden". Tom made the Minnesota top five best-sellers list in non-fiction in 2006.

## **PLAYING WITH THE BIG DOGS — Timber wolf issues, now and in the de-listed future**

### **Special Agent Pat Lund, Regional Agent-in-Charge, US Fish and Wildlife Service**

The timber wolves are another example of successful restoration of an endangered species. This animal has created extreme controversy on both ends of the spectrum. Animal rights activists see the beauty and grace of this majestic beast; their viewpoints differ greatly from the livestock farmers who are plagued by the treatment of livestock injuries, kills and stress on the herds due to the timber wolf. Is there common ground that can be found to satisfy all parties and successfully manage the population of these animals.? Will

hunting and trapping the timber wolf be a future consideration?

New issues will arise as the wolf is moved from protection under the Endangered Species Act and management is taken over by individual states. What issues will each state deal with as the wolf is moved from federal to state jurisdictions?

## **LANDVIEW — GIS AND GPS TECHNOLOGY**

**Shelly Sentyrz, MN DNR GIS Coordinator**

GIS links location to information and layers that information to give a better understanding of how it all interrelates. You choose what layers to combine based on your purpose. MN DNR uses the Landview GIS Program to offer aerial photos, topographical maps, plat maps, street maps, and many other types of maps that will build a layered map specific to your purpose. With laptop computers and Global Positioning Systems, this information is at the Conservation Officers' fingertips. An officer can build a map to find the precise location of a violation. The officer can then build another map to find the fastest route to get there or perhaps build a map with the best route to sneak through the woods to the violation site.

### **The NAWEOA Experience 2007**

**By Travis Anderson,  
First-time Conference Attendee**

Every year I listen to fellow officers talk about the experiences they had at the NAWEOA conference and always feel a bit left out because I have no idea what they are talking about, as I was not that familiar with NAWEOA. The stories are always good and the officers they know from across the nation amazes me. With the 2010 conference being held in Pennsylvania, I decided to go and see what NAWEOA was all about so, if nothing else, I could better help plan the event when we host it.

I did have some reservations as a new attendee. I wondered if it would be just another conference with training or would there be things to do. I was curious as to how easy it would be to meet officers from other areas and what we would have in common if anything. All my reservations were removed within the first few hours of arriving at the conference.

Within a few hours of arriving at the conference, it was apparent that everyone at the conference is the same, no matter where you work, you are part of this large family group and everyone is there to share stories and support the fight to protect the wildlife. Speaking with officers from across the country I was able to learn different techniques that they use to patrol, handle investigations, and different issues that are affecting their agency. By the end of the first day I met so many different people from different places that I had trouble remembering everyone's name.

It is easy to understand why officers attend the NAWEOA conference every year. The NAWEOA conference provides an opportunity for the game warden family to get together with old friends and meet new ones, sharing stories, socializing, and engaging in a little friendly competition through warden skills.

The training provided at the conference was interesting and relevant. I appreciated the variety of training topics scheduled and the ability to choose the training sessions to attend based on my interests. I gained valuable information that I am able to present to my fellow officers who were not fortunate enough to attend the conference.

Attending a conference for the first time is almost like going to a new job; the first few days are very overwhelming and it takes a while to get settled in. I will definitely need to go back in order to enjoy the experience even more, but, if nothing else, to visit with

the officers I met this past year and become acquainted with more officers.

For fellow officers who have never been to a NAWEOA conference, I would encourage you to go and experience the camaraderie and learn of the diversity of the job from fellow officers across North America. It is amazing how the job duties are different in every state or province. No other event will provide you and your family the opportunity to meet and become friends with such a large number of people from across the nation who share the honor, dedication, and uniqueness of being a wildlife enforcement officer. The conference has a full agenda for both officers and spouses, so there is always something to do or a local attraction or experience to see and explore. If for no other reason, officers should attend the conference to pay tribute to those who have given their lives in the line of duty, honor those who have gone above the call of duty, and show your support for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association for all they do to help you in your job.

Prior to the 2007 conference in Minnesota, I was only aware that NAWEOA was a support group for wildlife enforcement, but didn't realize all they did. The conference allowed me to realize the vital role the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association plays in paying tribute to and honoring the profession of wildlife enforcement, whether it be raising funds for The International Game Warden Museum or providing opportunities for officers to work in other countries through the officer exchange program or to producing a publication specifically about the job of game wardens in North America. NAWEOA is the web that connects all the agencies together allowing us to be a large family.

The conference was everything I expected and more. I am glad I attended and feel bad for not attending sooner. It provided me with many memories and hopefully I will have many more at future conferences.

Thank you to all the members of NAWEOA and Conservation Officers of Minnesota who took the time out of their already busy schedules to plan this event and make it a success. It was an honor to attend and help represent the unique and prestigious job position we have as Wildlife Enforcement Officers.



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# NAWEOA AWARDS CRITERIA

## NAWEOA OFFICER OF THE YEAR

### Nominee:

- ◆ Must be a fully certified conservation officer in the state, province, territory, or country in which employed.
- ◆ Must be a full-time field officer, up to and including first-line supervisors from the field in the last calendar year.
- ◆ Both nominee and person submitting nomination must be a member of NAWEOA.
- ◆ An officer whose character is beyond reproach.
- ◆ An officer who is competent, knowledgeable and capable.
- ◆ An officer who promotes wildlife law enforcement.
- ◆ An officer who demonstrates professionalism in every facet of life.
- ◆ The person submitting the nomination shall provide background material when submitting the nomination. Background material shall be in written narrative format, not exceeding 5 pages. Other supportive articles, certificates, awards, media coverage, etc. may be included with the nomination.
- ◆ All nominations must be received by the Vice President of NAWEOA not later than April 15th each year. The successful officer will be notified by May 1st.

## NAWEOA TORCH AWARD

- ◆ Presented annually to an officer from each region to encourage the professional development of recently appointed officers. The selection criteria are as follows:
- ◆ Both nominating and nominated officers must be regular NAWEOA members.
- ◆ Nominated officer must **not** have worked as a wildlife enforcement officer more than five years.
- ◆ Must have demonstrated a genuine desire to protect the resource and develop professionally.
- ◆ Must demonstrate exceptional ability and initiative in the performance of his/her duties, including public education.
- ◆ Must be respected by his/her peers and the general public.
- ◆ Nominations must be received by April 15th each year. Winners will be notified by May 1st.
- ◆ Awards will be presented at the annual conference; attendance encouraged but not mandatory.
- ◆ **NOTE:** This award is adjudicated by and presentations made on behalf of retired officers. **Please forward submissions for this award to: SECRETARY-TREASURER, Steve Kleiner, P.O. Box 22, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 (877) 569-4255 naweo@ureach.com**

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Anyone who is eligible for regular or deputy membership may be nominated for this award. It is given for outstanding achievement or service in the field of Wildlife Law Enforcement, to NAWEOA executive or outgoing NAWEOA Directors.



Minnesota DNR  
air patrol  
demonstration at  
skills day events

## CERTIFICATE OF RETIREMENT \*\*\*

Anyone who is eligible for regular or deputy membership may be nominated for this award. It is given to honor years of service to the profession. This award is distributed on behalf of NAWEOA by regional reps and is not subject to executive review.

## AWARD OF VALOUR

Anyone who is eligible for regular or deputy membership may be nominated for this award. It is given to the officer who performs a heroic act or risks or receives serious injury, in the line of duty in an attempt to protect him/herself or a member of the public from a dangerous situation or circumstance. It infers bravery in the face of adversity.

## LIFESAVING AWARD

Anyone who is eligible to be a regular or deputy member of the association or anyone who is a member of the association 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

Anyone who in any way is helpful to the association and/or its members 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 who receives this award shall maintain their voting privileges within the association.

**NOTE:** The above awards shall be submitted to the NAWEOA executive for review **not later than MAY 1st** in any year to allow for presentation at the annual conference for that year. With the exception of Officer of the Year nominations, other award nominations will be accepted up to the time of the conference and, if time allows, will be considered and awarded at the conference. Consideration is not guaranteed if nomination is not received by the general May 1st deadline.

**Award nominations should be made online and electronically submitted at:**  
**<http://www.naweo.org>**

**\*\*\* Certificates of Retirement should be requested through the appropriate Jurisdictional Representative\*\*\***



Taking a  
break during  
skills day at  
the  
conference  
in  
Minnesota

# NAWEOA 2007 Officer of the Year

## Brian Mies

Nominated by  
Chief Conservation Officer, Michael R. Hamm, Minnesota DNR Enforcement

I am honored to nominate Minnesota Conservation Officer of the Year, Brian Mies, for the 2007 NAWEOA Officer of the Year award.

Officer Mies is consistently one of the overall top performers for Minnesota's natural resources law enforcement effort, both in terms of quality and quantity. He maintains a high level of professionalism and relates well with the public during all enforcement contacts and has generated numerous comments from the public to his supervisor as to his integrity, ethics and fairness.

Officer Mies excels at all aspects of natural resources law enforcement. He works with the public on intelligence gathering and fostering strong relationships in the community to build unified public support for natural resource law enforcement. Officer Mies has extensive personal and professional knowledge of game and fish, which enables him to discuss natural resource issues with local citizens with confidence and self-assurance. For example, he has always been interested in trapping and has gained extensive knowledge of Minnesota's furbearers and is a member of the National Trappers' Association. He has instructed new conservation officers in fur recognition, trapping laws and investigative methods. He has been involved in many complex commercial investigations where this knowledge has been useful and important to protecting the fur resources.

Officer Mies follows the Division's annual work plan by concentrating his efforts on identified department priorities. He tackles these priorities with enthusiasm and works hard to incorporate the priorities into his daily work. The local fisheries manager has expressed appreciation regarding Officer Mies' extra efforts on numerous special regulation lakes in Wright and Stearns Counties.

Officer Mies' work ethic is used by his supervisor as a role model for new officers. In the best interest of our natural resources, he flexes his work hours to accommodate the changing seasons and requirements to meet the demands of natural resource law enforcement. He maximizes his efforts and effectiveness, putting him in the right place at the right time to deter and apprehend violators during

peak activity periods. Some conservation officers admirably joked about Officer Mies "having a horseshoe in his back pocket" when it comes to detecting natural resource violations. With Officer Mies it is simply a matter of working smarter and harder.

Officer Mies' investigative skills are outstanding. Officers throughout the region utilize his interviewing techniques. He has handled some of the most involved, complex cases with ease including multi-state cooperative investigations, large-scale commercial violations, and many more serious fish and wildlife offenses.



Minnesota Conservation Officer Brian Mies and wife Linda

Officer Mies is very aggressive in his enforcement of laws that protect fish and wildlife habitat, such as the Wetland Conservation Act and environmental laws. He regularly issues wetland cease-and-desist orders and seeks wetland restoration compliance to protect our valuable wetland resources. Some of his cases have been very in-depth and time consuming. Officer Mies' work to protect wetland habitat has earned him the respect of local government officials and resulted in his winning the Division's Wetlands Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Officer Mies works closely with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and county environmental officials on environmental law enforcement, which includes cases involving two very large illegal landfills. This overall emphasis on natural resources protection exemplifies his holistic approach and "big picture" view of natural resources law enforcement.

Officer Mies has been a Field Training Officer for the last six years and instructs and evaluates new conservation officers. His experience, knowledge, skills and interpersonal abilities have made him an outstanding FTO and he has always received high praise from recruits who have been under his guidance. He is looked up to by fellow conservation officers who seek Officer Mies out for advice on investigations, law interpretations, and general knowledge about fish and wildlife, enforcement and natural resources issues. Officer Mies regularly incorporates other officers into focused work teams and provides a sense of leadership and solidarity to the District Team concept. Officer Mies provides ongoing training opportunities for area officers on furs, furbearer habitat and trapping techniques.

Officer Mies works closely with area wildlife personnel. He keeps them informed on what is going on in and around state wildlife management areas, provides contacts and information regarding wildlife habitat acquisition opportunities, updates wildlife staff on hunting-related issues and provides excellent support to the department's non-game program. State wildlife professionals honored him in 2003 with the award for Wildlife Officer of the Year from the Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Officer Mies embraces the Turn-In-Poachers (TIP) program. He handles TIP calls with enthusiasm and loves to investigate "after-the-fact" violators or poachers who might mistakenly believe that they got away. For his outstanding efforts in the investigations of TIP violations, Officer Mies was awarded TIP's Conservation Officer of the Year in 2000.

Officer Mies has built an excellent relationship with local law enforcement agencies through hard work, open and honest communication, and by providing cooperative assistance to them when called upon. He has worked with these agencies on teaching recreational enforcement, search warrants, felony violations in progress, fleeing fugitives, domestics abuse and search and rescue requests.

Officer Mies instructs at all of the DNR-administered safety classes in his area. He enjoys working with youth and is active with his volunteer instructors. He has organized new ATV safety courses in his area so young ATV operators can get the proper training to keep them safe and legal.

He receives many accolades from area educators for his work in the schools. He works with the school officials, students and parents to facilitate and encourage area students to work in the field of natural resources by encouraging ride-alongs so they can get a first-hand look at the job. He is an instructor at Wright County's "Conservation Days" every year, where his abilities as an instructor reach every elementary student in the county. Officer Mies is often asked to teach at area elementary schools about trapping and fur. Officer Mies has accumulated a collection of different furs over the years and had them tanned at his own expense. He takes them to schools and shows students what each animal looks like and talks about their habits and habitat requirements.

Officer Mies has a philosophy that even a violation contact is an opportunity to provide education. When encountering youthful violators, Officer Mies takes the time during the contact to utilize it as a positive encounter by explaining the laws and the need for safety. He does follow-ups with youthful violators' parents when necessary to help reinforce our laws and encourage safe hunting and recreational practices.

Officer Mies takes every opportunity to talk with citizens face to face and through numerous media contacts. He explains laws, serves as a lightning rod for larger department issues, reinforces the Department's mission and even tells them where the fish are biting and what methods are working best.

Officer Brian Mies is the consummate professional and is a model for the sort of Conservation Officer that all of our officers should strive to become.

---

## **MY FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES**

### **THANK YOU SO MUCH**



On behalf of my family, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to you. It is with your help that I will get through this ordeal. Your compassion and kindness provide me strength while your contributions will provide me with the essentials that I require to maintain an active lifestyle.

While the accident on the 8th of October, 2006, has left me a quadriplegic, I firmly believe this is temporary. Mary and I are determined to continue working hard and diligently so that one day I will walk again.

It is my goal to again one day don the uniform and return to the job I so dearly love.

Again, thank you so much and God bless.

**Brent and Mary Cole**

# NAWEOA Jurisdictional Representatives (Revised 10/07)

| JURISDICTION                                     | NAME               | STREET ADDRESS                   | CITY ADDRESS               | HOME PHONE     | WORK PHONE     | FAX #          | EMAIL ADDRESS                   |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Alabama Dept. of Cons. and Nat. Res.             | Chris Champion     | 5293 Hwy. 36E                    | Somerville, AL 36670       | (256) 353-2637 | (256) 778-9304 |                | algr129@bellsouth.net           |
| Alaska State Troopers (F&W)                      | Steven Atlow       | PO Box 379                       | Cordova, AK 99574          | (907) 424-4302 | (907) 424-3184 |                | steven_atlow@dps.state.ak.us    |
| Alberta Game Warden Assoc.                       | Steve Carlson      | 250 Diamond Avenue               | Spouce Grove, AB T7X 4C7   | (780) 948-0036 | (780) 960-8192 | (780) 969-8199 | Steve Carlson@gov.ab.ca         |
| Alberta Natural Res. Officers Assoc.             | Murray Instrup     | Box 535                          | Turner Valley, AB T0L 2A0  | (403) 933-7172 | (403) 931-3116 | (403) 933-7173 | murray.instrup@gov.ab.ca        |
| Arizona Game Ranger Lodge 71                     | Rick Langley       | Arizona Game Dept.               | Pinetop, AZ 85935          |                | (928) 367-4281 |                | rlangley@azgfd.gov              |
| Arkansas Game and Fish Commission                | Gary Wallace       | P.O. 10311                       | Conway, AR 72034           | (501) 513-9769 |                |                | gwallace@agfc.state.ar.us       |
| Assoc. des agents de prot. de la faune du Québec | Michel Morin       | 143 Principale                   | Windsor, QE J1S 2E1        | (819) 845-2434 | (819) 820-3882 | (819) 820-3867 | michel.morin@fapaq.gouv.qc.ca   |
| British Columbia Cons. Officer Service           | Dave Wiebster      | Box 850                          | Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0    | (250) 442-4355 | (250) 442-4312 | (250) 442-4312 | Dave.Wiebster@gov.bc.ca         |
| California F & G Warden Assoc.                   | Lorraine Doyle     | PO Box 271                       | Prather, CA 93661          | (559) 855-6552 | (559) 855-6552 |                | lnd4214@netnet.net              |
| Wildlife Enrf. Directorate of Environment Canada | Ross Stewart       | 115 Perimeter Road               | Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X4      | (306) 931-8823 | (306) 975-6818 | (306) 975-6061 | ross.stewart@ec.gc.ca           |
| Colorado Wildlife Emp. Prot. Assoc.              | Randy Hancock      | P O Box 990                      | Buena Vista, CO 81211      | (719) 395-2880 | (719) 539-8413 | (719) 395-2880 | randy.hancock@state.co.us       |
| Connecticut Conservation Officer Assoc.          | Ryan Healy         | PO Box 261                       | Niantic, CT 06357          | (860) 691-0030 |                |                | r.h.healy@sbsglobal.net         |
| Cons. Enrf. Officers of Nova Scotia              | Dougald MacNeil    | PO Box 355                       | AGH, NS B0E 3M0            | (902) 756-2112 | (902) 756-3809 | (902) 756-3159 | macneido@gov.ns.ca              |
| Delaware Div. of F & W, Enf. Section             | James Passwaters   | 22380 Bunting Road               | Georgetown, DE 19947       | (302) 856-2556 | (302) 855-1922 |                | James.Passwaters@state.de.us    |
| Federal Indian Tribes                            | Norre Listed       |                                  | .                          | (000) 000-0000 |                |                |                                 |
| Fishery Off. Assoc. Cen. and Arctic Reg.         | Ray Thibadeau      | Fisheries and Oceans Canada      | Peterborough, ON K9H 7S3   | (705) 750-4009 | (705) 750-4016 |                | ThibadeauR@DFO-MPO.GC.CA        |
| Fishery Off. Assoc. Newf/ Lab                    | Joe McCarthy       | PO Box 5667                      | St. John's, NL A1C 5X1     | (709) 734-7468 | (798) 772-4875 |                | McCarthy.J@DFO-MPO.GC.CA        |
| Florida Fish and Wildlife Cons. Comm.            | Brian Baine        | 1239 S.W. 10th St.               | Ocala, FL 34471-0323       | (321) 299-8238 |                |                | brian.baine@myfwc.com           |
| Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources               | Terry West         | 2109 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.      | Social Circle, GA 30025    | (770) 918-6414 | (706) 557-3041 |                | terry_west@mail.dnr.state.ga.us |
| Guam                                             |                    |                                  | , GUAM                     |                |                |                |                                 |
| Hawaii                                           | Norre listed       |                                  | , HAWAII                   | (000) 000-0000 |                |                |                                 |
| Idaho Conservation Officer's Assoc.              | Matt Haag          | 67 Spur Drive                    | Sandpoint, ID 83864        | (208) 265-8521 |                |                | mahaag@idgfi.idaho.gov          |
| Illinois Cons. Police Assoc.                     | Steve Bellan       | 11212 Fox Trail                  | Durand, IL 61024           | (815) 243-2700 |                |                | stevebellan@gmail.com           |
| Indiana DNR - Law Enforcement Div.               | Jay Baker          | 1821 W. Co. Road, 650N           | Shelburn, IN 47879         | (812) 397-2633 |                |                | jbaker@dnr.in.gov               |
| Iowa Fish and Game Officer's Assoc.              | Stacey Sisco       | Box 26                           | Danbury, IA 51019          | (712) 883-2779 |                |                | danwood@pionet.net              |
| Kansas Wildlife Officer's Association            | Greg Salisbury     | 60 Ash Lane                      | Bennington, KS 67422       | (785) 488-2646 |                |                | gregs@wp.state.ks.us            |
| Kentucky Cons. Officer's Assoc. Inc.             | Marcus Bowling     | 227 Jacklyn Drive                | Madisonville, KY 42431     | (270) 825-8497 |                |                | unit208@apex.net                |
| Louisiana                                        | Keith LaCaze       | P.O. BOX 98000                   | Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 | (225) 765-2985 |                |                | lacaze_bk@wlf.state.la.us       |
| Maine Dept of Inland Fish. and Wildlife          | Chris Dyer         | PO Box 27                        | Morill, ME 04952           | (207) 342-2065 |                |                | aneckley@pivnet.net             |
| Manitoba Natural Res. Officer's Assoc.           | Geoff Smith        | Box 70                           | Riverton, MB R0C 2F0       | (204) 642-7822 | (204) 378-2261 | (204) 378-5274 | Geoffrey.Smith@gov.mb.ca        |
| Maryland Natural Resources Police                | Jeffrey White      | 13434 Gruber RD.                 | Clearspring, MD 21722      | (301) 842-3167 | (301) 777-7771 |                | jwhite55@aol.com                |
| Massachusetts Envir. Police Officer's            | Kevin Clayton      | P.O. Box 1311                    | Harwich, MA 02645-6311     | (508) 432-6406 |                |                | kclayton@comcast.net            |
| Michigan Conservation Officer's Assoc.           | Michelle Wiegand   | 5630 E. 32 RD.                   | Cadillac, MI 49601         | (231) 779-1739 |                |                | wingcmdr6102@charter.net        |
| Minnesota Conservation Officer's Assoc.          | Bruce Lawrence     | 6793 Sawmill Road                | Harris, MN 55032           |                | (651) 674-2705 |                | bruce.lawrence@dnr.state.mn.us  |
| Mississippi Wildlife Enrf. Officer's Assoc.      | Jason Blaylock     | 14165 Hwy 43 N.                  | Kosciusko, MS 39090        | (622) 289-6341 |                |                | job4msu@bellsouth.net           |
| Missouri Conservation Agent's Assoc.             | Shawn Pennington   | Rt. 1, Box 274 M                 | Nevada, MO 64772           | (417) 667-2671 |                |                | shawnp@sboglobal                |
| Montana Assoc. of State G&F Wardens              | Jim Connor         | 635 Stendal Rd.                  | Lewistown, MT 59457        | (406) 538-7683 | (406) 538-4658 |                | jconnor@mt.gov                  |
| National Capital Commission                      |                    |                                  |                            |                |                |                |                                 |
| National Marine Fisheries                        | Ken Hansen         | 300 Seashreeze Cir               | Kodiak, AK 99615           |                | (907) 486-3298 |                | kenneth.hansen@noaa.gov         |
| National Park Service (US)                       | Randal Kendrick    | P.O. BOX 51                      | Fancy Gap, VA 24328        | (000) 000-0000 |                |                |                                 |
| National Wildlife Refuge Officer's Assoc.        | Charles Melvin III | HC 14, Box 67                    | Valentine, NE 68201        |                | (402) 376-3789 |                | Chuck_Melvin@fws.gov            |
| Nebraska Cons. Officer's Assoc.                  | Jeff Jones         | 407 N. Clay Ave                  | Clay Center, NE 68933      | (402) 762-3124 |                |                | hijones@att.net                 |
| Nevada Game Warden's Association                 | Steve Tornac       | 37 Panavista Circle              | Yerington, NV 89447        |                |                |                | sltomac@juno.com                |
| New Brunswick Dept of Nat. Res.                  | Shawn Farrell      | 75 Hollybrook Street             | Fredericton, NB E3A 5E1    | (506) 458-5897 | (506) 444-2382 | (506) 444-2487 | shawn.farrel@gnb.ca             |
| New Hampshire Cons. Off. Relief Assoc.           | Dave Walsh         | 45 Loveren Mill Road             | Arritm, NH 03440           | (603) 588-3556 |                | (603) 352-8798 | walshie252@att.net              |
| New Jersey Cons. Officer's Assoc.                | Lisa Laacroix      | 325 Clarksburg-Robbinsville Road | Robbinsville, NJ 08691     | (609) 208-9592 | (609) 259-2120 |                | islaacroix@dep.state.nj.us      |
| New Mexico Cons. Officers Assoc.                 | Leon Redman        | PO Box 1421                      | Silver City, NM 88062      | (505) 388-0770 |                |                | iredman@state.nm.us             |
| New York Cons. Officer's Assoc.                  | David Mayman       | 134 Crane Street                 | Scotia, NY 12302           | (518) 399-5521 | (845) 256-3013 | (845) 331-0899 | WaymanNY@nycap.rr.com           |
| Newfoundland/Labrador Con Off Assoc              |                    |                                  |                            |                |                |                |                                 |



*Field Notes*

*Fall 2007*

## A MAN WITH A MISSION

By Marion Hoffman

Lt. John Reed from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is a man on a mission. His goal is to raise \$25,000 for the Game Warden Museum....and he is well over halfway there.

In the past two years, John Reed has partnered with the Palm Beach County Sheriff Explorers Post 611 at their annual fund-raising golf tournament. Each year, with the help of his colleagues and friends, John has split the proceeds from the tournaments with the Museum and the Explorers. Over \$10,000 has been donated from this partnership to the Museum.

John has also donated a Florida turkey hunt each year for the fund-raising auction held at the annual NAWEOA conference. So far, those hunts have generated over \$4,000 to benefit the Museum project. The Museum Board and all NAWEOA members wish to take a moment to salute John Reed for his efforts -- a man with a mission and a vision.

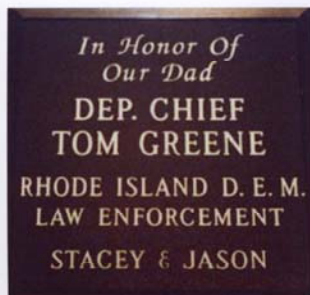


Museum President Dave Grant (left)  
with John Reed



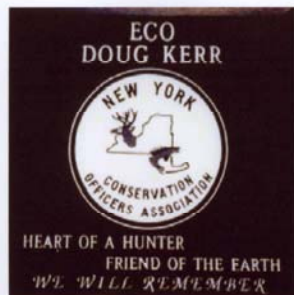
■ Paving stones are age, weather and traffic-resistant black polished granite, sized 12" x 12" ■ Engraved paving stones provide plenty of room for personal inscription in memory, honor or thanks ■ Each sponsored stone will be placed on the museum grounds for public appreciation ■ Paving stones can also include an engraved logo ■ Stones may be sponsored by individuals, families, organizations or businesses ■

## Examples of Engraved Paving Stones



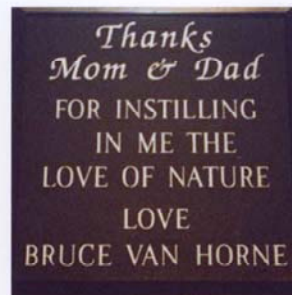
*Honor a Family Member*

*Demonstrate  
Family Support*



*Memorialize a Fallen Officer*

*Honor  
Outstanding Achievement*



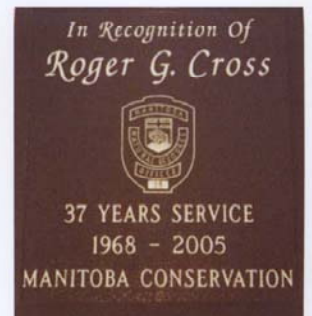
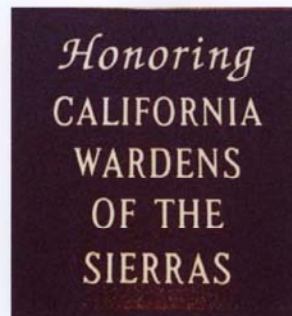
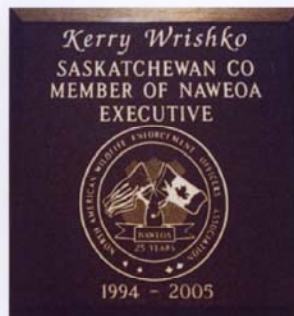
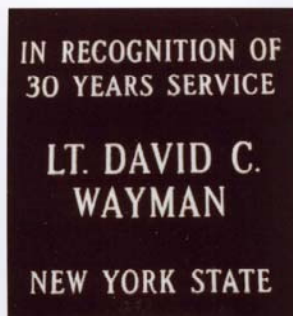
*Just Say Thank You*

*Demonstrate  
Support*



*Celebrate Partships*

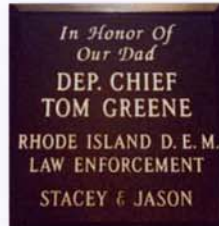
*Honor  
Officer's Retirement*



*A thank you card and a photo of your paving stone will be sent to you upon completion of your stone. A gift acknowledgement is also available upon request.  
Museum Staff will be available to assist visitors in locating their paving stone on the museum grounds.*

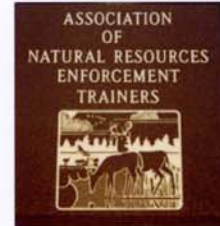
# SUPPORT THE GAME WARDEN MUSEUM PURCHASE A PAVING STONE

## 1. Circle the type of stone you wish to purchase



Engraved Paving Stone

\$150



Engraved Paving Stone

With Logo

\$250

## 2. print your full inscription in the 75 character spaces below, including punctuation and space between words

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For logo engraving, attach a clean, original copy and provide contact information for our engraver.

Contact person for logo: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your contact information is critical. In some cases, the number of characters may have to be reduced to allow space for logo detail.

## 3. complete the sponsor and payment information

### Sponsor Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options

Visa or MC# \_\_\_\_\_ exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Authorizing signature \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of this sponsorship \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I am also interested in membership.
- ☐ I wish my donation to remain anonymous.
- ☐ I authorize my paving stone to be used in marketing materials.

Your gift is considered a tax-deductible contribution as defined US & Canadian Charitable Contribution Guidelines

Checks payable to NAWEMMEC

P.O. Box 1239

Boisseguin, MB R0K 0E0

## **SASKATCHEWAN WARDENS ON WHEELS**

By Marion Hoffman

Rob Grainger, Saskatchewan Wildlife Officer and organizer of the group “Wardens on Wheels”, recently issued a challenge to all Wildlife Enforcement Officers and Associates to join in a motorcycle rally to the North American Game Warden Museum.

Conservation officers in Saskatchewan organized and participated in a motorcycle run on August 11 and 12. The venue for their ride was the NAWEOA Museum at the International Peace Gardens. The group sent an invitation to all Wildlife Enforcement Officers and Associates to “hop on your bikes and meet us there”. “This will be an excellent time for people to get together and share stories and experiences with motorcycles and our profession”, said Grainger. Conservation officers from Manitoba, Alberta and North Dakota also participated in the event.

Saskatchewan Wildlife Officer Paul Hopkins, a member of the Board of Directors for the Game Warden Museum, came up with the idea that the group obtain pledges of money for their run to donate to the museum. On August 11, a formal presentation was made of the \$1,830.00 raised by the group. The money is to be earmarked toward the final phase of construction for the museum building. A big “THANK YOU” goes out to the “Wardens on Wheels” group for their support of the Game Warden Museum.



Riders are (l-r) Rob Grainger, Glenn Hubert, Patti Ewashko, Rob Dean, Luke Peloquin, Alex and Barb Frank, Dave England, Paul Hopkins, Doug Olson, Jack Harrigan, Dave Harvey, Verne Larson, Gerry Westlake and Don McInnes.



Tom Greene,  
Game Warden Museum  
Board member, and the  
Museum display at the  
Northeast Fish and Wildlife  
Conference.

If you are interested in  
setting up this display at a  
conference on  
behalf of the Museum,  
please contact the Board  
at: [www.gamewarden  
museum.com](http://www.gamewardenmuseum.com)

# NAWEOA Jurisdictional Representatives (Revised 09/06)

| JURISDICTION                             | NAME              | STREET ADDRESS                      | CITY ADDRESS              | HOME PHONE     | WORK PHONE     | FAX #          | EMAIL ADDRESS                       |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| North Carolina DENR, Marine Fisheries    | Mark Bruton       | 1012 Brassfield Ct.                 | Rock Mt., NC 27803        |                |                |                | lukejack@earthlink                  |
| North Carolina Wildlife Res. Comm.       | Jackie Lundstrom  | 234 Parkridge Lane                  | Bismark, ND 58503         | (701) 221-3217 | (701) 328-9541 |                | duckgirl@bismidco.net               |
| North Dakota Game Warden Assoc.          | Jamie Chambers    | Box 390                             | Fort Smith, NT XOE 0P0    |                |                |                | jamie_chambers@gov.nt.ca            |
| Northwest Territories                    | Russell Brandon   | Box 36                              | Kimmirut, NU X0A 0N0      |                | (867) 939-2004 |                | ibrandon@GOV.NU.CA                  |
| Nunavut Wildlife Officer's Association   | Steve Thomson     | Wildlife Dist. Two, 952-A Lima Ave. | Findlay, OH 45840         | (419) 454-3213 | (419) 428-8353 |                | steve.thomson@dnr.state.oh.us       |
| Ohio Game Protector's Association        | Carlos Gomez      | 215 West 115 St. S.                 | Jenks, OK 74037           |                |                |                | cgomez115@cox.net                   |
| Oklahoma State Game Warden Assoc.        | Bruce Ward        | 2095 Southview Ave.                 | Irmitis, ON L5S 1H4       | (705) 431-9066 |                |                | naweoaa@oooc.ca                     |
| Ontario Conservation Officer's Assoc.    | Dave Rzewnicki    | 89728 Ocean Dr.                     | Warrenton, OR 97146       | (503) 717-9269 |                |                | rezman@freedomnm.com                |
| Oregon                                   | John Niddie       | P.O. Box 220                        | Spring, BC V04 1M0        |                |                |                | john_niddie@pc.gc.ca                |
| Parks Canada, Res. Cons. Warden Ser.     | Tom Grohol        | 76 Valerie Drive                    | Elizabethtown, PA 17022   | (717) 367-7116 | (717) 787-4024 |                | tgrohol@state.pa.us                 |
| Pennsylvania (COPA)                      | Erin Czech        | 7955 Oak Hill Dr.                   | Cheltenham, PA 19012      | (215) 379-6188 | (215) 379-1953 |                | philly199@aol.com                   |
| Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission      | Rich Cramer       | P.O. Box 116                        | Tonesta, PA 16535         | (814) 755-3249 | (814) 432-3187 |                | ricramer@state.pa.us                |
| Penn. Cons. Police Officer's Local 2842  | Roland Richard    | P.O. BOX 58                         | Wellington, PEI C0B 2E0   | (902) 854-2777 |                |                | richard@goi.pe.ca                   |
| Prince Edward Island                     | Jennifer Connors  | DEMDivision of Law Enforcement      | Providence, RI 02908      | (401) 222-1986 |                |                | Jennifer.Connors@dem.ni.gov         |
| Rhode Island Env. Pol. Officer's Assoc.  | Cam Lueken        | Box 6500                            | Melfort, SK S0E 1A0       | (306) 752-2987 | (306) 752-6214 | (306) 752-6218 | Cam.Lueken@gov.sk.ca                |
| Saskatchewan Assoc. of Cons. Officers    | Rich Elson        | 3690 Massey Drive                   | Prince George, BC V2N 2S8 |                | (250) 561-5510 | (250) 561-5534 | ElsonR@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca            |
| Society of Pacific Reg. Fishery Officers | Michael Hardy     | 317 Carriage Trace                  | Seneca, SC 29678          | (864) 882-0464 | (864) 854-8266 |                |                                     |
| South Carolina                           | Dave Barling      | PO Box 158                          | Clear Lake, SD 57226-0158 | (605) 874-2672 |                | (605) 874-2672 | Dave.Barling@state.sd.us            |
| South Dakota Cons. Officer's Assn.       | Michael Stockdale | P.O. BOX 95                         | Big Sandy, TN 38221       | (731) 593-3568 |                |                | mike@compunet                       |
| Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency       | Scott Haney       | 2660 Keller Haslet Rd               | Roanoke, TX 76262         | (817) 337-1457 | (817) 343-8804 | (817) 834-4361 | Scott.Haney@tpwd.state.tx.us        |
| Texas Parks and Wildlife                 | Ellen Kley        | USFWS Office of Law Enforcement     | Chelsea, MA 02150         | (617) 889-6616 | (617) 889-1980 |                | ellen_kley@fws.gov                  |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service               | William Armstrong | 2159 Liberty Grove Rd.              | Colora, MD 21917-1317     | (301) 658-6271 | (410) 436-4357 |                | William.Armstrong@usag.apg.army.mil |
| US Military Fish and Wildlife Service    | Stacey Jones      | Utah Division of Wildlife Resources | Price, UT 84501           | (435) 820-6445 |                |                | staceyjones@utah.gov                |
| Utah Conservation Officer's Assoc.       | Sean Fowler       | 445 Fowler Road                     | Plainfield, VT 05667      | (802) 454-9919 |                |                | sfowler@dpss.state.vt.us            |
| Vermont Game Warden's Assoc.             | Wes Billings      |                                     |                           |                |                |                |                                     |
| Virginia Game Warden Assoc.              | Jeff Lee          | PO Box 1100                         | LaConner, WA 98527        | (360) 766-8700 |                |                | jefflee@clearwire.net               |
| Washington Game Warden Assoc.            | Kaven Ransom      | HM-3460 Teyas Valley Road           | Hurricane, WV 25526       | (304) 562-3045 |                |                | KWR315@aol.com                      |
| West Virginia Div. of Nat. Res. Law Enf. | Todd Schaller     | 625 E. Hwy "Y", Suite 700           | Oshkosh, WI 54901         | (920) 379-1704 | (920) 424-3055 | (920) 424-4404 | todd.schaller@wisconsin.gov         |
| Wisconsin Department of Natural Res.     | Joe Gilbert       | 700 Valley View Drive               | Sheridan, WY 82801        | (307) 672-7418 |                |                | jegilbert@wyo.state.wy.us           |
| Wyoming Game Warden Assoc.               | Kirby Meister     | Box 98                              | Faro, YT Y0B 1K0          | (867) 994-2353 | (867) 994-2862 |                | Kirby.Meister@gov.yk.ca             |
| Yukon Conservation Officer's Assoc.      |                   |                                     |                           |                |                |                |                                     |



## 2007 NAWEOA AWARDS

By President Marion Hoffman

A total of 44 awards were given out at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual NAWEOA Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. NAWEOA is honored to recognize these outstanding officers who were nominated by their peers and who received the following awards. Thanks to all who participated in this year's awards and congratulations to the award recipients.

**NAWEOA Officer of the Year** - As we say, the "Best of the Best"

**Brian Mies – Minnesota DNR Enforcement**

**Award of Valor** – Awarded to regular members who perform heroic acts in the line of duty and display bravery in the face of adversity.

Bryan Bendock – Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
Victor Rosa – Pennsylvania Game Commission  
Justin Stedman – Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
Matthew Shanley – California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Lifesaving Award** – Awarded to regular members who by their actions save the life of another person.

Todd Wright – Missouri Department of Conservation  
Richard Swanger – Pennsylvania Game Commission  
John Hill – New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Doug Massie – Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement  
Warner Carlson – Saskatchewan Environment  
Kelly Crayne – Saskatchewan Environment  
Steven B. Burton – Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Douglas N. Hermanson – Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources  
Brett P. Gustafson – Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Matthew M. Eberle – Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
David P. Miller – Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Randy Posner – Minnesota DNR Enforcement  
Rodmen Smith – Minnesota DNR Enforcement  
Kevin Prodzinski – Minnesota DNR Enforcement  
Dale Ebel – Minnesota DNR Enforcement  
Jeff Fleming – Minnesota DNR Enforcement  
David Jackson – Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Albert Hochbaum – Manitoba Conservation  
David Eiriksson – Manitoba Conservation  
Jerry Zimmerman – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Torch Award** – Awarded to Officers with less than 5 years of service who display exceptional initiative and ability.

Region 1 – Mario Gaudet – Saskatchewan Environment  
Region 2 – Bill Ingham – Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
Region 3 – Diane Daigle – Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Region 4 – Josh Stanley – Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Region 5 – Thomas Heisler – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Region 6 – Michael (Brad) Stanley – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Region 7 – Justin Stedman – Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

**Certificate of Award** – Awarded to any regular member for outstanding achievement or service in wildlife law enforcement.

Kim Rodes – Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
David Dipre – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Bradley Givens – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Comm.  
Eddie Brown – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
David Arnette – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Clinton Thompson – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Dan Drummond – Yukon Department of Environment

**Certificate of Appreciation** - Outgoing Executive Board Personnel, Kurt Bahti, Lorraine Doyle, Levi Krause, and Bill Brace were recognized for their years of dedication to NAWEOA.

**Special Award of Appreciation** - A special award in the form of a plaque which will be displayed at the North American Game Warden Museum was presented to current Museum Board President Dave Grant. This award was given in recognition of all the current and past NAWEOA members who have served on the Museum Board of Directors and assisted in making the museum project a success.

Our appreciation and thanks to those of you who took the time to submit nominations for your fellow colleagues. Remember to submit your nominations for a NAWEOA award through the online process at [www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org). Please note the submission dates for Torch Awards and Officer of the Year candidate nominations is April 15, 2008. Cutoff date for all other awards to be recognized at the 2008 annual conference is June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

## Conference Banquet By Lorraine Doyle

The 2007 NAWEOA conference banquet ended this conference with style. The evening started with a no-host bar. The tables were decorated with centerpieces made of wood rounds with scenes from Minnesota. A lot of time and creativity were spent on them. Silent auction items and the items for the live auction were displayed around the room.

Dinner began with a salad with greens sprinkled with pears and cranberries and served with a vinaigrette dressing. The main course was beef and chicken served with mashed potatoes and vegetables. Dessert was Tiger Cake - layers of chocolate and

white cake with mousse filling, all drizzled with chocolate and caramel sauce. A wonderful, special meal.

Plaques of appreciation were given out to the outgoing officers. Lifesaving and valor awards came next. The nominations for these awards were posted during the conference. Presentations were made to future hosts of the conference. The Museum raffle winners were announced. About \$14,000 was made from the Torch Run/Walk, all for the Museum.

The live auction got a lot of interest. Once the auctions were completed, many people moved back to the hospitality room. A DJ provided music for dancing, while many folks visited one last time before last call.

## 2007 TORCH RUN/WALK

By Rob Brandenburg

The 7th Annual Federal Wildlife Officers Association (FWOA) Torch Run was the coolest run yet. A thundershower delayed the start of the run. The intrepid crowd was eager to get the run/walk in. When a break in the rain presented itself, the group decided to proceed. A short time into the run the skies opened up again and the runners got good and wet. I didn't see a frown in the bunch. Most just smiled and said something about it being better than the heat of the Nebraska run.

After the run we all were treated to a great hamburger and brat cookout. Thanks to the FWOA crew for another fine run.

Sandy Nichols has said every year that she was not competing. She says this till about halfway through the run and then she just can't stand it any more. This year she came in second place by not competing. Dave, Sandy's husband, just shook his head and said he would hate to see how fast she moved when she did compete.

The Federal Wildlife Officers Association (FWOA) sponsors the annual 5K run/walk to memorialize wildlife officers who have given their life in the line of duty. The run/walk is held each year during the NAWEOA annual conference. The annual 5K run/walk started in Omaha in 2001. Since that time, FWOA, in cooperation



The Bowman family from Iowa in their official, soaking wet, Torch Run/Walk t-shirts after the rainy run/walk event.

with the many participants, officer associations, concerned individuals, and corporate sponsors, such as Remington Arms and Cabela's, have raised over \$20,000 for the Game Warden Museum.

### OVERALL 2007 NAWEOA TORCH RUN/WALK WINNER Clint Thompson (19:34)

#### MEN'S DIVISION

1st Steve Tomac (20:19)  
2nd Tom Cook (20:43)  
3rd Larry Webinger (22:36)

#### WOMEN'S DIVISION

1st Shannon Schewab (22:31)  
2nd Carina Jolles (26:15)  
3rd Laura Tomac (28:00)

#### YOUTH DIVISION

(16 and Under)  
1st Allyson Herman (22:14)  
2nd Cody Dierking (23:20)  
3rd Cody Lebert (27:08)

#### WALKER'S DIVISION

1st Bob Verberkmoers (37:03)  
2nd Sandy Nichols (40:28)  
3rd Carole Flowers (40:40)

## Hospitality Room and Officer Exchange Presentation

By Earl Simmons



The highlight of the NAWEOA conference for a lot of the crowd is the socializing that goes on every night of the conference at the hospitality room. The Minnesota folks worked diligently at ensuring that everyone had one heck of a good time. The gang serving beer provided copious amounts of a variety of beers that was truly a crowd favorite. Moderation was the theme, although a few participants may have forgotten this! In addition, there were all sorts of locally made wild meat sausages and various other appetizing snacks. The minnow races were well received and provided entertainment for the whole family. Gary Zacher, Ontario Conservation Officer, made an excellent presentation on his officer exchange trip to Montana. In addition, Gary's Power Point presentation was played on the overhead screen in the hospitality room, which allowed the people that missed the presentation to see the beautiful Montana countryside.

The "Beer Nippers" were hard at work helping an officer nicknamed "Pee Wee" celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a delicious birthday cake. Unfortunately, when they were paying for the cake, they mistakenly charged it to Minnesota Colonel, Michael Hamms hotel room. The misunderstanding was cleared up expediently by the responsible party. The week was very enjoyable in the spacious hospitality room, with tons of old friendships being rekindled, along with new ones being made.

# GAME WARDEN SKILLS DAY

By Kevin Schoepp

At this year's conference in St. Paul the ever popular Warden Skills Day took place on the afternoon of Friday, July 20. Delegates and participants made their way across the Mississippi River to Harriet Island, which was only a short walk from the conference hotel.

Having attended and participated in the warden games at many of the conferences over the years, I think that I'm qualified to say that this year's event was one of the best organized events I have seen. I'm told that there were upwards of 125 people working during the event and it showed as the many participating teams were able to move through all of the events in an organized fashion. Oh yeah, and to boot, the events were down right fun as well!

This year there were five different events and teams of wardens, spouses and youth participated in all of the same events. The organizers provided seating and water at each event location so spectators and family were able to follow along and cheer and laugh at the proceedings.

The events were as follows:

**Boundary Waters Adventure** – In this event the team had to portage several canoes and gear into a wilderness campsite setting, making sure to follow all of the rules for camping in the area. There was a Kodak moment (if you could find your camera). A messy campsite resulted in a visit from some marauding bears and your lean-to tent had better have been waterproof as there was rain in the forecast!

**Grumpier Old Men** – Team members worked at completing a variety of tasks in this relay race. From bobbing for apples with a spear, to catching and transferring minnows with your hands, to eventually building a portable fish house. All seems pretty easy, right? Did I mention you had to do all of this while carrying five-gallon pails of water that were full of holes and, the longer you took, the more water you were losing.....and you needed a lot of water to fill the tank at the end of the relay. No wonder we were grumpy by the time we finished!



**Paul Bunyan Morning** – "Hope you have a cook on your team" is the best advice I heard about this event. Team members started off zipped up in arctic-grade mummy bags (just a little hot) and, when the alarm clock rang, jumped right out of bed into a potato sack and hopped their way to the main event. One team

member had to prepare pancakes for the team, while the rest of the squad was left to take turns sawing multiple pieces from a large bolt of wood. If you didn't time all of the cooking and sawing just right and you were finished sawing before breakfast was ready, guess what, you were eating raw pancakes. Yummy!



**Long Line Trapping** – Ever try to remove a golf ball from a box-type trap without setting off the trap or losing a finger? We learned it can be done. After that, both trap and fur identification was key to winning this event.....but you could only identify the fur specimens by feel. I think that was a beaver?

**Minnesota Biathlon** – This was the last event for us. We all donned our lifejackets and our Manitoba teammate donned some homemade skis and we proceeded to power him through the biathlon course. The homemade skis didn't slide too well on the grass. First, though, we built a gun from PVC piping and our skier had to ration his marshmallows as he tried to hit the targets at the various stations on the course. By the end, we were all ready for a beer!

Following the competition the participants and spectators were all treated to a fabulous fish fry onsite. The meal was awesome and it hit the spot as there were just a few hungry souls after being put through the paces all afternoon.

I wish I could tell you who won the competition but it sure wasn't us! I believe the overall winning team was from Iowa and there were prizes for winning each event I believe. One thing I can say for sure is that everyone had a great time and the Minnesota officers and all of their volunteers did an outstanding job of entertaining us that Friday afternoon. Thank you, Minnesota!



## JUNIOR GAME WARDEN SKILLS DAY

By Lorraine Doyle

Minnesota outdid themselves with the Warden Skills Day! There were many helpers to keep things moving. The kids had a great day, too. Activities were available for the kids not old enough to be on a team. The teams of kids were divided into two age groups, under 14 and over 14. The younger kids weren't overwhelmed by the big kids. There were a few adjustments for the kids but they pretty much did the same things as the adults. The pancake eating in the Paul Bunyan morning was a welcome snack for some of the kids! It was impressive watching one of the boys from Pennsylvania getting most of the pelt identifications correct in the Long-Line Trapper. Boundary Waters took some organizational skills and focus to accomplish the tasks. But the Minnesota Biathlon required teamwork too. Carrying buckets of water with holes in the bottom, while completing tasks in Grumpier Old Men, took some juggling skill.

It is great to see the kids joining with the friends they have made over the years to compete in these games.

The winners for the under 14 kids were:

**Third Place** - Kelli and Erin Norris, Madison and A.J. Yates, Ryan Beavers and Olivia Fredin.

**Second Place** - Rylee, Robin and Rori Bowman, Kyle Hultquist, Sarah Clark, and Nicole Hislop.

**First Place** - Zachery Martin, Briana and Zane Guse, Colin Hislop, Kristine Heinen, and Lea Holt.

The winners for the over 14 kids were:

**Third Place** - Jonathan, Tyler, and Jordan Hammer, Brian Fredin and Joe Hanson.

**Second Place** - Lorena Stage, Katie Hultquist, Madison vinson, Kim Fischer, Seth Adams, and Drew Sidener.

**First Place** - Kelsea and Kira Farrell, Paul and Alan Sereno, Nick Kulak, and Richard Lee.



## Curious About Children's Activities

By Sherry Schoepp

When you have young children and you go on a holiday, there is always the question "what will we find to keep them amused?" Our family felt fortunate as St. Paul had two wonderful attractions within walking distance of the conference hotel.

We knew we were on the right path to the Minnesota Children's Museum as bunches of bananas pointed the way. As we entered the museum, we quickly realized that we had entered a world that was as creative and imaginative as any child's mind.

The first "find" was the fourth floor and the Curious George interactive display. Children could do anything from dressing up as different characters from H.A. Rey's Curious George books, to riding in a rocket or playing golf. While this room was hard to leave, we did manage to visit other areas and managed to be ants in an anthill, pet a snake, listen to stories, play rhythm instruments....well, the list is endless. We really did go bananas at the Children's Museum!

The second attraction within walking distance from the hotel was the Science Museum of Minnesota. Here we visited boats, dinosaurs, and even parts of the human body. What I found amazing was that we had an opportunity to examine many everyday things in a new way.

Thank you, St. Paul, for giving our child a "curious" holiday!

## 2006 NAWEOA GOLF TOURNAMENT

by Dave Webster

I had the pleasure of participating in the 2007 NAWEOA golf tournament and have been asked to provide a brief overview of the day's events.

Approximately 24 golfers met in the conference hotel lobby at 0730 hrs on Tuesday morning to be shuttled to the southern boundary of White Bear Lake to play Manitou Ridge Golf Course. Manitou Ridge is an 18-hole, 6,401-yard public course that was more than challenging enough for all those participating. We were put in teams of 2 for the best ball scramble format which set the tone for a fun-filled round with just a touch of friendly competitiveness. The weather was perfect, and other than the odd errant shot, I believe we all had a great day. After the score cards were collected, it was announced that in the end no one could catch the team of Dudley Sorensen from Nebraska and Jeff White from Maryland; the pair carried the day with a 2-stroke victory. Mike Bartlett from New Brunswick and myself finished second; we will get them next year, Mike.

After the last team finished, we were taken to a local restaurant for a buffet lunch and a cool beverage. Awards and prizes were handed out for low score, longest drive and closest to the pin.

Thank you to the organizers from Minnesota for another great event and I look forward to seeing everyone back on the course in Montana!

## From a KID'S Perspective.....

My sisters and I have been to five NAWEOA conferences: Nebraska, Newfoundland, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Minnesota. At each conference we collect pins and we have about 150 pins so far. We each have a vest that our mom made us. That's where we put our pins.

One of our favorite parts of the conference is the Junior Warden Skills Games. They are very fun and you get to compete against other kids' teams. There's also a kids' room that you get to do cool stuff in too. We get to have ice cream parties and fun games like Beanie Baby Bingo. We really like it and there's even separate groups for the older kids so we can have fun with kids in our own age group.

This year some of our favorite things at the kids' room were the pizza party, the fossil dig and the free swim. My sister Rori's favorite part of the kids' room was playing with the kids and making new friends. My other sister Robyn really likes that, too.

The friends we have made are from many different places like Pennsylvania, Indiana, Idaho and Ontario. We don't really keep in contact with our friends after the conferences, but we usually see them at the conference the next year.

I myself don't have a favorite conference, but Rori really liked this year in Minnesota and Robyn enjoyed the one in Newfoundland.

We really enjoy the skills games because every year they have new games. They are crazy but very fun to com-

pete in.

This year, one of our favorite games was called Grumpier Old Men. At the starting line you had to fill up a bucket with water. There was a hole in the bottom so you had to plug it with one of your fingers. You had to hold onto your

bucket at all times. That's what made it challenging. By the end we were all soaked. Each person had a different station to do like put on a snowsuit (boots and all), you had to stab apples with a spear, and you even had to take a fishing pole and fish for puzzle pieces and swing them to two other teammates who had to put the puzzle together. It was FUN!

After all the games were finished, we found out that our team, the Warriors, came in second place and we each got a HUGE silver medal!

I think other kids should come to the conferences because it's fun and you get to do cool stuff like whale watching and rock wall climbing, and this year we even got to go on a fossil dig with the other kids in the group. Another reason is because you have lots of fun playing with other kids!

We are already getting excited about going to Montana next year. After all the conferences we have been to, we can't wait to come back!!!

Rylee Bowman

*[Editor's note: Rylee is eight years old]*



Rori, Robyn, and Rylee (author of this article) Bowman

## From a RETIRED OFFICER'S Perspective

From the first NAWEOA Conference at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, my wife Carol and I knew that this was our kind of organization. We had Gid and Barb Hanggi as traveling companions that year and have driven to all the other conferences since. All the people we have met are of the same mentality, dedicated to the protection of wildlife and the environment.

The fact that NAWEOA is family oriented makes it a true grassroots outfit. Because of this, we have many friends throughout the states and Canadian provinces - some we travel to see. Who would travel to St. Johns, Newfoundland or Penticton, B.C., or the other provinces or states we have traveled just to go there?

A big bonus in our travels is the wildlife we have seen, historic sites visited, along with areas of floods on the Mississippi, historic roads like Rte. 66 and Lincoln Highway. Without the wish to attend NAWEOA Conferences, these experiences would never have happened.

The hosts of NAWEOA conferences have always provided good locations, planned activities and programs, have been helpful with extra activities such as the Retirees Wine & Cheese get-togethers. With the addition of more, we feel a little more attention should be given to Retiree activities. Perhaps a dinner one night for them in place of hospitality night or other activities the Retirees may come up with themselves.

Another suggestion we would like to make is a list of all attendees with phone numbers and addresses.

My wife Carol keeps a journal of each conference, the travels to and return home from. We enjoy the chance to relive (and bring back) the pleasant memories.

So, NAWEOA, keep up the good work and, as Bob Hope said, "Thanks for the memories!"

Charles and Carol Robishaw

## From a SPOUSE'S Perspective.....

### The NAWEOA Annual Conference

by Diane Nash

This is coming from the perspective of a spouse who's relatively new to the NAWEOA Conferences – as Minnesota was only my second (and my husband's third). The first we attended was in Quebec, and we made it part of our family vacation. We attended Minnesota 'solo' – the kids stayed home.

There are so many great things about the conference – spouses are welcome (and encouraged) to participate in many of the activities throughout the week, you get a chance to visit parts of North America you may not normally choose to visit, and you get the opportunity to meet and socialize with other people whose spouse is probably much like yours and who understands EXACTLY what life with a Conservation Officer can be like! What more could you ask?? The number of people who have formed long-term friendships just through attending the conference is amazing!

Children are also welcome at the conferences and have a great time! They are well looked after, they can participate in new and fun activities, and they get to make friends from all across North America.

The keynote speakers at the 2007 conference ad-

ressed both the officers and their spouses. They were both very entertaining, but also gave us all much to think about.

There is the golf tournament, the Torch Run/Walk in support of the Game Warden Museum (which turned out to be the only time we had heavy rain – not to mention thunder & lightning – during the whole week!), the emotional memorial for fallen officers (the part of the ceremony that everyone truly wishes will be omitted next year because no officers have been lost), the spouses luncheon, the Warden Skills Games (a great day whether you're participating or just cheering on your team), social evenings, silent auctions and bucket raffles, lots of great local food, unique area tours/activities – and there's always the opportunity for shopping. And, of course, you can always just tour around on your own or with some of the people you meet.

Although the two venues for the conferences that I've attended are quite different (not to mention that one was with the kids and one was without them!), I enjoyed both a great deal. I met many great people that I'm looking forward to seeing again next year, and I would highly recommend attending if you have the opportunity.

Our whole family can hardly wait for Montana in 2008! Hope to see you there!



**The traditional NAWEOA Tug-of-War at the 2007 Conference  
Team Canada (left) defeated Team USA (right)**

# **Renew YOUR Resource**

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## **Duluth Rail and Sail Tour**

**By Melinda Salisbury**

The many Game Wardens and their families who got a chance to go on the Duluth Rail and Sail Trip were not disappointed. We began with a short train trip through the town of Duluth, which is hundreds of years old. We saw some of the historic buildings that did not burn in the fires, and it was hard to imagine the 90 inches of snow that Duluth would get the following winter. With its old-fashioned downtown shopping and the waterfront business district, we enjoyed the view tremendously. Along the rails we could look out onto Lake Superior.

Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world. It's also the resting place for more than 350 shipwrecks, including the Edmund Fitzgerald. Scuba diving is popular here, and some of the shipwrecks could be seen this way.



We took a lunch cruise after the train ride. We were able to go under the Aerial Lift Bridge which was designed in 1905. This bridge takes about two minutes to rise and goes up 25-30 times

daily during the port's busy season. The Minnesota Game Wardens were our escort, and it was great to see them at work on the water. We experienced the open water and the harbor's sites. Duluth's harbor is the world's largest inland seaport with over 1,100 ships coming and going each year from all over the world. While in the harbor we saw a replica of Christopher Columbus' ship, the Nina, which was in port for the day. We also saw the Vlistborg that usually goes on to Spain or Morocco.



After all that we were allowed to spend some time on the pier.



Some of us shopped, while others spent time in the museum or just watching the ships pass. The weather was great and a good time was had by all. Thank you, Minnesota!

At 4:30 PM on Friday, May 25, 2007, the Good Lord called Chad Scanlon to be with him in Heaven. His last days were in and out of a coma but hopefully pretty much pain free.

Please convey the most serious of thanks from the Scanlon family to all the WCO's in NAWEOA. Chad was truly impressed and showed great excitement every time a card or other gifts were received from the various states and provinces. Many times when he wasn't too coherent and one of these arrived, it seemed he would smile and recover somewhat. This was truly a wonderful and thoughtful part on every one of NAWEOA's members who participated and sent Chad something.

Barb and I just got home from camp and learned of the sad news. Thanks again to all and I am even prouder to be a retired WCO when I see how important things such as this are handled by our officers. I hope they will all know just how important they were in Chad's last year or so of his life and I am sure God will reward them 10 times over for their efforts.

Thanks again from all of us and God Bless you all.





Don Madl



Director Kevin Schoepp teaching son, Matthew, the fine art of hand-fishing (for minnows during the skills day events)

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## *2008 Conference Registration*

|                                                      | BEFORE<br>May 16, 2008 | AFTER<br>May 16, 2008 |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| NAWEOA MEMBERS                                       | \$175                  | \$210                 |
| NON-MEMBERS                                          | \$200                  | \$235                 |
| STUDENTS in Nat. Resource<br>Law Enforcement Schools | \$130                  | \$160                 |
| RETIREES                                             | \$130                  | \$160                 |
| SPOUSES                                              | \$110                  | \$160                 |
| CHILDREN 5-17 YEARS                                  | \$40                   | \$50                  |

For more conference information and registration, visit the Montana website at:  
<http://www.montanagamewardens.org/conference.html>

# 2008 Conference Hotel Information

The 2008 NAWEOA Conference Hotel is the

**Best Western Heritage Inn** located at:

1700 Fox Farm Road,  
Great Falls, Montana 59404-3324

Phone: (406)761-1900  
Toll free: (800)548-8256



The Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls' largest and finest hotel and convention center, is conveniently located between the Great Falls International airport & downtown Great Falls. Located less than a mile from Interstate 15, the Heritage Inn offers convenient access to two major shopping centers.

The Best Western Heritage Inn features 233 guest rooms & suites, many which have been reapointed to include new Serta Mattress sleep system, granite vanities, free high speed wireless internet access, large work desk w/ergonomic chair, refrigerator, coffee maker, iron and full size ironing board, 27" television, complimentary HBO®, over 100 On Demand pay per view channels, complimentary local calls & airport shuttle. The property includes a wide array of additional amenities featuring the Willow Creek Steak House, Max Sports Bar & Casino which offers HDTV sports broadcasts, 20 gaming machines plus live poker and music. The indoor pool, sauna & fitness center are located in the "French Quarter", a beautiful lush atrium setting in the center of the property.

## **Hotel Information:**

**Number of Guest Rooms:** 233

**Number of floors:** 2

**Check-In:** 3:00pm

**Check-Out:** 11:00am

**Courtesy Vehicle:** 5:00am to 1:00am

**Hotel Ratings:** AAA-3Diamonds, Mobil-2 star

**Pet Policy:** Pets allowed, small pets

**Child Policy:** Children 17 and under are free in room with one paying adult in existing bedding

You can take a virtual tour of the Heritage Inn and learn more about the hotel amenities at:

**<http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do>**



## *"Back to the beginning"*

*July 13-20, 2008*

*Great Falls, MT* **Great Falls, MT**

# *2008 Conference Training Topics and Speakers*

- ▶ **Wildlife Human Attack Response Training — British Columbia DNRC Enforcement**
- ▶ **Energy Development In The West — T.O. Smith, MTFWP**
- ▶ **Montana Challenge, Changing Values In The West — Suzanne Lewis, USFS**
- ▶ **In Defense of Hunting — James Swan, author and lecturer**
- ▶ **Montana Bear DNA Research Project — Kate Kendall, Glacier National Park**
- ▶ **Cowboy Poetry — Wally McRae**
- ▶ **The Montana Meth Project — Tom Seibel**
- ▶ **Enough is Enough — MTFWP Enforcement Investigations**
- ▶ **Yellowstone National Park Wolf Re-introduction — Yellowstone NPS**
- ▶ **Montana's Unique Fisheries — MTFWP**
- ▶ **Horse and Mule Packing — Wardens Flowers and Brown**

## **TENTATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

- ▶ **Criminal Defense Tactics  
Revealed**  
— Wayne Wooten, US  
prosecutor
- ▶ **Time of Death in Carnivores,  
Enforcement Research Project**  
— Carleen Gonder
- ▶ **Wildgame Cooking Demo**  
— Albert Wutsch





## 2008 Conference Social Activities Schedule

### **Sunday July 13, 2008**

13:00-19:00 Registration  
07:00-20:00 Tours/social activities  
20:00-24:00 Hospitality

12:00-13:30 Lunch on your own  
13:30-17:30 Training  
13:30-17:30 Guest tours/social  
17:30-19:00 Dinner on your own  
19:00-20:00 Conference bids  
20:00-24:00 Hospitality

### **Monday July 14, 2008**

07:30-19:00 Registration  
07:00-20:00 Tours/social activities  
20:00-24:00 Hospitality

### **Friday July 18, 2008**

07:30-09:30 Retired Officers Breakfast  
07:30-19:00 Registration  
08:00-12:00 Youth activities  
08:00-13:30 Vendor displays/teardown  
08:30-12:00 Guest tours/social  
08:30-10:00 NAWEOA Business  
Candidate speeches  
10:00-11:30 Training  
11:30-13:00 Lunch on your own  
13:00-18:30 Warden skills  
13:00-18:30 Guest/youth skills  
18:30-20:00 Skills BBQ  
20:00-24:00 Hospitality

### **Tuesday July 15, 2008**

07:30-19:00 Registration  
07:00-20:00 Tours/social activities  
08:00-17:00 NAWEOA Board meeting  
11:00-16:00 Golf tournament  
20:00-24:00 Hospitality

### **Wednesday July 16, 2008**

Uniform Day  
07:30-19:00 Registration  
08:30-10:30 Opening ceremonies  
10:30-11:30 Group photo-demonstration  
12:00-13:30 Officers lunch/awards  
12:00-15:30 Guest lunch/entertainment  
12:00-13:00 Youth's lunch  
13:00-17:00 Youth activities  
13:30-18:00 Vendor displays  
14:00-15:00 Game Warden Museum  
15:00-17:00 Training  
17:30-18:00 Torch run/walk  
18:00-19:30 Torch run/walk dinner  
20:00-24:00 Hospitality

### **Saturday July 19, 2008**

06:45-07:45 NAWEOA Reps Breakfast  
07:30-09:30 Female Officers Breakfast  
07:30-19:00 Registration  
08:00-12:00 Youth activities  
08:30-12:00 Guest tours/social  
08:30-09:45 NAWEOA Business  
10:00-12:00 Training  
12:00-13:30 Lunch on your own  
13:30-16:30 Training  
13:30-16:30 Guest tours/social  
16:30-17:00 Closing ceremonies  
18:30-24:00 Banquet  
18:30-24:00 Youth pizza party

### **Thursday July 17, 2008**

07:30-19:00 Registration  
08:00-21:00 Youth activities  
08:00-18:00 Vendor displays  
08:30-12:00 Guest tours/social  
08:30-10:00 Training  
10:00-12:00 Officer exchange presentations

### **Sunday July 20, 2008**

07:30-19:00 Teardown  
08:00-17:00 NAWEOA Board meeting

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## Michigan Conservation Officer Offers Hunter Safety Class in Iraq

For some soldiers serving in Iraq, a part of Michigan's outdoor heritage is being taught to them as a way to relax when they return home from their tour of duty. A Michigan conservation officer stationed in Baghdad will offer a hunter safety class there this month to his fellow soldiers as a way to offer them a relaxing activity when they return home and help recruit new hunters into the sport.

Michigan Conservation Officer Luis M. Perez, a sergeant first class assigned to the 46th Military Police Company (MP CO) at Forward Operating Base in Baghdad, will teach the class to his fellow soldiers as a way to introduce them to Michigan's outdoor recreation opportunities.

"I thought, what better way to share the hunting heritage and expose a few of my fellow troops to an opportunity to enjoy Michigan's beautiful natural resources when they return home," said Perez. "Many of the young men and women who I work with here in Iraq have never experienced the relaxation of being in Michigan's outdoors. I see a lot of young soldiers with their MP3 players and wonder if they know what it's like to hike into a remote trout stream or sit in a wooded area waiting for a deer to walk by."

Perez currently leads a 15-member squad whose mission it is to provide police transition training to the Iraqi police. He routinely conducts joint patrols and support functions in Baghdad. He has served a total of 20 years with the Michigan Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves. This is Perez's third activation with the Michigan Army National Guard. The first time he was deployed with the 1775th MP CO from January 2003 to August 2004. He has served in Kuwait and Iraq, and during the Hurricane Katrina effort.

Perez's supervisor in Michigan, Detective Sgt. Wade Hamilton, facilitated the shipping of hunter safety materials to Perez in Iraq.

"Hunter education in Michigan has taught thousands of people safe hunting techniques, firearm handling and hunter ethics," Hamilton said.

Hunter education is required for all those born after Jan. 1, 1960, and who wish to purchase a Michigan hunting license or plan an out-of-state hunting trip.

Perez said he would love to see the look on people's faces when they visit the Department of Natural Resources Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and see that a hunter safety course is being offered in Iraq.

"I don't suppose I will have anyone just drop in to take the course," he said.

The DNR is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural resources for current and future generations.

## 2007 Officer Exchange Winners



Left to right: Steve Beltran of Illinois (US Winner), Earl Simmons Region 2 Director, Steve Garychuk of Manitoba (Canadian Alternate), Mike Bartlett of New Brunswick (Canadian Winner), Greg Salisbury of Kansas (US Alternate)



Jurisdictional Representatives and the Executive Board at breakfast on Friday morning



First Place Women's Skills Day team with Capt. Cathy Hamm



Richard Kingston staffing the NAWEOA booth

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NAWEOA President Doug Forsdick (L) presented a plaque to Game Warden Museum Past-President Del Tibke (C) and current Museum President Dave Grant.

The plaque was presented as a sign of recognition for all those who have served as Museum Directors in the past and those who currently serve.

It is because of their persistence and dedication that the Museum exists today.

All game wardens, no matter what their official title, owe Del, Dave, and the other board members a huge "Thank You" for their efforts. Because of them, North American game wardens are recognized at the International Peace Garden and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice are memorialized there.