



**NORTH AMERICAN  
WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION**

*"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"*



## **27th Annual NAWEOA Conference**

**July 13—20, 2008 ~~ Great Falls, Montana**



**Spring 2008**  
**49th Edition NAWEOA Newsletter**

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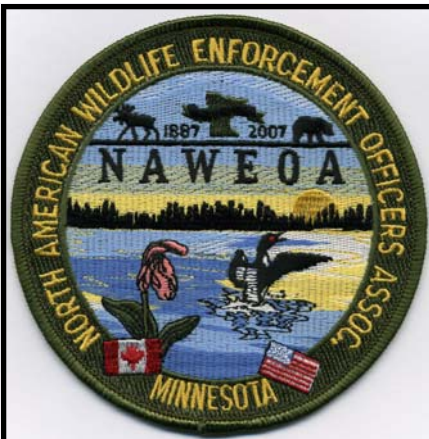
**Visit NAWEOA's website:**

**<http://www.naweo.org>**

**for loads of information**

**Contact your Jurisdictional Representative  
for passwords to the protected site**

- ~ Read/post interesting court cases
- ~ Link to the summer conference host sites
- ~ Link to other fish and wildlife websites
- ~ Browse Officer Memorials
- ~ Learn about NAWEOA memberships, Executive Board members, constitution and by-laws, awards
- ~ Buy NAWEOA merchandise
- ~ and much more!!



## SOUVENIR PATCHES AVAILABLE

← Only three hundred **2007 NAWEOA conference patches** were produced. The cost per patch (including shipping and handling) for all patches from 2001 through 2006 is \$7.00 US.

~~~~~ 1996 through 2000 patches are only available from the Game Warden Museum ( [www.gamewardenmuseum.org](http://www.gamewardenmuseum.org) ) ~~~~~

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAWEOA**

**Mail to:** WCO George A. Wilcox  
P.O. Box 480  
Millville, PA 17846

# IN MEMORY OF

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



**Florida Wildlife Officer Michelle A. Lawless**, 47, was killed in an ATV accident in the Holeyland/Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area on October 27, 2007, while on patrol for poachers. Her ATV struck a metal gate and overturned, trapping her underneath.

After she failed to respond to a routing radio check for her location, another officer went to locate her and found her pinned beneath the vehicle. She was flown to a hospital in Delray where she succumbed to her injuries.

Officer Lawless worked for nearly seven years as a challenge or from anyone she encountered in the park ranger at West Lake Park in Hollywood. She woods or on the water.



became a wildlife officer, graduating at the age of 43 from the FWC's law enforcement academy on Dec. 15, 2003. She then served with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for five years and was assigned to Broward County.

"She loved her work and the ability to protect the environment and the freedom of being outside all the time, and she gave it all she had", said her father, Thomas Lawless.

Although Lawless stood only 4 feet, 11 inches, she never backed down from

## President's Report by Marion Hoffman



me, if nothing else....OLD. Well, let me rephrase that...how about it makes me a staunch NAWEOA supporter with lots of experiences and memories to share!

I've seen this organization grow from its modest beginnings 27 years ago in Great Falls, Montana, to what it is today....an association of over 8,500 dedicated individuals, whose spirit and enthusiasm for the important job we do in protecting our natural resources, is just as strong as those of the founding fathers of NAWEOA. I reflect back and wonder: did those 15 guys have any idea what they were starting? My take is that they DID. I wanted to use my first column as President to personally thank NAWEOA's founders, Tom Bivins, Stan Peck, John Babcock, and Ed Comly of Montana; Jerry Baltazor, Lee Frost, and Kit Christensen of Idaho; Lew Ramstead, Syl Pompu, and John Fallows of Alberta; Dennis Almquist, Chuck Oakley, and Chuck Thornton of Wyoming; John Edwards of Saskatchewan; and Rick Hoar of British Columbia. A huge THANK YOU to these gentlemen for having the vision to create this Association and making it into a reality. Without you, NAWEOA would not exist. I can't tell you how thrilled I am and how much I am looking forward to attending this year's conference in Montana and going "back to the beginning" where it all began.

As I move forward in my term as President, I look forward to working with all of you in accomplishing NAWEOA's goals and objectives. NAWEOA will continue to strive to secure a greater professional recognition of our members and encourage and promote high standards of professionalism in wildlife and fisheries enforcement. Also, equally important, NAWEOA will continue to support and encourage each of our members. Whether it is through our annual training conferences, or our Fallen Officer Fund, or through our network of wildlife and fisheries enforcement officers throughout North America, NAWEOA will be there.

I would be remiss if I ended this column without acknowledging and saying "thank you" to the officers of Virginia and Maryland who recently co-hosted the NAWEOA winter Executive Board meeting. Thank you especially to Susan Alger and Bruce Lemmert of Virginia and Jeff White, Danny Fischer, and Dave Hohman from Maryland. Thanks for putting up with us, guys; we really appreciated your southern hospitality.

In closing, let me say that I am excited and honored to be your new President and I am looking forward to the challenges that come with the territory. Take care everyone and I hope to see you in Great Falls!!

Hello Everyone. Hope you've made it through the tough part of winter and are now looking forward to the first signs of spring. I know I won't be sorry to see winter leave these parts. As much as I love the changing of the seasons, I'm never sorry to see the cycle start over and the warm rays of the sun start to penetrate the earth once more.

My tenure as NAWEOA President is relatively new, having served approximately eight months since being elected at the Minnesota conference. However, that's not to say I'm new to the organization. I attended my first conference back in 1990 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and I've been to every one since. So, I guess that makes



## Vice President's Report by Kevin Schoepp



Susan Alger, Bruce Lemmert, Roger Pearce, Mary Clawson, Marilyn Tourtelotte, Beth Garrett, Isaac Boulanger, Jeff White, Danny Fischer, Dave Hohman and Special Agent Pat Fitch. **THANK YOU ALL!!**

These folks all had a big hand in helping make our 2008 Winter Executive Meeting a big success. We were welcomed by both the Virginia and Maryland officer associa-

tions with support from their agencies. Our winter meeting did feel like a winter meeting in Sterling, Virginia, just outside Washington, DC. Some of the wind that we experienced made me feel like I was back home in Saskatchewan! Most of you will recognize many of the names mentioned above. Several of these folks have paved the way for many of us on the NAWEOA Board and it is so true that our NAWEOA circle is really just a big extended family. It was an extremely busy week with many topics and issues covered. I would encourage anyone to take a look at the minutes on the private site. They will be posted shortly.

I'm honored to be able to work for the association with the Executive Board as Vice President. I never once thought that my participation with NAWEOA would lead me down this path. It is a real privilege and I really feel fortunate to be able to work alongside such a great group of people.

Just a reminder, that our **NAWEOA Awards program** is an important part of our association. It's important to take the time to nominate a fellow officer. We were able to recognize several officers in Virginia and I want to personally thank Susan Alger for pulling all of the nominations together. It's easy to nominate someone for an award. Just log on the NAWEOA website at [www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org) and click on the awards link on the left. Follow the directions to the on-line application. It really is painless and we appreciate your interest and participation in the program.

If you have any questions about the awards program or any matter at all concerning NAWEOA, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via email at [vpresident@naweo.org](mailto:vpresident@naweo.org) or by phone at (306) 787-9494. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you in Montana this summer.



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### TOP THREE PHOTOS

(Left to right)  
Isaac Boulanger (VA), Danny Fischer(MA), Jeff White(MA), Dave Hohman(MA), V-P Kevin Schoepp, Susan Alger(VA), Bruce Lemmert(VA)

### BOTTOM PHOTO

(Left to right)  
V-P Kevin Schoepp, Beth Garrett (VA), Mary Clawson (SD), Marilyn Tourtelotte(ME )

## Past President's Report by Doug Forsdick

# Call for Elections



I want to update you on a couple of initiatives that we are working on. Some time ago a suggestion was made to the NAWEOA Board of Directors that there may be a need for a group of NAWEOA members to act as a resource for the current board. A group that could provide historical information as and when required to assist the board in some of their decisions. A suggestion was made that perhaps a small group of past board members, or general members that have played a key role within NAWEOA be involved in an e-mail group that could be called on by NAWEOA to provide comment on new ideas that the board may struggle with or to

provide historical background on issues. If anyone is interested in becoming part of this group, please contact me by e-mail at [doug.forsdick@gov.bc.ca](mailto:doug.forsdick@gov.bc.ca).

As well, another duty of the Past President is to maintain and update policy and procedure manuals as well as any constitutional changes that are required. If anyone has any questions or suggestions in this area, please contact me for discussion.

This summer at the NAWEOA Conference in Montana, elections will be held for positions on the Executive Board. A number of positions are open for a two-year term. Please remember that Regional Directors can run for two terms. Positions that will be up for election this year are:

Region 1 Director (Western Canada)  
Region 2 Director (Central Canada)  
Region 3 Director (Eastern Canada)

A candidate for Regional Director must be a regular member in good standing in the Region that they are running for. For a complete list of duties associated with these positions, please contact me at [doug.forsdick@gov.bc.ca](mailto:doug.forsdick@gov.bc.ca).

I will accept nominations from now until

the nominations close during the conference. You can nominate persons at the conference or send nominations to me prior to the conference. Persons nominated need not be present in Montana, but candidate speeches will be held during a NAWEOA business session. If the candidate is not present, an alternate may deliver the speech. In addition, all nominations submitted for election must be seconded.

The election will be held during the Summer Conference with all regular members at the conference eligible to vote. The successful candidates will be announced at the banquet on Saturday night.

We will require a photograph of all nominees to post on a bulletin board at the conference. You can send me a digital photo or a regular photo by mail.

If you have any questions or want to submit a nomination, please contact me at (250)567-8929 or by e-mail at [doug.forsdick@gov.bc.ca](mailto:doug.forsdick@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you

Doug Forsdick  
Past President NAWEOA

## HELP WANTED!!

### One Canadian and one United States NAWEOA member

are needed to manage the NAWEOA Promotional Items (hats, shirts, pins, etc.) and NAWEOA booth. Bill Peters (US) and Richard Kingston (Canada) have been providing this service for the past several years and have decided that it's time for them to retire from this duty.

This is a shared position. These two persons are responsible for staffing the NAWEOA booth (with assistance from others who they may lure into service) at the summer conference, selling/ordering NAWEOA merchandise, handling elections ballots, and mailing merchandise which is sold on the NAWEOA website within their respective countries.

As with many volunteer positions, the pay is not great, but **conference registrations for both persons will be paid by NAWEOA in recognition of their service.**

Interested persons should contact President Marion Hoffman ([president@naweo.org](mailto:president@naweo.org)) or Vice President Kevin Schoepp ([vpresident@naweo.org](mailto:vpresident@naweo.org)) for further details.



# REGION 1 REPORT



**Region 1 Director Dave Webster**

*This is my first submission to the newsletter as Region 1 Director and I would just like to say what a pleasure and honour it has been to work with all the Jurisdictional Reps and the NAWEOA Executive over the past few months. I look forward to continuing to do so in the coming year.*

Alberta is now home to the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy which is located in Hinton. The first recruit class has graduated after completing four months at the academy and included officers from BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. It is believed that this academy is the best option for the Western provinces to ensure their recruits get the best field training prior to commencing full-time employment.

BC is still working its way through a restructuring of the Conservation Officer Service. Adjustments are being made for new reporting lines and geographic boundaries but, despite all the changes, the officers took on the fall hunting season with their usual dedication and passion for the job. New to the organization are nine officers successful from a recruiting effort that saw several seasonal officers make the jump to full time and some qualified folks join the service from other sections of government.

The BC Conservation Officer Society recently played host to an NHL Alumni team in a charity hockey game. Twenty officers from around the province joined the veteran pros on the ice in front of a packed arena in 100 Mile House BC. Even though the outcome was never in doubt, the COs gave a valiant effort in what turned out to be a highly entertaining contest with the pros coming out on top. The game not only raised a significant amount of money for local charities, it allowed officers to get together for a much needed break in the long winter and a chance to rub shoulders

with some exceptional hockey players and real gentlemen. The positive exposure that the service received from this event is not only being felt in the community but around the province, and other communities are already looking at hosting it next year.

Saskatchewan also welcomed some new officers into its ranks fresh from the Hinton training academy and is very proud of its newest officers and the dedication they showed throughout the four-month training program.

Officers working in the Northern Postings throughout the province got some good news as the Ministry is now legally able to cover the cost of utilities at least for the interim. The Public Service Commission is currently looking at options for all sectors of government that would aid in retention of staff across the province.

The high cost of living in remote northern locations has long been a financial pressure that often prevented officers from wanting to stay and work in the north.

This positive step should make a huge difference with the recruitment and retention of conservation officers within the province. The northern region is expected to receive a great deal of pressure from the development of oil and gas and conservation officers will be crucial in maintaining and protecting natural resources in this area.

Saskatchewan officers are currently exploring options that may allow them to retire after 25 years of service in the Natural Resource Law Enforcement Field. It appears that a change to the Federal Income Tax Regulations would be required for this to happen. They encourage all Canadian agencies to write their respective MPs and ask that fish and wildlife officers be included for this exemption.

All is well with officers in Yukon. Last summer, their management and union came to agreement on an overtime system for their officers and so far it seems to be working well.

The fall 2007 hunting season seemed even busier than usual, with many investigations being conducted around the Territory. Most cases are not yet through the court system, but there are some interesting ones, such as large-volume meat wastage files, illegal big game outfitting files, and others. We look forward to updates on those cases.

The Yukon hosted the 2007 Canadian Natural Resources Law Enforcement Chiefs Conference in Whitehorse in June. Many of the Yukon officers assisted with hospitality and special events. It was interesting for them to meet leaders from all over the country, and fun was had by all. Former Region 1 Director, Kevin Schoepp, was a guest speaker and put a good message forward for NAWEOA and all that we do and accomplish – thanks, Kevin!

One of the interesting parts of the job is working with officers from other jurisdictions, and the past year was no exception. The Yukon shares borders with Alaska, Northwest Territories and British Columbia and work on joint projects with those people fairly regularly. In addition, the Yukon has expanded its working relationships with the Federal agencies, especially the Canadian Wildlife Service and Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans. There is a lot of satisfaction in being part of this larger team.

This winter marks a milestone for Yukon — the retirement of CO Dan Drummond. Dan worked as a CO for the department for over 32 years and becomes the first CO in Yukon history to start and end his working life as a field CO. The Yukon is a small agency (14 field officers), and Dan has had a positive effect on all of them and many more over the years, and he will be missed. We wish him all the best in his “new life”!

The Canadian Wildlife Service had a busy year with some excellent convictions. On January 4, 2008 at Vancouver Provincial Court, Pacific Marine Union Corp. of Vancouver, BC, entered guilty pleas to two charges under WAPPRIITA for the unlawful import and export of Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*). Queen conch is a threatened species listed in Appendix II of CITES.

In January 2005, PMUC unlawfully exported two shipments of Queen Conch to Hialeah, Florida. Then, between 2005 and 2006, PMUC unlawfully imported five shipments of Queen Conch meat from Haiti which was subsequently repackaged and relabeled as “whelk meat” (a non-endangered species) and exported to Florida. Over 24,000 kilograms (54,000 pounds) of Queen Conch meat was unlawfully exported to the United States, where it was destined for the lucrative restaurant and consumer market.

After hearing submissions by Crown and defence counsel, the Hon. Judge D.I.

Smyth ordered the company to pay a **total fine of \$78,566.94** of which \$10,000 will be paid into the Environmental Damages Fund. (There was a general fine of \$5,000, the court ordered-payment of \$10,000, plus an additional fine of \$63,566.94 which was determined to be the monetary benefit accrued by the accused.) Although the defence counsel requested a significant time to pay - \$1,000 per month, which would have taken 6 1/2 years - the judge ordered that the \$5,000 fine be paid by July 31, 2008; the \$10,000 court-ordered payment to the EDF be paid by December 31, 2008; and the remainder of the fine by December 31, 2009.

This is the second conviction in Canadian courts as part of this international investigation. Charges have also been filed in US District Court in Miami, Florida, and investigations are still underway in Quebec and Ontario into other parties involved.

From the beginning of September to the end of October, WED officers in P&NR were busy with hunter compliance checks. These checks were conducted at jurisdictional airports and selected border crossings throughout the region. The blitzes were conducted in cooperation with partner agencies including the Canada Border Services Agency, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Saskatche-

wan Environment, and Manitoba Conservation. In September, a total of 461 MBCA inspections were conducted that resulted in 27 violations. In October, a total of 1,884 MBCA inspections were conducted with 58 violations.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans continues to enjoy renewal as their ranks are stabilized. They operate good equipment and moral is at an all-time high now; some may disagree, but that is the general sense in the organization at this time.

Spring re-certifications are just around the corner and they are going to try to introduce Simunitions into their training program, if not this year, next for sure. They have been given the green light to purchase the equipment and get instructors trained up. DFO had a pretty progressive program ten years ago with the likes of retiring Officer Elliot Teskey at the helm, moving things ahead. Training had slipped a bit for a while but we can now say that it is back on track.

DFO expects a lot of movement over the next several months as many officers are retiring and a few new positions are created. A troop is in training right now, approximately half at PRTC in Chillwack and the other half in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Six of these cadets will be posted to BC/Yukon.

DFO continues to strengthen its partnerships with other natural resource enforcement agencies and are working on several projects with the BC C.O. Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service. The recently released federal budget showed a strong support for DFO, which should enjoy prosperity for the next while. Any of you that have been involved in this business for a while know that the tide can turn and to enjoy it while it lasts.

The Officer Society is close to having its scholarship funds in place and that is wholly due to the legacy from NAWEOA 2005. The benefits of that conference will live on in the form of an annual scholarship. We look forward to meeting up with some of you at the next NAWEOA meeting and sharing stories.

Good news for our National Park Wardens as they could soon be cleared to go back to their regular enforcement duties. The recently announced federal budget includes \$12.2 million over the next two years for "enhanced law enforcement" in national parks such as Banff and Jasper. Federal Park wardens are still waiting for official word and, once we have more information, we will provide an update.

I hope everyone had a safe and productive winter and I look forward to seeing you all in Montana!

*I can never thank you enough for your contribution in Justin's memory. We all have God-given talents, and you have shared your's with me and my family. Justin touched so many people's lives, and it was never as evident to me as it is now. Thank you for being a part of our lives, and thank you for all your love, prayers and support.*

*May God bless you,  
Amanda Hurst  
wife of TX Game Warden Justin Hurst, ew 7/10/07*

# REGION 2 REPORT



**Region 2 Director Earl Simmons**

*Greetings from Region 2. I hope that all is well with all of you. This will be my last report as Region 2 Director as my term will conclude this summer at the NAWEOA Conference in Great Falls. I would like to thank the Board and J Reps, along with fellow officers across North America for your support and help over the past four years. I would like to encourage all officers to get involved with NAWEOA. Officers from Region 2 should consider running for Regional Director for NAWEOA. Everyone should consider going to the NAWEOA Conference in Great Falls, Montana. I want to wish you all the best in 2008 and safe patrolling.*

**Ray Thibadeau of DFO** reports that it has been a quiet year for DFO in Central and Arctic region (C&A). Staffing is an ongoing issue in DFO; we will be graduating another troop of cadets in May 2008. Currently Edmonton AB, Prince Albert SK, and Winnipeg MB are understaffed in the Prairies. Ontario has one vacant position in Parry Sound. Eastern Arctic and Western Arctic areas are fully staffed. We are hoping to fill many of the remaining vacancies using competition and deployments in 2008.

The new reporting structure and new Risk Management Framework that was implemented has reduced the file load per officer and is allowing more time spent on large case files. As anticipated, it has allowed officers to work on proactive compliance initiatives such as public speaking and education, school presentations, and patrols.

The Eastern and Western Arctic areas have requested assistance from the Prairies and Ontario throughout the summer of

2008. Officers will be assisting with monitoring patrols in remote communities.

**Geoff Smith, MNROA President and our NAWEOA Jrep**, advises that the Manitoba Natural Resource Officers' Association will be holding its 25<sup>th</sup> Convention in Gimli on March 28-30, 2008. The commemorate this milestone event, Manitoba Conservation and the officers' association are co-sponsoring lecturer Dr. James T. Reese to speak to our officers on the stresses of law enforcement and the effects on our families. The Manitoba Government Employees' Union is also giving us significant support as they are sponsoring our banquet night. We hope to have record attendance at our conference.

The association has been busy in several pursuits. To date, we still do not have a communications center. In a cooperative approach, the association is working with the Chief Natural Resource Officer group to research and hopefully implement such a call center. Another challenge we are currently undertaking is that some of our officers are having their 4x4 trucks replaced with 2x4s for annual savings of approximately \$400! As this is a work place health and safety issue, we hope to bring resolve to this in the near future. Also on the truck front are the taxable benefits and new departmental guidelines for officers to take their patrol trucks home. The association fears that this will have a detrimental effect on the province's TIP line and may take from our credibility with the public and other agencies. The day when a NRO doesn't respond to a dangerous bear or a park emergency call may be on the horizon.

The MNROA is currently researching a newsstand magazine publication. A great deal of leg work has been conducted and we hope to have a publisher secured by the end of the summer.

"Streamlining" is the buzz phrase this past fall. With Manitoba being one of the last generalist jurisdictions in the nation, the department is looking at taking away many of our duties to allow us to specialize in resource law enforcement. We have a commitment from the department to be involved should the government pursue this venture. Early estimates predict that we

will go from 120 fulltime officers to ~65 and we may no longer have our seasonal complement of officers. With change comes growing pains. Needless to say, the association is approaching this venture very cautiously.

**Bruce and Lydia Ward of Ontario** send greetings to all from Ontario where the snow came late (tons), then melted away and are returning in dribs and drabs.

The biggest news is that the fall reelection of our Provincial Liberal government was accompanied by a change of our agency Minister to Donna Cansfield from Toronto. The government also split the two portfolios of Natural Resources and Aboriginal Affairs previously held by the same Minister once First Nations objected that having the same person responsible for both was a conflict of interest, echoing similar comments repeatedly expressed by many other resource users including On-



Kids fishing trip to Horwood Lake sponsored by OCOA officers

tario's Conservation Officers.

Enforcement Branch also has a new Director, Lois Deacon, who advanced from within MNR's own former fish and wildlife program on the management side with a great familiarity and an excellent working relationship with our officers. Her skill sets, commitment and expertise are entirely welcomed and she is actively involved in reviewing and improving our program.

Our officers association recently hosted their first ever reception for Members of Provincial Parliament, sanctioned by our Minister and attended by our Director. This was a positive educational opportunity to benefit everyone. It was well received and should assist our efforts to bolster awareness and support for natural resources



issues (for more information see the Winter 2008 edition of the OCOA newsletter — [newsandviews@ocoa.ca](mailto:newsandviews@ocoa.ca)).

Re-establishing adequate funding for field enforcement programs was begun and enabled a better field presence than last year but continues to present serious challenges with fewer officers, more shared equipment (especially vehicles and computers), and limited overtime funding and concerns over the timing of actioning responses to our 24/7 tips line (1-877-TIPS-MNR).

Our present enforcement direction is that Metis Card holders may access fishing and hunting opportunities in such self-identified traditional use areas for personal use. Another concern is the interpretation of one First Nation's membership being able to access resources outside of their recognized treaty areas with the permission of the leadership of First Nations communities in the desired harvest locale. Increasing challenges to policing night hunting activities by First Nations members and decoy use policy modifications requiring advance permission from landowners when sets are to be made on private property are frustrating.

Despite impediments, officers are hopeful that movement in the positive direction has begun and will both continue and increase.

**Russell Brandon, our JRep for Nunavut**, reports that a young organization, the Nunavut Wildlife Service, and the Nunavut Wildlife Officers Association, has enjoyed a period of growth and improvement, especially in the areas of operations, officer safety, and training. We have also undergone significant staff changes and will soon be enjoying the benefits of two newly created positions.

The internal training program has really improved this year with the creation of the Enforcement Training and Development Review Committee implemented to provide strategic direction and identify priorities for the Conservation Officers while seeking out cost-effective ways to provide training to the officers.

Two new internal instructor trainers have recently earned their certification in subject control and defensive tactics. Officers Curtis Didham and Jeffrey Qaunaq are now prepared to provide a training program in this discipline to their fellow Nunavut officers. Officers Alden Williams and Russell Brandon will continue to develop and provide the firearms training program while Brandon will also offer First Aid to the Offi-

cers. In the future we expect to have internal instructors for Wilderness First Aid, ATV and Snowmobile Operation, and possibly small craft operations.

Officer safety and equipment remains a priority with the Nunavut Wildlife Officers Association. This year we have enjoyed success as the officers have recently received Immersion Suites to provide safety while patrolling in an extreme marine environment. We have also received commitment and funding to revamp our uniforms and outdoor work clothing.

The Association continues to assert pressure to have our officers issued sidearms for field operations. Recently the Risk Management people completed an investigation into the need for this tool as it relates to officer safety. The resulting report strongly supported the Association in their bid for this equipment and the members will continue to demand that we are provided with it. We look forward to further positive movement in this direction in the (hopefully) near future.

**Richard Labossiere of the CWS** in Winnipeg submitted this very interesting report. In late June, the Environment Canada, Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) in Vancouver was contacted by Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) regarding a container load of possible coral being imported from Indonesia. The CBSA officers in Vancouver stumbled upon the container during routine targeting. The 25-foot container was destined for a Winnipeg saltwater aquaria store but had yet to be cleared for importation. A box was taken out of the shipment by WED Vancouver officers and taken to the Vancouver aquarium for Identification purposes. It was indeed confirmed to be of the *Scleractinia* order.

The container was allowed to continue on by rail to Winnipeg so that the importer could complete required CBSA documents for import declaration. The WED Winnipeg officers opened up the container and discovered 395 boxes of live rock (stony Coral), a total of 10,000 kilograms or 22,000 lbs!! Each of the 395 boxes contained approximately 9 to 15 pieces of the "live rock" stony coral with many other stony coral pieces found attached to them. Stony Coral is listed as Appendix II under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). No CITES permits accompanied the shipment from Indonesia to Canada.

Once officers decided that the shipment was to be seized, they had a logistical nightmare on their hands. First a location needed to be sought out in order to house

the 22,000 pounds and a method to transport it there. The officers were allowed to store the substantial seizure at a cold-storage facility within the EC Warehouse in Winnipeg. A semi-truck was contracted to then transport the shipment there. Once at the EC warehouse, officers unloaded and marked each of the 395 boxes. The boxes were transferred onto pallets, which were then weighed using forklifts and industrial scales at the warehouse to establish the total weight. After the seizure was weighed, the next step was to prepare the coral for storage and evidence processing. A dozen containers were built out of the pallets and all 395 boxes of coral had to be individually photographed and transferred to the crates for storage. After working straight through the weekend, officers finally finished transferring the coral to the open mesh containers which would allow the pungent-smelling "live rock" to dry out.

In February of 2008, a total of 14 counts under the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Inter-provincial Trade Act (WAPPRITA) were laid against the importer for the illegal importations.

During the summer of 2003, the Prairie and Northern Region of Environment Canada obtained information about two big game outfitters who provide trophy hunts in Nunavut. The information had been provided by Nunavut Wildlife Officer Darin Conroy and outlined potential illegal activities by the two outfitters and numerous US hunters while hunting walrus in Nunavut. The information provided by Officer Conroy included details of possible illegal exports of walrus hunting trophies from Nunavut to the United States by a number of US hunters. Walrus are protected by CITES and also afforded protection in the United States under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

From 2003 – 2008, Environment Canada, Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) in Manitoba worked with WED officers from other regions, WED Headquarters and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service in order to further the investigation. The subsequent request to the USFWS to have documented walrus hunters interviewed resulted in over thirty (30) interviews of hunters by USFWS Special Agents. The interviews of hunters across all regions of the USFWS resulted in the seizure of 2 walrus skulls c/w tusks, 4 individual tusks, 1 walrus baculum, 1 individual walrus tooth and 1 illegally imported cheetah skin. The assessed fines resulting from the investigation (Operation Tooth Walker) totaled \$18,325.00 from the US violations committed by some of the hunters.

# REGION 3 REPORT



**Region 3 Director Rick Nash**

## **Hello from Region 3**

*I am very proud to represent Region 3 with NAWEOA. It has been a very rewarding experience. I would like to thank the JReps that make my job easier and say "Hello" to the friends I have made from across North America. New Brunswick has been busy planning and preparing to host the 2009 Conference. The NB Conference will be held in Moncton and I hope to see as many of you as possible there. If you have any questions about Region 3, NAWEOA, the Atlantic Provinces or Quebec, be sure to contact me.*

## **Greetings from Nova Scotia,**

It's been a great winter for the merchants selling ice cleats and studded boots. Lots of snow followed by rain and then major temperature drops.

On April 19, 2007, Natural Resources Minister David Morse announced that three Mi'kmaq became the Department of Natural Resources' first full-time aboriginal conservation, enforcement and liaison officers. The positions were established by NSDNR to further promote positive working relationships with the Mi'kmaq community in Nova Scotia. The three conservation officers, who were working as seasonal officers, are Benedict Toney, Whycocomagh.; Bernie Syliboy, Shubenacadie; and Gary Lowe, Milton.

A couple of notable retirements: Mike Lowe, who many of you might remember as the chairman of our NAWEOA Conference Committee in '94, hung up the, sometimes muddy, shiny black boots after a full and exemplary career as a law enforcement officer. Chuck Moore also retired this past year. Chuck was our assistant director, working with Directors Hughie MacIsaac and John Mombourquette for about

eleven years. Chuck's major contributions were in policy and officer development and advances in training. Chuck promoted professionalism in word and action.

Over the past year there have been some major developments regarding DNR seasonal conservation officers. Prior to January of this year, seasonal COs were classified as casual staff. Efforts to include these officers as union members were successful, thanks, in no small part, to CO Jack Fortune.

For the interest of all, but particularly for our more recent additions, Casey Pendergast and Hughie MacIsaac, both past directors, spoke at our annual CEOANS conference held at Dartmouth on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> hosted by Central (Jack and company). They spoke about the history and development of resources law enforcement in Nova Scotia during their employment days going back to the 1960's. The presentations had an air of humility, but for those of us who were there since at least the seventies, we know what great efforts and strides they made to develop and support our law enforcement program.

## **Canadian Wildlife Service Maritimes**

Federal Wildlife Officers Ken Tucker, Ray Broccoli, Paul Langdon and Les Sampson have been awarded the Canadian Governor General's medal for exemplary Service. The decorations were presented at a ceremony in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, on September 25, 2007.

Environment Canada, the New Brunswick DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted a joint operation inspection blitz along the Maine New Brunswick border in October 2007. U.S. hunters checked were found returning with moose, waterfowl and sport fish.

All WED Officers in Atlantic region have received from the Newfoundland and Labrador Minister of the Environment and Conservation, provincial appointments as Wildlife Officers under subsection (1) of Section 8 of the Wildlife Act. Much appreciation is due to Hubert Smith for his efforts in moving this initiative forward.

An important case involving the NS Regional Lab occurred this past October. On October 2, 2007, Mr. Scott Douglas Conrad entered a guilty plea in Nova Scotia Provincial court to the offence of possession of shot other than "non-toxic" shot under Sec-

tions 5(3) and 15.1(1)(a) of the Migratory Birds Regulations. Mr. Conrad had been scheduled to go to trial on October 2 but changed his plea to guilty largely based upon a Certificate of Analysis produced by the Atlantic Environmental Laboratory. The NS Conservation Officer who initiated the file had seized evidence (shot) from Mr. Conrad and WED was able to have the Environment Canada lab undertake the forensic analysis. This was an important "first" for the lab involving a 'lead shot' case. This was a win-win in that WED was able to assist Nova Scotia in an MBCA file, the lab developed new capability, and a successful prosecution resulted.

WED-Atlantic has a reciprocal agreement (MOU) with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to act as 'first responders' to possible violations. Under the MOU each agency's officers may seize evidence, take information, record observations and, if appropriate, take statements. The brief is passed over to the agency with the legal mandate for prosecution. This agreement has worked well with between one and three files being "transferred" each year. To ensure consistent partner delivery and due diligence, WED Officers in Newfoundland and Labrador are developing a half-day presentation to be given to DFO Fisheries Officers during their annual requalification and training period. The half-day sessions are being tailored to fit the circumstances most commonly encountered on the near shore coastal waters of Newfoundland and Labrador.

As a result of collaborative efforts between WED, NB and the Province of Quebec, WEOs Craig Smith and Steve Smith were invited to participate in a joint enforcement patrol over the Victoria Day weekend on the Restigouche and Patapedia rivers. The Restigouche river, in northern NB, flows in a northeasterly direction to the Baie des Chaleurs and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Its principle tributaries are the Kedgwick, Gounamitz, Patapedia and Upsalquitch Rivers. Part of the Restigouche forms the boundary between Quebec and New Brunswick.

In December 2007, WED Officer Les Sampson gave training to 15 Canada Border Services Agency Officers at the Robert L. Stanfield International Airport in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The presentation included information on CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species), WAPPRIITA (Wild Animal and Plant Protection Regulating International and Inter-

Provincial Trade Act) and actual hands-on training with endangered species seizures, many of which were detained initially by CBSA Officers in Halifax in the past.

In July, the New Brunswick section of the Maritimes-Wildlife Enforcement division assisted Environmental Protection, Fisheries and Oceans and Transport Canada with inspections of aquaculture sites. The sites were checked to ensure compliance with their leases, that they did not obstruct navigable waterways, licensing requirements, methods used to deter seabirds from roosting, and discharge of pollutants.

Two Florida residents were fined \$20,000 each in a Halifax, Nova Scotia, courtroom last week for smuggling queen conch meat, an internationally protected and endangered shellfish. Product was seized in Montreal, Halifax and Buffalo, N.Y., with the largest amount being seized in Halifax (17,672 kilograms). They had been arrested by US authorities after an 18-month-long investigation by federal wildlife officers in Canada and the United States. The smugglers illegally imported 119,978 kilograms (nearly seven fully loaded semitrailers) of queen conch meat from several Caribbean and South American countries between 2004 to 2006. It was to be labeled as Canadian produce and resold in the United States. In addition to the fines, a US \$20,000 contribution to the Environmental Damages Fund was also ordered. WED-Atlantic Officer Les Sampson was the lead investigator in the Atlantic Canada portion of the case that also involved corresponding investigations in Quebec, Ontario and BC.

#### **Newfoundland and Labrador**

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has dedicated major dollars to improvement of the DNR vehicle fleet including trucks, ATVs and snowmobiles, badly needed for a continued successful enforcement program. Job vacancies are being filled at a rate not seen in twenty years. With hopes of greater monetary rewards for officers spearheaded by the NL Conservation Officers Association, the future looks bright in our great province.

Forty-six Conservation Officers from all

over Newfoundland and Labrador, along with four of our colleagues with the federal enforcement section of Environment Canada, were involved in the conclusion of a year-long undercover file that saw eight simultaneous search warrants executed. The undercover file named "Project Market" targeted the illegal commercialization of moose and caribou in the eastern portion of the province.

Central and Western Newfoundland report another busy hunting and harvesting season that kept our Conservation Officers on their toes. The usual interaction between wildlife and occupants of residential areas continue to challenge our Officers' skills and ingenuity on maintaining a healthy co-existence.

In Labrador (The Big Land) Conservation Officers have been busy since November monitoring the George River Caribou Herd (largest caribou herd in the world @ 700,000 animals). One of the main concerns is keeping hunters out of the closed zone which inhabits the endangered Red Wine Caribou (<100 animals), as well as other local herds, south of Happy Valley Goose Bay. Snowmobile patrols are being made on the interior as well. Considering the fact that patrol cabins are in excess of 100 kms to reach, a typical patrol averages between 200-300 kilometers and sometimes in temperatures dipping into the minus 40- and 50- degree Celsius marks.

#### **Greetings from New Brunswick-Shawn Farrell**

Congratulations to Greg Wallace for being named New Brunswick's Shikar-Safari Wildlife Officer of 2007. Natural Resources Minister Donald Arseneault stated that "Greg is highly respected as a leader within DNR. His exceptional work ethic and his loyalty and professionalism make him a superb role model for other conservation officers at DNR."

Just over a year ago our department implemented "specialization". Our group of Rangers/Wardens was split into a Conservation section and a Resource section. The separation has experienced growing pains during the transition, but everyone is working together to resolve issues. The

department now has 99 dedicated Conservation Officers.

During the summer of 2007, our officers were introduced to and issued a new side-arm. The Department retired the .38 revolver after 20+ years of reliable service and the officers welcomed the Sig Sauer P226R .40 cal pistol.

The Department has taken a step forward regarding a new ticketing process and the officers are anxiously waiting for the implementation date of June 1, 2008.

April 2007 also brought the implementation of a vehicle commuting charge. The first year is intended to be a break-in period with Officers who choose to take home a DNR vehicle only paying half the commuting charge with the full fee to be implemented in April 2008. Prior to this, Officers could take their vehicles home between shifts and in return would be available 24-7 for after-hour calls. With the new commuting charge, many Officers decided to park their departmental vehicles and use their personal vehicles to travel to and from work.

Due to the creation of a newly formed "Off-Road Vehicle Enforcement Unit" with the Department of Public Safety and their rate of pay, a committee was formed to review our PDQs. Once this review is completed, the New Brunswick Union will do a presentation to government officials. We are anxiously awaiting the results of this committee.

On another note, the planning committee for NAWEOA 2009 is very busy preparing for this conference. The city of Moncton has been the chosen destination site of the conference and the host hotel is the Delta Beausejour located in the downtown area. Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia are part of the planning committee and have agreed to host a hospitality night.

As I finish typing this, the snow is flying but spring is near. I look forward to Montana. See you there. Take care and stay safe.

**Do you know of a NAWEOA member who should receive this newsletter, but doesn't?**

**Jurisdictional Representatives must submit changes in names and mailing addresses to the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the mailing of each edition of the newsletter in order for members to receive their copies.**

**You must advise the Jreps of address changes.**

**DEADLINES FOR UPDATED ROSTERS are:  
APRIL 1ST & OCTOBER 1ST**



# REGION 4 REPORT



**Region 4 Director Steve Tomac**

*Hello from the Western States. As I am writing this we are in the full grasp of winter. Last year many states reported severe drought conditions and mild temperatures. I am happy to report that so far this winter precipitation levels are up and things are looking good in most areas (not all) for a better water year for wildlife. Many states are also reporting an increase in retirements and the difficulty in finding qualified replacements. This trend seems to be common not only in the West, but all over North America. California, Oregon, Alaska, Utah, and National Park Service report no major issues this winter, with business as usual. Some are working on union issues and changing of agency leadership. Many are planning on sending officers to the conference. We are excited about having the conference back in our region this summer (Montana) and look forward to seeing many of you there. Please plan on coming to enjoy some western hospitality!*

**Rick Langley, Arizona,** reports Larry Voyles was named as the new Director; he has been with the Department for nearly 35 years. There is a sense of excitement among the ranks for what changes he might bring to the table. The Department is facing many challenges related to employee recruitment and retention. Recently several tenured officers signed on with the Arizona Department of Public Safety (our highway patrol), citing several reasons for leaving, including salary, job satisfaction, and more stable work schedules. Despite the fact that we may see some better pay in the near future, there are still approximately 16 "badges" due to retire by June 2008. Even though these retirements are not all field officers, their loss will be deeply felt. In the past two rounds of hiring for Wildlife manager positions, the Department

tried to hire as many as eight new officers, but was only able to find and hire three qualified applicants. Looking down the pipe, most officers are seeing increasing workloads to cover vacant districts, on top of their already full schedules.

Arizona's recently enhanced civil penalties for repeat offenders and illegally taken "trophy" wildlife has resulted in several offenders getting lifetime revocation of license privileges and some very substantial civil assessments. One fellow that refuses to pay his \$16,000 assessment may soon be looking at a lien on his house until the assessment is paid.

Be safe and take a kid hunting or fishing or mentor a student and help them to realize that this is the best job in the world. See you in Montana!

**Randy Hancock, Colorado,** reports Tom Remington, formerly of the Research Section and then Terrestrial Section of the Colorado Division of Wildlife just became that Division's new Director. He replaces Bruce McCloskey whose career spanned over thirty years taking him from field officer up through the ranks to Director.

Several major cases were completed this past year in Colorado. What started as a disgruntled Arkansas hunter complaining about one of his hunting partners turned into a major case for Trinidad officer Bob Holder. The RP stated his Louisiana partner did not have a license to hunt where he killed a large six-point bull. Officer Holder remembered the illegal hunter because he has also been involved in killing a marauding bear that had actually tried to eat the elk that was in the back of his pickup truck. The bear was seized but the shooter not charged due to the circumstances surrounding the killing of the bear. After receiving the tip, Holder and his partner, Jeremy Gallegos, found the elk kill site and took DNA samples. They obtained DNA samples from the claws and fur of the bear, and when the lab confirmed a match, four members of the hunting party paid over \$16,000 in fines.

After covert officers went on two hunts and discovered numerous violations, eighteen defendants were ultimately charged with various charges from illegal hunts conducted by illegal outfitter Greg Jaegers of Missouri. Jaegers pled guilty to two felonies and three misdemeanors. He paid \$12,847 in fines, forfeited illegally taken wildlife, and received a lifetime suspension of hunting and fishing privileges. An asso-

ciate, Larry Derousse, pled guilty to seven illegal deer in Illinois and Missouri and pled guilty to willful destruction of a Colorado deer and paid \$7,500 in fines to Colorado and was suspended for 30 years. One of Jaegers' guides, Keith Schweiss, pled guilty to willful destruction of a mountain lion and two counts of waste of wildlife. He paid over \$6,000 and forfeited his rifle. The other defendants paid over \$28,000 in fines.

**Jim Conner, Montana,** reports: We are gearing up for a Montana welcome to one and all. Get ready for a great time in Great Falls from July 16 to the 19. Back to the Beginning.

On the home front, we are still dealing with retirements and hirings. We have 8 openings at this time, so get in line! The legislature allowed us to make 2 new field warden positions using State Lands funds. They will be stationed in the western part of the state. Two new investigators were also approved. Tom Flowers and Lenny Buhmann were chosen from a number of excellent candidates. The investigator positions have grown from 2 in 2005 to 6 currently. Our covert unit has worked a number of groups and individuals that resulted in a number of good cases. Joe Austin of Maryland was caught illegally outfitting, wasting birds, hunting without a license and numerous other charges. He paid \$10,000 in fines and restitution and lost his privileges to hunt for 5 years. Warden Mike Lee called him a "common thief" that was stealing business and resources from the sportsmen of Montana. Jon Hughes of Roundup, MT, was convicted in Federal Court of five Lacey Act violations due to some good work between FWS agents, Montana wardens and South Dakota wardens. Hughes was illegally purchasing bobcat furs and transporting them between South Dakota and Montana. The investigation included some high-end clothing businesses in California. Hughes received 4 years probation, over \$5,000 in fines and restitution. He has appealed his conviction in federal court. Warden Bryan Golie has been working a huge illegal fishing outfitter case. John Keeble from Redlodge lost his outfitting license in 2004, yet he continued to take clients fishing on a number of rivers. The initial number of illegal clients and float trips added up to over 200, but the charges were reduced to 38. The case is currently in court. One of the state's most notorious serial poachers is done in court and in the field. Philip Payton was sentenced in Missoula District Court on 30 charges of Fish and Game violations, some felonies, in-

cluding killing 3 bull moose in 2004. Again, our field officers, investigators and covert unit teamed up to catch a serial poacher and illegal outfitter that used the excuse he was "addicted" to hunting and is now undergoing counseling for the problem. Our men found evidence of 86 animals that Payton killed over the years from his statements, videos and photos of his hunts. Unfortunately, the statute of imitations had expired on many of them. Nine other folks were also convicted or have warrants of arrest in the case with over \$23,000 in fines and restitution. Payton has to pay \$52,744 in fines and restitution, 20 years probation, 1,000 hours of community service and loss of hunting, trapping and fishing privileges for LIFE. In addition, he cannot accompany anyone in the field. All he can do is trap a mouse in his house!!

**Nevada.** We have several officers retiring this year and continue having trouble filling vacancies. Two part-time boating safety positions have been approved, with one being filled to date. The Southern Region still has vacancies with the busy boating season fast approaching. All wardens are set to get a 4% cost-of-living raise this year. Shed antler hunting on winter range is being looked at for potential problems, impacts and possible regulations. Warden Fred Esparza cited an individual near Elko who was chasing deer using an ATV, trying to get them to shed their antlers. The operator was cited for harassment of wildlife.

Trapping violations seem to be on the rise with fur prices. Baited sets and visitation are the most common violations. The drought conditions last year brought an unprecedented number of calls for "nuisance" wildlife. Animals were moving into the urban areas for food and water. Calls for assistance were up in all three regions with the Western region receiving over 1,200 calls with only 10 wardens and two biologists to cover them.

**Leon Redman, New Mexico,** reports the NMCOA would still like to host the 2012 summer conference, but due to some problems with our director we will have to wait

until they are resolved before we are able to commit to presenting a formal bid.

The NMCOA is working with the Department in issuing rifles to all officers. The rifle that most officers want is more in line with a tactical rifle and the department wants to buy a rifle that has a duel function, which can also help us in the depredation problems that we face here in New Mexico. Currently the department is testing a Ruger min-30.

The Department has hired eight new recruits this year which will get us close to having all our districts full. Also, the Department is working on better radio communications. For years the officers have complained about large dead spots across New Mexico. State radio communication is working on changing over from low-band to high-band radios.

**Jeff Lee, Washington,** reports on a special investigation, "Operation Flash" a very successful investigation that will be printed in the International Digest of the IGW magazine. Mike Jewell has been named as the Washington Fish and Wildlife Officer of the Year. Mike is stationed in Moses Lake. He is actively involved in the Columbia Basin community with many contacts both in landowners and sportsmen. Mike works hard to foster participation in the area kids fishing derby. He has been very active in pursuing charges in recent large-scale copper and metal thefts by methamphetamine users as well as all natural resource crimes in the area. Mike is an EVOC instructor and has been active in developing EVOC training for the Agency for both ORVs and standard-issue trucks.

**Joe Gilbert, Wyoming,** reports that retirements have slowed to a crawl in Wyoming. Raises received in the summer of 2007 postponed several retirements, with some officers choosing to work another three years to boost their retirement income. All employees received at least a 3 1/2% increase and those employees with at least two years service that were not at the competitive market average after the base

increase received an additional raise to bring them up to the market average. Some supervisory personnel and administrators received substantial increases to reach the market average. There is now a definite economic incentive to promote, relocate and assume additional responsibility.

A new administrative region was recently created within the Wildlife Division. The existing Jackson/Pinedale Region was divided into two separate regions and a new supervisor was hired. Long time Game Warden Tim Fuchs was selected from a qualified field of eleven applicants. Tim's prior service included postings in Lusk, Thermopolis, and, most recently, South Jackson. The opening in Jackson provides an opportunity for a lateral transfer into a desirable district and the ripple effect of subsequent transfers will be felt for several months.

Energy development continues to impact Wyoming statewide. Gas development in NE and SW Wyoming in particular have had pronounced impacts on the landscape and wildlife populations. A handful of biologist positions have been created to comment on the impacts of development on habitat and work with the land management agencies, but no additional field level law enforcement positions have been created. Game Wardens in impacted areas are responding to the increased requests for services as best they can, but additional personnel are needed to address the increase in human population and the actions of transient workers. The fifty Game Wardens and 27 other field enforcement officers around the state are spread fairly thin and strained with the workload.

Poaching for wildlife parts continues to be an issue statewide. Hundreds of animals are discovered each year with only the head, hide, claws, talons or antlers or horns removed. Penalties for many violations were increased in 2007 by the Wyoming legislature in an attempt to address some of this rampant waste of the resource and address outdated fines.

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| N<br>A<br>W<br>E<br>O<br>A | A<br>w<br>a<br>r<br>d<br>s | <p><b>NAWEOA OFFICER OF THE YEAR — NAWEOA TORCH AWARD — OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD — CERTIFICATE OF RETIREMENT ** — AWARD OF VALOUR — LIFESAVING AWARD — CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION — HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP</b> These prestigious awards are awarded by NAWEOA to deserving officers who have been nominated by their peers or agency administrators. Criteria and nomination details may be found on the NAWEOA website. <b>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.</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Award nominations should be made online and electronically submitted at: <a href="http://www.naweo.org">http://www.naweo.org</a></b></p> <p><b>*** Certificates of Retirement should be requested through the appropriate Jurisdictional Representative***</b></p> |
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# REGION 5 REPORT



**Region 5 Director Mark Webb**

*I want to thank all of the JReps from Region 5 for their assistance and support that they have provided to me since I have taken over the tremendous responsibility of representing Region 5 on the Board of Directors for NAWEOA. I look forward to the next few years and appreciate the support that the NAWEOA members have shown in me by voting me into this position. I will strive to earn and maintain your respect.*

## Oklahoma

As income for wildlife agencies always seems to be in short supply, Oklahoma is doing its best to "up" its revenue stream. In the last report, I reported that our agency was investigating a new "caviar-for-sale program". We formulated a plan and created a new program that will be headed up by a former game warden. The program will promote paddlefishermen in the state to bring their fish to our fish-cleaning stations for processing. The fish are butchered for free and, in exchange, the agency keeps and sells the roe to a legal market. The roe is not legal (for fishermen) to sell anyway and hopes to be a money-maker using a valued resource that was previously wasted. Another significant development is the creation of the Administration Fine known by wardens as the "ADF". This new fee was recently approved by the state legislature and allows wardens to "sell" the \$100 ADF to a captured violator in lieu of a citation issued for regulation violations. Typically the reg-violations would cost \$200 to \$300 in fines and court costs of which only about \$10 went to our agency. This ADF fee goes entirely to the agency and no citation is ever filed at court. It's a win-win for the agency and violator! Due to budget issues, vehicle replacements were as high as the 150,000 mile range and now are down around 100,000. Lastly, some are finally realizing that when we raised war-

den's educational requirements to a 4-year degree (some years ago), compensatory pay would need to follow. State troopers require a 2-year degree and usually earn at least 20% more pay. Consequently, the applicant field has all but dried up and the scant group that does apply is often blotted with problems. Hopefully, discussions on competitive pay will continue to gain traction.

## Illinois

Illinois Conservation Police hosted IAM's (International Assoc. of Marine Investigators) regional training seminar in May of 2007. It was at Wildlife Prairie State Park and included a practical at Performance Boats in East Peoria, IL. It included instructors from across the US and its students included Illinois Conservation Police, Iowa Conservation Officers, marine surveyors and insurance investigators. More information about IAM and their regional and national training conferences can be found at [iammarine.org](http://iammarine.org).

Illinois Conservation Police sometimes find fish and wildlife enforcement have additional responsibilities when alcohol is involved. Several accounts of alcohol-related violation occur every year. Three District 1 Officers working a detail with a deer decoy, donated by a local sportsman's club, observed a subject "shining" the decoy from the road while operating a motor vehicle. A traffic stop was initiated for the offense. While investigating the Wildlife Code violation, the officer detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the driver. He also observed open beer in the vehicle. In addition to the Wildlife Code violations, the officers arrested the driver for DUI and both the driver and passenger for unlawful transportation of open alcohol in a motor vehicle. A second alcohol-related waterway case was documented. After an extensive Death Investigation by District 6 Officers, arrest warrants were obtained for the owner of the canoe rental, who had an employee destroy evidence after the drowning of a subject who rented a canoe from his rental prior to the officers' arrival at the scene. The canoe rental owner was arrested for Obstruction of Justice, a Class 4 Felony. Also, the subject that purchased the alcohol for the group of underage drinkers canoeing on the Fox River in LaSalle County was arrested for five counts of Unlawful Delivery of Alcohol to a Minor in Will County. This has been a high-profile incident, which required a water response, water rescue attempt/recovery, securing video surveillance tapes and a number of interviews in several counties to

finally put the case together in two counties. Finally, while working a shining detail in LaSalle County, two District 6 Officers investigating a suspiciously parked vehicle in the area, indicative of possible Wildlife Code violations, discovered that they were in unlawful possession of alcohol by minors, cannabis and drug paraphernalia. No Wildlife Code violations were found.

## Wisconsin

In addition to field station patrols resulting in numerous enforcement cases related to illegal baiting of deer and turkey, night hunting, over limit of fish and game and illegal commercialization of the resource, Wisconsin Conservation Wardens are working on several statewide initiatives for 2007-2008.

**Ready to Respond** – Thorough training and equipment ensure a readiness to respond and assist with emergencies, natural disasters and acts of terrorism. Statewide standardization of mobile and portable radios, updated laptop computers, issuing of Springfield .308 Rifles, utilization of statewide mobile data computer systems, wireless "air card" Internet connections, development of Regional Response Teams, purchase and set-up of a mobile Field Operation Support Unit, and statewide Incident Command System training.

**No Child Left Inside** – Conservation Wardens are involved with establishing, sponsoring or assisting with programs that get youth involved in outdoor and natural resource activities. Kid fishing events and "Learn to Hunt" programs are popular and provide that initial outdoor experience for children who wouldn't normally be exposed to fishing or hunting activities. Hunts include bear, deer, turkey, waterfowl and pheasant.

With Department of Natural Resources support, the Wisconsin Legislature is working on "New Mentor Hunting" legislation, which would create a mentoring opportunity, allowing any person with a hunting license age 10 or older to experience hunting under very controlled conditions without first attending a hunter education course. Present regulation requires hunters to be 12 years or older and hunter education certified prior to purchasing a hunting license and participating in hunting.

**Harmony in the Woods Initiative** – Conservation Wardens are working with leaders from the Hmong Community and Conservation Organizations to open and improve communication and understanding of cultural differences. The common thread between cultures is an interest and respect for outdoor heritage-traditions and the natu-



ral resources.

**Invasive Species and Disease Control** – Education and enforcement of regulations preventing the spread of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species and disease. This includes the hiring of additional limited-term deputy wardens to work Wisconsin waterways and boat landings encouraging people to take personal responsibility for stopping the spread of present and future invasive species and disease.

**Wildlife Violator Compact** – Hired a State Coordinator to set up, implement and manage Wisconsin's membership in the Wildlife Violator Compact.

### South Dakota

South Dakota's Conservation Officers were busy last fall working pheasant season. Over 100,000 nonresidents and almost that many residents took to the fields for the best pheasant hunting seasons in almost 40 years! South Dakota's high pheasant population can be attributed mostly to the Conservation Reserve Program and the mild winters we have enjoyed the past several years.

The high pheasant population that we are currently enjoying may not last too much longer unless Congress passes a new Farm Bill that includes higher CRP payments. In 2007, South Dakota had approximately 1.5 million acres of CRP. About 300,000 acres of CRP was taken out the fall of 2007 with another 300,000 acres set to expire in the next couple of years. Not a good outlook for wildlife managers or sportsmen!

As of this writing, South Dakota's Legislature is in session and it is past time to submit any new bills. Thankfully, there are few bills that Game, Fish and Parks are fighting this session. This is the first year in many where an "Open Fields" bill to try and keep Conservation Officers off landowners' property has not been introduced. That probably is because all of South Dakota's Conservation Officers have been visiting with and getting to know more landowners than previous years. Landowner relations is now very high on a Conservation Officer's priority list.

### Indiana

In the spring of 2007, Indiana Conservation Officers, the Investigations Section, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service arrested several suspects on felony warrants involving the illegal sale of wildlife. Some charges also included money laundering and corrupt business influence. The arrests were a result of a long-term covert operation targeting the illegal paddlefish caviar trade along the Ohio River.

Also in the spring of '07, 48 charges related to the illegal taking of several white-tail deer during the 2006 season were filed

on 3 men from Southern Indiana. Misdemeanor charges ranged from Illegal Taking and Possession of Deer, Illegal Tagging of Deer, Shooting from a Public Roadway, Jack-Lighting, Hunting by the aid of a Motor Vehicle, and Over Bagging on Deer. As many as 15 deer were taken illegally by the men.

Two Northern Indiana brothers were sentenced to 1 ½ years in a Dept. of Corrections facility for the 2005 theft of a deer hunter's tree stand. The men were arrested by Indiana Conservation Officers after the tree stand's owner developed film from a nearby trail camera. The film revealed the men carrying parts of the tree stand away.

The Training Section will be busy in 2008. Indiana is currently holding a K-9 school with Conservation Officers (and dogs) from Indiana, Maryland, and Kansas attending. Indiana will host the ANRET Conference in June of '08. Indiana is also starting a hiring process in the summer of 2008. We will hire as many as 20-30 Officers that will begin training in July of 2009.

### Texas

First of all a Happy New Year to all and we are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Montana conference. It has been a very active time of year in Texas. We have announced a new Executive Director for TPWD, Carter Smith, who comes to us from The Nature Conservancy of Texas. Texas Wardens are also in the process of making the transition from mini 14's to M4's. Ammo has been a challenge with the war in Iraq. We have a training academy in progress with fifteen of those heading for the border. Speaking of training academies we are in the latter stages of acquiring funding for our new state of the art facility in Hamilton County (Southwest of Fort Worth). Our training will be moved from the Austin location. Close to 8.5 million dollars of the 12 million has been raised so far. With that said and the coming to an end a three year period since the last pay raise our future for hiring looks to be on the rise with several wardens looking at retirement. I would venture to guess probably upwards of close to 100 of our 500 wardens are eligible.

We are also in the process of acquiring four new "Safeboats". These boats will be used to enhance our patrol efforts. We have also contracted with Profiles International to assist with developing an analysis for cadets. And finally, but not at last, we are getting close to the date for mandatory physical fitness requirements.

### Kansas

As of January 1<sup>st</sup> we are now officially called "Game Wardens" again. We had a couple of changes in Kansas Wildlife and

Parks Law Enforcement, but most of the changes are in the upper echelon of the division. Instead of five regions we now have two very large regions in Kansas. The three displaced regional supervisors were given tasks that were overwhelming the small staff in our headquarters. Most officers feel this change will be very positive.

With the start of the legislative session the Kansas Game Wardens are still hopeful for a police and fire retirement and not the general state worker retirement system we are currently under. The new International Game Warden Magazine looks fine with a Kansas K-9 on the cover and a great article about the Kansas K-9 Wildlife Enforcement Program.

Finally, another deer season has passed and the long days and wild excuses are logged. The bad news is Kansas just received news of three cases of CWD along the Nebraska border in the Northwest corner of the state. This is only the second instance of wild deer reported with CWD in Kansas. We also have released Black Footed Ferrets in the western section of the state. This caused quite the stir with the locals and a mixture of national organizations. Have a safe spring and remember the big picture. This is the best job in the world and thousands of people are very envious of our profession.

### Nebraska

Nebraska Conservation Officers have been following a legislative bill that would authorize a retirement package for all law enforcement officers in Nebraska. Right now retirement for law enforcement officers varies between agencies.

Officers have been busy with a variety of cases:

Jake E. White pleaded guilty in Custer County Court to three game law violation charges resulting from his shooting a 5-point mule deer buck prior to the opening of last year's November firearm deer hunting season, according to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Conservation Officer Mike Thome. White was fined \$250 for shooting a deer during a closed season; \$100 for hunting without permission; and \$250 for shooting wildlife from a road. He was ordered to pay \$750 in liquidated damages, had his hunting privileges suspended for one year, was ordered to write a letter of apology to the owner of the land where the deer was killed, and was ordered to pay \$44 in court costs.

Kody Stiger, 23, of Ord, was sentenced in Garfield County Court for the December 2006 shooting of a bald eagle. Garfield County Judge Gary Washburn fined Stiger \$1,000 for shooting the eagle and ordered him to pay liquidation damages of \$50, and \$44 in court costs. Washburn suspended

Stiger's hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for one year and sentenced him to one year supervised probation, which includes the condition that he must complete 250 hours of community service and retake the Nebraska hunter education course. During the course he must give a talk to the rest of the class about what he did and why it was wrong. The case was investigated by Conservation Officer Rick Seward and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent Mike Damico.

Conservation Officers Mike Thome of Gothenburg, Darin Gress of Hebron and Jeff Jones of Clay Center worked under-

cover as fishermen at the inlet to Sutherland Reservoir observing suspected violators of bag and possession laws. The law enforcement detail resulted in the arrest of nine Colorado residents who were in possession of 416 white bass and one under-size smallmouth bass. All of the fish were caught during a three to four hour period on April 28. Kong Chounlamany, Som Chanly, Kongchai Sirichantho, Jimmy Sirichantho, Sokhen Chhoeun, Pheth Sirichantho, Noeun Touch, Rhet Chounlengo, and Sam Sokhon, all of Aurora, Colorado paid a total of \$6,596 in fines, liquidated damages and court costs.

In October, 2007, Conservation Officer Dan Kling was involved in a law enforcement shooting. Conservation Officer Kling was assisting in a building search with the Crawford, Nebraska Police Department. Conservation Officer Kling was not found of any wrong doing in the incident.

Several joint investigations with USFW and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission are coming to a close with guilty pleas from defendants. One case to note is "Operation Stateline". This case has the potential of being the first felony case against a hunting guide in the State of Nebraska.

## REGION 6 REPORT



**Region 6 Director Hampton Yates**

**Florida-FWC Officer Brian Baine reporting:** I am the newly appointed Jurisdictional Representative for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Congratulations to FWC Lt. Hampton Yates as he takes the helm as the NAWEOA Region 6 Director! Our six regional 2008 officers of the year are: Robert Johnston of Northcentral Region, Troy Starling of Northeast Region, Mark Clements of Northwest Region, Hank Juntunen of the South Region, Scott Larosa of South Region B(Keys), and Ed Chambers of Southwest Region. Of these, our state-wide FWC 2008 Officer of the Year selected is Robert Johnston. Many issues are of concern for the Florida FWC but the main issue is retention! The agency is now some 60-80 officers less than its potential sworn staff of nearly 750. Our general orders have been revisited to ease residency requirements and extra duty requests. The FWC academy has been cut. We are experimenting with sending potential officers through local police academies in an effort to save monies. If there is a vacancy in a local geographical area the officer candidate is "sponsored" and, upon completion of the local academy, is able to stay local so as not to bear the personal and financial

burden of uprooting himself and his family to parts unknown just to have recidivism take place and the officer quit. For example, our former FWC Officer of the Year of just two years ago had to make that very personal/professional decision for his family and leave for another agency that provides consistent raises and promotional opportunities that DO NOT require bearing the burden of relocation. On the equipment front, officers are in transition from shotguns to M-4 and M-16 rifles and Ford F150 4x4 extended cab trucks are transitioning into the fleet.

The update on Captain Del Teagan's death investigation follows: As most of you already know, Captain Teagan was killed in the line of duty on April 13, 2007, while on his way home from Tallahassee. Captain Teagan was on Rock Ridge Road in Lakeland when a vehicle, traveling in the opposite direction, crossed the center line and struck Captain Teagan's agency vehicle head on. The driver of the other vehicle, Justin L. Walker of Lakeland, was cited by the Florida Highway Patrol for careless operation of a vehicle resulting in a fatality, a non-criminal citation requiring a mandatory court appearance. Captain Teagan left behind a wife, two sons, and a daughter who was born in September. On Wednesday, February 6, 2008, Walker appeared in court in Bartow. He entered a plea of "no contest" to the charge of careless driving resulting in a fatality. He was adjudicated guilty and sentenced the maximum penalty allowed (\$1,000 fine, 6-month suspension of his driver's license, and 120 hours community service in a trauma center that regularly receives victims of vehicle accidents). The wrongful death lawsuit filed on behalf of Melanie Teagan against Walker continues.

In Calhoun County, court was held for a Bay County hunter who had been charged

by Officer Mark Clements with killing a black bear. Lieutenant Jay Chesser and Officers Clements and Dennis Palmer testified for the prosecution and the judge found the defendant guilty on the third degree felony charge. In Miami-Dade County, frozen fish in a cooler proved to be the first clue that turned a vessel fisheries inspection into a drug-smuggling bust. Officers Kathy Sullivan and Manny Padilla were on water patrol when they stopped a vessel at Haulover Park boat ramp for the inspection. When the officers opened a cooler, observed frozen fish and wrung lobster tails, they became suspicious. The two subjects on board stated that they had been fishing in the Bahamas. Further inspection of the vessel revealed eight bales of marijuana totaling approximately 700 pounds and the two subjects were arrested without incident. In Broward County, Officers Scott Engstler, Bill Carpenter, Dave Weis and Lieutenant Dave Bingham responded to a plane crash in Everglades Conservation Area 2A. Two planes collided in mid-air and crashed into dense saw grass near the Loxahatchee boat ramp killing the two subjects. Other FWC officers from the area assisted with the multi-agency recovery effort throughout the week. Later that night, Officer Bill Carpenter and Officer Dave Weis were advising local camp owners not to leave their camps because the area near the crash site was closed. That is when the officers arrested an airboat operator for BUI.

**Alabama-Officer Chris Champion reporting:** Recently the Alabama Legislature approved license fee increases, which will help the agency in its mission in these times of budget issues. An example of one increase was on the resident hunting license, which increased from \$16 to \$24. Our officer association is also working currently with the Alabama Legislature for pay raises to bring us more in parity with the



*Field Notes*

*Spring 2008*

## *The Visiting Officer Program*

allows officers from any jurisdiction represented at the museum to spend time in uniform to educate the public on the duties that officers from that jurisdiction perform as part of their daily duties. Many officers that have participated in the program present displays, videos and oral presentations throughout the duration of their visit.

In 2007, the participation in the Visiting Officer Program reached its highest number of participants. The season featured guests from *North Dakota*, the *Manitoba K-9 Unit*, officers from the *Utah RAP (Report a Poacher) Program* with their mobile trailer display and a special appearance by *Officer Lockwood from the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service* with their anniversary display of 100 years of service. Each participant brings with them a unique perspective of the game warden profession from their part of North America. Officer Lockwood's visit expanded outside of the museum grounds with his attendance in full dress uniform at the weekly church services held at the Peace Tower Chapel. The Minister focused his sermon on the good work done by game wardens everywhere and the importance of their role in protecting, conserving and preserving wildlife for all to enjoy.



The excellent presentations and displays presented by visiting wardens is quickly developing into some of the best educational programming that the Museum has offered. Every warden that has visited the museum has been well received with comments and questions that truly show the benefits of their attendance. As well, the success of past presenters has encouraged more wardens from other jurisdictions to become involved.

To learn more about the Game Warden Museum and the Visiting Officer Program, contact our website at [www.gamewardenmuseum.org](http://www.gamewardenmuseum.org).





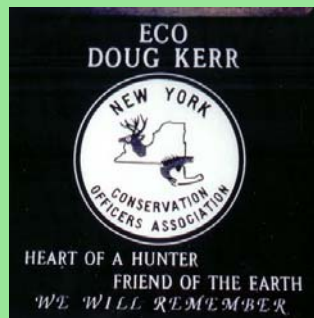
- Paving stones are age, weather and traffic-resistant black polished granite, sized 12" x 12"
- Engraved paving stones provide plenty of room for personal inscription in memory, honor or thanks
- Each sponsored stone will be placed on the museum grounds for public appreciation
- Paving stones can also 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*



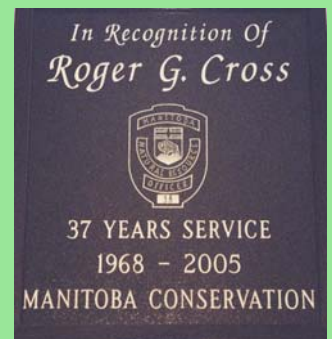
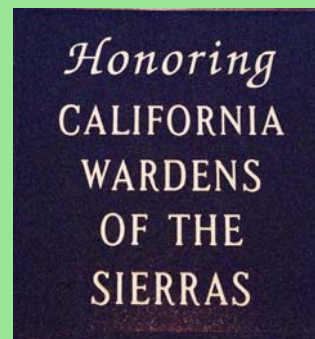
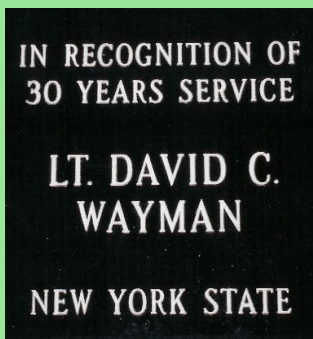
*Just Say Thank You*

*Demonstrate  
Support*



*Celebrate Partnerships*

*Honor  
Officer Retirements*



*A thank you card and a photo of your paving stone will be sent to you upon its completion.*

*A gift acknowledgement is also available upon request.*

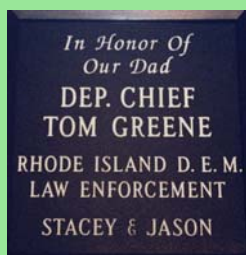
*Museum staff will be available to assist visitors in locating their paving stone on the museum grounds.*



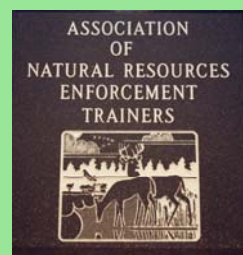
# SUPPORT THE GAME WARDEN MUSEUM

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 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

#### Payment Options

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

Check or Money Order payable to: NAWEMMEC

P.O. Box 1239  
Boissevain, MB R0K 0E0  
Canada

or

RR #1, Box 116AA  
Dunseith, ND 58329  
USA

[www.gamewardenmuseum.org](http://www.gamewardenmuseum.org)

March 2008



## *Second Annual Wardens on Wheels Motorcycle Rally*

Dear Fellow Motorcycle Riders:

You are invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wardens on Wheels motorcycle rally. The rally is set for the weekend of August 8-10, 2008 at the Game Warden Museum, located in the International Peace Gardens. The Peace Gardens straddle the Manitoba/ North Dakota border.

Last year saw 16 riders, on 14 bikes, meet for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual rally. The riders collected pledges and a donation of \$1830.00 was made to the Game Warden Museum construction fund. We plan to continue with this fund raising for 2008.

Seven tenting sites have been reserved for us at Lake Metigoshe State Park. The sites are capable of handling more than seven tents. There will most likely be other tenting sites available as well. The park is located about 14 miles SW of the Peace Gardens. A picnic shelter has been reserved for Friday and Saturday night so we will be able to socialize as a group in the evenings. Local hotels may already be booked up due to a local convention. A list of hotels, motels and B&Bs is attached.

Friday evening we will be planning a steak supper at a local steak house. Saturday we will be meeting at the Museum to present our donations and meet the other riders. A group ride will then take place in the surrounding area. We will stop for supper, and then head back to Lake Metigoshe.

Make your vacation plans and let's get together to ride and meet some of our fellow officers.

For more information contact:

Rob Grainger – [rob.grainger@gov.sk.ca](mailto:rob.grainger@gov.sk.ca)

Paul Hopkins – [paul.hopkins@gov.sk.ca](mailto:paul.hopkins@gov.sk.ca)

If you plan on attending, please e-mail Paul or myself so we can add you to the e-mail list and we will have an idea on numbers for meal reservations.

I hope to see you there.

Rob Grainger



Alabama State Troopers (highway patrol). On a third note, our agency pursuit policy is changing to a more restrictive posture on officers' ability to pursue due to recent court case reviews and liability concerns. On the opening day of deer season this past season, we had two officers in the field shot at. The gunman did not hit the officers. They took cover. Using a great deal of restraint, they talked the gunman into surrendering. They arrested him to face felony charges. And, in closing, the 2007 Conservation Enforcement Officer of the Year is Officer Timothy Joe Lindsey, a four-year veteran.

#### **Kentucky-Officer David Kuhn reporting:**

In October 2007, Jim Gibson was elected the Kentucky Conservation Officer Association President. Our association is finding financial resources extremely difficult to provide for operating and maintaining membership benefits. Our legislature is meeting and considering enhancing violator penalties and BUI enhanced penalties. There is a legislative bill proposed for requirement for boaters to be certified. Our 2007 Officer of the Year is Sgt. Greg Davis. Sgt. Davis is assigned to Carroll Co., which is in our 5<sup>th</sup> Dist, located in Northern Kentucky. Our 2007 Shikar Safari recipient is Officer Greg Youree who is assigned to Graves Co., which is found in our 1<sup>st</sup> Dist., in far Western Kentucky. Our 2007 Boating Officer of the Year is Officer Jerrod Alley who is assigned to Wayne Co., which is in our 9<sup>th</sup> Dist., in Southeast Kentucky. And, in closing, the KCOA sent 107 kids to conservation camp; 93 of those were full scholarships, while 14 were partial. The kids participate in a week-long camp run by the KY Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources. During this week, they obtain outdoor skills in archery, boating, hunter safety, and much more. Several of these youth show their gratitude to the KCOA in the form of letters, which we proudly post in our magazine, "KY Game Warden Diaries".

#### **Tennessee-Wildlife Officer Supervisor**

**Mike Stockdale reporting:** Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Wildlife Officers saw a minimum 4.1% pay raise beginning July 1, 2007, because of the border-state average adjustment. Those officers and wildlife professional classes who were not at the top of their pay brackets received an additional 4.5% increase in pay. The current pay range for a Wildlife Officer is \$2,671 - \$4,149/month. Additional pay ranges are Lead Wildlife Officer \$2,791 - \$4,336/month; Wildlife Officer 2 (i.e., Assistant Supervisor) \$2,917 - \$4,531/month; and Wildlife Officer Supervisor \$3,328 - \$5,171/month. Congratulations are in order to Wildlife Officer Ben Davis who was selected as the TWRA 2007 Officer of the

Year and the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 2007 Officer of the Year. Wildlife Officer Joe Fortner was recognized as the Shikar-Safari Club International Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2007 in Tennessee. Congratulations are also in order to TWRA Director Gary Myers as he has completed 30 years as the Agency's Executive Director and is the longest-serving wildlife agency executive director in the US. A cooperative effort between the USFS and TWRA has resulted in the relocation of 36 elk from the USFS managed Land Between the Lakes area to TWRA's Royal Blue WMA. Using local wildlife officers for darting, this is the first relocation of elk in several years in Tennessee as a result of additional bans. With prices for roe running \$85-90 or more per pound, the poachers are active. The officers in the Nashville area recently apprehended two alleged poachers with nine illegally taken paddlefish and over \$3,000 worth of roe.

**North Carolina:** The North Carolina Wildlife Federation has named Sgt. Mark Cagle, an 11-year veteran, as its Wildlife Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2007. Cagle and his team ended a notorious bear poaching ring. Five hunters were caught taking bear with bait, taking bear in closed season, trespassing, possessing firearms by convicted felons, and possessing stolen firearms. The team netted 43 bear-baiting and 9 closed-season bear cases. They netted 22 duck-baiting cases, seven night deer hunting cases, 13 over-the-limit waterfowl cases, 30 over-the-limit fishing violators, 1 over-the-limit for doves where a man had 33 birds, 11 taking wildlife with the use of a motor vehicle, and several other major waterfowl and deer cases. On one occasion, they apprehended 10 duck hunters with 96 ducks, 36 over the limit, and 3 untagged swans.

**South Carolina :** South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Sgt. Richard "Todd" Campbell was awarded the South Carolina State Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. He later was awarded the Wildlife Officer of the Year for 2007 during ceremonies at the [Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies](#) (SEAFWA). The NWTF recently honored DNR 1st Sgt. Richard Todd Campbell as the 2008 National Wild Turkey Federation Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

**Georgia-Lt. Judd Smith reporting:** The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) honored Corporal Eric Brown with the Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Officer of the Year Award for his outstanding efforts regarding waterfowl conservation over the

past year and Ranger First Class Byron Young for being selected 2008 Georgia Boating Officer of the Year. The DNR selected CPL Derek Dillard as the 2008 State Investigative Ranger of the Year. On April 11, 2007, CPL Dillard responded to a complaint from a landowner to investigate a trophy gobble turkey illegally killed by a trespasser some five days prior. CPL Dillard gathered physical evidence from the scene that included blood, feathers, shot pellets and a 12-gauge Federal shot wad. He was able to track two sets of footprints to a residence a half mile away. CPL Dillard obtained a search warrant for this residence to match any evidence obtained at the scene. Dillard found a 12-gauge shotgun, shot-shells, photos and parts of three freshly killed gobblers. Subsequent interviews turned up fruitless; they admitted nothing. Dillard determined the seized shot-shells did not match the Federal wad, which prompted an 8-month investigation that eventually nailed down the shooter. Dillard employed assistance from eight fellow Rangers and counterparts from North Carolina Wildlife Resources to track down leads. Dillard obtained a search warrant for cell phone records from the residence above. This provided the link needed to identify the shooter in Winder, GA, some 80 miles away. On October 30, charges of hunting without permission and possession of illegally taken wildlife were placed on the shooter and the accomplice who was acting as a guide. The accomplice was also charged with hunting after obtaining the season bag limit. Both defendants have pleaded guilty and paid fines totaling about \$1,400.00 and forfeited the mounted gobble.

#### **Louisiana-Richard Purvis reporting:**

(Congratulations to Agent Richard Purvis being elected as President of the Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association and NAWEOA J-Rep) It is sad we report the death of Cadet Dore. He was on his own personal time, off duty on the weekend, when the accident occurred. He was on a hunting trip with a bunch of friends and was riding in a boat in a bayou. The boat hit a submerged object and Cadet Dore fell, striking his head in the boat and suffering a fatal head wound. In other news, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division seized 438 sacks of oysters and cited four men in Vermilion Parish for oyster violations within four days during the month of February. Agents participating in the cases were Senior Agents Justin Sonnier, Lonnie Campbell, Gene Viator, Jason Dreher and Ladd Turner. Violations included sanitation regulations, not tagging oysters before transferring them onto other vessel, incorrect harvester's logbook, possessing over 10 per-

cent untagged oysters, improperly tagged oysters, failure to maintain traceable oyster records, and tagging with wrong date/location. Sgt. Scott Watson, Sgt. Joe Chandler and Agent Leya Grover cited an individual for taking over the daily limit of doves after finding him hunting and in possession of 42 mourning doves; the daily limit is 12. Before the US Magistrate, he was ordered to pay \$1,710 fines. Sgt. Ray Champagne and Agent Tim Fox cited a suspect for littering in Jefferson Parish. Agent Champagne located a large pile of debris. Personal information belonging to a suspect was discovered in the trash. Agents located the suspect at his residence and questioned him. He soon admitted to dumping and was charged with gross littering. Agents Charles Ferrington, Trey Mason, and Sgt. Russ Kiser observed a vehicle located on an ATV-only trail. They soon found two suspects to be possessing marijuana. Both individuals were charged with possession of a firearm while possessing marijuana, possession illegal firearms, and camping in undesignated camping area. One suspect was charged with using somebody else's recreational hunting license, hunting without a license, hunting without WMA permit and resisting officer. The other was charged with possession of a firearm by convicted felon.

#### Mississippi

Col. Steve Adcock of Madison was named

the Chief of Law Enforcement for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Adcock has been in law enforcement for 20 years, serving 12 years as a conservation officer in Madison County. The past two years Adcock served as assistant chief of law enforcement. Two residents were convicted in Madison County Justice Court of illegally killing and illegal possession of alligator following an arrest made by Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Officers Ryan Crick and Greg Walters. During the investigation, the officers were able to recover the remains of the alligator.

#### Virginia

A multi-state covert investigation involving the illegal buying, selling, possession and transportation of foxes and coyotes unfolded with arrests made across the Southeast and Midwest. Officers conducted a statewide inspection of 41 foxhound training facilities, shutting down 35 for violations of permits. The investigation began in Virginia in 2006. VDGIF covert agents realized foxes and coyotes were trapped and sold in western states and illegally transported to Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia for use in foxhound training facilities. VDGIF covert agents infiltrated the illegal interstate market, buying and selling foxes and coyotes and gaining access to foxhound training facilities. Conservation

officers took to inland waters to raise awareness of boating safety on Operation SWEEP (Safer Waterways through Enforcement and Education Programs). The 65 boating patrols focused on heavily utilized waters with 7 BUI checkpoints, 715 boats inspected, 180 charges and 126 warnings.

#### Maryland and Virginia

The NAWEOA Executive Board held its 2008 business winter meeting in February at the Algonkian Regional Park in Sterling, Virginia. Susan Alger took the lead and recruited several individuals, including Bruce Lemmert of Virginia and Jeffrey White of Maryland, to help in hosting the event. The Board's meetings lasted several days in which they recognized several officers from both states with certificates and awards. Additionally, the Virginia Game Wardens Association hosted a Tuesday evening BBQ. The Maryland Conservation Officers hosted an educational field trip to Antietam Battlefield Park where, in the Civil War, both sides lost approximately 23,000 killed in battle in one day. In Washington DC, hosted by an agent with the US Secret Service, the Board visited the White House and nearby area including the US Secret Service facility with the presidential limos and suburbs.

## REGION 7 REPORT



**Region 7 Director Rich Cramer**

*I hope this issue of the NAWEOA Newsletter finds all of you well. It is a blustery cold and snowy February afternoon as I write this. Most hunting seasons are over and officers across North America shift their attention to trapping, fishing and OHV enforcement efforts. Let's all stay safe out there as we look forward to a fine conference this summer in Montana. Now, on to*

*what has been happening across Region 7.*

**New Hampshire J-Rep Dave Walsh** reports that Fish and Game COs have successfully concluded an investigation that focused on numerous unlawful hunting activities of Carl R. Chapman, age 63, of Dover. The violations ranged from illegal baiting practices to unlawful methods of taking deer, night hunting and unsworn falsification. "As a result of outstanding field work by COs Justin Ferland, Michael Matson, William Boudreau, Christopher McKee and Lt. Kevin Jordan, significant leads were developed and key evidence was uncovered," said Lt. John Wimsatt. During the investigation, a search warrant was executed at Chapman's residence leading to the seizure of numerous items, including archery equipment and a modified firearm used in commission of several of the violations. At an appearance in Dover District Court, Chapman was convicted of two counts of taking deer with a firearm during the archery season, two counts of taking deer with a .22 rimfire, one count of illegal baiting of wildlife, one count of illegal

cutting of tree limbs, one count of unsworn falsification of deer registration reports and an illegal night hunting charge. He was fined \$2,952, and his privileges to hunt in New Hampshire were suspended for five years. "As the investigation unfolded, it became clear to us that this poaching activity was substantial and had been occurring for an extended time. His unlawful hunting practices were well thought out and highly unethical," said Lt. Wimsatt. **(See alert e-mail sent to J-Reps regarding the modified firearm used in this case and learn more about it at [www.swivelmachine.com](http://www.swivelmachine.com)).** District Four Lt. John Whitmore, Sgt. Craig Morrocco, CO's Todd Szewczyk, David Walsh, Eric Hannett, and Delayne Brown have wrapped up another busy season that included four night hunting arrests, multiple illegal bear cases, multiple illegal deer tagging cases, and several other hunting violations that resulted in the seizure of six firearms and hundreds of dollars in fines. Perhaps the most disturbing case occurred just after the hunting season ended. CO David Walsh was dispatched by a local police department to a

911 report of a man shooting in the backyard of a residence. Lt. Whitmore and CO Walsh soon discovered that a subject, who was well known to both officers, had gone on a turkey-killing rampage that afternoon (months after the turkey firearms season had closed). The officers soon learned that a woman in the town of Hillsborough was horrified to look out her kitchen window to see a man in her breezeway, between her house and barn, shooting at wild turkeys in her yard. After conducting a search warrant of a home both officers had been to several times in the past, the subject was arrested and charged with felony reckless conduct with a firearm, hunting after suspension (from a previous illegal deer violation), discharging a firearm within 300 feet of an occupied dwelling (actually six feet from her window!), and taking turkeys during the closed season.

**Ohio J-Rep Steve Thomson** reports that the Ohio Division of Wildlife held a Wildlife Officer Training school for 13 cadets who graduated in June of 2007. The Division is about to start the hiring process again for a class to start the training academy in January of 2009. Interested candidates should watch the Division of Wildlife web site for details at [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com). Applicants must be 21 years old and possess a valid driver's license. Applicants for this position must possess at least an associate's degree in fish and/or wildlife management, criminal justice, environmental law enforcement or related fields. Ohio passed several notable pieces of wildlife legislation this year. Legislation included reforming the Lake Erie commercial fishing industry and requiring electronic G.P.S. monitoring of commercial fishing boats. Also of note was new legislation raising the minimum values of wildlife for restitution purposes. Restitution values for "trophy size" white-tailed deer increased significantly. And maybe the most notable piece of legislation was the legislation allowing Ohio to enter into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. Several short-term District-based covert projects were successfully conducted this year resulting in numerous arrests for walleye, deer, turkey, and wildlife meat-processing violations. Several ATVs, trucks, and pieces of meat-processing equipment were seized. The statewide covert unit also conducted several investigations resulting in waterfowl and deer arrest. The covert team also made several cases on the commercialization of wildlife. In addition to the wildlife charges, several significant drug seizures resulted from search warrants executed from these cases. In all, Ohio officers made over 7,200 arrests this year which resulted in over half a million dollars in fines.

**New Jersey J-Rep Lisa LaCroix** re-

ports that "change" is the relevant word in New Jersey these days. In the summer of 2007, we said goodbye to Captain Mike Boyle (Training), Lt. Don Cole (Northern Region) and CO Gary Fittin (Marine Region), who all retired with 23+ years on the job. With the departure of another officer shortly thereafter, we were left severely shorthanded. On December 31, 2007, Acting Chief Mark Dobelbower also retired, but, before leaving, he managed to implement a major promotional/hiring plan that has greatly improved the morale within the department. Tim Cussen was promoted to Chief and will now lead the Bureau with Joe Meyer who was promoted to Deputy Chief. Our second Deputy Chief position was left vacant upon the departure of Mark, but hopefully will be filled in the near future. It will be the first time in almost two decades that all three top positions within the Bureau will be filled. Within our Training Unit, Matt Brown was promoted to Captain while Mark Leonard filled the Lt. position laterally. Lt. Sean Cianciulli also took a lateral transfer into the Administrative Lt. position. In the Northern Region, Chuck Fletcher was promoted to Captain while Frank Panico and Doug Applegate were promoted to Lieutenant. In the Southern Region, Greg Honachefsky and Mike Massey were both promoted to Lieutenant. In the Marine Region, Mark Chicketano was promoted to Captain and Dominick Fresco and Mark Canale were promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Karl Yunghans took a lateral transfer to the Marine Investigative Lt. Position. Due to the promotions and transfers, a number of vacancies were opened at the field level and we were able to hire eight new officers. We would like to welcome Kyle Ziegler, Todd Dickson, Bryan Mascio, Jennifer Ciralo, Keith Fox, Tom Swift, Brian Scott, and Brett Nicklow to our ranks. These officers are expected to complete their police academy training in June 2008. Sadly, we just learned that Lt. Mark Leonard has been called to active duty with the NJ National Guard. He will be leaving shortly for 6 months of training before heading to Iraq for 18 months. We wish Mark and his family all the best. Our prayers will be with him, his wife Andrea and their two children. A number of new Dodge Durangos were purchased for the Bureau this past summer. Our fleet now consists of black Dodge pickups and Durangos. A new magnetic decal depicting our badge will replace the old triangular shoulder patch decal. All of our officers were recently measured for the new dress uniform, which consists of a green blouse type jacket and matching pants. Along with the green Stetson-style hat that was issued several years ago, the dress uniform is very sharp. Our CO Association is going strong and we are running our first raffle to

raise some much-needed funds. We will be assisting the Bureau with the hosting of the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in April 2008. Visit our web site at [www.njcoa.com](http://www.njcoa.com) to see what we are up to.

**Michigan J-Rep Michelle Weigand** reports that the Michigan Conservation Officers Association is growing and working on many projects. The Association is planning its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Winter banquet with Gander Mountain as a major sponsor. The association is also currently selling its 2008 Michigan Conservation Officer calendar, which features photos and stories of cases involving many of its officers. The calendars sell for \$20 if anyone is interested. And the calendar also includes a raffle ticket good for a monthly chance to win \$150. Michigan's hockey team has played numerous benefit hockey games in the two years since conception. The hockey team is made up of conservation officers, retirees and the sons of some of the officers. The team has raised approx. \$10,000 so far for various causes. One such cause is "Hunt of a Lifetime". The team raised money to send a lucky young man and his family to Colorado for an elk hunt.

On a more somber note, the officers' morale is at an all time low. Michigan's budget woes have caused cuts in overtime hours, threats of layoffs and low numbers of officers due to a freeze in hiring and more retirements.

**PA Fish & Boat Commission J-Rep Erin Czech** reports that the Fish & Boat Commission has completely switched over to the Point-of-Sale fishing license program. Anglers can still purchase licenses on line but issuing agents will be using the point-of-sale method. The agency will be testing through Civil Service for a new class of Waterways Conservation Officers late in the summer of 2008. The new class of 12- 15 officers will begin the 12-month training program in August of 2009. There are also plans to hold Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer Training later this year. We currently have three of our officers serving on active duty in the Military. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. The newly formed FOP Lodge #114 made up of the officers of the PA Fish & Boat Commission and the PA Game Commission has decertified from AFSCME and is currently in the process of seeking a new contract. COPA (Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania) is planning a Field Day for September 9 through 11, 2008. The event will be held in the center part of the state. More info to follow.



# NAWEOA Officer Exchange Program

## Canadian Officer to Florida

### By Mike Bartlett, New Brunswick

My name is Mike Bartlett, a Conservation Officer with the Department of Natural Resources in New Brunswick, Canada. I'm 32 years old and have been with the Department for seven years. I was one of the lucky ones selected from my home Province to represent our agency at the NAWEOA conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, in July 2007. What I did not know is that I would be the lucky Canadian to be drawn to represent Canada in the NAWEOA Officers Exchange program for 2007-2008.

After accepting my prize and signing the contract, now was the time to find out what this Officers Exchange program was all about. Shortly after talking with a few individuals about this trip, it was time to figure out where I might adventure to, now was timing considerations as I knew I couldn't go in the fall. My initial idea was to find a place with a long deer season as I wanted to see that type of work but, knowing I couldn't go anywhere in the fall, I also thought on some warmth as most likely it was going to be in January or February. After returning home, with some thought I chose the state of Florida.

I then began contacting Lt. Hampton Yates and Officer Brian Baine, who I had met at the Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. After approval on their end and on my end, we started discussing dates and, after a few e-mails it was decided on February 9 — 27. I would start in the Northwest (panhandle of Florida) where the deer rifle season still had 5 days left and after that another 2 weeks of primitive weapons hunt (muzzle loader and archery).

So I started off by flying to Pensacola, Florida, on February 9, 2008, where I was greeted by FWC Officer Steve Hoomes. It was decided that, after traveling all day and by the time we got to his residence, we would end the day there and start fresh in the morning, but not before having a cookout at a hunting club that Steve and some friends lease. The next morning, Steve entertained me to a round of golf before heading to Pensacola Beach FWC Office. After a quick tour of the FWC office we headed to Pensacola Beach where the officers patrol. Officer Hoomes had a report of a trespass to investigate and then we headed to the woods. We continued to patrol, looking for hunters. He then took me to the Escambia River which was a beautiful and mystical river with old cypress trees with Spanish moss hanging from them. After visiting the river, it was getting late and we had to head toward Okaloosa County to meet up with the next officer who I would stay with for the next 3 days. This Officer was Danny Arnette who works the county of Okaloosa. It was getting late and Officer Arnette and myself decided to work our way back to a hunting camp near Paxton where we would be staying.

The next morning we started off by investigating a trespass outside the city of Crestview at a wayside area and Officer Arnette got a confession out of one of the workers and recovered stolen merchandise that was taken from the property. We then headed north to the Blackwater wildlife management area and explored a lot of pretty countryside. After patrolling all day, we headed back to camp for a cookout where I had some great barbequed deer burgers and got to meet some of the other officers who work in that county. The next day consisted of him showing me some of the other areas that he works such as Eglin AFB management area, where we visited the Resource mgt. building. After visiting the AFB, we headed to Destin Beach and then got a report of a trespass that had to be investigated so we ended our day after dealing with the trespass. This morning started off with a high priority mission to find a florist to send my wife some flowers for

Valentine's Day and Danny was kind enough to oblige. After getting the deal done with the flowers we headed north to the Alabama border and to Lakewood which is the highest elevation in Florida at 345 feet. The next mission consisted of meeting with Lt. Hampton Yates for a transfer, who I would be working with for the rest of the afternoon. Lt. Yates and I patrolled our way over to Jackson County to meet up with Officer David Arnette. On our way over, we checked some hunters who were all on the legal side. Around supertime, we met up with David who had a wonderful supper prepared and ready.

For the next two days, I would be staying with Officer David Arnette at the Lily Pad Two hunting camp. That next morning we woke up and headed out on patrol. Our first stop was the Chipola River (a Native American meaning of "Sweet River"); we then headed for Merritt mill pond and to Big Blue caverns which extend nearly a mile in underwater. We then had to meet up with the local media for an interview of me to put in the County newspaper. At this time, David knew I liked to golf so he entertained me at the local golf course. After the round of golf, we uniformed back up and headed out on a night hunting patrol (also known as "fire hunting" in Florida).

The next day consisted of a property check of equipment at the sub-office. Officer Alton Ranew was kind enough to transport me to Charlie Chafin, an investigator for the FWC. After meeting With Mr. Chafin, we headed to Tallahassee to visit the FWC Headquarters. In the headquarters, I got to meet with the executive director for FWC Ken Haddad, Lt. Col. Mike Wiwi, Mark Robson, Nick Wiley and Darrell Scovell. Unfortunately, Colonel Julie Jones who is the head of the law enforcement, was out as I did not get to meet her.



**A Floridian happily receives his citation from Mike**



Investigator Charlie Chafin and I headed for his residence where I was to stay for the final 2 days of the first leg which consisted of the Northwest region. The next day was a free day; we relaxed at a hunting camp north of his residence where we enjoyed good food and hospitality. The next day we got up bright and early for the two-hour drive to meet halfway with Officer Brian Baine where I started the next leg of the adventure.

After traveling for most of the day, we headed back to Officer Baine's house for the night, where I would stay for a couple days. That next morning consisted of touring me around and showing me some lakes and the Seminole Forest management area where he took me to Shark's Tooth Springs and Bear Pond. After showing me around, we headed back to his residence to gear up to meet Lt. Yates who was working an off-duty job on the Butler Lake chain which was a series of lakes connected together in Orlando. While Officer Baine attended a meeting, Lt. Yates and I patrolled the lakes. After patrolling the series of lakes, we headed back to officers Baine's residence.

February 18, 2008, — day 10 — of my trip consisted of Officer Baine delivering me to Darin Riley who would be entertaining me with a round of golf. After the round of golf, Officer Riley and myself would work our way over to Lt. Guy Carpenter III, where I would be staying the next two nights.

That next morning, Lt. Carpenter and myself patrolled around the lakes in the morning to find one violation for fishing without a license. In the afternoon, Lt. Carpenter and I attended court for a boating accident that he had been involved with. After court, we headed back to Lt. Carpenter's residence to get ready for a hog hunt on the TM ranch. We did not get to see a hog but had lots of fun doing so. That next morning, we patrolled more of the county on our way to meet up with Officer Dirk Williamson who I would be staying the next night with.

After the drop off, Officer Williamson and I went for an airboat ride on Lake Kissimmee, where we had an adventurous voyage by getting stuck on a tusit (floating land with vegetation) with the alligators and snakes. Once we got unstuck with help of Officer Williamson's friend, we headed back to his residence for the night.

The next morning, Officer Joe Brooks picked me up at Officer Williamson's residence to transfer me south for the next leg of my trip the southern end of Florida. I was picked up by Officer Jeff Haines who took me out on a swamp buggy (oversized ATV) ride on the Everglades in the J.W. Corbett management area. That night I stayed with Capt. Jeff Ardelean where he showed me

around the city of Jupiter and to some fine dining. The next morning consisted of Capt. Ardelean transferring me to Officer Hank Juntunen who had plans for another airboat ride in Everglades Conservation Area 2 where I saw camps for the first time built on stilts surrounded by water. That night I would stay with Officer Juntunen and the next morning he entertained me with my final golf round of the trip. After golf, he transported me through Broward County and into Dade where we were to meet with Officer Joe Raftner who would transfer me to Major Mike Edwards's house in Marathon (roughly half-way down the keys) where I would be staying the next three nights.

Day 17 of the trip consisted of Officer David Dipre escorting me to meet up with Officer Raul Pena-Lopez who took me out on there 30 ft. manta boat for a patrol down to Key West where we checked a lot of boats for fishing licenses and boating compliance. After a short rest for lunch, we toured their bigger boat, the Peter Gladding, which was out of commission at the time and visited the NOAA office. We then ended the day back at Major Edwards' residence for supper. The next day consisted of a little tour on the gulf coast side by boat but mainly to pack up for the trip back home the next day.

Day 19 of the trip saw me leave this beautiful state of Florida where it was really warm to head back to a place where it was cold and had 5 feet of snow. I was sad to go but, after being away from home that long, I was kind of happy to get back to see my family.

In conclusion, I had a really great time; it was amazing to see the diversity of the FWC from one region to another from more focus on the woods to more on the waters. In my adventures, there was a lot more to tell about Florida and its beautiful woods and waters but, I was limited on space. If you would like to look up anything about the FWC, take a look at their website [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com). I would also like to say that I'm sorry about only a few photo's being added to the article. With the amount of time to cover and limited writing space I could not fit more in, but if you venture to the Conference in Montana in July '08 you will be able to see a Power Point presentation of all my photos taken.

I would like to thank NAWEOA for the opportunity to experience such an amazing trip and to the state of Florida including Colonel Jones for accepting the sponsorship. To Lt. Yates and Officer Baine, I would like to thank you for organizing this great trip from day 1 to day 19. This "thank you" goes out to all the staff and their families who either shuttled me around or housed me. Thank you for such hospitality and warmth as you made me feel like I was at home. Lastly, but not forgotten, to my wife and children at home, thank you for your patience in my long absence.



# Wildlife Officer Recognition

## OOY = Officer of the Year

### **REGION 1**

#### **Saskatchewan**

**Kerry Wrishko**, Conservation Officer —2007 OOO  
**Mario Gaudet**, Conservation Officer —2007 Labour Service (Seasonal) OOO

### **REGION 4**

#### **California**

**Lt. Lynette Shimek**, Warden, Nat. Fish & Wildlife Fed's Guy Bradley Award—nomination  
**Lt. John Nores**, Warden, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conservation Law Enforcement—nomination  
**Jerry Karnow**, Warden, California Rifle & Pistol Association Law Enforcement OOO  
**Erick Elliot**, Warden, California National Turkey Federation OOO  
**Gregory Grinton**, Warden, California Dept. of Fish & Game Director's Achievement Award  
**Matthew Shanley, John Dawson, Mitch Carlson, DeWayne Little, Brian Boyd**, Wardens, California Dept. of Fish & Game Certificate of Appreciation  
**Robert Morgan**, Warden-Pilot, Lifesaving Award  
**Lorraine Doyle**, Warden, Lifesaving Award  
**Brian Gallaher**, Warden, Lifesaving Award  
**Travis Vuich**, Warden, Distinguished Service  
**Scott Bringman**, Warden, Distinguished Service  
**Frank Milazzo**, Warden, Medal of Valor

#### **Colorado**

**Rich Antonio**, Regional Law Enforcement Coordinator, OOO

#### **Nevada**

**John Swisher**, Game Warden, 2007 OOO

#### **Washington**

**Mike Jewell**, Fish & Wildlife Officer, 2007 Fish & Wildlife OOO

### **REGION 5**

#### **South Dakota**

**Blair Waite**, Conservation Officer, 2007 Shikar-Safari Award  
**Bob Losco**, Conservation Officer, 2007 Boating OOO  
**Dave Bartling**, Conservation Officer, 2007 National Wild Turkey Federation OOO

#### **Indiana**

**Ed Bollman**, Conservation Officer, 2007 Indiana Boating Enforcement OOO

#### **Nebraska**

**Marilyn Nickell**, Law Enforcement Division Secretary, 2007 Loron Bunny Award as honorary NCOA member for the year  
**Melanie Young**, Assistant Buffalo County Attorney—2007 Prosecutor of the Year  
**David L. Piester**, U.S. Magistrate Judge, 2007 Judge of the Year

#### **Wisconsin**

**Steve Dewald**, Conservation Warden Supervisor, 2007 Shikar-Safari Award  
**Casey Krueger**, Conservation Warden, 2007 Boating OOO  
**Michael Cross**, Conservation Warden, 2007 Waterfowl OOO  
**John Collison**, Conservation Warden, 2007 Trapper Assoc. OOO

#### **Kansas**

**Dan Melson**, Game Warden, 2007 Shikar-Safari OOO  
**Kevin DeFisher**, Game Warden, 2007 Boating OOO (NASBLA)  
**Dan Melson**, Game Warden, 2006 Kansas Wildlife Officers Association OOO

### **REGION 6**

#### **Alabama**

**Timothy Joe Lindsey**, CEO, 2006-2007 Alabama Wildlife Federation OOO  
**Greg Elrod**, CEO, 2006-2007 NWTF OOO  
**Joe Carrol**, CEO, 2007 Shikar Safari OOO  
**Grady Meyers**, CEO, 2007 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies OOO

#### **Florida**

**Robert Johnston**, FWC Officer, Northcentral Region OOO, 2008  
**Troy Starling**, FWC Officer, Northeast Region OOO, 2008  
**Mark Clements**, FWC Officer, Northwest Region OOO, 2008  
**Hank Juntunen**, FWC Officer, South A Region OOO, 2008  
**Scott LaRosa**, FWC Officer, South B Region Special Enforcement Area OOO, 2008  
**Ed Chambers**, FWC Officer, Southwest Region OOO, 2008

#### **Georgia**

**Eric Brown**, CPL, Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl OOO  
**Byron Young**, Ranger First Class, 2008 Georgia Boating OOO  
**Derek Dillard**, CPL, 2008 State Investigative Ranger of the Year.

#### **Kentucky**

**Greg Davis**, Sgt, Kentucky 2007 OOO  
**Greg Youree**, Officer, 2007 Shikar Safari-Safari Award  
**Jerrold Alley**, Officer, 2007 Boating OOO

#### **North Carolina**

**Mark Cagle**, Sgt., North Carolina Wildlife Federation 2007 Wildlife Enforcement OOO

#### **South Carolina**

**Richard "Todd" Campbell**, Sgt., South Carolina State Wildlife Law Enforcement OOO, 2008 National Wild Turkey Federation Wildlife Law Enforcement OOO.

#### **Tennessee**

**Ben Davis**, Wildlife Officer, TWRA 2007 OOO and Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 2007 OOO  
**Joe Fortner**, Wildlife Officer, Shikar Safari Club Int'l 2007 OOO



## **REGION 7**

### **Connecticut**

**Chris Dwyer**, Conservation Officer, 2007 Conservation OOO

### **Michigan**

**John Jurcich**, Conservation Officer, 2007 Conservation OOO and Shikar-Safari Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

### **New York**

**Robert Chatt**, ECO, 2007 Shikar-Safari International OOO  
**Kevin Mazur**, ECO, 2006 Shikar-Safari International OOO  
**Cindy Harcher**, ECO, 2007 NE CLECA OOO  
**Michael Terrell**, ECO, 2006 NE CLECA OOO  
**Lt. Thomas Harrington**, 2007 National Wild Turkey Fed. OOO  
**Thomas Flaitz**, ECO, 2006 National Wild Turkey Federation OOO  
**Toni Dragotta**, ECO, 2007 NYS Rifle & Pistol Association OOO  
**Thomas Harrington**, ECO, 2006 NYS Rifle & Pistol Assoc. OOO  
**Walter Maloney**, ECO, 2007 Samuel S. Taylor Award\*  
**Vernon Bauer**, ECO, 2007 Samuel S. Taylor Award\*  
**John Hill**, ECO, 2006 Samuel S. Taylor Award\*

**Matthew Lochner**, ECO, 2006 Samuel S. Taylor Award\*

**Scott Daly**, ECO, 2006 Samuel S. Taylor Award\*

\* Award for valor, courage, integrity, resourcefulness, and bravery

**Gary Enright**, ECO, 2007 NYS Sportsman Ed. Foundation OOO

**Capt. Timothy Huss**, 2006 Bryan Burgin Award (for outstanding contribution to the profession above and beyond)

### **Ohio**

**Jeff Collingwood**, Wildlife Officer, Shikar Safari Wildlife OOO

**Brian Banbury**, Wildlife Officer, Mississippi Flyway Council Waterfowl Enforcement OOO

**Dan Shroyer**, National Wild Turkey Federation OOO

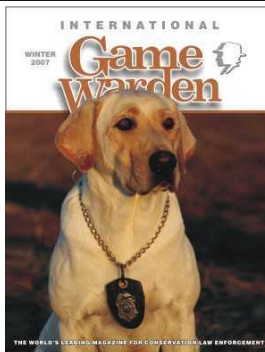
**Dirk Cochran**, Wildlife Officer, Ohio Bowhunters Association Wildlife OOO

**Mike Taylor**, LE Program Administrator, Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers OOO

### **Pennsylvania**

**Edward Stuart**, Wildlife Conservation Officer, PA Fish & Boat, 2007 Boating OOO

IGW is a growing trade magazine dedicated to serving the professionals in natural resource and wildlife law enforcement. In its early years primarily serving US and Canadian conservation officers, IGW became known as "THE trade publication of the profession," in North America.



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## **EDITOR'S SPECIAL REQUEST**

The next issue  
of the NAWEOA Newsletter (Fall 2008)  
will be the 50th Edition.

In order to recognize this occasion, I'd like to include, either in the next edition or in subsequent editions, tidbits of old, interesting articles from previous NAWEOA Newsletters.

Since I don't know of any archive holding all of the past newsletter issues, I'm asking that members who have some of the old issues send photocopies or scanned digital copies of them to:

**NAWEOA NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**13138—132nd St.**

**Louisville, NE 68037**

**or**

**[editor@naweo.org](mailto:editor@naweo.org) (402)234-2212**

## **Lifetime Membership Certificates Now Available**

The certificates are being offered to Lifetime Members, who have previously purchased a Lifetime NAWEOA Membership, in recognition of their commitment and dedication to the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association.

Your support is appreciated as the Association continues to promote its goals and objectives for the mutual benefit of fish and wildlife enforcement across the continent.

**Contact your Regional Director**  
**if you would like a NAWEOA Lifetime Member certificate.**

# NAWEOA Officer Exchange Program

## United States Officer to British Columbia

### By Steve Beltran, Illinois

*Despite the differences in location, British Columbia officers and Illinois officers have more in common than I expected. Many of the same successes and problems exist in our agencies, budgets, and politics. Illinois officers are referred to Conservation Police Officers (CPOs) and British Columbia officers are referred to Conservation Officers (COs). More often than not, we are all Game Wardens. Plain and simple, we have a love and respect for the outdoors and all Mother Nature has offered us. We have taken an oath to protect what we serve and provide our government an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. Some differences were seen in equipment, uniform, policy, and compensation but, at the end of the day, we all kick our muddy boots off and remember that we do the job we love and would not trade it for the world.*

In July 2007, I attended the NAWEOA conference in Minnesota for the first time and was fortunate enough to be selected as the States officer to visit Canada. I was congratulated by many of the officers sitting at the tables next to me. I left and took the elevator up and thought how I would break the good news to my wife. I was a bit reluctant to tell Jenny due to the overwhelming task of raising three young kids and the integral part I play in giving mom a break, but I knew she would quickly share in my victory and offer an open book for my adventure. She seemed happy and the kids were getting the most out of our visit to NAWEOA, so I thought it would be a great time to tell her "my" good news. I could tell by the grin on her face that "my" good news meant overtime work for her with the kids and that my officer exchange victory would come at a price.

The conference ended and I had a huge decision to make. Now I had to choose. I had made some good contacts and friends over the last week and wanted to visit all of them. Unfortunately, I could only choose one place. I work in the Midwest and most of the area around me is flat. I wanted to experience an area completely different. I chose British Columbia for an 18-day exchange. Most of my correspondence was handled by B.C.'s Society President Dave Webster. Dave was good in providing ideas and information for the trip. I booked a flight, called my boss, and was on my way.

I woke up at 0300 and headed for the airport to leave Illinois on a 6 a.m. flight. I spent the better half of the day flying with one layover and arriving in British Columbia in the afternoon. The time there was two hours behind me so I was getting pretty tired but, nonetheless, Terry Myronik greeted me at the airport. "Welcome to Canada, Eh". He offered a firm handshake and a full day of patrol in the Vancouver area.

Being in a new area, I was a bit nervous on making good first impressions. Terry gave me an exceptional welcome and I found myself a bit stifled by the culture shock. Quickly I found myself confused and using the word "Eh" at the end of every sentence. The Canadian influence was settling in fast.

The next morning Terry and I left the house bright and early for a river patrol. A few kilometers down the road, he sensed something was wrong. Looking down at this empty holster, he uttered

a smug chuckle and suggested we return home to get his side arm. I laughed and assured him I have left the house before without this very important piece of equipment. I was trying not to offend my host as I giggled on our return trip. I sat in front of the house and Terry's humbleness raced him to the house to get his gun. Quickly he returned and saw me sitting on the curb with my camera in hand. I felt nervous because I didn't want to offend him but felt this was too good to pass on. This was my first test of humility as he laughed and posed for the picture. I now knew that this was a regular bunch of officers, similar to the Illinois kind.



I had a great time with Terry and his family. He set the benchmark of my exchange. I often e-mail him and joke about the times we had together. Terry is a great officer and great host.

The next day was an administrative and travel day to my second host. Dave Webster was happy to have me for a few days. During my full day of travel, I was with a few officers as they relayed me from one area to another. Several of these officers had dogs with them. Sitting in the bed of the truck would be a canine to keep the officer safe in bear country. One of my relaying officers, Al Lay, got a call about a trap he set for a nuisance black bear. It was on the way so Al swung into town and got this bear that was terrorizing the locals. It took him a long week of chasing him to finally get him into a trap. It appeared there was no chance for rehabilitation of this guy as he has been reportedly relocated before and has become addicted to city life and garbage. Al had the tough job of dispatching the bear and disposing of it. Officer Lay found it fitting I take the responsibility. As I have done many times before in Illinois with injured and nuisance animals, I was going have to put this animal down. Officer Lay instructed me and the task was complete. I have to say my experience with black bear was nonexistent before this day. I had training with whitetail deer and smaller fur-bearing animals, but nothing as large as a black bear. I fumbled a bit and, as any good senior officer knows, it was Al's job to give me a little ribbing for my performance. It was all in good fun. I do have to say that the story preceded me as I traveled throughout British Columbia, perhaps because Officer Lay gave me a single-shot .22 caliber to get the job done. By the way, it took two shots to dispatch the bear. The first shot was ugly!

I finally met up with Dave Webster and it seemed the day was going on forever. I was traveling all day and we settled in Officer Webster's home. His lovely wife welcomed me with a nice meal and a cold drink. Dave had a full day's worth of work planned for us the next day.

It was a rainy morning; we dressed in cold-weather waterproof gear and brought work gloves and hiking boots. We woke up and





I met Darrell Ashworth and he scheduled a remote camp check by helicopter. We spent all day flying around the mountains looking for smoke coming from the camps. The hunters did not know what hit them when they saw us fly in and check their gear. We made some good arrests for a variety of violations. That day was great. The next day Darrell and I drove the logging roads to a remote area in the mountains and spent the night. We worked our way back down the mountain the next day and met up with CO Doug Forsdick and CO Cam Hill.

I stayed at Doug's for a few days and then we packed out for the hills. We were going to spend the night at a remote camp

headed out to help the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with a remote operation. RCMP had requested our expertise and equipment to gain access to the side of a mountain which harbored a cannabis field. There were about 350 plants, spring irrigation, fertilizer, holding tanks, timers, and garden tools — all the proper equipment needed for an outside garden on government land. A special thanks to the RCMP guys who shared in this experience.

I said my goodbyes to the Webster family and I met up with Denny Chretien who worked the interior region. We patrolled the mountainside for hunters and came across a group of three men sitting at camp. We checked their licenses and game only to discover that only one of the men claimed he was hunting and possessed a hunting license. We were suspicious, but we did not have any additional information to question them on so we went on our way. A short way down the road, we came across a man

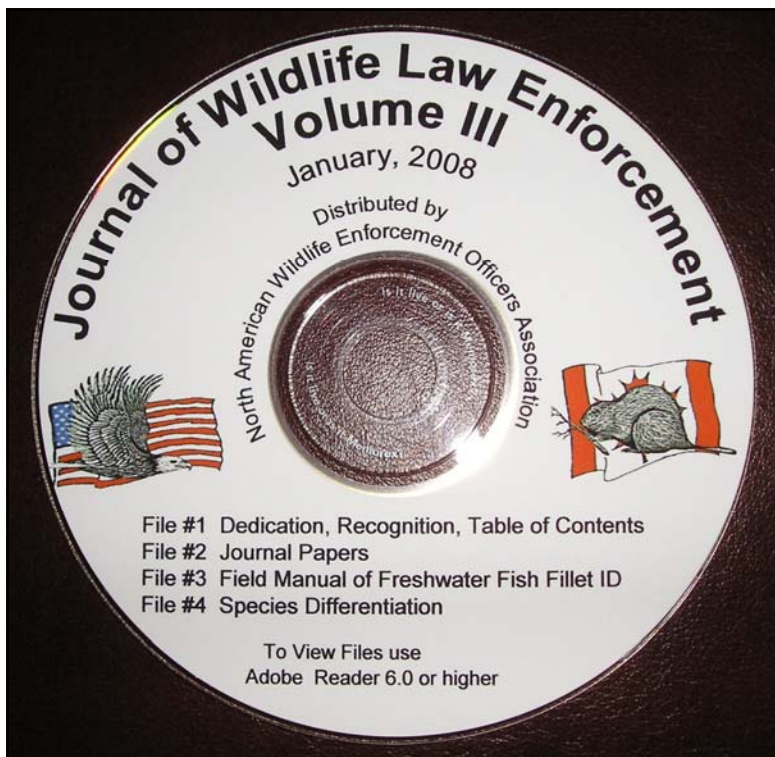
sitting in his truck hunting and drinking a beer. We checked him for compliance and, with his open beer violation, he was overly friendly and talkative. His efforts were to save him a citation for the beer (prohibited to have open alcohol in vehicle). We used this to gather information on the previous group of hunters. We asked if he was part of the group and he said "yes". We exchanged pleasantries about the amount of success, firearm use, species hunted, and other important details of their hunt. Not knowing that we had previous contact with his hunting party, he was not reluctant to provide incriminating information. We returned to the original party and they spilled their guts on the truth about some violations and game taken illegally. Denny had them over a barrel and wrote some good paper on these violators.

and perform moose compliance checks. Cam and I got into a case which lasted all day and night. We didn't get in until after midnight and seized a moose and some guns in the process. I flew back to the coast, ending my exchange with COs Chris Doyle and Dean Miller. We were working the city area and spent most of our time patrolling the rivers and trapping nuisance bears for hazing and relocation.

The guys in BC did a great job with the exchange. I could never thank them enough and will someday visit again. I can't say enough about their professionalism and hospitality. I have so much more to say about this wonderful experience but would need a book to share it all. I have put some of the 1200 pictures, 100s of stories, and hours of video on our Association web page at [www.cpol.org/eh](http://www.cpol.org/eh).







## Volume III of the Journal Of Wildlife Law Enforcement

Is now available for purchase on  
the NAWEOA website.

Due to rising production and postage costs, this volume of the Journal will only be available in digital format—either as a download or CD from the NAWEOA website. CDs may also be purchased at the NAWEOA booth at the summer conference. Included with the Journal are two **FREE bonuses**— The *Field Manual of Freshwater Fish Fillet Identification* and *Species Identification*.

Download and CD costs may be found in the “NAWEOA Store” — [naweo.org](http://naweo.org)

## !!!!!! NOTICE !!!!!

### OF PROPOSED NAWEOA BY-LAW CHANGE

Per NAWEOA by-laws, this is a notification to the NAWEOA membership of a vote by regular members at the 2008 summer conference in Great Falls, Montana, to amend the NAWEOA Constitution/By-laws.

The NAWEOA Board of Directors is seeking a change in the wording of the by-law 1.0 a,f,g which defines the criteria for becoming a NAWEOA member. There was discussion at the 2008 winter meeting regarding the criteria listed in this by-law which refers to only “state, provincial, and federal” agencies.

Since the original writing of this criteria, other local agencies and Indian tribal agencies have been found to meet the criteria of being the primary wildlife enforcement agencies in their respective jurisdictions. Therefore, the Board believes the membership by-law criteria should be updated to include the enforcement officers of all such agencies.

**Present wording** of this by-law may be accessed at: [www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org) (protected site). Contact your Jurisdictional Representative for the password and username.

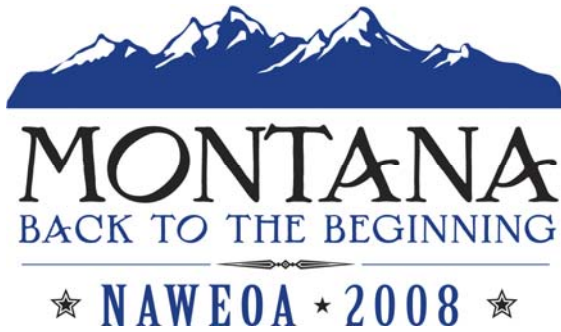
#### **Proposed wording:**

**1.0 (a)** Any full-time, salaried, credentialed (certified) law enforcement officer of any law enforcement agency on the North American Continent which has the lead role, within its area of responsibility, in the enforcement of wildlife and/or fisheries laws and regulations may, upon application, be considered for **REGULAR MEMBERSHIP**.

**1.0 (f)** Anyone who has been a full-time, salaried, credentialed (certified) law enforcement officer of any law enforcement agency on the North American continent which has the lead role, within its area of responsibility, in the enforcement of wildlife and/or fisheries laws and regulations and is no longer a full-time officer due to health or retirement, may be considered for **REGULAR MEMBERSHIP**.

**1.0 (g)** Any part-time, non-salaried, credentialed (certified) law enforcement officer, or so called Deputy Warden, of any law enforcement agency on the North American continent which has the lead role, within its area of responsibility, in the enforcement of wildlife and/or fisheries laws and regulations, may upon application, be considered for **DEPUTY WARDEN membership**.

*Please join us!*



*North American  
Wildlife Enforcement Officers  
Association*

*27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*

*July 13 - 20, 2008*

*Great Falls, Montana*

On behalf of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Montana Game Wardens' Association, we wish to cordially invite you to attend the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual NAWEOA conference in Great Falls, Montana. Our theme for 2008 is *Back to the Beginning*, an appropriate name as it was 27 years ago in Great Falls that a dedicated group of officers first met and formed NAWEOA. In those 27 years, the organization has grown to include more than 8000 officers and has remained international in scope and membership. This year's conference, held in Montana's hometown of the great western artist Charlie Russell, is in large part a tribute to those founding members.

At the same time, we will be looking towards the future with interesting and provocative sessions encompassing all aspects of resource law enforcement. We have put together a program that we believe will be valuable to you not only in the practical sense but also in confronting the many social, political and logistical challenges of being an officer in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There will also be activities for family members during one of the best times of year to see Big Sky Country.

Please check the website for more details and make your reservations early. We look forward to welcoming you to Montana - the Last Best Place.

Sincerely,

Bryan Golie, President  
Montana Game Wardens' Association

Jim Kropp, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

*Hosted by the  
Montana Game Wardens Association*



[www.montanagamewardens.org](http://www.montanagamewardens.org)

[www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org)



# Officer Training

***In Defense of Hunting*** ~ Author James Swan will highlight topics covered in his book as to the value of hunting, wildlife management, law enforcement issues and the importance of teaching youth hunter ethics and responsibility.

***Wildlife Human Attack Response Training*** ~ Presented by British Columbia WHART team led by Joe Caraveta. The crux of this training is: what constitutes a wildlife/human attack, what to do and not do when responding to same and how to investigate as well as document these incidents.

***Changing Values in the West*** ~ Suzanne Miller, private consultant, will lead this session. Content will include how the west is changing by growth, urbanization, influx of non-residents, human/wildlife conflicts, oil and gas exploration and agriculture.

***Horse Packing Made Easy*** ~ Game wardens and expert horse packers Jason Synder & Perry Brown will demonstrate horse and mule packing, safety with horses, knots/bundles/game and saddles and tack gear.

***Yellowstone National Park Wolf Re-introduction*** ~ Yellowstone National Park Biologist Doug Smith will give an overview of the YNP wolf introductions, politics, biology involved, and results/issues/problems.

***Montana Bear DNA Study*** ~ Glacier National Park Biologist Kate Kendall and her team of researchers used DNA obtained by hair samples to ascertain the current population of grizzly and black bears in GNP. The bear hair samples were taken by putting out bait stations surrounded by barbed wire.

***Time of Death in Carnivores*** ~ Carleen Gonder in a University of Montana post-graduate study basically modeled this after the "Body Farm" used by pathologists in Tennessee to study the time of death in humans based on decomposition rates. Gonder placed various carnivores (wolves, bears, lions) in an enclosed field study area and then documented decomposition of these carnivores placed in different situations such as buried, covered, in the open, etc.

***Criminal Defense Tactics Revealed*** ~ Florida State Prosecutor and lecturer Wayne Wooten will give valuable insight into what defense attorneys are taught as to how to win in court regardless of enforcement efforts and evidence. Wooten will give officers suggestions regarding testimony and presentation of evidence in court. If law enforcement knows what the defense is trying to accomplish, they can better present their case and the truth to the jury.

***Montana FWP Major Investigations*** ~ Investigators Jeff Scott and Chad Murphy will present an overview of recent wildlife investigations including complex interstate and international cases. Scott and Murphy will highlight informant use, documentation, records and licenses, felony cases and results.

***Montana Meth Project*** ~ Tom Siebel, founder of the Montana Meth Project, contributed money, employees and assistance in combating Montana's methamphetamine problem with highly visible advertisements and messages. Montana's Meth Project has been featured on numerous state and national television and media outlets. As a result, meth use in Montana has dropped.

***Energy Development in the West*** ~ Montana FWP Energy Specialist T.O. Smith will present the impact of energy developments in Montana and the west. Smith will specifically outline issues related to gas, oil, coal and wind energy development.

[www.montanagamewardens.org](http://www.montanagamewardens.org)

[www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org)



## Guest Activities & Tours

### *Three Pre-conference Tour Options Each offered Sunday, Monday & Tuesday*

#### Gates of the Mountains Boat Tour



The evening of July 19, 1805, was a hot one in the wilderness that would later become Montana. On the Missouri River, not far from present day Helena, the hardy members of the Lewis and Clark expedition toiled to move upstream. Rock embankments made towing from shore impossible, and the deep channel forced the men to row rather than pole their boats forward.

Suddenly, there loomed before them towering rock formations unlike any they had ever seen. From both sides of the river, limestone cliffs rose to a spectacular height of 1200 feet. "In many places," wrote Meriwether Lewis, "the rocks seem ready to tumble on us." At each bend in the waterway, great stone walls seemed to block passage, only to open like gentle giant gates as the expedition drew near. In his journal, Meriwether wrote: "I shall call this place: 'Gates of the Mountains'".

#### Float Trips



Sunday and Monday float trips will be on the "Mighty Mo" through Wolf Creek Canyon – no rapids or white water but a leisurely float for all ages. This beautiful part of the Upper Missouri is rich in history, wildlife and unique geological features.

The Tuesday raft trip takes you through a remote area of cut bank coulees, bluffs, breaks and wild country with the added excitement of a few moderate rapids.

You will be on the water for about 2.5 hours on either trip. Bring sunscreen!



Discover breath-taking scenery on one of Montana's favorite modes of transportation – the horse! It wouldn't be a trip to Montana without putting in some saddle time. Whether you have the riding skills of an expert or a novice, there will be a trail and cayuse to suit you.

#### Horseback Rides



Montana is bordered on the north by Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia; the west by Idaho, the south by Wyoming and the east by North and South Dakota.

Great Falls is served by Delta, Northwest, Horizon, United and Allegiant. Other major airports with distance and driving time to Great Falls are:

Billings (220 miles / 4 hours driving),  
Bozeman (180 miles / 3 hours)  
Helena (90 miles / 1.5 hours)  
Kalispell (225 miles / 4 hours)  
Missoula (170 miles / 3 hours driving)

For a free Montana Travel Kit, including map, contact Travel Montana – 800-847-4868 or [www.visitmt.com](http://www.visitmt.com).

## *A Sampling of Other Activities*

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Hospitality Room</b>                    | The Hospitality Room will be open at the Best Western Heritage Inn from 8:00 pm – midnight Sunday through Friday.                                                       |
| <b>5 K Torch Run / Walk Dinner</b>         | The 5 K Run /Walk will take place Wednesday evening in a spectacular setting along the Missouri River. Dinner will follow at Giant Spring State Park and Fish Hatchery. |
| <b>Warden Skills Games</b>                 | Enjoy the challenge and fun of Warden Skills Games on Friday afternoon. Events for all ages that are interested in participating.                                       |
| <b>Jurisdictional Representative Bkfst</b> | Thursday morning – 7:00 – 8:30                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Retired Officers Bkfst</b>              | Friday morning – 7:00 – 8:30                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Female Officers Bkfst</b>               | Saturday morning – 7:00 – 8:30                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Closing Banquet</b>                     | The event you don't want to miss. Enjoy the banquet, auction and entertainment by Montana's very own Rob Quist – "leave on a high note."                                |
| <b>Spouse / Guest Teen / Youth</b>         | There are a multitude of activities planned for spouses, guests, teens and youth – too numerous to list here. Additional information can be found on the website.       |

## *Registration*

We encourage everyone to register online at [www.montanagamewardens.org](http://www.montanagamewardens.org) or [www.naweao.org](http://www.naweao.org). However, if you are unable to do so, please call the conference coordinators at 406-442-4141 to have a registration form and packet mailed to you.

## *Registration Fees:*

The first fee listed is applicable until May 13; second fee applies to all registrations beyond May 13.

|                        |       |       |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| • NAWEOA Member        | \$175 | \$210 |
| • Nonmember            | \$200 | \$235 |
| • Retired Officer      | \$160 | \$190 |
| • Spouse / Guest       | \$135 | \$165 |
| • Student              | \$160 | \$190 |
| • Teen / Youth         | \$120 | \$145 |
| • Closing Banquet Only | \$ 60 | \$ 85 |

**Early registration fees in effect only until May 13, 2008 – register today!**

## *Host Hotel / Lodging*

Our host hotel is the Best Western Heritage Inn, 1700 Fox Farm Road, in Great Falls. Call early for your reservation – 406-761-1900 or 800-548-8256. The basic conference rate is \$99, plus a 7% accommodations tax – free parking, free wireless internet connection. Other hotels with special conference rates are listed on the conference website. Two RV parks are also listed on the website.

## *Need More Info?*

Contact the conference coordinators Claire or Gail – [clairei@mt.net](mailto:clairei@mt.net); [gailb@mt.net](mailto:gailb@mt.net) or 406-442-4141.



*Hosted by the  
Montana Game Wardens  
Association*



## MEMORIAL GARDEN NEARS 100% PARTICIPATION

There are a total of 70 jurisdictions in Canada and the United States that are recognized by NAWEOA as jurisdictions that have fish and/or wildlife law enforcement as a mandate of their duties. A total of 65 of these jurisdictions have participated by purchasing a memorial plaque to honor their fallen officers. Eleven of those 65 do not have any fallen officers. We are still awaiting confirmation of the fallen officers list for 3 of these jurisdictions.



The 5 jurisdictions that are outstanding consist of one government agency from Canada (National Capital Commission), one government agency from the United States (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission) and three state jurisdictions (Hawaii, Tennessee and South Carolina).

| FLORIDA                  |               |     |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----|
| NAME                     | DATE OF DEATH | AGE |
| SHARPE, GEORGE T. "EARL" | OCT. 1, 1947  |     |
| FIELDS, JAMES R.         | DEC. 24, 1950 | 58  |
| INGRAM, JOHN             | NOV. 25, 1951 | 31  |
| SMITH, BUD T.            | NOV. 30, 1954 | 30  |
| ALBRITTON, MARVIN J.     | AUG. 19, 1966 | 38  |
| THOMPSON, JAMES G.       | JUNE 25, 1968 | 32  |
| WALKER, LEON             | AUG. 17, 1970 | 53  |
| CHAPIN, HARRY CHARLES    | NOV. 5, 1972  | 49  |
| COOK, JAMES L.           | DEC. 8, 1972  | 32  |
| CROWDER, DANESSE BYRON   | MAY 3, 1974   | 29  |
| PARK, MARGARET E.        | DEC. 13, 1984 | 26  |
| BARNES, RAY LYNN         | NOV. 21, 1987 | 31  |
| BURNS, ROY RUBEN         | OCT. 26, 2001 | 25  |
| RANDALL, CHARLES T.      | OCT. 28, 2001 | 32  |

So far we have approved and recognized a total of 306 fallen officers in Canada and the United States. There are another possible 64 fallen officers that may be added to the list. Some of these have been confirmed either by being previously recognized by the National Fallen Officers Memorial or by having been reviewed and approved by our own review committee. There is potentially as many as 370 fallen officers that may be recognized at the Game Warden Museum Memorial.

| NEW BRUNSWICK |               |     |
|---------------|---------------|-----|
| NAME          | DATE OF DEATH | AGE |
| GREER, LESLIE | NOV. 27, 1959 | 37  |
| ROY, ALBERT   | MAY 23, 1980  | 62  |
| COMEAU, MARC  | MAY 24, 1980  | 22  |



# 1980

## NAWEOA Founders



*Standing, left to right:* Jerry Baltazor (ID), Lee Frost (ID), John Babcock (MT), Stan Peck (MT), Tom Bivens (MT), Lew Ramstead (AB), Dennis Almquist (WY), Chuck Oakley (WY), Syl Pompu (AB).

*Sitting, left to right:* Kit Christensen (ID), Ed Comly (MT), John Edwards (SK), John Fallows (AB), Rick Hoar (BC), Chuck Thornton (WY).

### NAWEOA

Stephen Kleiner-Secretary, Treasurer  
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Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

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