



**NORTH AMERICAN  
WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION**

*"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"*



## **28th Annual NAWEOA Conference**

**July 12—19, 2009 ~~ Moncton, New Brunswick**



**Spring 2009**  
**51st Edition NAWEOA Newsletter**

# NAWEOA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President Marion Hoffman</b> 959 Ashokan Road, Kingston, NY 12401	(845) 331-6975 H (845) 430-0972 W	president@naweo.org
<b>Vice-President Kevin Schoepp</b> 1610 North Fenwick Crescent, Regina, SK S4X 4N4	(306) 924-5837 H (306) 787-9494 W	(306) 787-8280 Fax vpresident@naweo.org
<b>Past President Doug Forsdick</b> Box 980, 189 E. Stewart Street, Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0	(250) 567-3106 H (250) 567-8929 W	ppresident@naweo.org
<b>Secretary/Treasurer Steve Kleiner</b> PO Box 22, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648	(814) 942-9432 H (814) 643-1831 W	(877) 569-4255 Fax secretarytreasurer@naweo.org
<b>Director Region 1 Dave Webster</b> Box 7290 2nd St., Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0	(250) 442-5643 H	region1@naweo.org
<b>Director Region 2 Dave Grant</b> Box 6000, Gimli, MB R0C 1B0	(204) 642-6011 H	region2@naweo.org
<b>Director Region 3 Rick Nash</b> 60 Menzies Drive, Hanwell, NB E3C 1M6	(506) 455-9698 H (506) 367-7677 W	region3@naweo.org
<b>Director Region 4 Steve Tomac</b> 13 Nurdyke Rd, Yerrington, NV 89447	(775) 463-5531 H (775) 848-5836 W	(775) 463-4422 Fax region4@naweo.org
<b>Director Region 5 Scott Haney</b> 530 CR 4222, Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455	(903) 572-5242 H (903) 572-7966 W	(903) 573-0962 Cell region5@naweo.org
<b>Director Region 6 Hampton Yates</b> 2125 Brown Road, Ponce de Leon, FL 32455	(850) 956-2155 H (850) 258-8630 W	region6@naweo.org
<b>Director Region 7 Rich Cramer</b> P.O. Box 116, Tionesta, PA 16353	(814) 755-3249 H	region7@naweo.org
<b>Webmaster Robin Brandenburg</b> 352 Hwy 'M', Steelville, MO 65565	(573) 775-2270 H	webmaster@naweo.org
<b>Conference Liaison Randy Hancock</b> P.O. Box 990, Buena Vista, CO 81211	(719) 395-2880 H (719) 539-8413 W	conference @naweo.org
<b>Newsletter Editor Levi Krause</b> 13138 - 132nd St., Louisville, NE 68037	(402) 234-2212 H (402) 234-2212 W	editor@naweo.org

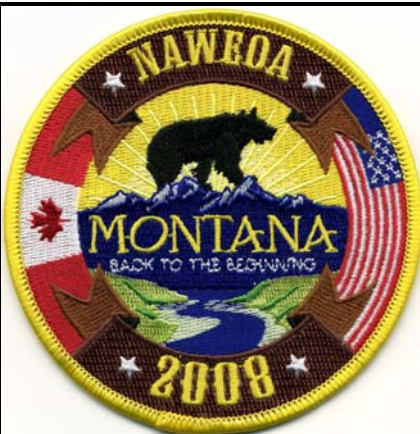
**Visit NAWEOA's website:**

**<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 **2008 NAWEOA conference patches** were produced. The cost per patch (including shipping and handling) for all patches from 2003 through 2008 is \$7.00 US.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAWEOA**

**Mail to:** WCO George A. Wilcox

P.O. Box 480

Millville, PA 17846

[1996 through 2002 patches are only available over-the-counter at the Game Warden Museum ( [www.gamewardenmuseum.org](http://www.gamewardenmuseum.org) ) ]

# *Fallen Officer Memorial*

## *Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*



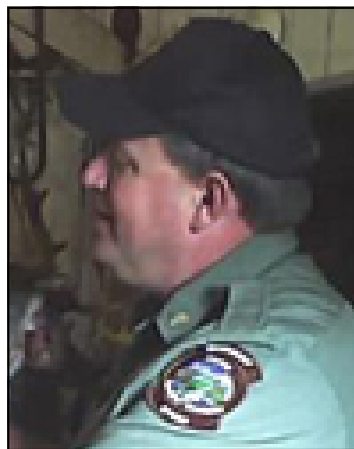
**Game Warden George Whatley**, 45, died October 10, 2008, in Fort Stockton after collapsing following a training exercise.

He was participating in a physical agility test along with 10 other West Texas wardens

when he was stricken.

Whatley, who was from Cass County in East Texas, was stationed in Van Horn and graduated from the game warden academy in 2007. He is survived by his wife, Kelly, and two sons: Sam, 14, and Seth, 13.

## *Arkansas Game and Fish Commission*



**Sgt. Monty Carmikle**, 45, died in a helicopter crash on Sunday, November 16, 2008 while patrolling about 60 miles north of Little Rock for violators of a ban on deer hunting at night.

Carmikle and the pilot, who received non-life-threatening

injuries, were patrolling by air while other officers worked from the ground.

Sgt. Carmikle, of Heber Springs, had worked for the state agency since the summer of 1985. He was married and had a teenage son.

## *Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources*



**Officer Nathan Mims**, 30, died on November 11, 2008 after suffering a fatal heart attack within 24 hours of a non-routine stressful event.

Officer Nathan Mims was a 6-year veteran of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Division and recently assigned to the Special Investigations Unit. Mims is survived by his wife, Brooke, 10-month old son, Collin, and 6-year old step-daughter, Kaylee.

## *Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*



**Lt. Joseph Andrew Martyna**, 54, died on November 16, 2008, of a heart attack. He was involved in a search-and-rescue mission just before his death.

Martyna became a pilot with the Florida Marine Patrol (FWC predecessor) in 1987. In 1999, he was promoted to lieutenant in the FWC's South Region's Aviation Section and operated helicopters.

Martyna is survived by his wife, Pam, and his mother.



## President's Report by Marion Hoffman



Hello, everyone, and Happy Spring! Speaking for myself, it certainly was a long winter and one that I'm not sorry to see go. I thoroughly enjoy the changes of the seasons, but occasionally a season seems to hang on a bit too long and needs a nudge to get it moving along. I'm looking forward to seeing the first hint of green starting to sprout on the trees.

A "thank you" goes out to the California wardens who put out the wel-

come mat for our Winter Executive Board meeting this past February. Our winter meeting is where 90% of NAWEOA's operational business is handled and where we regroup and recharge for the upcoming year. We certainly appreciated their efforts and the support of their management staff even though they are undergoing some very severe financial hardships.

Speaking of financial hardships, I hope that everyone is weathering the economic storm that is overtaking the North American continent. It seems worse on this side of the border, but I know it is also affecting the day-to-day operations of our colleagues to the north. Unfortunately, the real casualty will ultimately be our natural resources. With more and more people losing their jobs and their homes, it is bound to have an impact. It will fall upon us, the natural resource officers, the game wardens, the conservation officers, to safeguard those resources. And, as is generally the case, we will be expected

to do so, in spite of the cutbacks, the lack of equipment, the lack of time, and the lack of money. I have no doubt that we are up to the challenge! It is what we do! It is why we took the job in the first place. No one loves a challenge more than a Game Warden! I know we will get through this and in the end we will accomplish our mission. There is no one more ingenious than a Game Warden.

Well, time for me to get to work. I hope to see some of you this summer in Moncton, New Brunswick, where our colleagues are hosting our 28<sup>th</sup> annual training conference. NAWEOA will be holding elections for all the US Director positions as well as President and Vice President. I encourage all of you to consider getting involved and serving your Association by running for a position. It has been one heck of a ride for me and one that I would not have missed for the world! Thank you for giving me this opportunity. Take care everyone and stay safe.

## Past President's Report by Doug Forsdick

## Call for Elections



There will be elections for all of the US Director positions at the summer

conference in Moncton, New Brunswick. There will also be elections for President (Canadian officer) and Vice-President (US officer). You must be a voting member of NAWEOA to be eligible for any of these positions.

Please send your nominations for any of the available positions to Past President Doug Forsdick at Box 980, 189 East Stewart Street, Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0, or send me an e-mail at [doug.forsdick@gov.bc.ca](mailto:doug.forsdick@gov.bc.ca). All nominations must be made by a NAWEOA member in good standing and seconded by a NAWEOA member in good standing.

Being on the Executive Board of NAWEOA is a demanding, but rewarding, job. You must be able to attend the summer conference as well as the winter executive meeting while on the Board. There are literally thousands of business e-mails to action each year. You will need a computer and internet service to carry this out. To find out more about the duties of each position, please visit the NAWEOA website and look under the Constitution and By-laws section.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.



## DIGITAL NEWSLETTER



Printing and postage costs for the NAWEOA Newsletter continue to rise — each issue costs approximately \$11,000. We will be "testing the waters" for the next few issues to determine member preference by sending paper copies of the newsletters and posting a digital version on the "protected" section of the NAWEOA website (username: naweo; password: fishcops). Please take time to access the digital version to see what you think of it.

Likes and dislikes of both versions may be sent to: [editor@naweo.org](mailto:editor@naweo.org).

## Vice President's Report by Kevin Schoepp



The Executive Board has just returned from our winter meeting. This year we ventured to California, and were hosted by the California officers who put us on to a wonderful location at Cambria, California which is about halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The weather was great and they said they arranged for that, too!

Thanks goes out to all of the officers we met during the week, but I extend a special "thank you" to Captain Doug Huckins from Monterey. It was over a year ago when Captain Huckins first planted the seed and extended the offer for our Board to consider coming to his area for a winter meeting. It has

truly been a privilege in getting to know Doug and he deserves a ton of credit for pulling everything together.

At the meeting it was with honor that our Board was able to present two fallen officer plaques to Assistant Chief Carmel Babich. In 1984 the California Department of Fish and Game lost two officers in separate on-duty automobile accidents. The names were never submitted to the NAWEOA board. Fallen officer plaques were prepared in memory of Lieutenant Roy John Reed and Lieutenant Robert A. Flynt and a short presentation was made during the winter meeting.

Sadly, since we last met in Montana, we have lost four officers from our ranks. These men will be honored at the summer conference in New Brunswick and may we always remember the sacrifice they gave. At our winter meeting, Marion shared some correspondence that was received from the family of fallen officer Nathan Mims. I've asked Levi to include it in this newsletter and I know you will all agree that administering the fallen officer program is one of the most important and meaningful things NAWEOA can do.

Another important part of our Association is our awards program. In recent years, we have received outstanding participation and the award nominations have been numerous in all categories. We have some ground to make up this year though. We only have a handful of nominations to date, so I'm looking for all of our support. Let's get those nominations in!! 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.

I'm sincerely interested in hearing from the membership on any issue that might be of concern or any question that you might have of the Executive. I'm always open for an email ([vpresident@naweo.org](mailto:vpresident@naweo.org)) or a phone call (306-787-9494), so please know the invitation is there.

**Let's "Follow the Tide"  
to NAWEOA 2009.**

**See you all in Moncton this summer.**

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Left to right: Lorraine Doyle, Lt. Mark Crossland, Lance Sheeley, Capt. Doug Huckins, Todd Tognazzini, Ass't Chief Carmel Babich



# REGION 1 REPORT



**Region 1 Director Dave Webster**

*Hello from Region 1 and Western Canada. I would just like to thank all the Region 1 Jurisdictional Reps for all their support and say it has been a pleasure working with all of you over the past year.*

**Len Butler from British Columbia** reports that the Conservation Officer Service (COS) is into its second year of restructuring and is still trying to settle into its new regime. There have been a number of recent changes to the COS and, with a May provincial election, many conservation officers are wondering if changes are once again on the horizon.

The COS has been requested by the 2010 Olympic Committee to provide 27 COs to assist with the games. The officers will be working alongside the military providing security for a number of venues. Conservation officers will be allowed free access to the venue for which they are providing security for when not on duty.

Once again, the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA) has had a successful delivery with 41 recruits graduating from 5 jurisdictions. The 16-week academy, in Hinton, Alberta, provides training for new officers from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and British Columbia. The academy is the first of its kind with each jurisdiction providing instructors for core courses such as firearms training and defensive tactics. Other courses such as EVOG (Emergency Vehicle Operators Course) and Investigators Course to Problem Wildlife, are covered in 16 weeks. The academy will be entering its third year in 2009 and is well on its way to having national standards for many courses.

**Steve Carlson from Alberta** reports, "We do not have a lot of news."

They are still trying to work through the issues related to the changes in vehicle policy that prevented vehicles from being taken home unless formally designated to be on "stand-by" to receive calls. It has led to challenging scheduling issues, officer safety concerns due to limited or no timely backup available for officers, as well as an increase in workloads with a decrease in effectiveness/efficiency in conducting duties. He wonders if British Columbia is now going that direction.

The Alberta Game Warden magazine that has been published by the Association for over 20 years will be folding after the spring edition. However, efforts/discussions are underway for a Western Canadian Game Warden magazine (name/structure/business plan is not yet settled) involving various Association jurisdictions (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta and maybe others) to emerge from the ashes. More information will be forthcoming on this initiative as things develop.

From an equipment standpoint, Alberta is in the process of obtaining mobile computer equipment (mobile office) for all enforcement vehicles. This equipment includes rugged laptops, dash camera systems, prisoner shields, and vehicle safes. The acquisition of this equipment will be phased in over a two-year period. Officers are receiving training on the use of this technology (such as GIS mapping, accessing various database systems, etc.) to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of field operations.

**Braden Cherney from Saskatchewan** reports NAWEOA 2011 Saskatoon planning has begun. The planning committee is busy doing (what else?) planning. They will present again at Moncton this year. They will be updating NAWEOA on the progress made throughout the year. In order to maintain the momentum and enthusiasm that was demonstrated in the past two conferences, the Saskatchewan delegation will have another item to give away (which will remain a secret; but, what I can tell you is, it goes along with the "Hooked on Saskatchewan" theme) and a presentation highlighting what Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon have to offer. So, if you plan on making it to Moncton, do not miss the Saskatchewan presentation. Simply put, you will be miss out on a lot. See you in Moncton!!!

Closer to home, in fact in his field

area, there was an opportunity to bring a longstanding file to conclusion. A Moose Jaw resident pleaded guilty to four counts under the Saskatchewan Wildlife Act and two counts under the Saskatchewan Fisheries Regulations and was fined \$17,500 in Moose Jaw Provincial Court. Thomas Keeler was convicted of unlawfully hunting elk and moose, using another person's license, carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle, and illegal fishing. In addition to the fines and surcharges, Keeler has been barred from hunting for three years and from fishing for one year. The charges were laid as the result of a two-year covert investigation. All items seized in the case were ordered forfeited to the Crown.

A Tillsonburg, Ontario, man has received the largest fine ever for a violation of The Outfitter and Guide Regulations. Jeffrey R. Wolfe has been convicted in Meadow Lake provincial court of outfitting without a licence and hunting out of season. He was fined a total of \$175,000 under The Wildlife Act and The Outfitter and Guide Regulations. A three-month investigation in late 2005 by Ministry of Environment conservation officers confirmed that Wolfe was guiding American hunters in the Dorintosh area north of Meadow Lake on hunts for moose, bear, white-tailed deer and elk. This case was the result of a good investigation and access to a prosecutor who is dedicated to the Ministry of Environment.

Shaunavon Conservation Officer Arnie Schmidt received a Rescue Commendation Award for his involvement in rescuing two fishermen who had capsized their boat in the Admiral Reservoir. On July 24, 2008, the men were discovered by Officer Schmidt while on regular patrol. Shaunavan EMS, Ponteix RCMP and the Shaunavan Fire Department were dispatched to the scene. Schmidt was able to rescue one of the men floating closer to the shoreline before rescue services arrived and retrieved the other fisherman, who was still clinging to the overturned boat. "Both of them were cold and a little shook up, but that was about it. It all turned out for the best and it was a happy ending," said Schmidt. Both men were transported to Shaunavan Hospital for medical examination.

On November 24, 2008, Lieutenant Governor Dr. Gordon Barnhart presented the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal to Greg Rychlo, Senior Conservation Officer, and Steven Hug, Senior

Conservation Officer, in Regina. The medal recognizes individuals who have 25 years or more of exemplary service protecting the people of Saskatchewan or their property.

**Kirby Meister from the Yukon** reports: Greetings from Yukon! This past fall and early winter saw our two newest Conservation Officers, Aaron Koss-Young (Whitehorse district) and Dean McLean (Watson Lake district) attend the conservation officer training academy in Hinton, Alberta. This was the first time our Department sent people to this still-new training program. Our guys did well and all reports are that the academy is well run and a great training experience for the new recruits. Because of our small staff size (only 14 field officers in Yukon), we are always looking to piggy-back onto other agencies' programs in order to find suitable basic training for our new people and, at this time, the program at Hinton appears to be a pretty good option for us.

Several other officers have, in the past couple of years, traveled to other parts of Canada to receive "train-the-trainer" instruction in a variety of topics. This helps us keep current our pool of in-house instructors, who are then able to provide much of our annual qualification-type training to our staff in the districts.

District Officer, Kevin Johnstone, represented us at the conference in Montana in July, 2008. He reported back that he had a great experience and met a lot of very fine people. Kevin also was lucky enough to have his name drawn out of the bucket for the officer exchange! So during the fall hunting season, Kevin traveled to New Mexico and spent a couple of weeks working with officers there. The New Mexico officers took good care of him and showed him a great time and superb hospitality. We would like to thank the New Mexico officers and their agency for doing such a great job of hosting Kevin's visit.

Our Conference involvement didn't end there. Officer Maryann Wangsgard from Utah was the other person selected at the Convention to do an officer exchange, and she chose Yukon. Maryann came to Yukon in early September and spent about 10 days touring around with several of our officers. She had a great time, and everyone involved agreed that it was our pleasure to meet her and show her a little bit of the kind of work we do here.

Over the past year, we have kept very busy with the usual "game warden" duties. Some good investigations have been done by our staff. One of note: you

may have noticed in the news that, in recent times, there seems to be more and more problems with habitat damage being done by off-road vehicle users. This seems to occur across the continent, most often near larger human population centers, but we learned last summer that even here in remote Yukon we have these things happening. Conservation officers in the Haines Junction and Whitehorse districts teamed up to investigate a complaint of an abandoned off-road pickup truck in a backcountry area. It was found that a Whitehorse man had been out joy riding in a backcountry area on First Nation-owned land when his 4X4 truck got badly stuck in soft ground. He simply took a few valuable parts off of the vehicle and abandoned the rest of it, along with plenty of other litter. The man appeared in court, was sentenced to a \$500.00 fine, and was forced by court order to clean up his mess.

Every spring, all Yukon conservation officers get together for a few days of in-service training and operational planning meetings. On the agenda this year, our group will be brainstorming about how to attract more youth into becoming involved in hunting. We may even recommend legislative changes that would make it easier for youth to obtain certain licenses or permits. If anyone out there has experience in this, we would like to hear from you. You could email [Kirby.meister@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Kirby.meister@gov.yk.ca) if you have any advice to offer.

Our Association has recently produced ball caps and limited edition brass belt buckles with our Yukon Conservation Officers Association logo on them. If anyone is interested, drop me a line.

**North West Territories** – We are glad to have the NWT Officer's Association as a regular member of NAWEOA and look forward to working with them now and in the future. They are currently in the process of attempting to acquire side arms and will keep us posted as that effort continues.

**Rich Elson, DFO Pacific Region** reports: Since our last newsletter, we have had some significant advancements in our organization. Randy Nelson was appointed Director of Conservation and Protection after acting for a few years. Randy is our founding president (Society) and we all see this as a very positive step for all officers. As they say, Randy has "been there and done that" so he has the respect of the troops.

We continue to advance the theme of leadership at all levels and have started a series of workshops aimed at

building that leadership culture at the non-supervisory levels. The job of a natural resource protection officer certainly has changed over the decades and nowadays you have to be able to crawl in the mud to get a pinch and then stand up in front of a class and make a presentation on environmental stewardship. We are trying to provide our officers with the skills to do it all. We are rolling out our reality-based training program using F/X this spring as well. We have been building this for many years now and are quite excited about providing our officers with leading edge scenario development using marking cartridges. We have taken a combination of training through Setcan and Ken Murray's program, "Training at the Speed of Life". With solid support from Vancouver and Ottawa, we are in a position to utilize top-level equipment and training to provide our officers with this valuable program. This will ensure that all of us go home safe and carry on our duties daily with a winning mindset. Many officers continue to lead our communities with education and stewardship initiatives -- too many to mention here -- but those that reach out to the youth of our communities are building better stewards of the resource for tomorrow.

On the recruitment end, we hope to take on 5-10 cadets this year and will likely do so for several years to come as the baby boomers retire. We continue to foster our partnerships with the CO Service and Environment Canada and try to include them on various training initiatives. If you have a training program going on and can offer seats to your partners in another agency, we encourage you to do so. It only improves our ability to tackle the crime out there.

We lost a treasure this past year with the passing of Hubert Poschmann. Hubert retired recently, but fell ill and died December 18, 2008. He was a gentle soul who warmed many hearts in our region.

Our society remains in great financial shape and we are in a position to offer benevolence when officers in our extended family need assistance. We hope to issue our first scholarship this year as a result of the legacy from NAWEOA 2005.

**Parks Canada** – There is a major restructuring of the Parks Canada Warden Service and, once staffing and training issues are resolved, we will be getting some more detailed information from that group.

Hope everyone has a great spring and I look forward to seeing you in New Brunswick!

# REGION 2 REPORT



**Region 2 Director Dave Grant**

*This is my first submission to the newsletter as Region 2 Director. I have been involved with NAWEOA for many years and I am very glad to have taken on this new role. NAWEOA is a wonderful organization that continues to provide a beneficial service to all fish and wildlife officers. I encourage everyone, especially those officers in Region 2, to bring forward your interests and concerns and together we can help NAWEOA better serve its members.*

## **Manitoba – Geoff Smith**

Manitoba is happy to announce that we had 7 new recruits graduate from the Western Canadian Game Warden Academy. The officers are now in the field and the results of this new academy seem pretty evident as I am told the officers are all doing well. A streaming initiative is well underway in Manitoba. Park management is being taken off the Natural Resource Officers' list of duties in many areas of the province. For many of us, this is welcomed as it gives officers more time in the field doing the resource enforcement work we originally signed up for. We are still responsible for the safety and security duties of our provincial parks.

Any day now, we will have a new look as the MNROA were successful in their venture of pursuing a new uniform shirt. We will now be issued a dark green uniform shirt to help distinguish us from the rest of the province's uniformed staff. The department also chose to pursue a new crest as well.

The MNROA was also successful in setting up a new Officer Safety Committee with the department. We were able to appoint two field officers to this working group. We now have a proper venue to address the many concerns that are shared with the field officers.

Manitoba, along with the western provinces and territories, is in the process of pursuing a Western Canadian Game Warden Magazine. We will keep you posted as many of you may wish to get a subscription.

We will be celebrating our 26th Anniversary Conference with a joint convention with the Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers in early April. This should be a well-attended and fun event.

Hopefully I will see many of you at the NAWEOA convention in New Brunswick – a very beautiful and friendly part of our country!

## **Ontario – Bruce Ward**

Our Officers Association recently hosted a second reception for Members of Provincial Parliament (at the suggestion and with the assistance of The Pathway Group), sanctioned by the Minister of Natural Resources 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.

Efforts by COs towards re-establishing adequate funding for field enforcement programs continues and has 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 calls to our 24/7 tips line (1-877-TIPS-MNR).

Ontario COs and Horwood Lake Lodge are organizing another "Take a Kid Fishing" trip in July for underprivileged children from the Hamilton area. This is patterned after the "Orphan's Hunting Trip" sponsored jointly by the Texas Game Wardens Association, and the Sportsman's Club of Dallas-Fort Worth.

After over 15 years of struggles, Ontario COs special case argument for a salary adjustment was accepted by our employer with our union's support. The settlement awarded was an additional five percent over and above the 7.75% award for the entire OPSEU bargaining unit (a total increase of 12.75% over the next 4 years). This has been a huge morale boost, especially in such difficult economic times and after what has felt like forever without resolution.

While this falls significantly short of the parity sought with the three closest comparison job specifications provided (Provincial Police Constable, Provincial Environmental Officer -IV, and Prov. Environmental Officer -V), it still represents a considerable accomplishment and is taken to reflect the combined support of our union, our agency's upper management, our own Minister and other members of provincial parliament. Clearly the approach and efforts of the Ontario Conservation Officers Association (OCA President Dan Van Exan) has proven successful where other approaches did not.

## **Nunavut – Rob Harmer**

Rob reports that the Nunavut officers attended their annual Conservation Officers conference in Iqaluit from February 26-27. Their Department has updated and issued an entirely new uniform which will be a new look for all officers. Their officers have been busy with training in self-defense tactics and conducting investigations.

*Rob has just recently (late February) accepted the position as President of the Nunavut Officers Association. I look forward to working with Rob and sharing information with him and the Nunavut officers. I would like to thank Alden Williams for his effort and support to NAWEOA. It was greatly appreciated.*

## **Canadian Wildlife Service – Ross Stewart**

Wildlife Officer Badge #6, Garry F. Bogdan retires -- Bogdan received his first Peace Officer designation as a Fisheries Officer with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in 1973 and worked in Hay River, N.W.T. He then went on to be a con-





servation officer with the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources, returning to the federal government in 1978. He has been with Environment Canada since that time as a game officer and is currently Regional Director of the Wildlife Enforcement Division in Edmonton, Alberta.

Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, presented Bogdan with the Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal in 2006.

Our fearless leader left the office on December 31st and leaves behind a memorable career as a Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator, a Chief and finally as the Regional Director of P&NR WED, and long-time supporter of NAWEOA. Bogdan encouraged officers to support NAWEOA, the people, the ideals they represent, and the resource protection beliefs that every officer makes by participating in this career.

The P&NR Team was canvassed as to what words best described Bogdan -- de-

voted, sincere, loyal, dedicated, intestinal fortitude, passionate, experienced, open, tenacious, excellent communicator, great sense of humor, trustworthy, leader, compassionate, visionary, thinker, straight shooter, down-to-earth, friend, Duck Cop #1, but most of all ... a true Game Warden.

Successful 2008 field season for P&NR officers -- Fall 2008 proved to be a very busy and productive enforcement initiative for Prairie and Northern Region Wildlife Officers. Wildlife Officers worked closely with Canadian partner agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service while on patrol, conducting RSIs and Border Blitzes. From September to December 2008, P&NR Wildlife Officers from EC, while working with partner agencies, inspected a total of 3,513 hunters/fishers during various compliance patrols and blitzes. A total of 136 charges and 40 warnings were laid by Environment Canada and partner agency officers. A total of \$45,048.50 in fines was assessed during the fall with numerous fish and wildlife items seized.

Prairie & Northern Region introduces new wildlife officers -- Environment Canada, Wildlife Enforcement Division, Prairie and Northern Region welcomes four new federal wildlife officers to PNRegion. Officer Quentin Deering from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Swan Hills, Alberta, joins Environment Canada in Yellowknife. He will join Officer Steve Allan to form a two-man team for the North. Officer Paul Donnelly arrives from Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Yellowknife to join Officer Drew Mahaffey in Edmonton to form a two-man team for central and northern Alberta. Officer Blair Lacroix from the Canadian Firearms Centre (and formerly with Department of Fisheries and Oceans) in Manitoba will be staying in Winnipeg replacing Dustin Degagne who transferred to the Pacific and Yukon region. Officer Kevin Carr joins us from Saskatchewan Environment with 26 years of service and will be joining the staff in Saskatoon. The new officers bring a wealth of experience to Wildlife Enforcement and we welcome them all.

## ***LOOKING BACK***

### **10<sup>th</sup> Ed., Fall, 1988**

The seventh annual conference was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. ~ Alberta officers won the Warden Skills Competition. President was J.C. Romines. ~ The first edition of the Journal of Wildlife Law Enforcement was available for distribution. ~ California is reviewing the options between revolvers and semi-auto handguns. ~ The 2<sup>nd</sup> limited edition art print, "Quiet Watch" by California Game Warden artist, Bill Peters, was unveiled.

Dear NAWEOA Members,  
Thank you so much for your generous gift to our beloved Nathan's memory. The generosity, thoughtfulness, and kindness of people like you have helped us to get through this very difficult time. Nathan left a beautiful 10 month old son, and your gift will be used for his benefit.  
The Family of Officer Nathan Thims



# REGION 3 REPORT



**Region 3 Director Rick Nash**

*I hope everybody is having a safe winter. New Brunswick Conservation Officers are busy preparing to host the 2009 NAWEOA Conference. They have a good variety of training and are looking forward to seeing many of you in Moncton in July.*

## **Greetings from the "Picture Province" New Brunswick**

By Shawn Farrell

In June of 2008, training was given to our Officers for the implementation of our new ticketing program. Officers are now writing tickets for a variety of minor offences and compliance has been great.

During the fall our department had four Conservation cadets join our ranks for their six weeks of mandatory field training with training Officers. The cadets were from the Conservation Education program which is offered at the Atlantic Police Academy in Prince Edward Island. Each of the cadets graduated in December and we wish them the best in their endeavours.

Our union contract has expired and various Position Description Questionnaire's (PDQ's) have been completed for potential reclassifications. The reason for the PDQ review is a the result of departmental changes that occurred a few years back when Rangers were split into two distinct groups; conservation and resource. They have been submitted for a joint review between the union and the provincial government. The results of the submission will be available once the process has been completed. Contract negotiations will commence once the review process has been completed and approved. We are hopeful that negotiations will be favourable.

Our association is very excited about the

upcoming NAWEOA 2009 conference which will be held in Moncton, New Brunswick July 12-19, 2009. Committee members have been working extremely hard to ensure everyone's east coast visit will be an experience to remember. Federal and provincial officers from the Maritimes have come on board to assist with the conference.

Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia officers will each be hosting a hospitality evening. In addition, PEI will be offering a day trip to the Island to visit a few of the popular tourist attractions. The Island's visit will end with a buffalo barbeque and mussel bake before returning to the mainland (Moncton) for the evenings festivities. The conference is offering tours which will showcase the Bay of Fundy area, home of the world's highest tides. Our variety of training sessions will definitely appeal to the many officers attending. Hospitality nights will take place next door at the City Market Place. Following our banquet Saturday evening, guests will be entertained by Poge. This east coast group will definitely show us a great down east kitchen party. Check out our conference on the web at [www.nbcoa.ca](http://www.nbcoa.ca) and click on the NAWEOA logo. We encourage everyone to "Follow the Tide" and come east in 2009 to enjoy our famous Maritime hospitality.

Hope to see you in July. Take care and stay safe.

## **Greetings from Newfoundland and Labrador**

Winter has finally arrived in Eastern Newfoundland. While Labrador is experiencing minus 50celsius wind chill we in Eastern have been basking in balmy 6-7celsius until now. Today windchill of -16 Celsius. Still not a lot snow to enjoy comfortable snowmobiling but we are getting there.

One of the drawbacks to such a mixture of weather is that our Wildlife Division cannot conduct big game management census and distribution work as 100 percent snow cover is required to do a good job. These projects were begun last year, but due to bad snow conditions areas here on the East Coast could not be completed.

On the Labour Front ratification meetings are presently under way to vote on the new Collective Agreement with Government. A twenty percent increase over four years broken down into eight percent up front and

four percent per year for the remaining three years. Our Union is recommending acceptance and I have no doubt that it will be accepted by the majority, however, our Association will still be pushing for Occupational Review as we are still far behind other jurisdictions on the monetary scale.

The Conservation Law Enforcement Training or C.L.E.T is ongoing with courses at the College of the North Atlantic being held each month with a minimum of ten and maximum of twenty Conservation Officers per course. The first Graduation exercises are slated to be held spring of 2009.

A second group of instructors were certified in Officer Safety Use of Force/ Basic Firearms in November 2008 at Holland College in Prince Edward Island. The need for more instructors was realized due to the increase in personnel requiring certification annually, subsequently placing a strain on the small number of instructors already certified to carry out the program. New snowmobiles and Atv's are being replaced continually as is the truck fleet. Chevrolet 4x4 extended cabs are the vehicles of choice by Government over the past year and into this year.

## **NOVA SCOTIA REPORT**

Greetings to all from Nova Scotia.

It's been a real good year in our province. We all came home safe and reasonably sound. We have been able to continue to develop our training program. More emphasis is being put on live scenario based experiences and basic safety principles. Provincial DNR officers attended a week of training as a unit. This has not happened since many years and may not be possible in the foreseeable future. Not always easy to catch up on the files. Some district resource staff were uncomfortable with not having an officer readily available. The quality agenda and morale boosting aspect of training as a unit, makes it very difficult to be critical.

A number of officers, sponsored by DNR, were able to attend training and conferences away from home. Special investigations training, ANRET and NNRIA were some that our officers participated in. The value of sharing is huge and is being supported by our department. If we seriously want to stay current, we need to be part of the process of exploring ideas and finding better solutions.

A highlight of the past year was the recognition of Austin Letcher. A game warden that began his career when he was hired to work Inverness County in 1947. A friend to

many but a terror to poachers, Austin is still well remembered throughout our area. Being an extremely dedicated resource protector, in a place and time when game laws and those who tried to enforce them got little respect, took some effort, not to mention fearless courage. His reputation as a champion boxer was not often challenged, at least not twice by the same individuals.

But, he won the respect of many by being fair with those who were less fortunate. He was even known to speak, in court for the accused, to negotiate lower than prescribed fines, when he thought it appropriate. Tough, but fair, is how he is remembered.

On a rainy, windy night of patrol and having driven his partner home, Austin met with tragedy. Although the subsequent investigation was inconclusive, there was evidence that he was forced off the road after stopping a vehicle. Amongst other suspicious evidence is the fact that his notebook was never found. The records show it as a motor vehicle accident. Ten days later, on October 18, 1967, Austin Letcher succumbed to his injuries and died in hospital.

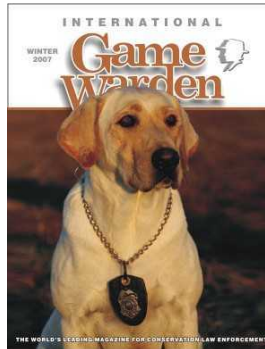
On September 28, 2008, during a national ceremony, game warden Austin Letcher's name was added to the Canadian Police and Peace Officers Memorial Honour Roll at our capital, Ottawa. CEOANS was

honoured to help sponsor a family member, Austin's grandson, Waddie Long, to attend the ceremony. Austin's family have always been very proud of their dad and what he stood for. We have had a good role model, through reputation and stories. It's good that we can now share, with the family, a common respect and admiration for such a genuinely honest, fair and dedicated man.

A great deal of credit goes to Richard McCurdy, a conservation officer with our department, for interviews and archival research on the Austin Letcher story.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Moncton at the conference.

**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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**Check out IGW merchandise on the website!**

# HELP WANTED!!

## **One Canadian and one United States NAWEOA member**

***(Still looking for one good Canadian -- we have a new US member to manage the US items)***

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 ***basic*** NAWEOA conference registrations for both persons will be paid by NAWEOA and each will receive up to \$500 to cover personal, conference-related expenses 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 4 REPORT



**Region 4 Director Steve Tomac**

*Hello from the Western United States. I hope this spring issue finds you all well and that you had a great hunting season! I would like to thank all of the Region 4 J-Reps who keep the lines of communication open between the jurisdictions and the NAWEOA Board. It's truly an important task that benefits the whole NAWEOA family. With the global economic problems, many states are experiencing major financial issues and cutbacks. Tightening of belts and positions going unfilled seems to be par for our region. We had a great conference in Montana and are looking forward to more Region 4 jurisdictions bidding for future conferences. Now, on to the news.*

**Leon Redmon, New Mexico**, reports the end of 2008 saw big changes for New Mexico Game and Fish. After six years, Director Bruce Thompson resigned on November 6, 2008, and Tod Stevenson was appointed as director the following day. Stevenson had retired in 2007 and had worked for the department for over 30 years. We welcome him back.

The financial problems of the country have hit here in New Mexico and the department is facing the same kind of budget crisis as most other states. We currently have a hiring freeze in hiring new officers. We hope this will change when the new fiscal year starts in July 2009.

One case to report on is that former Outfitter Kirt Darner received a \$10,000 fine and 4,500 hours of community service for illegally transporting elk and receiving stolen bighorn sheep heads.

**Jeff Lee, Washington**, reports that Governor Chris Gregoire announced plans to merge Washington Fish and Wildlife Officers with Washington State Patrol as part of streamlining state government. This move

is actively opposed by Washington Game Wardens Association and bargaining unions representing officers and supervisors as well as most sportsmen's groups. A lengthy investigation resulted in two search warrants being served this fall by Detachments 17 & 18, resulting in some major seizures.

Members of Detachments 17 & 18 seized another "load" of illegally killed/possessed wildlife including nearly 40 deer, 4 elk and a bighorn sheep. This load was seized by amending an original search warrant to include a separate residence. Detachment 18 assisted Detachment 17 with a search warrant stemming from a search warrant just before Thanksgiving, 2008. The second search warrant uncovered numerous poached and/or unlawfully possessed animals, including 2 recently killed branched-antlered bull elk, numerous deer and a bighorn sheep skull that was not plugged.

**Matt Haag, Idaho**, reports Idaho wardens are currently in the process of putting together a bid for the 2013 NAWEOA conference. An Idaho delegation consisting of Senior Conservation Officers Bill London, Lew Huddleston, and Tom Whalen hope to travel to Moncton, NB, to present the bid this summer. The future location for that conference has a front runner in the beautiful state capital of Boise.

Idaho officers are entering their third year of successfully producing a high-quality magazine relating to all things in the wildlife enforcement field. From notable cases to recipes, humorous blunders, and heartfelt musings about life in the outdoors, the magazine has been a hit for Idaho wardens and its subscribers. Earnings from the magazine have allowed the Idaho Conservation Officers Association (ICOA) to pursue what was heretofore once considered "pipe dreams".

A summer youth camp run by the officers and modeled after Indiana's camp, is on the radar, as is the ability to take on the financial responsibility of hosting a NAWEOA conference. Proceeds from the magazine have allowed the ICOA more flexibility in awarding educational scholarships and has increased attendance at conference meetings and training seminars. Beyond revenue, the magazine has definitely bought us some good will, some allies, and a venue to talk about our profession.

Pay issues are always on the minds of

Idaho officers and, based on the current economic situation, I suspect that they will continue to weigh heavily. Prior to the economy tanking, Idaho officers were slowly gaining but were still behind other in-house categories for average compensation, not to mention a long way behind when compared to the national fair market average. Unfortunately, the economic forecast is not very bright and the State is looking to make cuts in health benefits and will undoubtedly cut cost of living increases.

**Joe Gilbert, Wyoming**, reports Steve Ferrell became the new Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in the summer of 2008. Director Ferrell came to us from the Arizona Game and Fish Department where he had been a Deputy Director. Welcome aboard, Steve!

Casper Regional Wildlife Supervisor Scott Edberg was recently honored by being selected the "Wildlife Division Employee of the Year" by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Scott has previously served the resource and people of Wyoming as a game warden in Glenrock and as a game warden coordinator in Pinedale. Scott is known for his endless energy, hard work and enthusiasm.

Scott Talbott, who is the Assistant Wildlife Division Chief living in Casper, was selected to receive the "Director's Award" by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Scott has formerly served as a game warden, wildlife investigator and regional supervisor. Scott is known for his "can-do" attitude, strong work ethic and his efforts to advance the agency and wildlife management profession in everything that he does.

**Rick Langley, Arizona**, reports the Arizona Game and Fish Department is going through many trials right now with the State's budget deficit of \$1+BILLION. Next year will be worse with an expected deficit of \$3+BILLION. Most of our watercraft enforcement funding was swept which will keep our officers from patrolling some hugely popular recreational lakes like Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, Lake Powell and Lake Havasu during the coming boating season. By the time you read this, Larry Voyles will have been the Department's Director for a full year. Director Voyles filled out the last nine months of now-retired Director Duane Shroufe's term and then signed on for the next five-year contract. Many employees are really excited to have Director Voyles in this position as he comes from a career in the field with our Department and he truly has faith and belief in "boots on the

ground". In the past year, we also lost our Deputy Director, Steve Ferrell, to Wyoming Game and Fish Department as their new Director. We continue to lose a lot of talent and knowledge through retirements or transfers to other agencies/departments and we currently have about 15 vacant districts. Sadly, one of those retirements will be NAWEOA Past-President Kurt Bahti. We have four recruits in post-academy training and another five in the academy, but that is a long way from filling all of the vacancies, especially with the retirements still to come. Several cases of note have concluded in the past year. The wealthy hunter from Michigan, who purchased the statewide elk tag at auction for about \$130,000 and then shot a 412-pt. bull in a neighborhood, was found guilty and paid about \$15,000 in civil assessments and had his privileges revoked for 5 years. A two-year investigation called "Operation Canned Kitty" is wrapping up with the defendants being convicted for illegally taking javelina, mountain lions, and a trophy-class deer. One repeat offender in the case has been in front of the Commission 7 times for previous violations and has already paid \$7,000 in civil assessments and his hunting privileges have been revoked for a total of 38 years.

Nevada reports problems with the State budget and the possibility of having cut-backs. The Governor has proposed a 6% pay cut for all employees and additional cuts to medical benefits. Nevada game wardens have all been equipped with tasers after extensive training. They are the smaller x-26 model and are carried on the duty belt. After many years of trying, Ne-

vada has finally started an investigations unit with two former field wardens. Their emphasis will be on major wildlife crimes. Field wardens will still continue to handle their own investigations on basic wildlife crimes, while the investigators will work on long-term cases and those that can't be easily conducted from the field level. Other progress has been made with the hiring of two seasonal boating positions to patrol the busy waters of Lake Tahoe. This is another first (seasonal wardens) for our Agency and has proved to be very beneficial in relieving the work load of other wardens.

**Randy Hancock, Colorado**, reports that the Colorado Division of Wildlife has a new Law Enforcement Chief. Jay Sarason replaced outgoing chief, Rob Firth, this January. Jay has been a field officer for over 25 years. Much of that time has been spent as an investigator, including undercover work. Jay is well respected by his field officers.

#### BIG WILDLIFE CASES FROM COLORADO:

John Davidson, 40, was charged with five counts of willful destruction of big game, each a class 5 felony, ten counts of hunting without a license, one count of illegally possessing three or more animals, and one count of waste of edible game meat. Tyson admitted to killing six animals between summer and October. District Wildlife Manager Mike Swaro discovered he did not have any licenses. Park admitted killing a mule deer and a buck antelope, and Davidson admitted to killing 10 animals, some as recently as mid-November. They were booked into Moffat County Jail.

This past December, Eric Leon Butt Jr., 35, owner of Outdoor Adventures, which operated in southwestern Colorado, pleaded guilty to allowing non-state residents to hunt deer, elk and black bears in Colorado without a license beginning in 2002. He was sentenced to a year in federal prison.

Burt Vincent, 60, of Jackson, Michigan, was fined \$15,000 after being convicted of three charges related to killing a Colorado mountain goat without a license and faces a potential lifetime suspension of his hunting and fishing privileges in Colorado, Michigan and 28 other states.

**Lorraine Doyle, California**, reports that they are facing a tough year financially. Each warden is being furloughed two days per month without pay. This amounts to about a 9% pay cut. We continue to fight for a peace officer-only union with the old union playing dirty. We do have warden cadets in the academy, but they face layoffs. Wardens who have been hired since 2003 have been sent layoff notices.

A few good notes: Our academy has been reestablished at Butte College with the Department overseeing it. This is a change from the last few years when we shared an academy with our state fire agency. We began a K-9 program last year and currently have 17 K-9 teams. Six teams are dual purpose with the rest being detection teams. Many excellent cases have been made by these teams. The Department's goal is to have 24 teams, but the next K-9 academy has been postponed.

## **LOOKING BACK**

to see the future of NAWEOA

**Editor's Note:** The fall 2008 edition of the NAWEOA Newsletter was the 50<sup>th</sup> edition. In anticipation of that occasion, I asked for anyone who might have a complete set of the newsletters to consider donating them for the purpose of archiving them. Two retired NAWEOA members, Jack McLean (New York) and Jerry Claasen (Colorado), dug through their dusty files and provided copies of the newsletter from the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> editions to the present. Kerry Wrishko (Saskatchewan) will be providing photocopies of the first eight editions. All of these newsletters, as well as paper copies of current and future editions, will be archived to preserve some of NAWEOA's history. Electronic versions, beginning with the 46th edition will also be archived.

**As space permits in future newsletters, we will be "Looking Back" with excerpts from past newsletters.** As you will see, some things change and some don't; some dreams of the founding fathers have come to pass while others are still developing; our duties are diverse, but the goal is the same; game wardens, by any title, are resourceful, dedicated, persistent, and supporting of one another.

**A sincere "Thank You" to Jack, Jerry, and Kerry for helping preserve NAWEOA's history!**

# REGION 5 REPORT



**Region 5 Director Scott Haney**

**INDIANA:** The Indiana "Turn in a Poacher or Polluter" Program (TIP) experienced several major changes in 2008. Most significant was the conversion to an all-electronic system that combines the 1-800-TIP-IDNR hotline, CODY 7, and password-protected e-mail. TIP-initiated investigations increased by 254 from the previous year and \$2,300 more in rewards were paid out. One such TIP-initiated case resulted in 13 suspects being charged with a total of 54 misdemeanors. They had killed 28 whitetail deer mostly from public roadways, at night, and with the aid of a spotlight. Thirteen deer racks were seized along with a .17-caliber rifle. Most of the meat was left to rot by the violators.

In June, parts of Indiana received up to ten inches of rain in just a few days. Many of those areas had not experienced that much rain in such a short time in 100 years or more. Indiana conservation officers responded and spent 900 hours dealing with the floods. Officers rescued or evacuated approximately 2,000 people using air boats and jon boats. In September, Indiana again was hit with flooding, remnants of Hurricane Ike, dumping up to ten inches of rain. Conservation officers responded and rescued/evacuated over 200 people by boat.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** South Dakota's conservation officers had a very busy 2008 summer and fall. During the spring and summer months, officers worked diligently contacting landowners and informing them about our private-land programs. This year, we added the Controlled Hunter Access Program (CHAPS). The program allows landowners the flexibility to limit the number of hunters having access to their property. During the first year of enrollment in 2008, 12 cooperating landowners throughout the state enrolled over 21,000 acres into the program. During the fall and into the winter

months, officers again had a very busy hunting and fishing season. With record numbers of pheasants and ample big game populations, hunters readily found game, both legally and illegally. We had 327 TIPS calls from July 1 to December 31, which was down a little from last year. We also paid out \$8,660 in TIPS rewards. Since its beginning in 1984, the program has started 8,687 investigations resulting in 2,950 arrests.

**OKLAHOMA:** Wardens of the Sooner State are proudly proclaiming 2009 as the centennial year of their first game warden. They began with their first officer in 1909, a position that later became the agency's head (director).

Passage of time marks the retirement of Lt. James Edwards Sr. and Capt. David Kirk as well as the announcement of impending departures of our law division chief and agency director.

Demands on our paddlefish resource and roe continue to flood areas with interstate fishermen pushing our small force to its limit.

Our state has become inundated with the prolific feral hog.

Wardens are also bracing for the implementation of a new internet/phone deer-check system. Likely fiscal in reasoning, the practice is set to collide with the ever-prized antlers of our improving population. Warden Kenny Lawson of our southeast region reported filing 85 charges on 16 different night groups for spotlighting or illegal deer, 15 deer-related Lacey Act and 14 federal firearms violations, in addition to 30 miscellaneous wildlife charges between October and December. One group of young violators was simply spotlighting big bucks for the sole purpose of taking cell phone photos and antlers before leaving the rest to waste. This was the ringleader's third capture in 11 months and he attempted to destroy the device upon his apprehension. Another busted duo forfeited over 20 deer racks and admitted to killing between 150-200 deer over the previous five years. Now, with the future loss of the check station tool, wardens will continue to look for new ways to adapt and overcome.

**WISCONSIN:** Conservation wardens initiated 13,100 enforcement actions, issued over 22,000 warnings, responded to over 5,600 citizen complaints and almost 6,000 public contacts and presentations. These calls were related to illegal baiting of deer and turkey, "thrill killing" cases, night hunting, over limit of fish and game, and illegal commercialization of the resource.

Through special funding, Law Enforcement hired 9 "Water Guards" to assist with this effort. The Recreational Safety Program and thousands of volunteer instructors certified 53,190 students in the Hunter Education, Boating, Snowmobiling and ATV Safety programs.

Conservation wardens and Department of Corrections collaborated in a joint effort to prevent felons from going into the field with firearms. Field contacts during the firearm deer season arrested 9 felons in possession of firearms, 8 intoxicated hunters, and several subjects for hunter harassment.

Wisconsin joined The Wildlife Violator Compact Membership and has hired a coordinator to administer the program.

We also successfully responded to challenges presented by major weather disasters. Wardens assisted State Patrol and Wisconsin Emergency Management when a winter storm closed several miles of Interstate 90/94 in the Madison area. Wardens utilized snowmobiles to assist stranded motorists. Wardens responded to floods that received national attention and were involved in search and rescue, damage assessments and clean-up activity.

Wardens were involved with Learn to Hunt (LTH) events for bear, deer, waterfowl, pheasants and turkey. Nearly 2,000 mentors and students participated in the state-wide program.

**IOWA:** On December 25, 2008, after 30 years of service, Iowa Department Law Enforcement Chief Lowell Joslin retired. Joslin began his career as a conservation officer in 1978. He was named supervisor for the south central district in 1984 and assistant chief of law enforcement in 1988. He was named chief of the Law Enforcement Bureau in 1999. Jason Sandholdt, South Central District Supervisor, has been named interim chief until the position is filled.

The Iowa House & Senate approved an amendment to Iowa's constitution that, if approved by Iowans, would create a new natural resources and outdoor recreation trust fund. The resolution passed by the Senate this year and the House last year will be on the ballot in November 2010 for a vote by the general public. If approved, the amendment would dedicate 3/8th of 1 cent if the state's sales tax is ever raised again by the Legislature. The vote in 2010 will not raise the state sales tax. The proposal was crafted by the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee, which was established in 2006, with members from Ducks Unlimited, the Sierra Club,



Farm Bureau, Iowa Environmental Council, Izaak Walton League, and others.

**NEBRASKA:** Nebraska conservation officers have been actively contacting landowners in an effort to promote the Game and Parks Commission's Open Fields and Waters Program. Landowners may be paid as much as \$12 per acre for enrolling high-quality woodlands or wetlands in the program's target area and allowing hunter access to their land during all hunting seasons. The payment to landowners who enroll lakes or ponds in the program for fishing access will be \$250 for bodies of water up to one acre and an additional \$40 per acre for larger waters. Access to streams and rivers bordered by private land will be paid at the rate \$750 per mile for cold water trout streams and rivers and \$500 per mile for warm water.

#### **TEXAS:**

We currently have a training academy with 51 cadets and are in the process of taking applications for another school in the fall.

Texas is in a legislative session and, like all other states, facing a shortfall in predicted revenue for 2010-11. However, while we may not see any growth, we do not foresee losing any present funding or positions. We are expecting a bill authorizing our entry into the interstate violator compact.

Hurricanes have rocked Texas this year and Texas game wardens, like conservation officers everywhere, answered the call for assistance. Our capabilities off the pavement prove to be critical in the State's emergency management response. We are in the process of adding a Cessna Station Air Law Enforcement surveillance model to our fleet. Also added are four 29' Safe Boat patrol vessels for posting along the Texas Coast.

The Texas Game Warden Training Center will break ground on April 9th with the first phase costing 11 million dollars, the majority of which was raised through dona-

tions by supporters of conservation and game wardens. The second phase will cost an additional \$10 million and fund raising is ongoing. We expect to build the premier conservation law enforcement training center in the country.

**MISSOURI:** As with most agencies, the uncertain economic times brings great challenges and concerns. The Missouri Department of Conservation is fortunate to have dedicated funding through a 1/8 of 1% state sales tax. While our department remains financially strong, the decline in revenue due to the economy has our department facing budget cuts and a reduction of its workforce.

Fortunately, despite these uncertain economic times, our Protection Division was able to hire 20 new conservation agent trainees. These 20 agent trainees will begin their 6-month training academy the first of March. Even with 20 new agents going into the field in September, we will still have open districts around the state.

We are in the process of getting patrol rifles. Our chief is very supportive of this effort, but it may be some time before all agents get them due to budget restraints. Getting replacement vehicles for agents has seen its ups and downs. With reduced operating costs come fuel reductions. We have seen fuel reduction become a priority over the last couple of years. With this have come changes in what kind of vehicles we use. Smaller, more fuel-efficient trucks were considered for replacements. Due to numerous concerns such as towing capacity, officer safety, etc., field agents retained the option of full-size trucks. Supervisors saw their choice of replacement trucks limited to the Chevy Colorado or Ford Escape.

Our Missouri Conservation Agents Association (MCAA) is going through some significant changes. We have recently affiliated with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). By doing this, we were able to provide our members with some excellent benefits. All of our members are eligible for

the benefits provided by the Missouri State FOP Lodge and the National FOP Lodge, including the option of enrolling in the FOP Legal Defense Plans.

**KANSAS:** My thoughts are that most states are having financial issues similar to Kansas. We must hold positions open for four months before we can fill. Out-of-state travel is nixed. Despite these obstacles, the wildlife officers of Kansas continue to perform in an extraordinary manner. I would invite you to visit the "officer log" at Kansas Wildlife and Parks website: <http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Other-Services/Law-Enforcement/Officer's-Logbook> A couple of examples of Kansas wildlife officers in action include Officer Clint Lee and a Kansas Trooper risking their lives to rescue three individuals from a burning vehicle prior to Christmas. Both officers sustained burn injuries as they successfully rescued two of the three individuals in the car.

Officers Wonderlich and Entwistle rescued a fisherman who had a stroke while fishing in his boat on an eastern Kansas lake. Officers towed the victim's vessel to shore and, with the help of fellow Conservation Officer Ellis and park rangers, performed emergency first aid until medical units arrived.

The Association is working very diligently to attempt to get better retirement and other amenities for the wildlife officers of Kansas. Some highlights of the MOA are: four paid double-time and a half holidays in lieu of comp time, bi-lingual pay, a 40-hour bank of comp time, uniform allowance of \$400.00/ year, and the department's support to allow Kansas Police and Fire retirement if passed by the Kansas Legislature. Hopefully, management and the officers end up with both having an understanding of what each other expects. We know that the State is currently having budget issues, but we vow to continue fighting for better retirement.

## **LOOKING BACK**

### **11<sup>th</sup> Ed., Spring, 1989**

*"For resource enforcement to ever be accepted as the science that we know it to be, we must do research, compile statistics, document, in short, we must become scientists. Only then will we be compensated accordingly"* – J.C. Romines, Pres. ~ The proposed Resource Protectors Museum has received a boost through the offer of land in the International Peace Gardens, along the U.S.-Canadian border. Your executive board will meet with officials from that site later this spring to work out details. ~ On February 27<sup>th</sup> the Nova Scotia provincial legislature announced that sidearms would be issued to 50 conservation officers who will be assigned law enforcement duties. ~ P.E.I. and Newfoundland conservation officers have formed associations. ~ Individual NAWEOA dues are \$5.00/year. The cost to produce and mail the newsletter is \$1.53Cdn/copy. ~ Conference room rate is \$60; early registration is \$75/officer and \$45/guest.

# REGION 6 REPORT



**Region 6 Director Hampton Yates**

## **Florida-J-Rep Brian Baine reporting:**

Many issues concern FWC, but none more than the worsening economy. Our "user tax system" measure of taxation is based predominantly on user fees. As a result, agencies have been tightening their belts annually on a 5% to 10% trend. Additionally, FWC is *losing* 5-year-plus officers at an alarming rate. Frankly, these officers dealt with the reality that in recent good economic times of surplus the legislature did not even yield them a raise and feel, quite clearly, the prospects are slim to none in these poor economic times. Unfortunately, we are not in pay parity from raises the highway patrol received.

We eliminated our FWC L/E Academy, in theory, to bid change with the times. Removing a candidate from their community to attend the 8-month academy and then depositing the new officer to parts unknown did not bode well for retention. Finding good candidates, sending them to a local police academy, and then deploying them in the area from which they hail, in theory, seems to be a better model for now.

Lastly, FWC designed a new six-pointed gold star surrounded by a silver ring badge to commemorate our 10-year anniversary.

In the Northwest Region, Lieutenant Hollinhead and Officers Arnette and Barrow arrested a man for attempting to take deer at night with a night vision-equipped rifle. The officers suspected night hunting and slipped in on foot with their own night-vision goggles when they detected a red light flicker on, then off (not visible without goggles). The officers, realizing they were exposed in a food plot and the light related to use of night vision equipment, rushed the elevated tree stand and promptly obtained a startled surrender from the poacher. He pled not guilty and awaits trial. He faces severe fines, loss of the equipment seized, and revocation of his hunting privileges.

## **Alabama:**

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) mourns the on-duty death of Conservation Enforcement Officer Nathan Mims, 30, who succumbed to a heart attack in November. Nathan is survived by two young children and his wife of two years. Officer Mims, a 6-year veteran, had been assigned to the Special Investigations Unit of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. This is the third division officer to have died in the line of duty during the past ten years. Officer Mims, Officer Lance Horner and Officer Jimmy Hutto are not forgotten.

## **Kentucky-J Rep David Kuhn reporting:**

Kentucky had one major, 3 captains, 2 lieutenants, and several officers retire this year, leaving officers short-handed but hoping promotions are in order. Kentucky had 5 boating fatalities this year. In January and February, we had the worst ice storm most can remember. All officers were affected, either from the ice, lack of power for three weeks, or mobilization for relief efforts. We are back up, but it will be a tough turkey season getting through the woods. We hope to hire 13 recruits by May and more by September. This legislative session, we strived for a training incentive package allowing approximately \$3,200/annually.

Conservation Officer Glenn Kitchen investigated a poaching tip about illegal deer kills in Rowan County. Officer Kitchen, joined by Captain Paul Teague, Sergeant Herb Booth and Officers Loren Clark and Andrew Black, executed a search warrant. They seized 94 sets of deer antlers, 7 marijuana plants, indoor grow lights, cloning system, 16 bags processed marijuana (1½ lbs), 100 pills in plastic bags, 4 weighing scales, 19 firearms and \$1,251 cash. A local suspect was arrested for 48 counts including illegally killing deer, cultivating/trafficking marijuana/drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, pills in improper containers, and trapping without a license.

## **Tennessee-J-Rep Mike Stockdale reporting:**

Last July 2008, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency wildlife officers expected a 5.2% pay raise from a border state average adjustment; however, our officers did not receive it since other state employees did not receive a pay raise. Tennessee, like most states, has seen a decline in license sales. We reduced the operating budget by over 8% for this fiscal year.

We often see news where a "cold case" involving a human victim is solved years

later. We seldom see a "cold case" solved involving wildlife. Tennessee may have its first "cold case" solved. Wildlife Officer Tim Aston submitted evidence to TWRA's Wildlife Forensics Lab in December 2006 relative to 4 illegally killed deer. The suspect's evidence did not DNA match any of the 4 deer. Since Tennessee has an 11-month, 29-day statute of limitations on misdemeanors, end of story. Well...now for the rest of the story. Officer Aston contacted the suspect on another violation in December 2007. A search of the suspect's house yielded 4 sets of deer antlers seized. Officer Aston presented this evidence to be analyzed for match to 4 deer submitted in 2006. DNA analysis positively matched one set of antlers with one of these 4. Officer Aston was vigilant. In January 2008, he retrieved 2 more antlers from the suspect. He requested analysis for match to any 3 remaining deer from 2006. DNA matches one antler to one of 3 remaining deer. Statute of limitations has expired on charging the suspect with killing the deer illegally, but, the suspect was still in possession of illegally killed deer and could be charged. Officer Aston was on a roll. He continued investigation and retrieved 2 deer hides at a taxidermist. The suspect and another individual reported them as "archery only" season kills. Those two hides were submitted to the lab. They were determined by analytical chemistry to have been killed by a firearm. Officer Aston had two new charges, and a new suspect, with the added bonus of "falsifying a state document" against both of them. Well done!

## **North Carolina-J Rep Forrest Orr reporting:**

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) mourns the loss of 14-year veteran Master Wildlife Officer Eddie Vaughan, 38, killed in an off-duty motorcycle accident on June 30, 2008.

In July, NCWRC graduated 15 wildlife officers from the Justice Academy to undertake 6-months FTO training. We had a busy hunting season this year with all areas reporting numerous violations. As spring is approaching, we are having fishing activity increase and anticipate a busy boating season since gas prices are nearly 50% less than last year.

In the dark early morning hours of October 5, with reports of shots fired in a local community, an Orange County deputy stopped a pickup matching the description of a vehicle seen in the area. Wildlife Officers Justin Mathis and Forrest Orr responded. Further investigation yielded two rifles, a shotgun, a bloody knife covered in



## Field Notes

Spring 2009

### ANNUAL 5K TORCH RUN/WALK

The Annual 5K Run/Walk will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2009, in Moncton, New Brunswick. The Federal Wildlife Officers Association, in cooperation with New Brunswick Conservation Officers Association, will be sponsoring the event. A meal will be provided for all participants. To participate in the event, please remember to register when you complete your registration form for the NAWEOA conference. Online registration can be found at [www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org). Click on the link to the New Brunswick conference.

Your Association can also participate by making a donation to the run. By making a donation, your Association will be listed on the back of the commemorative T-shirt that will be provided to all participants. If your Association is interested in donating to the Torch Run/Walk project, please fill out a donation form which can be found on the museum website at [www.gamewardenmuseum.org](http://www.gamewardenmuseum.org) by clicking on the fundraising link and then "Torch Run".



If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Kiley, event coordinator, at 781-915-7377 or at [FWOASecretary@aol.com](mailto:FWOASecretary@aol.com)

### FALLEN OFFICER MEMORIAL CEREMONY September 5, 2009



On Saturday, September 5, 2009 at 1:00 pm, the North American Game Warden Museum, located at the International Peace Gardens, will host the first of what will become an annual Memorial Ceremony. The ceremony will honour and celebrate the memory of our Fallen Brothers and Sisters who have given the ultimate sacrifice while protecting and conserving our Natural Resources in North America.

The ceremony will include a gathering at the Memorial Gardens to reflect on the very real and positive impact those who have gone before us made on our vast and often fragile resources. We will also take time to remember the families, friends and co-workers that were left behind

when these brave individuals gave their lives in the line of duty. Blessings will be offered, the final role will be called, and an honour guard will pay tribute, reflecting our gratitude and respect to each and every one of these heroes. All are invited to attend.

For further information please visit the news and upcoming events link at the Game Warden Museum website [www.gamewardenmuseum.org](http://www.gamewardenmuseum.org)



# ***8th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament***

**More than  
\$60,000  
raised  
to date!**

**North American  
Game  
Warden  
MUSEUM**

**Brad Krulicki  
Sponsor**

**August 11, 2009  
Kingswood Golf and Country Club  
LaSalle Manitoba**



**ENTRY FEE: \$120 per golfer, \$480 per team (cart & dinner incl.)**

**REGISTRATION: Begins 11:00am**

**TEE-OFF: 12:00pm Shotgun**

**FORMAT: Texas Scramble**

**Putting and chipping contests.**

**Many other event holes and awards.**

**Hole sponsorship  
available for \$100  
sponsors provide  
own signage**

*"The Golf Tournament's success is dependent on the generous cash or prize donations recieved from various NAWEOA agencies or jurisdictions."*

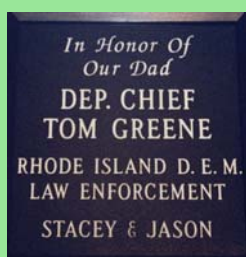
*If you would like to make a donation or have prizes for the golf tournament contact Dwayne Strate at 204-734-6802 ([dwayne.strate@gov.mb.ca](mailto:dwayne.strate@gov.mb.ca)) or bring them to the Museum booth at the New Brunswick conference."*



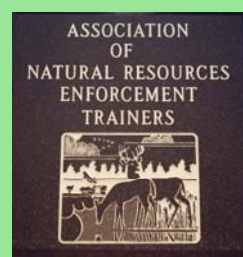
# SUPPORT THE GAME WARDEN MUSEUM

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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*

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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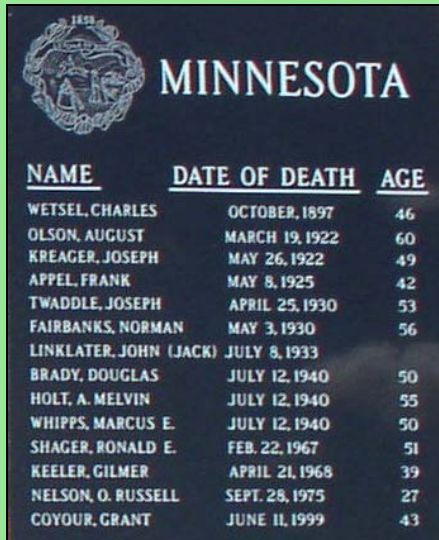
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[www.gamewardenmuseum.org](http://www.gamewardenmuseum.org)

March 2009

## The Story Behind the Memorial Plaque Names Minnesota

A photograph of a memorial plaque for Minnesota Game Wardens. The plaque is dark with a gold border. At the top left is a circular seal with a fish and the year 1859. To the right of the seal, the word "MINNESOTA" is written in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below this, there is a table with three columns: "NAME", "DATE OF DEATH", and "AGE". The table lists 14 wardens and their details.

NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE
WETSEL, CHARLES	OCTOBER, 1897	46
OLSON, AUGUST	MARCH 19, 1922	60
KREAGER, JOSEPH	MAY 26, 1922	49
APPEL, FRANK	MAY 8, 1925	42
TWADDLE, JOSEPH	APRIL 25, 1930	53
FAIRBANKS, NORMAN	MAY 3, 1930	56
LINKLATER, JOHN (JACK)	JULY 8, 1933	
BRADY, DOUGLAS	JULY 12, 1940	50
HOLT, A. MELVIN	JULY 12, 1940	55
WHIPPS, MARCUS E.	JULY 12, 1940	50
SHAGER, RONALD E.	FEB. 22, 1967	51
KEELER, GILMER	APRIL 21, 1968	39
NELSON, O. RUSSELL	SEPT. 28, 1975	27
COYOUR, GRANT	JUNE 11, 1999	43

On Friday, July 12, 1940, Officer Melvin Holt and Dudley Brady had gone to Bryant Baumgartner's house to question him about illegal shipments of bullheads (fish) to Iowa. Baumgartner ordered the officers off his property and told them not to return without warrants. They left and returned in the afternoon with Officer Marcus Whipps. Baumgartner was getting a shipment of fish ready to ship. When he returned to his home, he found two of the wardens. He again asked for warrants and ordered them off his property.

As they left the barn, Whipps asked Baumgartner for his license to handle fish commercially. Baumgartner said he would get the license but he returned instead with a 12-gauge shotgun. Whipps said, "It's no use trying to get smart with that thing, Baumgartner." Baumgartner replied, "I'll show you whether I'll get smart." He then fired three shots and hit all three officers. Whipps was shot in the chest and fell to the ground. Holt was shot in the chest and Brady was shot in the back as he tried to run. All of them died instantly. Baumgartner, 60, then walked over to a picket fence and turned the gun on himself.

Officer Whipps was a game warden for three years in the Kasota area. Prior to that, he was a police officer in Kasota. He was born February, 1894, and was 46 years old. He was survived by his wife, Caroline, and three children. His funeral was held at the Presbyterian Church in Kasota on July 15. He is buried in the Greenwood Woodlawn Cemetery south of LeCenter.

Officer Brady was 50 years old, born August 28, 1889. He had been with the DNR since September 1, 1923, serving the Windom area. From 1907-1918, he was a salesman, but he worked part-time as a deputy warden. He had served as chief game warden and a supervisor of twelve counties from August 1, 1927 to August 1, 1933, but then returned to being a game warden. He was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Brady, and brothers and sisters, Mrs. Myrtle Cooper, Mrs. Edward Jennings, Mabel, Harry, Stanley, William and Clarence. His funeral was held Monday, July 15 in Windom at the Presbyterian Church. He was buried in Lakeview Cemetery.

Officer Holt was 55 years old. He had worked in the Worthington area since March of 1940 and had been with the DNR since 1926. He was survived by his wife and two children, Rolland and Dorothy. His funeral was held Tuesday, July 16, in Lake City at St. John's Lutheran Church.

### Visiting Officer Report

In July 2008, I had the privilege of being an on-site interpreter for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Museum at the International Peace Gardens. As a visiting greeter at the museum, I found the experience very rewarding and beneficial. I discovered that the museum is more than just a list of names put on a wall to commemorate the officers who lost their lives in the execution of their duties. The establishment of the beautifully built facility sitting on its own in the lone grass prairie along with the well-decorated interior was an awe-inspiring site for all the visitors to the center. There were countless people who stated the décor of the center was breath taking and could not believe that the displays were, for the most part, illegally taken wildlife species.

To my astonishment, I found that I was the only officer to use the free camper to stay in at the gardens in return for a couple hours of work a day. The camper that is supplied was a fifth-wheel camper with all the bells and whistles, including a shower and electricity.

Of course, this article would not be complete without commenting on the excellent work the staff at the center are doing. The girls made my stay very enjoyable and went out of their way to ensure everything was in perfect order at the center and the accommodations. If any other officers and their families have the opportunity to take in a stint at the Museum, I would strongly recommend it as it was an enjoyable experience for my family and me.

Thank you and see you in the field somewhere.

Rodney D. Forbes  
Natural Resource Officer  
The Pas, Manitoba, Canada

**Do you want to be a visiting officer? Contact us at [gamewardenmuseum.org](http://gamewardenmuseum.org).  
or visit the Game Warden Museum booth at the New Brunswick conference.**



deer hair and a fresh-killed antlered buck head seized. Upon questioning two men in the truck, officers learned two other men had been dropped off to look for additional deer which had been shot. These suspects were apprehended nearby and the officers discovered marijuana growing. The 23 charges included night deer hunting, unlawful possession of deer, hunting while impaired, unlawful transportation, closed

\$10,000 in US Treasury savings bonds. The bonds were stuffed inside an envelope that was tucked between several books. The investigation continued for the dumping and return of the bonds.

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

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement Division graduated 9 cadets in its 24<sup>th</sup> Basic Training Academy this past February. LDWF opened a new \$3,500,000/

15,000 sq. ft. regional office serving northwest Louisiana, replacing a 6000 sq. ft. building from 1963.

Senior Agents Chris Hoag and Jonathan Verret initiated a traffic stop after observing a 19-year-old Iowa man run a stop sign. Officer Verret made contact with the

tion police officers. In December, VDGIF began its 5th class of 20 recruits. After graduation, our L/E will be at optimum level with 180 officers. Virginia is not immune to the recent economic downturn. Our budget comes from the Commonwealth's sale of hunting/fishing licenses and boat registrations. We introduced a new Apprentice Hunting License. This allows a new hunter to "try before you buy." Sold to first-time hunters, it's good for two years. The apprentice must be in direct supervision of another licensed hunter while hunting or going afield, giving mentoring to the apprentice before he/she dedicates 10 hours required training.

#### **Maryland-J Rep Jeff White reporting:**

NRP charged a suspect with hunting/possessing deer killed with a firearm during closed season. He shot a doe deer in a corn pile with a 20-ga. shotgun loaded with buckshot 24 yards from the front door of his residence.

NRP arrested a man after a vehicle pursuit. The officer activated his emergency equipment to stop an ATV. The driver accelerated, refused to stop, and traveled in excess of 55 mph. The officer closed and passed the ATV before entering onto a dam and slowing. The ATV rammed the back of the officer's truck twice, lost control and crashed on the dam. The driver fled on foot towards the dam's Jersey wall. Officers apprehended him as he was attempting to jump, charged 11 violations and a warrant.

#### **West Virginia-J Rep Kaven Ransom reporting:**

The DNR's L/E Section normal staffing level is 126 conservation officers and 11 support personnel. This past year, 6 officers retired, 8 were hired, and 3 activated military service. WV DNR trains extensively, including Homeland Security, the annual 16-hr on L/E Training Committee Standard, 4 officers to USCG's National Marine Patrol Officer Course, and volunteer hunter education instructors graduated 8,400 from 300 classes. There were 30 Class A/B hunting incidents with 8 fatalities and 29 boating accidents with 6 fatalities. Officers stayed busy monitoring trout stockings ensuring compliance, utilized deer/turkey decoys to curtail road hunting, increased boating/fishing patrols on Corps of Engineer lakes, provided watercraft support to major river events, participated in the state's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days, increased ATV patrols on WMAs, and monitored/managed the commercial whitewater industry.



NC Officers Justin Mathis and Forrest Orr

season for deer, and hunting without a license.

#### **South Carolina-J Rep Adam H. Keeter reporting:**

The South Carolina DNR L/E Division is now comprised of 250 officers tasked with enforcing all state laws with an emphasis on hunting, fishing, boating, littering, search and rescue, instructing outdoor education courses, investigating boating/hunting incidents, enforcing WMA regulations, and assisting local agencies. Field officers are issued ¾-ton pickups and have transitioned to a "uniform" Key West center-console patrol boat, equipped with blue lights, marine and L/E radios, and flood lights. We have implemented a boating enforcement saturation team (BSAF) which travels the state throughout the summer to target BUIs. One proposed, related legislative bill pending would move our SCDNR L/E Division (primarily civilian) to a new Natural Resources Enforcement Division within the SC Department of Public Safety (primarily L/E).

#### **Georgia:**

Cpl. Eric Sanders was patrolling an old ranch in Conyers when he stumbled upon an unlawful dump site of about 500 lbs. of household garbage in January. He rooted in the trash and discovered someone else's treasure — an envelope containing almost

driver. The driver grabbed Officer Verret's arm and dragged him a short distance as he fled in his vehicle. Officer Verret sustained injuries to his leg, arm and hand. The Iowa driver was with an unidentified passenger. This driver faces charges for 2 traffic violations, battery on a police officer, attempted first degree murder, and aggravated flight from an officer.

#### **Mississippi, J-Rep Shannon Self reporting:**

Mississippi had a few law changes recently. One, the Legislature passed a feeding restriction law that allows someone to hunt no closer than 100 yards from a feeder, which must be hidden from the hunter's field of view by natural vegetation or other means.

We graduated 10 new conservation officers recently. One had to immediately leave upon graduation last May, but, we salute and welcome him back from serving his country in Iraq, C.O. ALEX HUDSON!

#### **Virginia-J Rep Ken Williams reporting:**

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) title for "game wardens" changed to "conservation police officers" in 2007. Our VDGIF Basic L/E Academy's 4<sup>th</sup> class graduated 19 officers in June 2008. VDGIF established its own academy to tailor programs for conserva-

# REGION 7 REPORT



**Region 7 Director Rich Cramer**

*This will be my final report as your Region 7 director. My second term expires at the conference in New Brunswick. I encourage any member officer from Region 7 who may have an interest in serving as director to seek nomination to the position at the conference this summer. It has been a great pleasure. See you in New Brunswick.*

**Tom Grohol** of the **Pennsylvania Game Commission** reports the PGC has implemented a Point-of-Sale Licensing System that will be fully operational for the 2009-2010 license year. House Bill 97 was introduced by the Legislature; if passed, the bill would dramatically increase penalties for the most serious big game violations. Out-of-season and over-the-bag-limit cases would be upgraded to misdemeanor and possibly felony charges.

The Legislature is considering reintroducing legislation to allow Pennsylvania to become part of the Wildlife Violator Compact.

The PGC continues to struggle financially and is still seeking a legislative approval for a license fee increase.

Officers have been working without a contract since July of 2007 but hope to have a new contract in place by April of 2009.

**Kevin Clayton** of **Massachusetts** reports that in September 2008, Col. Aaron Gross was appointed Director of the Office of Environmental Law Enforcement. Recently, we have seen the promotion of two lieutenants to the rank of Major or Chief of Enforcement. Messrs. John Pajak and Gerald Santos have assumed these ranks and are Chiefs of Inland and Coastal Enforcement, respectively. Captains John Tulik, Peter Hanlon, Ray Lennon and Len Roberts complete the command staff. There is no Lt. Col. assigned due to fiscal concerns. Officer Tara Wooley recently

completed her field training and is now working in Boston and Boston Harbor. Officer Wooley joins recent academy and field training graduates *Officers Matt McClintock, Matt Nardi, Cindy Kalkwarf, Bill Woytek and Tom Tyminski* in the field.

Sgt. Robert Akin and Officer Matt Bass recently returned from a driving under the influence "Train-the-Trainer" course in South Carolina. We will be using this training for our vessel and vehicle enforcement efforts. Yours truly is currently under temporary duty assignment as the agency Training Officer. My 21 years of experience and willingness to volunteer enhance my ability to contribute in this manner. The Training Officer is a Lt.'s position. Hopefully, promotions will occur, allowing the filling of the ten vacant Lt. positions and the twelve Sgt. positions which will remain. Movement on promotional lists is being held up due to fiscal problems.

Joint Enforcement Agreement-NOAA: We are still actively supportive and watchful for violations of federal fisheries laws. Captain John Tulik is the point-man for our jurisdiction.

**Jennifer Ogren** of **Rhode Island** reports among all the budget cuts and serious hits to our pensions and health insurance, we are holding our breath and trying to ride out the storm. During all of this, our division was able to complete construction on a new marine base that opened this past June. This very modern and functional facility replaced the base that was condemned almost two years prior. Our Upland Unit recently acquired a 17-ft, G-3 Yamaha patrol boat. The division has also purchased new duty weapons. We replaced the .45-cal Smith & Wesson with .357-cal Sig Sauer P229. Officers also received new long guns and had a choice between the .223-cal Ruger Mini 14 or Mossberg 590-A1 12-gauge. Our department is preparing for an upcoming trial this March where the defendant is being charged with second degree murder; operating a vessel to endanger -- death resulting; and refusal to submit to a chemical test. This case stemmed from the boating death of a 17-year-old that occurred on July 17, 2007.

This fall proved to be a very busy hunting season with officers making many arrests from hunting without landowner permission to baiting to jack lighting. During one arrest, the officer managed to confiscate a portable radio from one of the illegal hunters and use it to confuse and convince two other hunters hiding in the woods to reveal their location. We have also had many successful joint operations with

neighboring states like Connecticut, targeting commercial striped bass violations, USFWS with waterfowl hunting violations, NMFS with multiple commercial fishing violations resulting in major fines and permit sanctions, and US Coast Guard with Homeland Security details.

**Steve Thomson** of **Ohio** reports the Ohio Division of Wildlife is currently conducting a Wildlife Officer Training school for 17 cadets who will graduate in July of 2009. Many in the state's commercial fishing industry have installed the required electronic GPS monitoring equipment on their vessels so the commercial fishing enforcement officers can monitor their location at any given time. Several cases have been successfully prosecuted with new restitution values including two for "trophy-size" white-tailed deer, one valued at \$12,988 and the largest so far involved a deer valued at \$13,277.60. The value is based on the Boone and Crocket gross score and is substantially larger than past restitution value of \$400 for any deer, trophy or not. Ohio also passed legislation allowing Ohio to enter into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

The Division of Wildlife finished the testing of new service pistols and began the roll out of the new guns. The Smith and Wesson M & P 45 was chosen and has been issued to the firearms training team members and officers whose guns are on a 10-year replacement cycle. The pistols will also be issued to the 17 current cadets. Several division firearms instructors also became certified as instructors for the AR 15 carbine. These instructors are now carrying Smith & Wesson M & P 15 rifles in their patrol vehicles. Several short-term district-based covert projects were successfully conducted this year resulting in numerous arrests for walleye, steelhead, deer, and turkey.

The statewide covert unit also conducted several investigations regarding walleye and deer, resulting in arrests. Several cases were made on the commercialization of wildlife involving restaurants, taxidermists and meat processors. One case, which resulted in over 200 misdemeanors and 12 felony violations, was started when a USFW agent was filling up his gas tank and started up a conversation with a fellow customer who had a deer in his vehicle. The agent was invited to hunt with the subject and was told not to worry about licenses or permits. The case ended up involving 9 different law enforcement agencies including the USF&WS, West Virginia DNR and Ohio Division of Wildlife. In all, Ohio officers made over 7,200 arrests this

year, which resulted in over half a million dollars in fines.

**Dave Walsh of New Hampshire** reports Martin Garabedian has been promoted to the rank of Colonel and is the new Chief of New Hampshire Fish and Game's Law Enforcement Division. Craig Morrocco has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant overseeing the District Four (southwestern) region. Samuel Sprague and Wayne Saunders have both been promoted to the rank of Sergeant. The Law Enforcement Division is down to just 30 field wardens (those with an assigned patrol area). Currently there are four conservation Officer trainees and there is a possibility the division will be able to fill more vacancies despite a state-wide hiring freeze.

**Michelle Weigand of Michigan** reports that Michigan conservation officers, as with other State Fish and Wildlife enforcement agencies, are feeling the effects of the downward economy. The officers have recently been told to restrict their daily vehicle mileage. Also being affected is how the officers are reporting their time. The officer's time in the past has been restricted to a certain number of hours in the following programs -- snowmobile, ORV and marine -- but soon their time spent on Fish & Game activities will be restricted also. The officers are also waiting for the other shoe to drop in regards to possible wage concessions, possible furlough days or other possible cuts. As the result of a CWD positive deer from a Private Cervid Facility, the State put into effect the Surveillance and Response Plan for CWD of free-ranging and privately owned /captive cervids. As part of this plan the baiting and feeding of all deer was prohibited, and the many cervid facilities were quarantined and the movement of captive cervids was seriously restricted for a time. The officers played a huge role in implementing the plan by serving quarantine orders statewide to the private cervid facilities, conducting 24/7 surveillance of many of these facilities and assisting Wildlife and Dept. of Agriculture personnel with inspections.

**Lisa LaCroix of New Jersey** reports that after 112 years, the New Jersey Deputy Conservation Officer Program has come to an end. The commissions for the remaining 28 deputy officers expired on January 31, 2009. An additional 8 deputies retired last summer after receiving news that the program probably would be ending. A review of the program was initiated approximately a year ago after recent lawsuits involving other police agencies. Deputy officers in New Jersey have only Fish and Wildlife enforcement powers and must ride with a full-time CO. COs have full police power, including motor vehicle and criminal. As more and more COs are getting involved with criminal issues, it became

increasingly clear that there might eventually be a problem. The deputies are an all-volunteer force; most have full-time jobs in other areas and work as a deputy because they love the outdoors. The COs in New Jersey are saddened to see the program end. It will be much harder to do our jobs now that we don't have the deputies riding with us. On a better note, we have been able to hire two additional officers this year, Jordan Holmes and Brian Tomlin. Both officers are in the police academy and will be starting their field training this summer. We also had several recent promotions. Wayne Tonnesen was promoted to Supervising Lt. (south), Tim Williamson was promoted to Training Lt., and Greg Honachefsky was promoted to Investigative Lt. (south). Deputy Chief Joe Meyer and Investigative Lt. Karl Yunghans both retired in December 2008. Our most recent vehicle order has arrived. Our fleet now consists of '04-'07 Durangos and '08 Dodge extended-cab pickups.

**Chris Dyer of Maine** reports that deer season was very slow in the northern half of the state due to the harsh conditions we endured last winter. Average snow depths were well over four feet. The southern half of the state reported good to average success considering the late winter storms that really took a toll on the deer herd. Trapping season has been interesting in the Northern tier also. With lynx inhabiting most of Northern Maine, new land trapping restrictions have been instituted and, for the most part, are being adhered to. We have had two instances in which lynx were caught and killed that required lengthy investigations. Snowmobilers have enjoyed riding statewide, which has given the wardens in the major snowmobile destinations a little reprieve. Ice fishing pressure has been average with the larger cold-water fishery lakes seeing most of the pressure. Large fishing derbies have had a large enforcement presence and compliance has been good. This spring will be Maine's first open turkey hunt for permit holders. Permits can be purchased on-line or over the counter and hunters will have five weeks to attempt to harvest a long beard. Until this year, hunters could only hunt three weeks, depending on their birth year (even/odd). Over the last couple of years, Maine game wardens have been introduced to many new technologies. We now have an Evidence Recovery Team that is part of the State Police team. By the end of March, all game wardens will have computers mounted in their vehicles. Our Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) will give us access to everything we have on a hard-line, but we will now be able to do the work as it happens instead of taking a day a week to complete it. We have added Records Management System, on-line reporting, and

mapping programs to our MDTs, so we will be more efficient. We have also added a new patrol boat to our fleet. The new craft is a 24' Ridged-Hull Safe Boat that is stationed at Sebago Lake. Maine game wardens have been actively participating in Homeland Security details patrolling the borders between Maine and Quebec/New Brunswick. Through grants, we just received six hand-held MDTs that produce real-time data, GPS and processing. Our technology initiative is still in progress with more to come. Lastly, the Maine Warden Service Association will be hosting the fall field day later this summer. For all that have attended any field day in the past, you know that they should not be missed.

**Marion Hoffman of New York** reports that our 340 members have put most of the hunting and trapping seasons behind us, with the exception of crows, coyotes and some aquatic mammals in places. Governor Paterson has put increasing emphasis on the quality of life in economically challenged areas of the state, a concept known as "Environmental Justice", and Environmental Conservation Officers are leading the effort with air pollution enforcement efforts, particularly heavy-duty diesel truck emissions.

We graduated a class of 27 new recruits at the end of the summer. Sadly, this is likely the last class until at least 2010. Happily, it was also the last class in borrowed facilities as our department purchased a fishing access parcel on the Salmon River in Pulaski in Oswego County. The purchase included a motel which was in very good shape, and plans are in the works for development of the site into a first-class training facility. The new recruits, as is always the case here, literally hit the streets and not the woods. Twenty of them went to New York City, and seven went to the counties surrounding the city. Our FTO program, referred to by our academy staff as "Train Your Replacement," is run by holding back the officers transferring out of New York City until the recruits have completed their field training, and then there is a mass exodus out. The dedicated and overworked supervisors of the New York City office then begin in earnest the task of turning green ECO recruits, mostly from the wilds of rural upstate communities, into highly effective conservation officers in a city of eight million people with its own police force that numbers nearly fifty thousand officers. As with all our sister agencies around the country, we are feeling the budget crunch. We were first told that new patrol car numbers were being reduced, and then that the purchase would be put off until well into the next fiscal year. Overtime was severely cut back, but, as usual, the work still gets done, and with a minimum of grumbling. *(continued on page 30)*



# NAWEOA Officer Exchange Program

## Canadian Officer to New Mexico

### By Kevin Johnstone, Yukon

Attending my first N.A.W.E.O.A Conference in Great Falls, Montana this past summer was a great opportunity. My wife and I made the trip from Mayo, Yukon where I am stationed as the District Conservation Officer; my district encompasses 91, 000 sq. kilometres or 56, 875 sq. miles. This may seem enormous but most of my district is not inhabited and there are approximately 750 people living in my patrol area, 380 in the town of Mayo. I was enjoying all aspects of the conference, making contacts, meeting people whom I had attended courses with in the past and just taking in all that there was. Sitting at a table with officers from Alberta and California during the officers luncheon, I was surprised to hear Earl Simmons call my name out as the Canadian winner for the much anticipated officer exchange program. Upon winning this opportunity, I was asked by numerous participants where I wanted to go for my exchange. Honestly I had not given the notion any thought as there was no way I was going to win this, especially this being my first time attending. My first thought with help from my wife was to go somewhere warm and sunny, but being from the Yukon and personally liking the mountains I decided that I would choose a place in the western part of the states. Luckily I had met some officers from the state of New Mexico and spoke to them about what New Mexico had to offer all while being approached by other officers who were all eager to host me in their home states. This was a hard decision as each state offered something unique but in the end after much deliberation I decided on visiting New Mexico and with the help of Officer Ty Jackson, all was in order for my exchange to take place in October. Working as an officer in the Yukon this allowed me to work the busiest time during our season that being the moose rut period which runs September into mid-October. After the necessary arrangements and scheduling I was off to New Mexico!

Day one took me from Mayo, Yukon to Whitehorse, Yukon where I boarded a jet and flew to Vancouver, British Columbia for an overnight stay. The next stage of travel took me from Vancouver to San Francisco, California and then onto Albuquerque, New Mexico where I was met by Chris Chadwick, Albuquerque District Supervisor. Chris opened up his house for me and graciously hosted me for two nights. My first day in the field with the New Mexico Officers took me to an area called the Marquez; this area is now owned by the State of New Mexico. This area was previously allocated during the Spanish and Mexican occupation of New Mexico, for this reason we attended the Marquez area to move cattle off of state land and back onto privately owned land. This involved repairing fencing which gets cut each and every weekend and herding cattle with the use of ATV's. This is one job function that as a Yukon con-

servation officer I haven't done so this was unique and a good view at one of the many functions of the New Mexico Officers. The terrain was unique in its own way as I would be exposed to several areas ranging from desert to high altitude forest stands.

From Albuquerque I was transferred to the Jemez District Officer Michael Martinez who would take me through some of the nicest scenery I experienced during my trip, the highlight of my visit with Michael was the patrol of the Valles Caldera National Preserve; this once privately owned ranch encompasses 89,000 acres of the most awesome elk habitat in the state. During our patrol of this area we encountered our first violation which involved the wastage of elk meat, luckily those hunters that hunt within the preserve must sign in each and every day and upon harvesting an elk submit it for a biological inspection, what an



easy way to conclude such a case, wouldn't it be nice if they were all that simple. Here we spent the night in one of the many cabins on the property after meeting one of Michael's colleagues for dinner in the neighboring town of Los Alamos.

The next day I was transferred to the Farmington District and met with the Farmington District Officer, Matthew Anthony. Our first order of business was to investigate a mule deer that was poached that morning. We spent the majority of the afternoon working on this case which led us to the nearby Navajo Reservation; local natives have the exclusive right to hunt for subsistence on their reservation but are required to follow the laws of general application on state land. This mule deer was taken in an area which is open to permit hunts only, in addition to the requirement of a permit there are set periods of days in which to hunt those being Saturday to Wednesday. Today happened to be Thursday and the season was not open. Working with little more than a vehicle description we were unable to determine the person(s) responsible for killing this deer today. I spent the last couple of hours of the day fly fishing on the San Juan River with Officer Jeremy Smith and managed to hook two rainbow trout and successfully land one.

My next destination was Chama where I would meet up with Officer Ty Jackson, Eagle Nest District Officer. It was during this transfer that we discovered a headless bull elk lying out in an open field; it was obvious that this animal had been killed the previous night. This was unusual for me as it is very rare to find animals in the Yukon that are killed just for their antlers or horns. So before heading on we inspected the carcass and Matt called his partner to attend and conduct the investigation.

After meeting up with Officer Jackson we continued on to where we planned to run an elk decoy operation. The plan was to set up in an area that





we expected hunters to be traveling through as the start of the next hunt was the next day. In total there were three other officers and a New Mexico State Police Officer. Officer Jackson and I would work the decoy while the other Officers would be part of the take down team. While we didn't have any reactions running the decoy during the day or night, there was one arrest for a DUI. After suspending the operation we proceeded to Cimarron where I stayed with Officer Jason Kline and his dog Jasmine. The next day Officer Jackson and I patrolled an area frequented by elk hunters and right off the bat we encountered an UTV parked off-road along a fence line between State and private land. One you couldn't leave a two track road and second the people were most likely hunting on private property, we waited for sometime for the people to return to the vehicle but then went and conducted some hunter checks. Upon returning to the location we observed two



individuals returning to the vehicle walking from the section of private property, one person was carrying a rifle. After making contact with them Officer Jackson left them with some paperwork requiring them to attend court and answer to charges of criminal trespass, operating a motor vehicle in a closed area and hunting elk in the wrong unit. We continued on to the area in which most people camp while hunting and encountered three individuals leaving the area with a bull elk in the back of a truck. Upon inspection it was discovered that the seal attached to the animal was not cancelled and that they did not have all the edible meat with them. Yet again Officer Jackson left the one individual with a summons to appear in court for charges of failing to properly tag the animal and waste of meat. In all that was enough to seize the carcass which did not go over well with the individuals, this was one time were I felt naked without my duty belt and sidearm! We left the area and continued on our way, not bad for a day's work in

the field.

My second day with Officer's Ty Jackson, Jason Kline and Curtis Coburn a.k.a. Rooster we conducted an elk decoy operation in the Valle Vidal Wildlife Preserve Area. This was another highlight of my trip as we would be setting up along an access to a popular hunting area. We had just set up the decoy off the road approximately 70 m. and set up the two teams and waited for some action. It didn't take long before our first costumer came along, our first shooter pulled up to the decoy and rolled down his window and began shooting at the decoy with a .44 magnum handgun! I had brought along my video camera and recorded all the action while we waited for the take-down team to come in. In the end this person was cited for not having a valid hunting license, shooting from a vehicle and had his handgun seized. Working the decoys was a great experience as we don't get to run many decoy operations in the Yukon and to see the results of this tactic was awesome. In the end we had four shooters engage the decoy in 4.5 hrs.

From here I was transferred to the southern part of the state and spent time in the Artesia District with Sgt. Richard Artrip, my trip to Artesia took me through the town of Roswell well known for the famous Roswell incident involving the crash of an UFO in the late 1940's. I actually drove past the farmer's field in which this incident took place; UFO's are now the subject of Roswell's tourist attraction. I was then transported to the Alamogordo District and met the District Wildlife Officer Colin Duff. Our first order of business was to pick up a bobcat kitten that someone had dropped off at the local zoo, apparently this person realized that it was illegal to possess wildlife and left the animal at the door. We would eventually transfer this kitten to the state rehabilitation centre after caring for it for the night. Officer Duff also took me on a tour of the White



Sands Missile Range which is a very unique area used by the U.S Government since the 1940's to test every weapon system in the U.S. military arsenal. This strip of pure white desert runs approximately 100 miles long by 40 miles wide and unique to this area is a herd of Oryx brought in by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department in the 1970's. These animals were introduced to provide new hunting opportunities and to help control the vegetation in the area. These animals are now hunted through a permit system administered by the Game and Fish. Here on the Missile Range is where I saw the one and only snake of the trip thankfully; I'll take our grizzly bears over snakes any day!

Other highlights of my trip was to sit in on some revocation hearings in the Santa Fe office, this was an interesting way of determining license suspensions for individuals convicted of offenses. This combined with a horse back patrol of the Cimarron area and a night time deer decoy operation in the Albuquerque area concluded my trip of New Mexico.

This is just a brief summarization of my trip, we worked long days for the entire trip which spanned over 14 days. I want to thank those who made this trip possible, NAWEOA, the Officers and families of the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, Yukon Department of Environment and lastly my wife Loralee for taking care of things back home while I enjoyed the hospitality and experience of New Mexico.

# Wildlife Officer Recognition

## OOY = Officer of the Year

### **REGION 1**

#### **Manitoba**

Officer **David Grant** -- 2007 Shikar-Safari OOO

Officer **Dennis Hlady** -- Contributor Award

### **REGION 4**

#### **Arizona**

**Gerry Perry** — 2007 NWTF Arizona OOO

**Craig McMullen** — 2007 Shikar-Safari OOO

**Bill Ough** — 2007 Wildlife Manager of the Year (Regional Supervisor's Award)

**Shawn Wagner** — 2007 Game and Fish OOO from the Phoenix Elk's Lodge

**Shawn Wagner** — 2007 Cliff Sorrel's Award (Arizona Game Rangers Lodge OOO)

**Tim Holt** — 2007 Mark Reef Memorial Award from AFWA

**Joe Sacco** — 2007 Boone and Crockett Award from AFWA

#### **California**

**Sean Pirtle**, Warden — Officer of the Year

#### **Exemplary Awards**

**John Castro**, Warden — Lifesaving

**Patrick Foy**, Warden — Lifesaving

**Stephen Johnson**, Warden — Lifesaving

**Eric Kord**, Lieutenant — Lifesaving

**Rodney Buckler**, Warden — Lifesaving

**Robert Rojas**, Warden — Lifesaving

**Justin Sandvig**, Warden — Lifesaving

**Christian Corbo**, Warden — Lifesaving

**Barry Ceccon**, Warden — 2008 NWTF Officer of the Year

**Chris Patin**, (Retired) Assistant Chief — 2008 Shikar Safari

**Liz Gregory**, Warden — 2008 Governor's Medal of Valor

**Josh Brennan**, Warden — 2008 Governor's Medal of Valor

**Wilbur Brown**, Warden — 2008 Governor's Medal of Valor

#### **Colorado**

**Rick Spowart**, Dist. Wildlife Manager, Wildlife OOO

**Doug Homan**, Dist. Wildlife Manager, Lifetime Achievement Award

**Tom Martin**, Dist. Wildlife Manager, Lifetime Achievement Award from The Wildlife Society, Colorado Chapter

### **REGION 5**

#### **South Dakota**

**Jim McCormick**, Shikar-Safari Award

**John Murphy**, Boating Law Enforcement OOO

**Dean Schultz**, National Wild Turkey Federation OOO

#### **Oklahoma**

**Shane Fields** - Oklahoma NWTF Officer of the Year '07 and National NWTF Officer of the Year '07

**Jerry Henry** — Oklahoma State Game Warden of the Year '07

**Paul Cornett** — Oklahoma State Game Warden of the Year '08

#### **Nebraska**

**Sean McKeenan**, CO, Boating Law Enforcement OOO

**Scott Brandt**, CO, Shikar-Safari Club International Award

#### **Wisconsin**

**Scott Bowe** — Haskell Noyes Award

**Mitch Groenier** — Wisconsin Boating OOO

**Jennifer Niemeyer** — Wisconsin Waterfowl OOO

**Dale Hochhausen** — International Hunter Education Award for Outstanding Professional

**Shawna Stringham** — Virginia Hart Award

#### **Missouri**

#### **Regional Officers of the Year**

North West — **Travis Shepler**, Buchanan Co.

North East — **Mike Christensen**, Pike Co.

Kansas City — **Shawn Pennington**, Vernon Co.

Central — **Eric Smith**, Camden Co.

St. Louis — **Jeff Breuer**, Jefferson Co.

South West — **Dan Akin**, Stone Co.

Ozark — **Brad Hadley**, Shannon Co.

South East — **William "Billy" Barton**, Iron Co.

#### **Kansas**

Larry Stones, NRO — Shikar-Safari Club International OOO

#### **Texas**

#### **Southern States Boating Law Administrator**

#### **Texas Marine Officer of the Year**

2006 — **Ron VanderRoest**

2007 — **James Barge**

2008 — **Chris Green**

#### **Southeastern Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Assoc. (SEAFWA)**

2006 — **Gary Barnes**

2007 — **Teyran Patterson** (Posthumously)

2008 — **Vance Wallace**

#### **Shikar-Safari International**

2006 — **Randall Hayes**

2007 — **Jarrod E. Bryant**

2008 — **Brannon Meinkowsky**

#### **Assoc. of Midwest Fish & Game Law Enf. Off'rs (AMFGLEO)**

2006 — **Steve Stapleton**

2007 — **Justin Hurst** (Posthumously)

2008 — **Marvin Wills, Jr.**

### **REGION 6**

#### **Alabama**

**Jonathan E. Stone**, Wildlife Conservation Officer, 2008 National Wild Turkey Federation OOO

#### **Florida**

**Brett Gill**, FWC Officer, 2009 FL FWC Statewide OOO, 2009

North Central Region OOO

**Joe Chambers**, FWC Officer, 2009 Northwest Region OOO



**Troy Starling**, FWC Officer, 2009 Northeast Region OOO  
**Jedidiah Parisoe**, Investigator, 2009 Southwest Region OOO  
**Amy Buck**, Investigator, 2009 South A Region OOO  
**Carlo Morato**, Investigator, 2009 South B Region OOO

### Georgia

**Mike Binion**, Corporal, 2008 GA DNR State Ranger of the Year, 2008 GA DNR Region 5 Albany OOO, 2008 Shikar-Safari Club International OOO, and the Rocky Wainwright Award (waterfowl conservation)

**Mitch Oliver**, Ranger First Class, 2008 GA DNR Region 4 Macon Office OOO, 2008 James R. Darnell Award (runner-up OOO), recognition member DNR Critical Incident Reconstruction Team, recognition Safe Kids Worldwide (lifejackets), and the 2008 DNR "The Fawn" James Darnell Award Sculpture

**Shawn Elmore**, Corporal, 2008 GA DNR Region 1 Calhoun OOO  
**Kevin Dyer**, Ranger First Class, 2008 GA DNR Region 2 Gainesville OOO

**Bobby Timmerman**, Ranger First Class, 2008 GA DNR Region 3 Thomson OOO

**Tim Hutto**, Ranger First Class, 2008 GA DNR Region 6, Metter OOO

**Bill Bryson**, Corporal, 2008 GA DNR Region 7, Brunswick OOO

### Mississippi

**Sylvester Busby**, Master Sergeant, 2008 MS NWTF OOO  
**Travis McDonal**, **Jim Brown**, **Lasdric Horton**, **Dustin Whitehead**, **Jeremy Carr**, **Caleb Miller**, **Ben McCurdy**, **Adam Love**, **Allan Parrish**, **Charles Lamb**, and **Alex Hudson**, Conservation Officers, 2008 MS C/O Graduates

### North Carolina

**Barry Joyce**, Wildlife Officer, 2008 NC Chapter NWTF OOO

**Mike Edminsten**, Wildlife Officer, 2008 NC Bowhunters Association OOO

**Norman Watts**, Wildlife Officer, 2008 NC NASBLA Boating Law Enforcement OOO

**Robert Wayne**, Master Officer, 2008 SE Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies L/E OOO in Corpus Christi

### South Carolina

**Ken Cope**, Corporal, 2008 SC DNR Region Three OOO, 2008 SC DNR Statewide OOO

**Adam Keeter**, CO, 2008 SC DNR Region One OOO

**Scott Stephens**, Buck Sgt, 2008 SC DNR Region Two OOO

**W. Earl Pope**, CO, 2008 SC DNR Region Four OOO

**Jim Capps**, CO, 2008 SC DNR Boating OOO

**Tony Spires**, Staff Sergeant, 2008 SC DNR Hunter Ed. OOO

### Tennessee

**Jim Dooley**, Wildlife Officer, 2008 TWRA OOO

**Alan Jones**, Wildlife Officer, 2008 Shikar-Safari Club Int'l OOO

**Tim Singleton**, Wildlife Officer, 2008 TWRA Boating OOO

**George Birdwell**, Wildlife Officer, national award recipient International Boating and Water Safety Summit in San Diego; Alcohol Awareness and Impact Boating Education Award for his PWC/BU simulator; merit award for this program from the National Water Safety Congress.

### Virginia

**Dabney W. Watts, Jr.**, Colonel, Promotion to Chief of L/E Division, Virginia DGIF

## **REGION 7**

### Pennsylvania

Game WCO **Mark Rutkowski**, 2007 Shikar Safari OOO

Game WCO **Matthew Teehan**, 2007 NE CLECA OOO

Game WCO **Beth Fife**, 2007 NWTF OOO

Game LMO **Shayne Hoachlander**, 2007 NWTF Land Manager of the Year

Game WCO **Rodney Burns**, 2008 NWTF OOO

Game LMO **Scott Bills**, 2008 NWTF Land Manager of the Year

Game WCO **Clint Deniker**, Governor's Award for Life Saving

### Ohio

Officer **Bob Radcliff**, 2008 Shikar-Safari Officer of the Year OOO-Officer of the Year

Officer **Bill Bullard**, 2008 Ohio Bow Hunters Assoc. Wildlife Officer of the Year

LES **Doug Miller**, 2008 Assoc. of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enf. Officers OOO

Officer **Terry Glenn**, 2008 NWTF Wildlife OOO

Officer **Matt VanCleve**, ODNR Director Valor Award

Officer **Ken Bebout**, ODRN Director Valor Award

### New York

ECO **Shawn Dussault**, 2008 Shikar Safari OOO

ECO **James Hunt**, 2008 NE CLECA OOO

ECO **Michael Wheeler**, 2008 New York State Rifle and Pistol Assoc. OOO

ECO **Brian Wade**, 2008 NWTF OOO

### New Hampshire

CO **William Boudreau**, 2008 NE CLECA OOO

CO **Michael Eastman**, 2008 Shikar-Safari OOO

### Michigan

CO **Michael Wells**, 2008 Shikar-Safari OOO

CO **Greg Patton**, 2008 Nat. Assoc. of State Boating Law Administrators OOO

CO **Jeff Rabbers**, 2008 NWTF OOO

### Connecticut

CO **Jeff Samorajczyk**, 2009 NE CLECA & Shikar Safari OOO

Special CO **Robert Russell**, 2009 Meritorious Service Medal

Sergeant **James Warren**, 2009 Meritorious Service Medal

CO **Matthew Tomassone**, 2009 Meritorious Service Medal

Special CO **Donald Willard**, 2009 Meritorious Service Medal

CO **William Myers**, 2009 Meritorious Service Medal

CO **Todd Chemacki**, 2009 Lifesaving Award

CO **Karen Reilly**, 2009 Lifesaving Award

Special CO **Ken Savage**, 2009 Lifesaving Award

CO **Christopher Dwyer**, 2009 Lifesaving Award

CO **Steve Stanko**, 2009 Lifesaving Award

CO **Tate Begley**, 2009 Lifesaving Award

CO **John Hey**, 2009 Lifesaving Award

Sergeant **Paul O'Connell**, 2009 Lifesaving Award

CO **John Esteban**, 2009 Citation of Achievement

Special CO **Henry Butler**, 2009 Citation of Achievement

Special CO **John Graves**, 2009 Citation of Achievement

CO **Hans Danielson**, 2009 Citation of Achievement

CO **Karen Reilly**, 2009 Unit Citation

CO **Raul Ramos**, 2009 Unit Citation

CO **Laura Gregonis**, 2009 Unit Citation

CO **Mike Tavares**, 2009 Unit Citation

Sergeant **Tom Bull**, 2009 Unit Citation

Captain **Kyle Overturf**, 2009 Unit Citation

# NAWEOA Officer Exchange Program

## United States Officer to Yukon

### By Maryann Wangsgard, Utah

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend my first NAWEOA conference in July of 2008 in Great Falls, Montana. The very first day of my very first conference the NAWEOA officials were preparing to draw two names for the officer exchange program. I had no idea what the officer exchange was. As I was getting a brief explanation from a fellow Utah officer about the exchange, I heard my name announced. Over the next few days, I learned more about the exchange program, met some great people and tried to decide where in Canada I would like to visit, easier said than done. The exchange program provides the opportunity for one Canadian officer and one U.S. officer to go anywhere in the other country. The exchange officer experiences the working conditions of their counterparts across the border.

Everyone I talked with told me that since this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to choose a place I may never get to see on my own. Though I had countless tempting offers, I finally decided on the Yukon Territory, in western Canada.

I have worked for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources for just over three years. I live and work in the Uintah Basin, about three hours east of Salt Lake City. Just to give an idea of the differences between Utah and Yukon; the population of Utah is right around 2.5 million people. The Division of Wildlife sells over 26,000 elk permits and 97,000 deer permits each year. The population of Yukon is just over 30,000 people with around 5,000 hunters total. In Utah, we have 40-50 conservation officers that cover an area of over 84,000 square miles. While Yukon officers number only 14 and cover an area of over 186,000 square miles. Despite these differences our goals and objectives are the same. We spend countless hours in our trucks working nights, weekends and holidays, encountering the same types of people and violations. We do all this all because we enjoy the outdoors and love the resources we protect.

Once I decided on Yukon I asked fellow exchange winner, Yukon Officer Kevin Johnstone, when the best time to visit was. Kevin suggested September when all their fall hunts were in full swing. On September 2nd I packed my bags and boarded a plane to Whitehorse, Yukon, arriving after midnight. Officer Dave Bakica was there to meet me and give me a ride to his home in Whitehorse where I would spend my first couple nights with his welcoming family.

The following day, after a tour of the office in Whitehorse, Dave and I, loaded up the boat and headed to Kusawa Lake north of Whitehorse to check fishermen and an outfitter camp. Kusawa Lake is a long narrow lake that is 70 kilometers long and an average of 2 kilometers wide. The layout of the lake causes the wind to come out of no-



where and create large waves and that's exactly what happened. We couldn't land at the outfitter camp because of the rough waves. The highlight of the lake was seeing my first Dall Sheep on the mountains above the lake.

After another night at Dave's house and a dinner of delicious sweet and sour moose meatballs, we met Officer Deb Morris, my next tour guide, on the South Canol road. The Canol road (short for Canadian oil road) was built during World War II to connect the Northwest Territories to Whitehorse with an oil pipeline. Deb and I checked a few successful moose hunters before taking a four-wheeler trip up





to a small lake. We didn't find any hunters at the lake, but we saw fresh grizzly sign and a small flock of ptarmigan, another first for me. Once we got back to the truck, we saw a large grizzly bear running down South Canol road. We ended up in the small town of Ross River, Deb's home base. The next morning, Deb and I went up the North Canol towards the Northwest Territories. We stayed at a one room cabin on Boulder Creek. Deb was investigating a poaching case where a cow caribou had been shot and left to waste. We went to the crime scene to try and recover a bullet from the carcass, but were unsuccessful. We checked a couple different groups of moose hunters on our long trek back to Ross River.

Deb and I met Kirby Meister, Yukon Conservation Officer Association President, in the town of Carmacks. Kirby helped make my exchange possible and a success. Kirby taxied me from Carmacks to Stewarts Crossing to meet Officer Kevin Johnstone. I stayed with Kevin and his wife at their home in Mayo.

The next day, Kevin and I took a jet boat from Pelly Crossing 90 kilometers up the Pelly River then up the Macmillan River. We stayed at a First Nation cabin on the Macmillan River and dined on caribou steaks. We checked a few more successful moose hunters on the river before returning to Mayo. After returning from the Macmillan, Kevin gave me a tour of the small silver mining towns of Elsa and Keno.

Kevin later took me to meet Officer Torrie Hunter for the next leg of my tour. I stayed with Torrie and his family in Dawson City. Torrie showed me around the legendary gold fields and the Klondike River. We didn't find any hunters to check, but I realized first hand how convenient a winch on

Russel and Pat were planning on checking outfitter camps by helicopter on the Yukon and British Columbia boarder in Kluane National Park, but weather conditions changed their plans. We ended up checking outfitter camps north of Haines Junction in the Long Lake area by helicopter. We stopped at a couple of the camps to check for violations. We also stopped at a First Nation camp



where we were treated to tea and sweet bread. Thanks to the helicopter I had an aerial view of the vast amount of striking, untouched, rugged wilderness that the Yukon officers patrol everyday. From the helicopter, we were able to spot wood bison, caribou and my first live Yukon moose, a perfect end to a perfect trip.

Through this experience I realized one major difference between the hunters of Utah and Yukon is their motivation for hunting. Yukon hunters hunt out of necessity for food. Most Yukon hunters would prefer a young tender bull moose to the tough meat of a trophy size bull. While in Utah, hunters hunt more for the trophy antlers and often tend to waste more of the meat.

After Russel giving me a ride from Haines Junction back to Whitehorse, I was treated to a night on the town by a group of the Whitehorse officers. Dave and his family again took me into their home and fed me, again, before taking me back to the airport with a camera full of pictures and an experience of a lifetime.

At the 2008 conference, everyone told me the exchange was a once in a lifetime opportunity, they were right. Thanks to NAWOEA and especially the Yukon Conservation Officers and their families, it was an amazing experience that I will never forget. They graciously took me into their homes, fed me, chauffeured me and took time out of their busy lives to share with me their incredibly beautiful territory. I hope they all remember that my offer still stands; they are all welcome in Utah anytime. Thanks again.



the front of a truck can be while driving in muddy conditions. We took the Top of the World Highway across the Yukon River into Alaska and back into Canada. Officer Pat Sydenham picked me up at the border and took me to Officer Russel Osborne's home in Haines Junction where he and his wife took me in for the night.



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

**Award nominations should be made online and electronically submitted at: <http://www.naweo.org>**  
**\*\*\* Certificates of Retirement should be requested through the appropriate Jurisdictional Representative\*\*\***

## LOOKING BACK

### 12<sup>th</sup> Ed., Fall, 1989

A NAWEOA Field Officer Survey has been completed; information compiled included: starting salary, maximum salary, number of officers at max salary, sidearm policy, full police authority. ~ The 1989 convention was in Herndon, Virginia. In attendance were about 200 officers representing 33 U.S. and nine Canadian jurisdictions. ~ The general membership in attendance unanimously passed a resolution to pursue establishment of a headquarters for NAWEOA in conjunction with a Wildlife Officer Museum at the International Peace Gardens. A Building Committee and Finance Committee have been appointed and will pursue the funding and project requirements. ~ NAWEOA expressed concern regarding an auction of Claude Dallas' belongs and supported the efforts of Nevada wardens to stop the auction. ~ Quebec Warden Luc Guindon was attempting to apprehend two night hunters when he was shot at close range with a crossbow; no criminal charges were filed. The hunters claimed they thought he was a moose. ~ Washington game wardens have formed an association. ~ Delbert Tibke of North Dakota advises plans for our museum and headquarters is progressing. ~ Nebraska officers have received collective bargaining rights and accomplished parity with the State Patrol. ~ Proceeds from the conference in Virginia netted approximately \$24,500 for NAWEOA.

## LOOKING BACK

### 13<sup>th</sup> Ed., Spring 1990

The Executive has discussed the proposed size of the museum and agreed to proceed with plans for an 18,000 square foot building. ~ Up until now, the Sec/Treas. has been responsible for the newsletter duties; Mike Gabbard of Oklahoma has graciously volunteered to take on the responsibilities of newsletter editor/publisher. ~ The fourteen-member Yukon Officers Association donated \$250 to the NAWEOA Memorial Fund. ~ After five years of negotiations, Ontario officers are being classified as Conservation Officers.

*(continued from page 23)* While retirements are coming in at a steady pace with no replacements available, layoffs have not happened, and our Commissioner is doing all he can to keep them from happening.

One continuing sore point with the unionized members, and that's most of them, is that they have worked since April 2003 without a contract. Binding arbitration gave them significant salary increases for fiscal years 2003/2004 and 2004/2005, but other areas of the collective bargaining agreement remain unresolved, as do salaries from April 1, 2005. The New York Times is looking to do a story on conservation officer recruits dealing with enforcement issues in the Big Apple.

We are also expecting good coverage of a significant undercover effort we undertook with neighboring states, provinces and US and Canadian officers.



## NEW BRUNSWICK CONSERVATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

### ***FOLLOW THE TIDE TO NEW BRUNSWICK NAWEOA 2009***

*The New Brunswick Conservation Officers Association would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 28th Annual NAWEOA conference to be held in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. Home to the worlds highest tides, we have themed our conference "Follow the tide". In New Brunswick, you will be treated to Maritime hospitality, music, culture, beautiful scenery and of course Bay of Fundy lobster. Our host hotel, The Delta Beausejour, is located in downtown Moncton within walking distance to restaurants, shopping and entertainment.*

*We have been busy planning our conference to ensure there is something for everyone. Officer training will be on a wide variety of topics that will help officers meet the many challenges facing today's Conservation Officer. We have also been very busy working to ensure there are activities available for all age groups of family members.*

***Come join us in Moncton, July 12th to 19th, 2009  
for an unforgettable experience!***

*Sincerely,*

***Shawn Farrell***

Shawn Farrell, President  
NB Conservation Officers Association

***Rick Nash***

Rick Nash, Chairperson  
NAWEOA 2009  
Host Committee

## ***CONFERENCE REGISTRATION***

for the 2009 conference will be on the website  
<http://nbcoa.ca/naweo2009/default.htm>

### ***2009 Conference Accommodations***



#### ***Delta Beausejour***

***750 Main Street, Moncton - your conference headquarters!***

A part of Moncton's steadily growing skyline, the Delta Beauséjour is located in downtown Moncton, the geographic centre of the Maritimes. There's lots to see and do within walking distance and the huge Moncton Market is right next door.

***Come home to the Delta Beauséjour!***

#### ***Conference Rate***

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> - \$149 per night (plus applicable taxes)  
May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup> - \$153 per night (plus applicable taxes)

***Includes free parking and high speed internet.***

***~~~ Be sure to indicate NAWEOA conference when booking ~~~***



**To book, come visit our web site at [www.nbcoa.ca](http://www.nbcoa.ca) or check out the link at the NAWEOA web site.**

# OFFICER TRAINING PRESENTATIONS



## Waterborne Defensive Tactics For Wildlife Officers

**Ray Broccolo**, Head of Wildlife Enforcement, Environment Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador and also a Use of Force Instructor will provide hands on interactive training course related to issues of Officer Safety and Enforcement while working as a

Wildlife Officer in and around a waterborne environment.



## Dog Bite Prevention for Law Enforcement

**Constable Pierre Schelling**, of the Edmundston Police Force has a very interesting presentation on dog bite prevention. Wildlife Officers are often called upon to deal with clients with dogs. Whether it is in the field or at an offender's home, the potential of being attacked by a dog is a risk that officers often

encounter. Constable Schelling's presentation enable wildlife officers to better recognize and respond to situations associated with dangerous or potentially dangerous dogs.



## Human Source Management and Handling

**S/Sgt. Luc Breton**, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will be giving a presentation on how to handle police informants. Luc is a senior officer with extensive experience in all aspects of policing. His presentation will touch on; the difference between an Agent vs. an Informant, understanding human

source case law and legal issues, the keys to human source management, best practices, understanding the motivational factors of a human source and handling do's and don'ts.



## Prohibited Weapons

**RCMP Training Officer Marvin Cameron** will be giving a presentation on weapons that are prohibited in Canada. Marvin has over 30 years policing experience including several years at the Atlantic Police Academy training cadets and service groups. Outside of a forensic laboratory, Marvin has one of the largest known collections of

prohibited weapons and devices. Weapons that look like toys and toys that look like weapons, you will be amazed to see the variety of weapons that are available. Even veteran officers will see weapons that were designed to look like something other than what they really are. This type of training could save you or your partner's life should you come across a violator carrying this type of device.



## Unlocking the Secrets Behind Deer Behavior *(English only)*

**Deer biologist and hunter Rod Cumberland** will share the most recent research results on what makes deer tick. Presentation will include how deer see, smell and communicate, and will also discuss deer behavior surrounding fawning and breeding.

Even the most knowledgeable hunter will leave with a few new pieces of information.



## Use of Canines for Wildlife Law Enforcement *(English only)*

**Canine Handler Greg Wallace** will share his knowledge on the use of Canines in Wildlife Law Enforcement. Greg has been a Conservation Officer for 22 years with DNR in New Brunswick (15 of which as a Canine handler). Greg currently works with

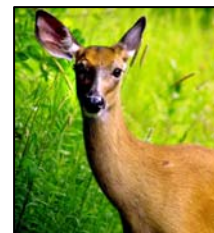
his 7 year old partner, a German shepherd dog named Luger. His presentation will provide officers with information on the training and use of service dogs in the apprehension of violators and evidence recovery at the scenes of violations. Greg will also be providing demonstrations at the Warden games.



## Marihuana Grow Operations /Clan Labs

**RCMP Cpl Simon Roy and the Coordinated Marihuana Enforcement Team** will be giving a presentation on indoor / outdoor marihuana grow operations and chemical labs. Considering wildlife officers spend a large amount of time in the wild, they on

occasion stumble across illegal drug operations. These operations range in size and complexity. This presentation will give officers information on the indicators of an illegal drug operation and "booby traps" that may or may not be set up around these operations.



## Wildlife Diseases and Humans

**Wildlife Biologist Cade Libby** will be talking about wildlife diseases that can be contracted by humans. Cade is an avid trapper with an extensive knowledge of furbearing animals. Cade's presentations will cover topics such as; common diseases

that are found in wildlife, typical symptoms associated with these diseases, precautions that can be taken to prevent exposure, and how to proceed should you come into contact with a diseased animal.



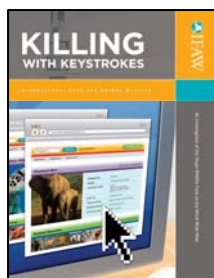
## OFFICER TRAINING PRESENTATIONS



### Improving Morale

Could your morale be better? Are you overwhelmed by workload? Do you find no one is listening to your ideas? Do you feel your agency undervalues enforcement? Do you want to learn how to turn things around? If yes, come see how Fisheries and Oceans Canada in B.C. have been successful at restoring pride, confidence, accountability,

recruitment and staffing in DFO. **Randy Nelson** (Regional Director of Conservation and Protection has worked with Fisheries and Oceans Canada in B.C. for 32 years) and **Etienne Laliberté** (has worked as a manager and advisor to senior management for 10 years and since 2006 has been the Senior Advisor on Change Management and Organization Development for Conservation and Protection) will introduce some valuable tools and ideas that will benefit you and your organization. Some of their changes are being adopted across Canada in their federal organization. The ideas will help a new recruit or a senior manager.



### Caught in the Web: Investigations into the Illegal Wildlife Trade on the Internet

**Barb Cartwright**, Global Team Leader, Illegal Wildlife Trade on the Internet, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Ottawa will present on the growing trend of using

the internet to traffic illegal wildlife and wildlife products. IFAW has completed three intensive investigation into the trade on the world wide web in the past 4 years, the most recent one was released in October 2008. She will present on the suspected scope and scale of the trade, targeted species, seller and buyer profiles as well as strategies used to circumvent rules, regulations and the law. Barb will also present on a variety of investigation techniques, data points and collection methods.



### Training in the Prevention of Illegal Wildlife Trade

**Guy Lafranchise** - my specific experience in environmental law enforcement spans 27 years across Canada,

part of the United States and abroad. Because of my specialty in international wildlife trade investigations, I have been invited to participate in preparing and delivering training in developing countries. This would include the country of Kenya, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of the Congo. Since my retirement in August of 2006, I am involved with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in delivering this type of training in some of the Caribbean countries and some of my previous co-worker asks if I would share some of my experiences with you at the 2009 NAWEOA conference. It is with pleasure that I have accepted this invitation.

## Things to see and do.....



### GOLF TOURNAMENT available Monday, July 13th only

The Hillsborough Golf Club will be tournament host this year. Located in Hillsborough, only 20 minutes from Moncton and en route to the Hopewell Rocks and Fundy National Park, Hillsborough Golf Club is one of New Brunswick's most challenging courses. Cut completely from the forest, the narrow fairways demand accuracy and penalize wayward shots. **Includes:** roundtrip transportation to the Hillsborough Golf Course, green fees, power cars and a hot dinner afterwards.



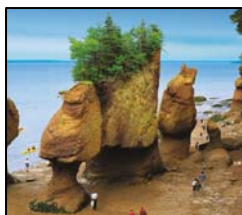
### TRIP TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND available Tuesday, July 14th (8:00am-8:00pm) only

A **full-day** trip to beautiful Prince Edward Island. **Includes:** Buses will depart the Delta Beausejour in Moncton at 0800 hrs on July 14th heading to Cavendish, PEI, located in the central Queens County on the Islands North Shore. Arriving at Cavendish boardwalk at approximately 1000hrs where participants will have the opportunity to golf at Parks Canada Green Gables Golf Course, visit Anne of Green Gables Heritage Home, shop at local craft stores, spend a day at the famous Cavendish North Shore Beach. Cavendish offers other opportunities if participants wish to attend on their own including deep sea fishing and numerous amusement parks. Lunch will not be provided. Participants will meet at the boardwalk at 1600 hrs to bus to the National Park for a buffalo barbecue, lobster and mussel bake. Buses will depart Cavendish at 1930 hrs back to Moncton.



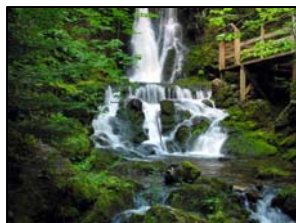
### FUNDY COASTAL EXPERIENCE available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

A **full-day** experience **Includes:** roundtrip transportation via modern highway coach from Delta Beausejour, on board tour guide with full narration, admission to Hopewell Rocks, Lunch and admission to Fundy National Park.



### WALK ON THE OCEAN FLOOR ! available Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

During this **half-day** adventure see one of Canada's marine wonders at the Hopewell Rocks. **Includes:** roundtrip transportation via school bus from Delta Beausejour, onsite tour coordinator, admission and guided tour of Hopewell Rocks.



## FUNDY NATIONAL PARK

available Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Explore rocky shores, sweeping vistas and some of the last remaining unspoiled forest in southern New

Brunswick on this half-day adventure. **Includes:** roundtrip transportation via school bus from Delta Beausejour, onsite tour coordinator, admission to Fundy National Park.



## KAYAK THE ROCKS

available Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Experience the highest tides in the world first-hand on this once-in-a-lifetime half-day adventure. Paddle among the giant "flowerpot rocks" at

high tide while friendly and experienced guides share the legends

and stories of the area. Instruction provided, no previous experience necessary, must be 12 years or older to participate. **Includes:** roundtrip transportation via school bus from Delta Beausejour, onsite tour coordinator, kayaking adventure at high tide with experienced guide, instruction and kayak rental.



## LOBSTER TALES

available Monday, Thursday and Saturday

Discover lobster on this half-day boat cruise of Shediac Bay. Experienced fisherman pull you in on the action: haul traps, learn about the physiology and life

of the lobster, see a cracking demonstration, and finish off by cracking your own during a complete lobster meal. **Includes:** roundtrip transportation via school bus from Delta Beausejour, onsite tour coordinator, Lobster Tale boat cruise, full lobster dinner including non-alcoholic beverage (bbq chicken or vegetarian lasagna available as an alternative).

# 2009 Conference Schedule

### Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

1:00pm - 7:00pm Registration and Merchandise Sales  
8:00am - 8:00pm Tours and Social Activities  
8:00pm -midnight Hospitality

### Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

8:00am - 7:00pm Registration and Merchandise Sales  
8:00am - 5:00pm NAWEOA Board Meeting  
10:00am-4:00pm Golf Tournament  
8:00am - 8:00pm Tours and Social Activities  
8:00pm - midnight Hospitality

### Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>

8:00am - 7:00pm Registration and Merchandise Sales  
8:00am - 8:00pm Tours and Social Activities  
8:00am—8:00pm PEI Tour  
8:00pm -midnight Hospitality

### Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> OFFICER UNIFORM DAY

8:00am - 7:00pm Registration and Merchandise Sales  
8:30am - 9:30am Group Photo and Officer Parade  
9:30am - 11:30am Opening Ceremonies/Fallen Officer Memorial  
12noon - 1:30pm Officers Lunch and Awards  
12noon - 3:30pm Guest Lunch/Speaker-Internet Safety  
12noon - 1:00pm Youth Lunch  
1:00pm - 5:00pm Youth Activities  
1:30pm - 6:00pm Vendor Displays  
2:00pm - 4:30pm Officer Training  
5:00pm - 6:00pm Torch Walk / Run  
6:00pm - 7:30pm Torch Walk / Run Supper  
8:00pm -midnight Hospitality "Themed!"

### Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

8:00am - 7:00pm Registration and Merchandise Sales  
8:00am - 9:00pm Youth Activities  
8:00am - 7:00pm Vendor Displays  
8:30am - 12noon Guest Tours  
8:30am - 10:00am Officer Training  
10:15am - 12noon Officer Exchange Presentations

### Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> (Continued)

12noon - 1:30pm Lunch (on your own)  
1:30pm - 5:30pm Officer Training  
1:30pm - 5:30pm Guest Tours  
5:30pm - 7:00pm Supper (on your own)  
7:00pm - 8:00pm Conference Bids  
8:00pm -midnight Hospitality "Themed!"

### Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>

7:30am - 9:30am Retired Officers Breakfast  
8:00am - 7:00pm Registration and Merchandise Sales  
8:00am - 12noon Youth Activities  
8:00am - 1:30pm Vendor Displays  
8:30am - 12noon Guest Tours  
8:30am - 10:00am Officer Training  
10:15am - 1200noon NAWEOA Business (Candidate Speeches)  
12:00noon - 1:00pm Lunch (on your own)  
1:00pm - 6:00pm Warden Skills Competition  
1:00pm - 6:00pm Spouse /Youth Warden Skills  
6:00pm - 8:00pm Warden Skills BBQ  
8:00pm -midnight Hospitality "Themed!"

### Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>

7:00am - 8:00am NAWEOA Rep Breakfast  
7:30am - 8:30am Female Officers Breakfast  
8:00am - 7:00pm Registration and Merchandise Sales  
8:00am - 4:30pm Youth Activities  
8:30am - 4:00pm Guest Tours  
8:30am - 9:45am NAWEOA Business  
10:00am - 12:00noon Officer Training  
12:00noon - 1:30pm Lunch (on your own)  
1:00pm - 4:00pm Officer Training  
16:30pm - 5:00pm Closing Ceremonies  
6:30pm -midnight Banquet and Dance  
6:30pm -midnight Youth Banquet and Dance

### Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

8:00am - 7:00pm Teardown and Transfer of Equipment  
8:00am - 5:00pm NAWEOA Board Meeting



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wardens on Wheels Motorcycle Rally

by Rob Grainger

Winter still has a firm grip on the country, but it's time to start making plans to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wardens on Wheels Rally. The rally will take place the weekend of August 8, 2009. We will be meeting at the Game Warden Museum in the International Peace Gardens located on the North Dakota/Manitoba border.

We will have a large tenting area reserved in nearby Lake Metigoshe State Park and a block of rooms have been reserved at The Quilt Inn, (701) 263-6500, which is located a mile down the road from the State Park.

Friday night, August 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting for supper and Saturday we will meet at the museum at noon. A poker rally will take place in the surrounding area and we will return to the State Park for supper and socializing. Riders are asked to each provide a prize for the poker rally. We will also be collecting pledges to help with the planned expansion to the Game Warden Museum.

If riders are unable to make the trip because of the distance involved, I'd like to encourage you to start your own rally in your local area. It would be nice to see Wardens on Wheels Chapters open up all across the country.

Anyone wanting more information about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rally, or starting up your own rally, please contact me at [rob.grainger@gov.sk.ca](mailto:rob.grainger@gov.sk.ca) or contact Paul Hopkins at [paul.hopkins@gov.sk.ca](mailto:paul.hopkins@gov.sk.ca).

### **\*PASSPORTS REQUIRED\***

**Please remember that all travelers entering the US will require a passport for the 2009 rally.**

**We will have to clear US Customs upon leaving The Peace Gardens.**

Ride with the best in August  
to honour the best of the past





**NAWEOA**

Stephen Kleiner-Secretary, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 22  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

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.....and the real, 1st Place Winner of the 2008 Warden Skills Games in Great Falls, Montana was  
“Team Lost”.....



From left to right: Idaho officers Mark Sands, Josh Koontz, Meghan Roos, John McLain (not in photo: Marc Porter)