

# **NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**



*"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"*



**2009 NAWEOA Wildlife Officer of the Year**  
**Saskatchewan Conservation Officer**  
**Steve Dobko**

Left: Steve Dobko  
Right: NAWEOA President Kevin Schoepp

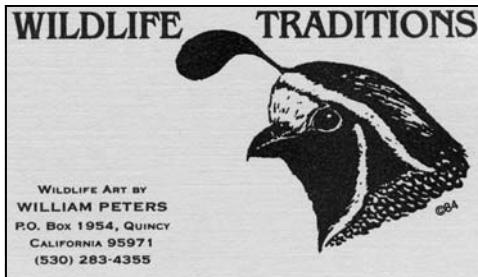
**FALL 2009**  
**52nd Edition NAWEOA Newsletter**

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◀ **Front Cover Photo**  
By Bill Peters

Steve Dobko (left) receiving the NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award from NAWEOA President Kevin Schoepp



**Newsletter Deadlines**

Spring Fall

J-Reps to Regional Directors Feb. 15 Aug. 15

Directors to Editor Mar. 1 Sep. 1

Membership/mailing Apr. 1 Oct. 1  
List Updates to Sec/Treas



## SOUVENIR PATCHES AVAILABLE

← 2009 NAWEOA conference patches remain available for purchase. The cost per patch (including shipping and handling) for all patches from 2004 through 2009 is \$7.00 USD.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAWEOA**

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

[1996 through 2003 patches are only available over-the-counter at the Game Warden Museum ([www.gamewardenmuseum.org](http://www.gamewardenmuseum.org)) ]

## "RECOGNIZING THE GOOD GUYS"

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

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

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

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

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



## *~~~~~ Notice ~~~~~*

### **POLICY: ROSTER UPDATE**

(Adopted Winter, 2009, Cambria, CA)

- ~ Request for roster updates should be made by the Directors to the Jurisdictional Representatives.
- ~ Jurisdictional Representatives should respond by sending updated rosters to the Secretary/Treasurer.
- ~ If there are any issues or problems with the roster the Secretary/Treasurer should respond back to the Director. The Director should contact the Jurisdictional Representative and it is up to the Jurisdictional Representative to respond back to the Director correcting the issue. Once corrected, the Director should respond back to the Secretary/Treasurer.
- ~ If the Secretary/Treasurer does not get a response, he should contact the Vice-President and President to follow up on the lack of response from the Director.
- ~ Requests for address changes outside the regular roster updates should be made to the Directors to forward to the Secretary/Treasurer in the correct format.

In  
memory  
of  
NAWEOA  
founding  
father  
Bud  
Comly

*In Loving Memory*  
**Edward 'Bud' Merton Comly**

February 12, 1941 ~ June 9, 2009

**Funeral Service**  
11:00 A.M. Saturday, June 13, 2009  
Harvest Church

**Officiant**  
Pastor Bryan Gifford

**Music**  
"Amazing Grace"  
"How Great Thou Art"

**Casket Bearers**  
Dan Comly Justin Comly  
Ray Comly Jim Goffena  
Bil Comly Steve Charter

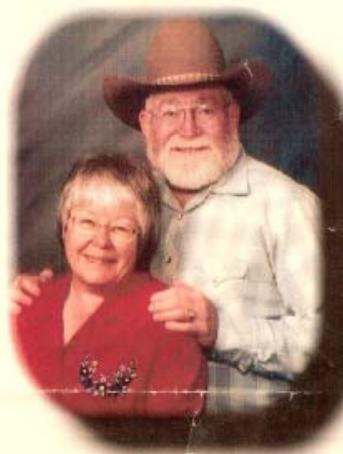
**Honorary Bearers**  
John Wilken Bob Fears  
Branden Carpenter Scott Zentner  
Leo Zentner Joe Miller  
Aubrey Smith Bob Tew  
George Edison Gary Beslanowitch  
Larry Beslanowitch Bob Wilken

**Reception**  
Following the service at the church

**Interment**  
Hoskins Basin Cemetery

**Memorials**  
Rocky Mountain Hospice  
2110 Overland Avenue, Suite 111  
Billings, MT 59102

*Arrangements by Cremation & Funeral Gallery*



**Good Morning Father**

By: Bud Comly  
August 2000

High on a hilltop, overlooking the Basin  
I watch as the sunrise starts the day.  
I gaze at the wonder of GOD's majestic creation,  
And I take off my hat, and I pray.

**Edward (Bud) Merton Comly**

Edward (Bud) Merton Comly, 68, of Shepherd passed away at home on Tuesday June 9, 2009.

He was born on February 12, 1941 to Edward Jay and Gertrude (Gonian) Comly in Roundup, MT.

Bud graduated from Lavina High School and worked several places before making Law Enforcement his career. He was a deputy sheriff for Yellowstone County before becoming a Montana State Game Warden. He was stationed in Bozeman, Stanford, and Roundup, Montana.

After retiring in 1997 with 25 years of service, Bud became a cattle rancher on his parents homestead in Hoskins Basin. Writing Cowboy Poetry and Christian music and singing and playing his guitar became his passion. He and Joan traveled across several states including North Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho and into Canada for about twelve years attending Cowboy Poetry Gatherings and hosting Cowboy Churches at those Gatherings.

He was especially proud of his granddaughter Ashley, who has served two tours of duty in Iraq.

Bud is survived by his wife Joan of 47 years. His sons; Dan (Nila), Ray (Cathy), and Bil Comly all of Shepherd, ten grandchildren; Isaiah, Hannah, Sarah, Justin, Jessica and Cody, of Shepherd, MT, Emily (Danny) Browning, of Elizabeth, CO, Nicole (Asmir) Alic and Ashley Comly of Boise, ID, and Alisha (John) McIlwain of Fort Rucker, AL; and two great-grandchildren; Branden and Ariana Alic of Boise, ID.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Bud's family would like to thank Rocky Mountain Cancer Center, Billings Clinic Cancer Center, Dr. Wittenburger, Dr. Fiddler and all the nurses.



*Isaiah 25:7-9*

*On this mountain he will destroy  
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations;  
he will swallow up death forever.  
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears  
from all faces:  
he will remove his people's disgrace  
from all the earth.  
The LORD has spoken.  
In that day they will say,  
"Surely this is our God;  
we trusted in him, and he saved us.  
This is the LORD, we trusted in him;  
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."*

Thank you Father for this privilege.  
And thank you for a good nights rest!  
Thank you for restoring my body.  
My mind and my spirit, for this day's test.

And thank you for placing me out here,  
A steward of all this for a while.  
I count it an honor to serve YOU,  
You're an awesome FATHER, with style.

I look down and I see that old ranch house,  
That has been home to me all of my life.  
And I start counting my blessings,  
And I thank you most for my wife.

I thank you FATHER for the children.  
You blessed us with three fine sons.  
You blessed us with three daughters-in-law.  
And grandchildren, to add to the fun.

You blessed us with good health, for the most part.  
Except for the results of self-abuse.  
And it's too bad we weren't listening closer  
To YOU in that time called our youth.

But you took real good care of us FATHER,  
When we were rebellious and wild.  
You gave us your love and protection,  
Like a FATHER will do for his child.

And FATHER, I pray for our children,  
As I do every morning and night.  
I pray that you'll bless them and their families,  
And I pray that they'll all see the LIGHT.

Yes, I pray that they'll all come to JESUS,  
Your SON who died on that tree.  
HE willingly died there so all of your children  
Could live in Your Kingdom, for eternity.

And Father, I pray for the Grandchildren,  
As they make each decision and choice.  
And I pray that Your Holy Spirit  
Will lead them, with a comforting voice.

And FATHER, I pray for some moisture.  
Your word says, "In due season, it will come".  
FATHER, forgive my impatience,  
I'd quit asking if you'd just send us some.

But oh, just listen to me FATHER.  
You'd think I wasn't grateful at all.  
But, if YOU could just send a few showers,  
It would green up our pastures this fall.

Well FATHER, I'd best keep moving.  
I can hear our old cows start to bawl.  
All that dust and dry grass makes them thirsty.  
And I've got more water to haul.

So FATHER, I'll wind up this visit.  
I thank you for the nice sunny day.  
Let's get together again this evening.  
In the name of my SAVIOR, I pray!

Amen.

## The President's Message

By Kevin Schoepp

As I sit down to compose my first message as your NAWEOA President, I find myself having just returned from an elk hunting trip in northern Saskatchewan. Although my back is a little sore and I'm walking a little slower, I'm a whole lot more re-energized! Funny how that happens!

Life's sometimes that way. I attended my first NAWEOA conference fourteen years ago and if you asked me back then if I could see myself one day leading the Association, I would have chuckled. Don't get me wrong; I have always been interested in the professional and social aspect of our own association in Saskatchewan and, when I attended my first few NAWEOA conferences, I saw them as an extension of that. I served as the secretary of the Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers (SACO) for six years and always considered myself a "behind the scenes" guy, willing to pitch in and support in any way that I could. I still vividly recall listening to some of the earlier presidents of NAWEOA like Gary Martin, Rick Pallister and Randy Hancock and thinking how great they were doing as leaders of the Association. In listening to these fellows, it came to me that we all have something to contribute and, before I knew it, my NAWEOA journey was well on its way. I am sincerely privileged to be able to serve the Association in this capacity and I truly want to thank everyone for believing in me and encouraging me along the way.

I did look back at a variety of "President's Reports" to see what words of wisdom were imparted at the time. It was interesting to go back and read some of the articles and, as you would suspect, there were a number of common themes. One thing that did jump out at me though (and I hate to say it), we are getting old! Looking at a picture of the Executive Board members during a winter meeting on the Parrie Haynes Ranch in Texas, my good friend Kerry Wrishko looks like he was in grade school and our tireless supporter, Richard Kingston, looked like a young Errol Flynn!

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual NAWEOA Conference in Moncton, New Brunswick, was a resounding success and, on behalf of the NAWEOA Executive and all the membership in attendance, I want to once again thank the New Brunswick Conservation Officers Association and the core planning committee and partnering agencies for welcoming all of the delegates and treating us all to an outstanding time. Well done!

The annual conference is a time to be proud to be a "game warden". The opening ceremonies are an uplifting, yet solemn, time and I need to once again recognize the sacrifice given by the four fallen officers who were honored at the conference. May they always be recognized as protectors of all that is wild and I encourage everyone to reflect from time to time on those who have passed on.

Our special friend Brent Cole shared a video message with us at the opening ceremonies. It was inspiring to us all and serves as a reminder that there are many heroes among us who need our support and encouragement as they deal with the day-to-day challenges that they face.

After returning from the conference, the Executive Board re-



ceived a message from NAWEOA member Bruce Toloski. We had recently voted to provide him with a lifetime membership. For those who don't recall, Bruce Toloski is a US Fish and Wildlife Agent, who, while off duty, stopped to assist a stranded motorist in an over-turned car on a freeway. He was struck by flying debris when an alleged drunk driver hit the stranded car in the pre-dawn hours on April 11, 2003. Agent Toloski was left comatose and fighting for his life. He has made a miraculous recovery and continues to battle the challenges that follow the trauma of such a serious event. It's folks like Brent and Bruce

who are the real heroes among us and they represent the true spirit of a game warden. Fellows, you will always have our support.

Honoring our fellow officers with the various awards our association administers has always been very important to me. I have thoroughly enjoyed managing the NAWEOA awards over the past couple of years and it really has been an honor to do so on the membership's behalf. Taking the time to submit a fellow officer for an award is really a great thing to do and I want to thank all those members who have taken the time to do so over that last few years. It was a real highlight for me to be able to present Saskatchewan Conservation Officer Steve Dobko with the 2009 NAWEOA OOTY Award at Moncton. Steve was a most deserving candidate and I will always remember being able to make the presentation and congratulate him in person.

We have seen a few changes to our Executive Board. Doug Forsdick has moved on from his Past President's role. Doug has become a good friend and was a positive contributor to the Association for the last several years. Thank you, Doug, for your leadership and your dedication to NAWEOA. Hampton Yates has just recently advised our board that he is going to have to step away from his Region 6 Director duties. We are going to miss Hamp's easygoing attitude, good nature and his positive contributions around the executive table. Hampton has been a strong advocate for NAWEOA in the SE and I think I first met Hamp back at his first conference in Missouri in '99'. We wish you the best, Hampton, and thank you for your efforts as Region 6 Director over the last several years. The Executive Board will be seeking an interim replacement for the Region 6 Director position until the Pennsylvania conference when an election can be held. Clint Deniker is the new Region 7 Director and Scott Haney is now starting a full term in Region 5. Rich Cramer has moved on to the VP position and is going to do an outstanding job. Marion gets to "relax" a little in her new role as Past President and the rest of the crew pretty much remains the same. It really is a great bunch to work with and I'm looking forward to the next few years.

So what is my vision for where we need to go as an organization? The template has been set as far as the "ins and outs" of dealing with Association business. To me that is the easy part. It's trying to forecast what challenges lay ahead and charting the course to keep this association alive and vibrant for a long, long time. I said it earlier, we are getting old. I've discussed this with folks like Bill Peters. There is no doubt we have a strong core of NAWEOA "lifers" and that will remain. It's a matter though of encouraging and recruiting the younger generation of professional

game wardens and convincing them of the importance of getting involved in an active way. This association has come so far and has accomplished so much that we can't let that slip away. We all have a part to play. There are officers among us that can contribute and we need only encourage them to get involved.

We are also in need of some prospective conference hosts. 2012 is just around the corner and 2014 and beyond is not far behind. Idaho deserves full credit for stepping up and hosting in 2013. I know that they are a smaller jurisdiction and it is marvelous to see their excitement and enthusiasm for hosting this event. We are beginning to see a number of groups hosting conferences for the second and third time. This is outstanding, but we can't count on this continuing. There are a number of larger jurisdictions out there that could pull the annual conference off and our executive will be planning on how best to approach some of these groups.

The strength of our organization lies with the ability to effectively communicate with our membership. I believe we have done a very good job at this and we need to continue to do so. Our Regional Directors are the link via the J-Rep network. If you feel that the information is not getting to you, please contact your Regional Director or myself. We need your suggestions, comments, ideas and criticisms and we are always open for a phone call or email. We also want to provide support to groups or individuals and we need to know when we might be able to help.

One last thing before I sign off. I think most will be able to relate. On the elk hunt I just returned from I was lucky enough to have a couple of "old school" resource grads along for the hunt. One is retired and one is soon to be. I think you know the kind of guys I'm talking about. I call them "meat and potato" guys, folks that got things done within our department. Marv and Jake are their names. They took me back in time through their tales and adventures, almost like explorers, when they first hunted in the area. Memories that will stick with me forever.

Times are "a changin'" and we are seeing fewer and fewer of these kinds of people.... (within our department anyway). It seems like the fish and wildlife resource has taken a back seat to the green strategies, environmental auditing, compliance planning, etc. The game warden is lost within the corporate priorities of the department. New staff have Masters of this, or PhD's of that, or are called "post doctorate fellows". Huh?? I sometimes wonder what is really being accomplished.

Last I knew Bill Pogue was a game warden, so is Gord Smoliak and Ray Dierking and Kirby Meister. They like their meat and potatoes..... and so do I.

By the way, I did shoot an elk, but that's a whole other [story](#).

Stay safe and enjoy the fall.

## OPENING CEREMONIES

By Marion Hoffman



The opening ceremonies for the 28<sup>th</sup> annual NAWEOA Conference were held in the beautiful Canadian city of Moncton, New Brunswick. This year's conference theme was "Follow the Tide" which certainly reflected where the conference was taking place on the unique shores of the Bay of Fundy.

Our Canadian colleagues chose to hold the opener in the beautiful old Capital Theatre in the heart of the city. Moncton residents were treated to a parade of officers complete with honor guard and bag piper down their main street to the theatre early Wednesday morning.

Our Master of Ceremonies was Fisheries and Oceans Officer Jeff Irwin. Jeff wore a number of different hats at this conference

and was an integral part of the camaraderie provided each night in the hospitality room. As is the custom, the opening ceremonies began with the presentation of colors accompanied by an amazing rendition of both the American and Canadian anthems sung by Monette Gould.

The tribute to our fallen officers followed. This year NAWEOA recognized the untimely deaths in the line of duty of Texas Game Warden, George Whatley; Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Officer, Nathan Mims; Arkansas Game and Fish Conservation Officer Sgt. Monty Carmickle; and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Lt. Joe Martyna. NAWEOA was hon-



ored to have Officer Mims' family in attendance at the tribute. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to all the fallen officer families.

Following the roll call of fallen officers, the hymn "Amazing Grace" was performed by Scott Murray. Kathleen Nash, daughter of New Brunswick Officer and Conference Chair, Rich Nash, en-



tertained the crowd with the reading of a beautiful poem. President Hoffman then read a poem called "Good Morning Father". The poem was written by one of NAWEOA's founding fathers, Ed Comly, who had recently passed away after a long illness. NAWEOA thanks Ed's family and Tom Bivins for sharing this wonderful poem with us and allowing us to honor Ed's memory.

Following the "Last Post" performed by Vernon River Consolidated School Band and Mandy Walker and Sarah Drake, the Invocation was given by Rev. Rob Salloum.

As the opening ceremonies progressed, NAWEOA President Marion Hoffman proceeded to call the conference to order. After introducing the NAWEOA Board of Directors, President Hoffman called former NAWEOA President Bill Peters to the stage to assist with the introduction of a special DVD presentation. Newfoundland Conservation Officer and past NAWEOA Director Brent Cole had put together an extraordinary DVD for the membership. Brent had been injured 3 years ago in a collision with a moose. Waking up in a hospital bed and finding himself now a quadriplegic, Brent has spent time reflecting upon what life's twists and turns has

dealt him. Brent's message came across loud and clear to all those of us present! Even though we are all lucky enough to have the best job on this earth, we need to remember family should always come first! Never forget to tell the ones you love that you love them, for no one knows what lies around the next bend. As the video played, the only sound that could be heard was the sound of Brent's voice, gaining strength through the lesson he was giving us. Thank you, Brent, for a job well done. We hope to see you in person at a future conference, Hang in there, buddy!

A number of welcoming speeches were given by local politicians as well as Tom Reid, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, Edmond Martin, Fisheries and Oceans, and Richard Charette, Environment Canada.



The keynote speaker was Hermenegilde Chiasson, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick.

Following the roll call of jurisdictions, Vice President Kevin Schoepp brought the opening ceremonies to a close on a high note by introducing the 2009 NAWEOA Officer of the Year. VP Schoepp had the pleasure of being able to present this prestigious award to a fellow Saskatchewan, Senior Conservation Officer Steve Dobko. Congratulations to Steve on winning this award.

## LOOKING BACK.....

### 1<sup>st</sup> Edition NAWEOA Newsletter, Spring 1984

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I have been associated with The North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association for less than four years, but they have been the most rewarding of my career, which is no accident. I have had an opportunity to work and socialize with wildlife enforcement officers from six other states and six Canadian provinces. I was amazed to find that we all share very common problems. Most of the answers to our frustrations can be found in the positive professional relationships created through NAWEOA. We can all, at times, become negative and complacent, but the key to our successful future is in our own hands. This Association has created positive professional bond for all of us to better ourselves and our professional standing. Before my association with the North American, I only personally knew a few officers in two other states and none in Canada. I now have well over 100 personal and supportive friendships with wildlife officers throughout North America. Like hundreds of other officers, I have spent money I didn't have to make meetings and phone other officers, but the rewards and fulfillments I have realized have no price tag. Get involved with the North American --- you won't be sorry!

**Thomas E. Bivins**

Tom Bivins, President

## Reflections upon receiving the 2009 NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award

By Steve Dobko

Some time has passed since I received the NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award at the Conference in Moncton. I have had time to reflect and have come to realize the true honor and importance of the award. To receive a nomination is truly the ultimate compliment any officer can receive from a peer or supervisor. Actually winning this award is an honor and achievement that I will never forget. I have had an opportunity to review all the other nominations and was humbled to be in the company of those officers. I would like to thank NAWEOA and all those that had input in my nomination. NAWEOA should be commended for their commitment to wildlife protection and the annual recognition of its members in the profession. NAWEOA's achievements between 1980-2009 go beyond mention. Law enforcement and the men and women of the profession are fortunate to have such a strong association working for them.

Past conference recipients were informed of the award prior to the conference. I was unaware until my name was announced. In the moment and at a loss for words, it was difficult to give my true feelings and gratitude. I am proud to represent Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers (SACO). My success throughout my career can largely be attributed to the people around me; a person is only as good as the people around them. I work in an area where there is a great team of officers that work together, especially when there is a good case to investigate. I have been fortunate my fellow officers work together toward the same goal... "Catching poachers". Politicians come and go, Ministers and Deputy ministers are appointed and reassigned, but at the end of the day, Game Wardens will be there for the public. Agency mandates will change, reductions in officer positions will happen, but we still manage to get the job done.

Throughout my career I have worked with many different officers and made many friends. Partners will come and go, but the one partner that is always there is our spouse. Day in and day out, they are there for us, and often we take them for granted. Remember this next time you get home from a patrol to find dinner is waiting in the oven or when you don't come home because you are out there trying to catch that night hunter that you have been getting calls about. When we are away, who takes the kids to soccer, ball, hockey or dance? Our spouses, our partners do. After winning this award, I have had time to reflect and consider if I am spending the right time on family vs. work, something we all should consider.

My wife Corinne and I have two beautiful girls — Brooke is six and Ashley is three. Even though they are active in soccer, dance and gymnastics, I still have little hunting and fishing buddies come summer and fall. Our family enjoys camping and fishing in the summer and looks forward to those warm tropical vacations during the winter. The girls and my chocolate Lab "Hera" look forward to the opener of the upland bird season every year. It doesn't matter whether there is an injured hawk or and orphaned fawn that I bring home, both girls are there at my side feeding and caring for them. I have been blessed to have a wonderful family and the



best job in the world.

When I consider the accomplishments I have achieved throughout my career, I reflect upon my past supervisors, co-workers and family. I think back to the time as a boy growing up on the farm hunting rabbits, grouse and, eventually, deer.

My morals and character were molded by my parents. That first ride along with my uncle Marv set the course of no return. There was no question when the high school counselors asked what I wanted to do as a career. All I knew and all I cared about was being a Conservation Officer. To this day, I really don't think I would have done

anything else. As strict and demanding as my father may have seemed while I was growing, up at the time he was preparing me for the future. I will never forget those sayings, "If you are going to do something, do it right the first time" or "use some finesse". As a child, we rebel against these directions and teachings; over time and with age we revere their wisdom. I now find myself saying the same things to my children.

My father taught me everything I know about hunting, showed me right from wrong, gave me confidence, and taught me to treat every person with respect. At the end of the day, if you do wrong, take responsibility for your actions. That is something to this day I preach to every violator I deal with.

I dedicate this award to my father, Steve Dobko, Sr.



Steve (right) while on duty in Saskatchewan.

**Officer Dobko's OOY nomination can be viewed on the NAWEOA website at [www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org) under "Awards".**

## Waterborne Defensive Tactics

by Braden Cherney, Saskatchewan Conservation Officer

Waterborne DT is a concept that I'm sure every officer has thought about while on boat patrol, during dock checks, or patrolling along a river. What if a situation was to develop that lands an officer in the water along side an assaultive individual? Does our current dry-land training apply? How can I use the water to my advantage? What will my equipment do to my buoyancy or will I be able to remain afloat without a PFD? These questions were answered in this two-hour presentation facilitated by Ray Broccolo, District Manager of Environment Canada, Wildlife Enforcement Division, Atlantic Region, assisted by Hugh O'Neil, Regional Director of Environment Canada, Wildlife Enforcement Division, Atlantic Region, and his son, Dan O'Neil.

The course started in the classroom with a discussion on the fundamental reasons why officers should train in water. Some tactical advantages and disadvantages in the water were considered. One example discussed was the officer's ability to use the water for concealing movement in order to disengage or engage. Using a PFD that has a manual inflation tube could give an officer the advantage, being able to deflate the PFD, then diving under the water in order to gain a tactical advantage. Other topics included waterproofing vests for added safety. There are companies that will add a waterproof membrane to existing vests. Once a vest has been saturated with water, it is no longer effective. After a few safety concerns and a review of the training we were about to receive in the water, it was time to get wet.

The pool portion of the training started with an introduction to a wet bulletproof vest and belt with a holster and red gun. Ray then had the officers get into the deep end and get a feel for the weight

of the vest. I had always wanted to try swimming with a vest and belt. Ray then put officers through a number of exercises while treading water for 3 minutes such as; equipment on, one hand out of the water, both hands out, drawing your sidearm and following an intended target, submerging underwater drawing your sidearm and emerging to find your intended target, and again submerging then swimming a short distance to reposition then emerge to find you intended target. We then performed a controlled entry into the water while grappling with a subject. The advantage was gained by the officer pushing down on the subject's shoulder as they entered the water. This caused the subject to become disoriented, which allowed the officer to gain valuable seconds to increase distance and choose an appropriate use of force tool.

Ray then finished things up by demonstrating extracting or escorting an individual from the water in a controlled manner. This exercise was done in the shallow end. Officers engaged the subject and placed a shoulder pin-style restraint. The officers would then escort the subject around the shallow end. On command, the subject would resist; the officer was to distract the individual and gain control of the subject by dunking the subject under the water while maintaining the shoulder pin restraint. That ended our training session.

This is very valuable training, something that I will be presenting to my jurisdiction. Exposing officers to situations that could be encountered while patrolling and training to those possibilities can only make things safer for officers in the field. Thanks to Ray, Hugh and Dan for putting together this introduction to Waterborne Defensive Tactics.



### LOOKING BACK.....

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Edition NAWEOA Newsletter, Spring 1985**

With three wildlife officers killed in the line of duty since last fall a discussion ensued about donating a sum of money to one officer's memorial fund. It was decided that the North American donate \$100.00 to the family or memorial fund of any wildlife or fisheries officer killed in the line of duty in either the U.S. or Canada, whether a member of NAWEOA or not. We realize that \$100.00 is just a pittance, but it is hoped that the sincerity of the donation from fellow officers will help ease the pain for the friends and family who have to live with the loss. ~ At the most recent winter executive meeting a decision was made to contract with a wildlife artist who will produce 400 signed and numbered prints for sale to the public as a NAWEOA fundraiser. \$7,000 up front capital is needed to get the project off the ground. Six of the officers in attendance agreed to loan funds to finance the project.

# GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

By Kevin Schoepp

At each conference there are a number of business meetings that take place. These include two executive meetings, two general membership meetings, and officer exchange presentations. Members are encouraged to participate and a great deal of information is shared and issues are discussed.

On Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, at the NAWEAO summer executive meeting, our executive was busy reviewing a number of items scheduled for the agenda. At the top of the list was discussing the proposed budget for the upcoming year that would be presented to the membership for approval during the general business meeting. The budget can be found at the NAWEAO web site: [http://www.naweo.org/protected/budget/2009-2010\\_Budget.pdf](http://www.naweo.org/protected/budget/2009-2010_Budget.pdf). The username is **naweo** and the password is **fish-cops**. Each Regional Director also gave a report as did the Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, IGW Staff, Conference Liaison and the Promotional Items team. Reports on future conferences were also heard from Pennsylvania and Saskatchewan. The Museum Board gave an update as well. Several members not on the executive board attended the executive meeting. A reminder to the entire membership that board meetings are open and if anyone is interested, please feel free to attend. The entire executive meeting minutes will be posted on the NAWEAO private site at <http://www.naweo.org/protected/minutes/index-minutes.htm>.

On Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, the officer exchange presentations were given by the US and Canadian officers awarded the trips last year. Each year one officer from each country is chosen to attend a state/province in the other country on an exchange trip. Last year Kevin Johnstone of the Yukon was the Canadian winner and Maryann Wangsgard of Utah was the US winner. Each of them is required to make a presentation on their trip at the following summer conference. Kevin chose to do his exchange in New Mexico and Maryann traveled to the Yukon for her trip. They each had interesting trips and both did a great job with their presentations.

On Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, the first NAWEAO general business meeting took place in the late morning. Candidate speeches were given by those running for the open positions of Regional Director in Regions 4, 5, 6 and 7 and for the open positions of President and Vice President. There was a Newsletter report, an IGW Magazine report and a Game Warden Museum report. The meeting was adjourned to continue on Saturday.

On Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, the day opened early with the Jurisdictional Representative breakfast. This is NAWEAO's opportunity to say "thank you" to the J-Reps who are present at the conference. The J-Reps are NAWEAO's first line of contact with the membership and most do an outstanding job keeping the lines of communication open. Under the constitution, the executive board mem-

bers are considered Executive Officers of the Association and J-Reps are considered Executive Representatives of the Association. There are a list of duties for the J-Reps and they can be found under the protected site (click on "constitution and bylaws") using the password and username mentioned above. If you are interested in getting involved as a J-Rep, there is a role for you!

The second NAWEAO general business meeting was held Saturday morning following the J-Rep breakfast. The budget was presented and approved by the membership. Rob Brandenburg presented a webmaster report and a report on the NAWEAO survey. For more information on the current NAWEAO survey, go to <http://www.naweo.org/protected/Survey/SurveyIndex.htm>. Regional breakout sessions occurred on a country basis instead of regionally due to poor attendance by the membership. These sessions are so valuable to both the Directors and the J-Reps and to the members. Regional issues can be shared and discussed in a smaller group format and issues that may need to be addressed by the NAWEAO board are more comfortably brought forward. The next time you attend a conference make sure that you attend your regional breakout session.

Results were announced with Kevin Schoepp (President) and Rich Cramer (VP) elected to one two-year term each. Steve Tomac (Region 4) and Hampton Yates (Region 6) were re-elected for a second full two-year term. Scott Haney (Region 5) was elected to his first full two-year term after finishing Mark Webb's previous term. Clint Deniker (Region 7), won over one other candidate to replace Director Rich Cramer who moved on to the VP position.

On Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, the executive board met for several hours to wrap up any outstanding business from the week and to welcome and orientate the new members to the board. Winter meeting options were discussed and the board discussed an approach for recruiting prospective 2012 conference hosts. Michel Morin from Quebec stepped forward as our new Canadian Representative on our promotional items team. We thank Richard Kingston for his many years of dedication to ordering and managing our promotional items and for his many hours of manning the NAWEAO booth. Somehow I think we will still see Richard at the conference each year though.

The conference is busy for the members on the executive board. It's also an opportunity for the membership to approach any one of the executive board members and talk to them in person about the Association or about any concern or suggestion that they might have. Thank you to all the members who attended and participated at the NAWEAO business meetings!

## LOOKING BACK.....

### **4<sup>th</sup> Edition NAWEAO Newsletter, Fall 1985**

Out of the (1985) convention came the proposal and format for the Journal of Wildlife Law Enforcement. This is a massive project designed to centralize and distribute all wildlife law enforcement techniques and research that has and is being developed across North America. The Journal will be in the format of a field manual, a small (8 x 10) three-ring binder in six sections including ballistics, time of death, identification, search and concealment, investigation and safety/survival.

The following letter was received by NAWEOA Secretary-Treasurer, Steve Kleiner after USF&W Special Agent Bruce Toloski learned that he was the recipient of a Lifetime NAWEOA Membership:

August 13, 2009

Mr. Kleiner,

Thank you so much for your gift to me. The thought of NAWEOA is so surprising to me. The life membership is wonderful. NAWEOA is very important to me and Wildlife LE all over the nation.

Enclosed, you will find the information about the young man who could have taken my life. Also, you will find a newspaper article written about me after my injury. Thank you again for the surprise gift. It will be well taken and information of it will be shared with other Wildlife LE officers. All the best to you and be safe at your very important career.

God Bless You,  
Bruce F. Toloski

**Details, below, of Bruce's accident are taken from his enclosed newspaper article:**

Bruce Toloski didn't think twice about stopping to help a stranded motorist in an overturned car on the freeway.

The good deed would change his life forever.

Struck by flying debris after an alleged drunken driver hit the stranded car in the pre-dawn hours, the Torrence resident and off-duty U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent was left comatose and fighting for his life with severe brain injuries.

Toloski has made what doctors called a miraculous recovery.

"What Bruce did was incredibly heroic", said Jim Pilkington, a senior special agent with the Department of Homeland Security who nominated Toloski for the award. "He did just what you'd expect Bruce to do — he went above and beyond. He saved someone's life and he nearly lost his. That's the kind of person Bruce is".

"His injuries were just really devastating", said Pilkington. "A lot of people were praying for Bruce....I don't want to overuse the word inspirational, but that really kind of sums it all up".

As for Toloski, he said he'd do it again.

"I did the right thing on that day and I'd do it again", he said of stopping to assist the motorist. "Helping people is something I've always done. It's unfortunate that I got hit by a drunk driver, but that's the way life goes."

## Lobster Tales Tour

By Rob Brandenburg



A short drive from Moncton is Shediack, a seaside fishing community known for lobster. Sunshine and fair breezes greeted participants in the Lobster Tales tour. We were treated to a cruise around Shediack bay and a lobster fishing demonstration, even though lobster season was closed at the time. The crew then progressed into a talk about the biology of the lobster. They showed how to get the most meat out of your catch with a lobster-eating demonstration. Now that is a job to have!

Finally, after the program, we were treated to a lobster meal. We got to try our hand at taking that lobster apart and getting all the meat out. I needed the lobster-eating demonstration 40 years ago; I have been wasting too much lobster. All the talking got our taste buds ready and we were treated to a lobster meal with all the fixings.



On the afternoon of March 5, Major David Sternen and Captain Denise Warrick of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission met with Pam Martyna in Boca Raton, Florida and presented her with a memorial check from NAWEOA. The check was to assist Pam in meeting financial obligations after the sudden and unexpected death of her husband, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Lt Joe Martyna in December. Pam was extremely appreciative.

# 2009 NAWEOA AWARDS — Moncton, New Brunswick

By President Kevin Schoepp

NAWEOA believes deeply in recognizing the commitment of the wildlife law enforcement professional. The awards recognize people and agencies that have performed outstanding work, exemplary service to the public, or have contributed to wildlife law enforcement in other ways. Our awards program is engrained within the constitution of the Association and many of our objectives speak to the importance of recognizing our own officers.

Awards are presented annually at the summer conference. Officers in attendance are presented with their award in front of their peers. The NAWEOA Officer of the Year is announced during the opening ceremonies. This year I'm pleased to announce that we received 62 different nominations for various awards, the most ever for the Association. With so many awards each year, a "Wall of Honor" has been established in the commons area of the conference hotel where each officer's entire nomination can be viewed. I credit all those officers who have taken the time to nominate a fellow officer, as the honor of being nominated by a peer is, in essence, the real reward.

## NAWEOA Officer of the Year

**Steve Dobko - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment**

**Award of Valor** - Awarded to the officer who performs a heroic act, or risks or receives serious injury, in the line of duty in an attempt to protect himself/herself or a member of the public from a dangerous situation or circumstance.

**Clinton D. Lee** - Kansas  
**Jerry Zimmerman** - Washington  
**Shawn Blajszczak** - Wyoming  
**Joel Hendron** - Alabama

**Lifesaving Award** - Given to an officer whose actions save the life of another person.

**Arnie Schmidt** - Saskatchewan  
**Ed Seitz** - British Columbia  
**Greg Kruger** - British Columbia  
**David L. Kinner** - Massachusetts  
**Tim Ainslie** - Ontario  
**Kirk Silver** - Ontario

**Bret Gill** - Florida  
**Gord Holmes** - Ontario  
**Colin Cotnam** - Ontario  
**Darin Pettit** - Missouri  
**Jeff Scott** - Missouri  
**Russell Duckworth** - Missouri  
**Steven K. Sutton** - New Jersey  
**Jim McMullen** - Ontario  
**Mark McMillan** - Ontario  
**Sean Cronberry** - Ontario  
**Thomas O'Rourke** - New Jersey  
**Pete Rockwell** - Florida  
**Steve Bartlett** - Florida

**Torch Award** - The Torch Award, presented on behalf of our retired officers is presented annually, to an officer from each region to encourage the professional development of recently appointed officers.

The nominated officer must not have worked as a wildlife enforcement officer for more than five years. The officer must have demonstrated a genuine desire to protect the resource and develop professionally and has also demonstrated exceptional ability and initiative in the performance of his or her duties, including public education.

Region 1 – **Carrie Grimard** - Saskatchewan  
Region 2 – No Nominations  
Region 3 – No Nominations  
Region 4 – **Mike Swaro** - Colorado  
Region 5 – **Christopher Spaight** - Wisconsin  
Region 6 – **Bret Gill** - Florida  
Region 7 – **Stephen J. Majeski** - Vermont



**Outstanding Service Awards** - Formerly called the "Certificate of Award". This award is given for outstanding achievement or service in the field of Wildlife Law Enforcement.

**Garry Bogdan** - Environment Canada

**Ray Broccolo** - Environment Canada  
**Merryl Bustin** - Nova Scotia  
**Amy Buck** - Florida  
**Joe Chambers** - Florida  
**Joe Johnston** - Florida  
**Carlo Morato** - Florida  
**Jedidiah Parisoe** - Florida  
**Troy Starling** - Florida  
**Brad Hadley** - Missouri  
**Shawn Pennington** - Missouri  
**Doug Forsdick** - British Columbia

**Certificate of Appreciation** - Anyone who in any way is helpful to the Association may be nominated for this award.



**California Department of Fish and Game**  
**California Fish and Game Wardens Association**  
**Camp Ocean Pines**  
**Captain Doug Huckins** - California Dept. of Fish and Game  
**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**  
**USCG Motor Lifeboat Station Morro Bay**  
**Lieutenant Dean Hileman** - California Dept. of Fish and Game

### Honorary Lifetime Membership

**Merryl Bustin** - Nova Scotia  
**Mike Gabbard** - Oklahoma  
**Kurt Bahti** - Arizona  
**Doug Forsdick** - British Columbia

**Special Recognition - Agency** - Anyone who has performed an extraordinary service to the Association.

### **Missouri Department of Conservation**

Our appreciation and thanks to all members who have taken the time to nominate a fellow officer for any of the 2009 NAWEOA Awards. Recognizing

the good work that our fellow officers do is an important objective of NAWEOA and I want to encourage all NAWEOA members to continue to nominate their peers for the various awards that NAWEOA offers. It's easy to do and your nominations for any NAWEOA award can be submitted through the online system at [www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org). Officer of the Year and Torch Award nominations must be received by April 15, 2010. All other award nominations must be submitted by June 15, 2010.

## ***Bay of Fundy Tour***

By Nettie Haney - wife of Region 5 Director Scott Haney

After checking out the website with the activities available in Moncton, I casually mentioned to my marine biologist daughter that touring the Bay of Fundy was one of the options. She said to me, "Oh Mom, what I wouldn't give to see that." So, I thought to myself – well, since she can't go, it is up to me to go so I could come back and report, "Yes, the tide went out and the tide came back in – no big deal." A pair of muddy shoes wouldn't be much of a sacrifice ...

Before I knew it, July was here and I was loaded up on a tour bus with quite a few other NAWEOA participants. A friendly young lady got on the bus and told us to sit back and enjoy ourselves as it was going to be a bit of a drive. She said she would be pointing out things along the way, but not too much, as she didn't want us to tire of her voice. We all got comfortable and, sure enough, she gave a few tidbits here and there – just enough to keep us interested.

It wasn't too long and we arrived at the Bay of Fundy. We were shuttled into a building with a very nice, but small, gift shop, some much-needed bathrooms and were assigned to another tour guide. She directed us to an area that was brimming with information about tidal facts, ecosystems on the Bay of Fundy, and one giant shrimp!



first look at the Bay of Fundy. Well, let me tell you, my little marine biologist daughter couldn't have been more right. It was a sight to see -- huge, red rock formations that towered over the bay. People (that looked like ants compared to the rocks), scattered here and there, were walking from place to place. And if that wasn't amazing enough, once we began our descent closer to the rocks, it hit me. I was walking on the ocean floor! I could reach down and touch a couple of types of seaweed and those huge rocks I was standing next to, in a matter of hours, would be covered in water. Instead of people walking, they would be kayaking around them. How cool was that?! It wasn't muddy like I thought it would be; it was actually rocky and uneven. The mud was further out, a place our guide, delicately, told us not to go. For you see, that was home to the shrimp that were so vital to this incredible ecosystem. If you were to step out there, you would be carrying off hundreds of these tiny little guys that the

beautiful shorebirds depended on for dinner. Within a few hours, the water had gradually receded and by the time we boarded the bus to experience Fundy National Park, you could look out and see miles of mud where the water once was.

It has been said they are seriously considering this to be the Eighth Wonder of the World and I, for one, was glad that I was there to see it! Thanks, New Brunswick, for sharing your gorgeous piece of the world with us.

From here we were put back on the bus and driven a little ways to a stairway and an outlook. It was there that I got my very

## ***My NAWEOA Experience***

*By Lauren Lueken, daughter of Cam Lueken*

My name is Lauren Lueken and I live in Melfort, Saskatchewan, Canada. This past July, I attended the NAWEOA conference in Moncton, New Brunswick. I am 10 years old and this was the third conference that I attended with my family.



Luekens at P.E.I. tour dinner—(right to left) Linda, Lauren, Lain, Lee

The best part of this conference for me was meeting new people. I met other kids from different parts of Canada and the

U.S. This year I met new friends from Labrador and from California. I now am able to keep in contact with my new friends using MSN and Facebook. It was very interesting to hang out with girls my own age that I had never seen before.



Warden Games youth team: (left to right) Makayla, McKenzie, Lauren

The Warden Games were fun! It's one of the things I enjoy the most and I have done the kids games every time that I have attended. I also liked being in the torch run for the first time this year. It was a hard run but I made it to the end with my dad. The Ducks Unlimited program was interesting and I had something to do while I was there. I hope that a lot of kids come to the conference in Saskatoon.

## ***A Walk on the Ocean Floor - Hopewell Rocks***

*By Christina Grant—wife of Dave Grant, Manitoba Conservation Officer*

After a short bus ride from Moncton passing lush green scenery, friendly homes and a river that seemed to flow melted milk chocolate, we came to the Bay of Fundy. We entered the Hopewell Rocks Park Interpretive Centre where we met our tour guide and began the short nature walk down paths (and mud) to the soft wet "ocean's floor". It was hard to imagine where we were standing, only hours before, had been completely submerged in many feet of water. The Bay of Fundy tides can reach up to 50ft -- twice every day. We learned that the highest tides in the world happen here.



eroding the soft sandstone through fissures and gradually separating the rocks and the cliffs. Eventually, over thousands of years, these and many more sculptures are carved out.

This was a great tour and definitely something we will remember, not to mention educational for adults and kids alike. Some of the NAWEOA conference attendees were fortunate to go kayaking at this exact site during high tide. I was told it was very interesting and fun as well.

A huge "thank you" to the New Brunswick Officers who put on an awesome conference. The whole week was full of something for all!!



The first rock formation was named "Lovers Arch". We continued on to see many famous Flower Pot Rocks. Some of the nick names of these formations were "Dinosaur Rock", "Mother-in-Law", and "E.T.". Not always were we able to see how their names came to be, but if you opened your mind, stood back and cocked your head sideways a little, you could usually get it.

The rock formations are made from the strong tidal action,

## **LOOKING BACK.....**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Edition NAWEOA Newsletter, Fall 1984**

By Tom Bivins, President

We now have, for the first time, a professional publication (The International Game Warden), and we can all contribute to it to ensure its growth and survival. Please support this publication with information and subscriptions. ~ We are going to attempt to publish a wild game cookbook – recipe form enclosed – need 300. ~ We are going to attempt a professional project - a field manual or wildlife enforcement textbook. ~ We had at least six supervisor or management level wildlife and fisheries officers in attendance at our meeting. They were given an opportunity to address the convention and all responded quite favorable about NAWEOA's organizational efforts and direction. I am pleased to see that NAWEOA is creating a bond between all wildlife and fisheries enforcement officers, no matter what their title or job.

The by-laws were changed at the annual convention (1984). The executive terms were change from one year to: PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT – TWO YEAR TERMS STARTING IN 1985; SECRETARY-TREAS. APPOINTED. Directors have two year terms, with Canadians up for election in even numbered years and Americans in odd numbered years. ~ CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS: For my family and most others, I am sure the best experience was The First Annual North American Warden Games and seafood barbecue. Events included: pitching a tent, wood chopping, backing a bear trap, measuring sheep and moose horns, snow-shoe racing, saddle & pack-a-horse. Idaho won the first place trophy with help from Wyoming

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Subscriptions Manager  
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*At NAWEOA conferences  
there are .....*

*.... places to visit*



*.... puddles to splash in*



*.... new friends to be made*



*.... like  
Gizmo*

*.... lots of things to see*



*.... like the Czech family Things  
#1Thing Riley, #2 Thing Ryan,  
#3 Thing Ricky, #4 Thing Raelyn*

*.... songs to be sung*





## Field Notes

Fall 2009



### FALLEN OFFICER CEREMONY AT THE GAME WARDEN MUSEUM MEMORIAL GARDEN



The calming silence of the mid-day heat is interrupted by the mournful cadence of a lone bagpipe, a call to order summoning those gathered in this place to congregate and pay an honor due to our fallen brothers and sisters gone before us.

This was the scene on Saturday, September 5, 2009, at 1300hrs in the Memorial Garden of The North American Game Warden Museum, located at the picturesque and symbolic International Peace Garden (I.P.G.), situated on

the respective borders of Canada and the United States of America. Families of fallen officers, friends of fallen officers, co-workers of fallen officers and resource enforcement officers from across North America all joined in a solemn ceremony to honor the memories and celebrate the achievements of 372 fallen officers that have made the ultimate sacrifice and died while on duty protecting and conserving our resources.

The ceremony commenced with an opening message from Dave Grant, President of the Museum Board. Dave outlined the purpose of the Museum and its history. Dave



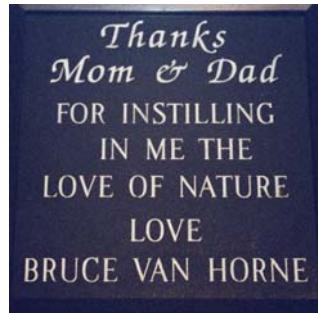
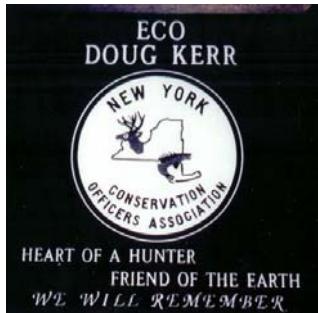
noted that it was suitable that this event occurs at the North American Game Warden Museum, a venue that is the first and only one of its kind.

This was followed with commentary by visiting dignitaries (Doug Hevenor, C.E.O. of The International Peace Gardens; Col. Julie Jones, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Robert Dean, Assistant Director H.Q. Operations of Manitoba Conservation; and Robert Timian, Chief Game Warden, North Dakota). All reflected on the circumstances by which we were all brought to-



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

## Examples of Engraved Paving Stones



*Honor a Family Member*

*Memorialize a Fallen Officer*

*Just Say Thank You*

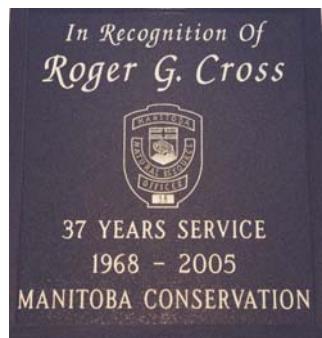
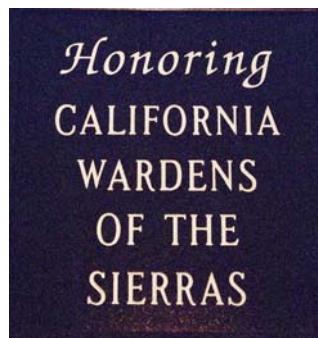
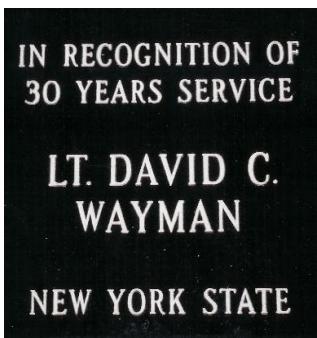
*Celebrate Partnerships*

*Demonstrate Family Support*

*Honor Outstanding Achievement*

*Demonstrate Support*

*Honor Officer Retirements*



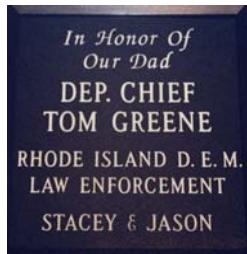
*A thank you card and a photo of your paving stone will be sent to you upon its completion.*  
*A gift acknowledgement is also available upon request.*  
*Museum staff will be available to assist visitors in locating their paving stone on the museum grounds.*



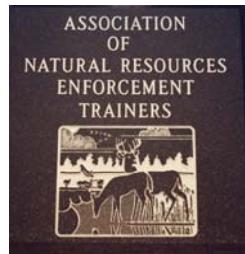
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March 2008



gether on this day. They honored the sacrifices made by 372 fallen officers and the effects their lives and their passing had on families and friends. This is a sentiment shared by the entire resource enforcement family in North America. Mention was made of the perfect choice of location, the International Peace Garden, bordering our two great countries. This is a testament to the spirit of cooperation between the United States and Canada and the working alliance in a field that knows no boundaries.

Blessings, followed by an opening prayer were offered by Reverend Tim Thiessen (I.P.G. Clergy) with reference to a correlation between the cycle of life and death and the cycle of the changing of the seasons.

The names of the 372 fallen officers and the date we lost each of them was solemnly read by a number of State, Provincial and Federal officers in attendance, followed with a closing prayer by Reverend Thiessen.

A flag folding ceremony followed with the State of Utah color guard taking down the United States flag, folding the

flag and presenting it to Col. Julie Jones, President of the U.S. National Chiefs Association. This was followed by the Province of Manitoba honor guard taking down the Canadian flag, folding the flag and presenting it to Robert Dean, representing the Canadian Chiefs Association. This was a very moving and dignified ceremony and it captured the full attention of all in attendance.

The ceremony came to a close with a lone bugler playing "The Last Post" and a moment of silence by all to reflect on the very real and long-lasting effect those who have gone before us have had on family, friends, and co-workers.

Closing remarks by Dave Grant and an offer to join in fellowship, light refreshments and a tour of the facility rounded out the event.

Special thanks to all who attended: the Utah color guard, the Manitoba honor guard, all of our dignitaries and guest speakers, the I.P.G. for their help in organizing on-site logistics, the State of North Dakota Parks Department, the Province of Manitoba Parks Department, the staff at the Museum, and the organizers of the memorial.



## **Can a French-speaking kid have fun at a NAWEOA Conference? Elyse says, “YES”!**

Allo,

Je m'appelle Elyse V. Perron. J'ai 9 ans. J'habite à Sherbrooke en Estrie. Quand mon père, Guy Perron, m'a dit qu'on allait au Congrès Naweoa, j'étais inquiète et contente.

J'ai participé à d'autres congrès Naweoa (Winnipeg et Québec) mais celui-là était "cool". Pendant la Naweoa 2009, je me suis fait deux meilleures amies, Maude et Laurence Boucher. On s'amuse à chaque fois que l'on se voit. J'ai aimé me faire des amies mais aussi d'aller aux glissades d'eau. Je me suis beaucoup amusée !



Elyse (black shirt) with NAWEOA friends

Ce que je n'ai pas aimé c'est qu'il n'y avait pas beaucoup de monde qui parlait français mais j'ai beaucoup aimé mes vacances au Nouveau Brunswick .

Durant les soirées du congrès, j'ai commencé à échanger des épinglettes que j'avais eu pendant les autres congrès. J'ai eu de l'aide de Line et Michel pour commencer car j'étais un peu gênée ! Mais après, ça allait mieux car j'étais avec mes deux nouvelles amies. On s'a aidait pour comprendre ce que les gens nous disaient.

Je me suis fait un ami parmi les amis de mon père. Il s'appelle Bruce Ward. Il est très gentil et amusant. Il se force vraiment beaucoup pour me parler en français. J'étais assez impressionnée.

J'ai beaucoup aimé mon congrès Naweoa 2009 et je participerai sûrement à d'autres congrès dans le futur !

Hello,

My name is Elyse V. Perron. I'm 9 years old. I live in Sherbrooke in the Eastern Townships (in Québec, Canada). When my father, Guy Perron, told me they were going to the Naweoa Convention, I was anxious and happy (at the same time).

I have attended other NAWEOA conferences (Winnipeg and Quebec), but this one was cool. During Naweoa 2009, I made two best friends, Maude and Laurence Boucher. We have fun every time we see each other. I liked to making friends at the convention, but also going to the water-slides (as the activities with my family). I enjoyed it so much!

What I didn't like was that there were not many people who spoke French, but I enjoyed my vacation in New Brunswick.



Elyse exchanges pins with Rob Brandenburg

During the evenings at the convention, I started to exchange pins that I had received during other conferences. I've been helped by Line (Duchaussoy) and Michel (Morin) to get started because I was a little embarrassed ! But afterward, it was better because I was with my two new friends (and I was more confident with the others). A lot of people helped me to understand what other's were saying.

I made a friend among friends of my father. His name is Bruce (Ward). He's very nice and fun. He forced himself to speak to me in French. I was quite impressed.

I loved my NAWEOA Congress and I probably will attend other conferences in the future!

Translated to English by Elyse's friend, Line Duchaussoy.

## Hopewell Rocks—Fundy National Park NAWEOA Conference Bus Tour by Bruce Ward, Ontario Conservation Officer

While the NAWEOA executive put their shoulders to the wheel in meetings, many others got to enjoy a luxurious tour bus ride accompanied by friendly commentary of the nearby natural attractions between Moncton and the Bay of Fundy.

The drizzly morning gave way to full sunlight as we rambled a two-lane country road through various hamlets enroute to a lunch stop at the Hopewell Rocks. Disembarking the bus along the sea, we proceeded through a nearly new state-of-the-art visitor services interpretive centre showcasing the local marine and avifauna of the Fundy mudflats. We were led down several flights of stairs to a relaxing hike amongst the flower-pot-like islands along the seashore at low tide.

A video in the sea kayak shed show cased the shorebird (sandpipers and plovers) feeding migration that would peak later in July.

It was surprising to learn that, despite the typical one high and one low tide per day, here in Fundy the slosh effect results in two high and low cycles in a day.

After a great lunch, we continued back on the bus to Fundy National Park a little further out on the bay, getting out for a stretch at the interpretive centre as well as the famous Wolfe Point covered-bridge hiking trail. Talk about a small world despite not having been in the Moncton area since a high school trip some 35 years ago I ran into some MNR employees from Ontario that I curl with every winter. They were hiking the Wolfe Point trail on a family vacation.

It was a relaxing, informative and peaceful introduction to the unique tidal environment. It gave an excellent introduction and explanation of the uniqueness of the natural features and is a highly recommended side trip if you're in the area.

## Prince Edward Island Tour by Rob Brandenburg, NAWEOA Webmaster



On Monday, some 250 officers and family traveled to Prince Edward Island to take in the sights. Activities included golfing, shopping, a tour of the Anne of Green Gables house and grounds and fun on the beach. Many of the visitors went to the Ann of Green Gables site.

Anne of Green Gables is a bestselling novel by Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery and was published in 1908. Montgomery drew upon her childhood experiences around the Gables House and surrounding rural Prince Edward Island as a basis for the book.



The weather was spectacular — just right for a walk on the beach and then a sumptuous meal provided by the P.E.I. officers at the end of the day's activities. The menu included P.E.I. steamed mussels and BBQed bison with all the fixings.

There are only 8 officers on P.E.I. and they were great hosts. The meal and hospitality were great.



Cleaning  
tables  
the  
game  
warden  
way

# **TORCH RUN/WALK 2009**

## **Moncton, New Brunswick**

By Rob Brandenburg



Rain held off for the 9th Annual 5K Run/Walk Wednesday, July 15, 2009, in Moncton, New Brunswick. The run went upstream on the Petitcodiac River Trail and returned. Runners, walkers and strollers were treated to a viewing of the tidal bore just before the start of the 5K event.

The Federal Wildlife Officers Association, in cooperation with New Brunswick Conservation Officers Association, sponsored the event. We relaxed afterward with a BBQ for all participants.

The torch run raised about \$11,000 this year, bringing the total to about \$69,000 to date.

**Overall Winner:** Randy Nelson from BC ~ Time: 18:17



Randy (left) receiving medal from Ellen Goeckler, organizer of the NAWEOA Torch Run



### **Women's**

**First Place:** Cloey Marshall from AB ~ Time: 23:48

**Second Place:** Karina Walsh from New Hampshire ~ Time: 25:16

**Third Place:** Laura Tomac from Nevada ~ Time: 26:38

### **Youth**

**First Place:** Lee Lueken from Saskatchewan ~ Time: 22:14

**Second Place:** Lain Lueken from Saskatchewan ~ Time: 22:47

**Third Place:** Karlan Messer from California ~ Time: 23:46

### **Walkers**

**First Place:** Bob Ver Berkmoes from Michigan ~ Time: 34:51

**Second Place:** Gilles Belisle from Quebec ~ Time: 36:02

**Third Place:** (Tie) Michel Morin from Quebec ~ Time: 39:55

Lisa Lacroix: from New Jersey ~ Time: 39:55

### **Raffle Winners**

**Sig Sauer P 250 pistol:** Steve Vinnedge from Montana

**Remington 870 Shotgun:** Karina Walsh from New Hampshire



### **Men's**

**First Place:** Steve Tomac from Nevada ~ Time: 19:40

**Second Place:** Bill London ~ Time: 21:17

**Third Place:** Greg Wallace from NB ~ Time: 21:22

## 2009 Warden Skills Day

By Rich Cramer

Friday afternoon found most conference attendees headed to a local high school football stadium for the 2009 Warden Skills Games. The New Brunswick officers did an excellent job fitting fun and challenging events into a relatively confined area. The entire day was well organized and very entertaining.

Teams initially had to participate in five timed "I.D." event stations which constituted the "Elimination Round". At each of the stations, teams were timed as they had to identify several items (either photos or the actual item) and match the item with the corresponding name on a separate answer sheet. These stations were quite challenging and entertaining. One station consisted of photos of different animal feces. Photos enabled the organizing officers to remove scale and perspective making size far more difficult to judge. Another station consisted of waterfowl wings

sap bucket filled with water to a pail that was to be filled. The teams were timed and had to continue the relay until the pail was full. This was a great deal of fun to watch. Another final event was called the "New Brunswick Game Warden Challenge". This event consisted of one team member stacking piles of stove wood, another team member ran down the field with a rubber fish and baited a lobster trap, two additional team members ran to the trap and carried it back across the field, and the final team member had to drag a weighted dummy for 30 yards. While the events proved there was no shortage of dummies, the New Brunswick officers had a few on hand just to be sure. The third and last of the final events was the "Canoe Challenge". This event was a hilarious chain of events beginning with one team member filling a back tank with water. All team members then carried the canoe to the half-way point where two team members put on life jackets and placed paddles in the canoe. The team then continued to



1st PLACE TEAM — (left to right) Caroll Vadnais, John Pretty, Dennis Parr, Ray Broccolo, (kneeling) Gordon Cox.  
All are Environment Canada Wildlife Officers.



1st PLACE SPOUSE TEAM — "Hot Chicks With Guns"  
(left to right): Erin Czech - PA, Donna Chene - MB, Kim Deniker - PA,  
Monica Cachagee - ON, Karina Walsh NH

while yet another had photos of various small fish. The tree bark (photos) station proved a bit difficult but nothing could compare with the difficulty in identifying flies. Not the flies that emerge from maggots, but the flies you use in the streams where maggots are illegal. Perhaps to some this was easy, but to our team of miscreants from Pennsylvania, this was an event which sunk our effort to once again finish third and just shy of the awards as we were eliminated from further competition.

The top ten teams moved on to the final three events. One event was titled the "New Brunswick Maple Syrup Relay". This event consisted of team members running with snowshoes with a

carry the canoe to a point where one of the team members had to knock over a bottle with spray from the back tank. Once the bottle was knocked over, the team carried the canoe back to the starting point, returning the life jackets and paddles along the way. This race against the clock was quite entertaining as well.

At the conclusion of the skills events, an outstanding meal was served at a nearby picnic grove. Fresh lobster and steak was served to all and it was of the highest quality. A lovely band played background music as the guests enjoyed this very fine meal.

All in all, the New Brunswick officers did an excellent job with

the Skills Day. Great events, a fine meal, plenty of refreshments and fun for all ages were the rule for the day. Thank you, New Brunswick!



# Warden Skills Game Competition Youth Games



## 1st PLACE YOUTH TEAM

← photos to left  
and right →

**Paul & Alan  
Doyle, Kyra and  
Kelsey, Claudia  
Cachagee on top  
of pyramid,  
Gavin Cachagee  
on knees—team  
mascot.**



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

by Laura Tomac, wife of Steve Tomac - Region 4 Director

I have been asked to provide a spouse's perspective of the recent NAWEOA annual conference held in Moncton, BC, July 12-19<sup>th</sup>. I have wonderful memories of the past conferences I have attended, and Moncton is no exception. I am always impressed with the welcoming attitude of the conference towards guests, spouses and families. I always enjoy seeing our NAWEOA family – even those I know only as familiar faces that I haven't officially met....yet! I've learned that it takes a special skill to maintain eye contact with someone that you know you've met before, while glancing nonchalantly down at their badge for a name refresher. At least I hope I'm not the only one that does that!

The Opening Ceremonies and the Fallen Officers Memorial for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference were held in a nearby theatre. I'm always filled with pride when I see all our officers in their uniforms marching together. Along with the Fallen Officers ceremony, the moving PowerPoint presentation by Brent Cole stands out as the most memorable moment of the ceremonies. I think we all came away inspired by his words. The spouse's luncheon this year was very nice. We had a tasty meal and were treated to a PowerPoint presentation concerning the serious issue of internet safety and our children. It was definitely an eye-opening presentation and a timely topic.



The annual Warden Skills Games were excellent this year, and so well organized. My team known as W.O.W. (**Wives Of Wardens**) always enjoys participating in the Skills Games and especially enjoy a little good-spirited competition with our fellow spouse teams. I highly encourage all those who have been tempted to put together a team to go for it next year in Pennsylvania. The lobster feast we had after the skills games was unbe-

lievable! Pretty much the only time I have lobster is with my NAWEOA family. I am getting better at maneuvering my way around the tasty buggers. No, I didn't eat the nasty-looking bits in the middle, but maybe next time!

The hospitality nights were a blast! I experienced mussels and oysters for the first time. I must say I'm now a big fan of both. The karaoke DJ on Friday night was a huge hit – especially for us closet singers. I'm still trying to figure out how I ended up singing "The Gambler" in front of 300 of my closest friends. I'm already practicing for next year!

We participated in the Torch Run again this year and had a great time. This is another time when I get goose bumps seeing all of us out there in our Torch Run shirts walking or running for a great cause. I haven't been to the Game Warden's Museum, but I look forward one day to seeing what our efforts have accomplished.

The Saturday night banquet was so much fun. I love seeing everyone all shiny and dressed up. The dinner was excellent and the band – WOW! They were so full of energy and talent. Dancing is one of my favorite things to do and my favorite dance partner, besides Steve, is Ron Wrisko from BC. Hi Ron!

As far as sightseeing goes, Steve and I had rented a car, so we were able to create our own tour schedule. We enjoyed discovering the beauty of Prince Edward Island on rental bikes. The North Shore was breathtakingly beautiful. We also spent time on the Fundy coast and managed to hit the Hopewell Rocks at both low tide and high tide – what an adventure for a couple of Nevadans who get giddy with excitement when we see water in any shape or form!



All in all, I had a wonderful time at this year's conference, and I look forward to seeing everyone next year in Pennsylvania!

## **Conference Banquet and Auction**

By Steve Tomac—Region 4 Director

Each year the banquet night at the conference is a time for some of us men to pull out the tie and nice shoes that we haven't worn since the last banquet and get a little dressed up for a semi-formal evening. Many of the women take the opportunity as well to "put on the Ritz" and their dancing shoes for a star-studded evening (well, sort of stars, at least in the fish and game world). This year was no exception and the banquet night was full of glitz and glamour!

The evening's events were held right in the Delta Beausejour conference hotel, so there was no need for outside travel. The turnout was fantastic and filled the banquet room. The emcee for the evening was Fisheries and Oceans Canada officer/comedian, Jeff Irwin. Jeff did a fantastic job and kept us all entertained. The dinner was quite excellent with salad, potatoes and an amazingly good stuffed chicken breast. Dessert was some kind of incredibly decadent chocolate something that had fresh berries and sauce on it; it alone was worth making the trip to Moncton! It was a meal that could rival any fine restaurant's best. There were plenty of adult beverages to accompany dinner and loosen up the pocket-



book for the next stage of the evening — the live auction.

Jeff stepped in and changed hats (not really, he left the cowboy hat off for the evening) and became our auctioneer. There were a total of 20 items in the live auction interspersed with lots of raffle items. The items in the auction were quite interesting with many hunting and fishing trips and other items unique to our profession that you could not find anywhere else. Several people were looking at buying trips to combine with travel to a future conference. Leave it to Game Wardens for cost-saving ingenuity! By my tally, the auction raised almost \$12,000 with one item alone (the African Safari) going for \$4,400. There was also one item of a certain Pennsylvania officer in an Amish dress that actually fetched \$50, I think you will see that resurface next year.

One special part of the evening was a table set up near the door with a conference t-shirt and framed picture of the uniformed

officers on it. Officers were signing the shirt and picture with well wishes for our injured comrade from Newfoundland, Brent Cole. When last I looked, they were both completely filled up with signatures!

With the dinner and auction over, it was now time for the final stage of the evening. That's right.....DANCING. If you ever want to see for yourself the definition of uncoordinated, just put several game wardens in a room, give them a few drinks and have a band play some good music. It was a sight to see. Actually, there was some pretty good moves going on and I think everybody enjoyed the terrific band from Nova Scotia, Pogey. They played lots of dancing music which included some authentic old maritime jigs and reels with a smoking hot fiddle. The boot heels were flying late into the night even with early morning flights to catch.

It was a great evening and one that will be remembered for years to come.



## ***NAWEOA Newsletter Going Digital!!!***

With constantly rising postage and printing costs, the NAWEOA Executive Board will be considering ways to save money. One possible way to do this is by producing a digital version of the newsletter which will be available to the membership on the NAWEOA website.

So, for the next several issues, the NAWEOA Newsletter will be posted in full color on the protected site (for members only) of the NAWEOA website: [naweo.org](http://naweo.org).

To view the newsletter there, use the following:  
username (naweo) & password (fishcops).

There will be a “counter” to determine how many times the newsletter is accessed and a link to leave a comment.

**~ TRIAL BASIS ONLY AT THIS TIME ~**  
**A HARDCOPY VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL  
STILL BE MAILED TO ALL MEMBERS-IN-GOOD  
STANDING FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.**

### ***Winners of 2009 NAWEOA Officer Exchange***

#### **CANADIAN OFFICERS:**

**Winner — Dave Palmer, Ontario**  
**Alternate — none (second name drawn was later determined to be ineligible)**

#### **U.S. OFFICERS:**

**Winner — Nathan Favreau, New York**  
**Alternate — Mike Brazaukas, New York**

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New Jersey Cons. Officers Assoc. (7)	Leon Redman	PO Box 1421	Silver City, NM 88062		(905) 388-0770		lredman@state.nm.us
New Mexico Cons. Officers Assoc. (4)	Scott Florence	625 Broadway	Albany, NY 12233-2500		(518) 402-8825		dsfloren@gw.dec.state.ny.us
New York Cons. Officer's Assoc. (7)	Tim Andrews	97 Manitoba Drive, Suite 208	Clarendon, NL A5A 1K9		(709) 466-7439		timandrews@gov.nl.ca

## NAWEOA Jurisdictional Representatives (Revised 09/09)

JURISDICTION (NAWEOA Region)	NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY/ADDRESS	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	FAX #	EMAIL/ADDRESS
North Dakota Game Warden Assoc. (5)	Jackie Lundstrom	234 Parkridge Lane Bag #1	Bismarck, ND 58503 Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0	(701)221-3217	(701)328-9541 (867)777-7230	(867)777-7236	duckgirl@bismarckdotnet ian_elsworth@gov.nt.ca
Northwest Territories (1)	Ian Elsworth						
Nunavut Wildlife Officer's Association (2)	Aden Williams		NU				
Ohio Game Protector's Association (7)	Steve Thomson	Wildlife Dist. Two, 952-A Lima Ave. 215 West 115 St. S.	Findlay, OH 45840 Jenks, OH 74037	(419)454-3213	(419)429-8353		awilliams@GOV.NUCA steve.thomson@dnr.state.oh.us cgomez115@cox.net
Oklahoma State Game Warden Assoc. (5)	Carlos Gomez						
Ontario Conservation Officer's Assoc. (2)	Brett Cachagee	3 Yvonne Cres. Dave Rzewnicki	Hawkestone, ON L0L 1T0 Warren, OR 97146	(705)487-6754 (503)717-9269			nawean@poco.ca reznard@freedomwv.com
Oregon (4)							
Parks Canada, Res. Cons. Warden Ser. (1)	Tom Grohol	76 Valerie Drive	Elizabethtown, PA 17022	(717)367-7116	(717)787-4024		tgroho@state.pa.us
Pennsylvania (COPA) (7)	Elin Czech	7955 Oak Hill Dr.	Cheltenham, PA 19012	(215)379-6168	(215)379-1953		philly198@paol.com
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (7)	Roland Richard	P.O. BOX 98	Wellington, PEI COB 2E0	(902)854-2777			jrichard@gjov.pe.ca
Prince Edward Island (3)	Jennifer Ogen	DEM/Div. of LE, 235 Promenade St, Rm 250	Providence, RI 02908	(401)222-1986			Jennifer.Ogen@pdem.ri.gov
Rhode Island Env. Pol. Officers Assoc. (7)	Braden Cheney	1325 Vaughn Street	Moose Jaw, SK S6H1P8	(306)694-3661	(306)693-0535		Braden.Cheney@gov.sk.ca
Saskatchewan Assoc. of Cons. Officers (1)	Rich Elson	3690 Massey Drive	Prince George, BC V2N 2S8	(250)561-5510	(250)561-5534		EsonR@pacificmpog.ca
Society of Pacific Reg. Fishery Officers (1)	Adam Keeter	P.O. Box 394	Abbeville, SC 29620	(864)710-8110	(864)389-0566		keeterA@dnr.sc.gov
South Carolina (6)	Shawn Wichmann	4500 S. Oxbow Ave.	Sioux Falls, SD 57106	(605)362-2712			shawn.wichmann@state.sdu.us
South Dakota Cons. Officer's Asasn. (5)	Michael Stockdale	P.O. BOX 956	Bj Sandy, TN 38221	(731)593-3588			mike@compulink.net
Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (6)	Scott Haney	530 CR 4222	Mount Pleasant TX 75455	(903)572-5242	(903)572-7966		Scott.Haney@tpwd.state.txs.us
Texas Parks and Wildlife (5)	Elen Killey	USFWFS, 70 Everett Ave., Suite 315	Seabrook, MA 02150	(617)889-6616	(617)889-1980		ellen_killey@fws.gov
US Military Fish and Wildlife Service (7)	William Armstrong	2159 Liberty Grove Rd.	Colora, MD 21917-1317	(301)658-6271	(410)436-4357		William.Armstrong@usag.army.mil
Utah Conservation Officer's Assoc. (4)	Stacey Jones	Utah Div. of Wildlife Res., 475 W. Price River Drive, Suite C, Price, UT 84501	Shaftsbury, VT 05262	(435)820-6445			stacejones@uanl.gov
Vermont Game Warden's Assoc. (7)	Travis Buttle	290 Fox Hill Road	Callao, VA 22435	(804)442-4383			tuttle@cdps.state.vt.us
Virginia Game Warden Assoc. (6)	Ken Williams	P.O. Box 120	LaConner, WA 98527	(804)529-5730			kenneth.williams@dfg.virginia.gov
Washington Game Warden Assoc. (4)	Jeff Lee	PO Box 1100	Hurricane, WV 25626	(360)766-8700			jefflee@dearwire.net
West Virginia Div. of Nat. Res. Law Enf. (6)	Karen Ransom	HM-3460 Teays Valley Road	(304)562-1094	(304)256-6945			KWTR215@adsl.com
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Res. (5)	Todd Schaller	Dept. of Natural Res., 625 E. Hwy Y, Suite 700, Oshkosh, WI 54901	(920)379-1704	(920)424-3035	(920)424-4404		Todd.Schaller@wisconsin.gov
Wyoming Game Warden Assoc. (4)	Joe Gilbert	700 Valley View Drive	(307)672-7418				joe.gilbert@wgf.state.wy.us
Wildlife Enf. Directorate of Env. Canada (1)	Ross Stewart	Env. Can.-Wildlife Enf., 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X4	(306)931-8923	(306)975-6818	(306)975-6061		ross.stewart@ec.gc.ca
Yukon Conservation Officer's Assoc. (1)	Kitty Meister	Box 1581	Dawson City, YT Y0B 1G0	(867)993-5887	(867)993-5492	(867)993-5003	Kitty.Meister@gov.yk.ca

**No Whining!**

**Just good wine, good cheese, and reminiscing with good friends**

*NAWEOA Retirees  
Wine and Cheese Parties*



Our first party was held in 1997 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Charlie and Carol Robishaw bring the sharp cheddar cheese that was made in Cuba or Corfu, NY by the Kutters family. Gid and Barb Hanggi bring Gid's homemade wines, and in recent years, some different commercial wines. We have had other officers bring their own homemade wines, and we encourage anyone to do so.

See you all in Pennsylvania in 2010!

*The Hanggis and The Robishaws*



## NAWEOA TRAILER SAGA

by Randy Hancock

All the NAWEOA equipment that New Brunswick needed arrived in time! It is wonderful how NAWEOA folks pull together in a time of need.

Due to multiple problems, all of the NAWEOA flags, banners, poles and stands, all of the items that New Brunswick needed to host the 2009 conference, remained in Montana after the 2008 conference. The task facing Montana, New Brunswick, and NAWEOA was to transport all those items to New Brunswick in time for them to do an adequate inventory and get set up for their conference. One option, very expensive, was to pay a shipping company to haul the equipment from Montana to New Brunswick. Another alternative was to contact Jurisdictional Reps along the route between Montana and New Brunswick and see if they could arrange for transportation across their jurisdiction. This latter option was the one selected.

The Montana Game Wardens Association supplied a 5X8-foot trailer and filled it with the NAWEOA equipment. The Jurisdictional Reps along the route were able to either get permission from their agency to pull a trailer or were able to set up volunteers to haul the trailer. In most instances, the agencies readily agreed to allow the transport, and the officers involved usually were able to pick up the trailer from an adjoining officer during routine business trips and get the trailer from border to border of their state. Volunteers were utilized in a couple states.

Agencies and jurisdictions involved were Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Brunswick. A hearty debt of gratitude goes out to these agencies and especially to the Jurisdictional Reps along the way who set up the transport through their state. Many thanks also to Mike Martin for getting things organized in Mon-

tana and seeing that the trailer got loaded and to Tara Jenkins of New Brunswick for setting up the receiving end of the trailer's journey. Lastly, NAWEOA would like to thank the Montana Game Wardens Association for providing the trailer that hauled the equipment.

This shouldn't happen again. It is hopefully a one-time event and future hosts will have adequate opportunity to haul the equipment home from the prior conference. In any event, NAWEOA folks need to be congratulated for pulling together to make this relay happen.



### PA Game Commission Executive Office – Training Division

2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Phone: 717/787-3168 Fax: 717/787-9914

[www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us)

12 August 2009

Stephen Kleiner  
Secretary – Treasurer  
North American Wildlife  
Enforcement Officers Association

Dear Steve,

Please accept this modest donation of \$350.00 from the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Ross Leffler School of Conservation 26<sup>th</sup> Class. These funds have been and continue to be generated through the sale of class patches. We ask that you direct these monies to the NAWEOA Fallen Officers Fund to be used at your discretion in an unfortunate time of need. My class has directed me, as their Secretary-Treasurer, to continue to forward all proceeds gained from the continued sale of patches to your worthy cause. You can expect periodic contributions until our supplies are exhausted. Thank you in advance for helping with this endeavor and for all that you do.

Yours in public service,

Travis A. Pugh  
Law Enforcement Coordinator  
PA Game Commission

# North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association

*29th Annual Conference*

## Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association

*is honored to host*

# NAWEOA 2010

JULY 12 – JULY 18



**www.pawco.org**

*Find the Key to Conservation in the Keystone State...*

# THE CONFERENCE...

## Social Agenda

Hospitality Area Opens Sunday at 8 pm

### Monday, August 12, 2010

Laurel Highland Tours (All Day)  
Whitewater Rafting w/ Wilderness Voyagers  
Hiking/Biking  
Frank Lloyd Wright's  
"Falling Water and Kentuck Knob"  
Local Shopping Available

### Tuesday, August 13, 2010

Pittsburgh Area Tours  
National Aviary & Pittsburgh Zoo (All Day)  
Kennywood Amusement Park (All Day)  
Canoeing Allegheny River  
Casino  
Golf Outing (All Day)

### Wednesday, August 14, 2010

Phipps Conservatory (Half Day)  
Gateway Clipper Fleet Dinner Cruise (Evening)

### Thursday, August 15, 2010

Flight 93 Tour/ SGL 93 Dedication  
Torch Run/ BBQ (Included w/ Flight 93 Events)

### Friday, August 16, 2010

Warden Skills Event/BBQ (Half Day)  
Mount Washington Tour (Half Day)

### Saturday, August 17, 2010

Spousal Tour of Amish Country in Volant (All Day)  
Moraine State Park (All Day)  
Various Local Tours (All Day)

## Business Agenda

Sunday, August 13, 2010  
Registration Area Open

Monday, August 14, 2010  
Registration Area Open

Tuesday, August 15, 2010  
Registration Area Open  
NAWEOA Executive Meeting

Wednesday, August 16, 2010  
Registration Area Open  
Group Photo & Grand March  
Opening Ceremony  
Speaker/Training Sessions  
Officer Luncheon  
NAWEOA Business Session  
Officer Exchange Presentations  
Exhibit/Trade Show

Thursday, August 17, 2010  
Registration Area Open  
Retired Officers Breakfast  
Speaker/Training Sessions  
SGL 93 Dedication  
Exhibit Trade Show

Friday, August 18, 2010  
Registration Area Open  
Female Officer Rendezvous  
Speaker/Training Session  
Conference Bid Presentations  
Candidate Speeches  
NAWEOA Business Session  
Warden Skills Event  
Exhibit/ Trade Show

Saturday, August 19, 2010  
J. Rep Breakfast  
Registration Area Open  
Speaker/Training Session  
Closing Ceremony  
Banquet

*Join us in a Tour of the Flight 93 National Memorial, a special memorial ceremony and State Gamelands Dedication followed by the Annual Torch Run.*

*Though these brave souls are no longer with us, remember and honor them on the windy hilltop of the Flight 93 National Memorial.*



**Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association** [www.pawco.org](http://www.pawco.org)

# North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association 2010 Conference Registration Form

First Name:	Last Name:	Address:	
City:	Province/State:	Postal Code/Zip Code:	
Agency:	Phone:	Jurisdiction, Y or N?	
Position:	E-mail:	Voting Member, Y or N?	
T-shirt size:	Airport Shuttle**, Y or N?	Retired, Y or N?	
Spouse/Guest First and Last Name:			T-shirt size:
Youth Name:	Age:	T-shirt size:	Allergies:
Youth Name:	Age:	T-shirt size:	Allergies:
Youth Name:	Age:	T-shirt size:	Allergies:

Registration Types*	Before 5/15/10	After 5/15/10	# of persons	Total
*Does not include special activities				
Full Registration NAWEOA member - Includes all Day Passes	\$125.00	\$175.00		
Full Registration NON-NAWEOA member - Includes Association membership & all Day Passes	\$150.00	\$200.00		
Spouse/Guest - Includes all Day Passes	\$100.00	\$150.00		
Youth (5 yrs old to 17 years old): Banquet NOT included	\$40.00	\$60.00		
Student Registration - Includes All Day Passes	\$100.00	\$150.00		

Day Pass Activities***	Before 5/15/10	After 5/15/10	# of persons	Total
Banquet Only	\$60.00	\$80.00		
Skills Day	\$30.00	\$50.00		
Training Sessions	\$50.00	\$70.00		
Uniform Day	\$50.00	\$70.00		

Special Activities	Cost	# of persons	Total
Whitewater Rafting with Wilderness Voyagers	\$60.00		
Hiking/Biking	\$30.00		
Frank Lloyd Wright's "Falling Water" Tour	\$60.00		
Pittsburgh Zoo and National Aviary Tour	\$20.00		
Kennywood	\$25.00		
Canoeing Allegheny River with Adventure Outdoors	\$25.00		
Golf Outing	\$55.00		
Gateway Clipper Fleet Dinner Cruise	\$60.00		
Warden Skills Event/BBQ	\$0.00		
Mount Washington Tour ( <i>spousal tour</i> )	\$10.00		
Phipps Conservatory ( <i>spousal tour</i> )	\$10.00		
Tour of Amish Country in Volant ( <i>spousal tour</i> )	\$20.00		
Moraine State Park ( <i>spousal tour</i> )	\$10.00		
<b>Torch Run/Flight 93 Tour/BBQ</b>	\$20.00		
Group Breakfast Options (Friday at 7:30 am)	Cost	# of Persons	Total
Female Officers Breakfast	\$10.00		
Retired Officer Breakfast (Include Spouse if attending)	\$10.00		

**Conference Registration Total (include special offers):**

\*\*\*No admittance without a ticket--All activities have limited availability-based on earliest registrations. Banquet limit is 900. Please check the day pass activities you will be attending. If you are bringing guests, write in how many next to the checked box. You must do this to receive a ticket for that event.

Credit Card Type:  Mastercard     VISA    Card Number:

Expiration Date:

Name on Card:

Phone Number:

Signature:

Check#

Date Processed (office use only):

## Special Offers:

**Group Photo**  
Wednesday, July 14th

**Buy Now for only**  
**\$10** (will be \$15 at conference)

**Draw Tickets**  
Drawing Date: 5-15-2010

1st prize - 6 free nights at  
Pittsburgh Sheraton North (valid  
only during week of conference)

2nd prize - 1 free NAWEOA 2010  
Full Registration (\$125 value)

	Quantity	Total
Single Tickets for \$5		
Three Tickets for \$10		

\*\*Airport Shuttle Information:

Airline:

Flight:

Departure Date and Time:

Arrival Date and Time:



## Four Points Sheraton Pittsburgh North



The Four Points Sheraton Pittsburgh North has been selected to house the 2010 NAWEOA conference. This inviting hotel was chosen for its quality service, elegance, and spacious guest rooms. It is conveniently located at the intersection of interstate 79 and the PA turnpike, a short trip from the greater Pittsburgh International Airport providing travelers easy access to all attractions in the Cranberry and Pittsburgh areas. Feel at home in the hotel's comfortable settings, where you can unwind and enjoy the peaceful Western Pennsylvanian atmosphere.

### **Reservation Information:**

*Regular room rates are \$105 per night with free parking. Rates do not include applicable taxes.  
To make your reservation contact:*

**The Four Points Sheraton Pittsburgh North**  
**910 Sheraton Drive**  
**Mars, PA 16046**  
**Telephone: 724-776-6900 Fax: 724-776-1115**  
**Website: [www.fourpoints.com/pittsburgh](http://www.fourpoints.com/pittsburgh)**

*Identify yourself as a NAWEOA Conference guest*

### **Looking for Outdoor Hospitality Instead? Stay at Bear Run Campground!**

Located just 20 minutes away from the conference, Bear Run Campground is an excellent alternative for those who are looking for more of an adventure, with just as much comfort as a hotel. Relax at your campsite or by the heated pool. At Bear Run you will be greeted by its courteous staff and its friendly recreational community. For rate information and more, call toll free: (888) 737-2605 or visit [www.bearruncampground.com](http://www.bearruncampground.com).

*Local tourism info: [www.VisitButlerCounty.com](http://www.VisitButlerCounty.com) or call 1-866-856-8444*

**Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association [www.pawco.org](http://www.pawco.org)**

NORTH AMERICAN



*Educating  
Honoring  
Celebrating Natural Resource Protection*

Dear Sir,

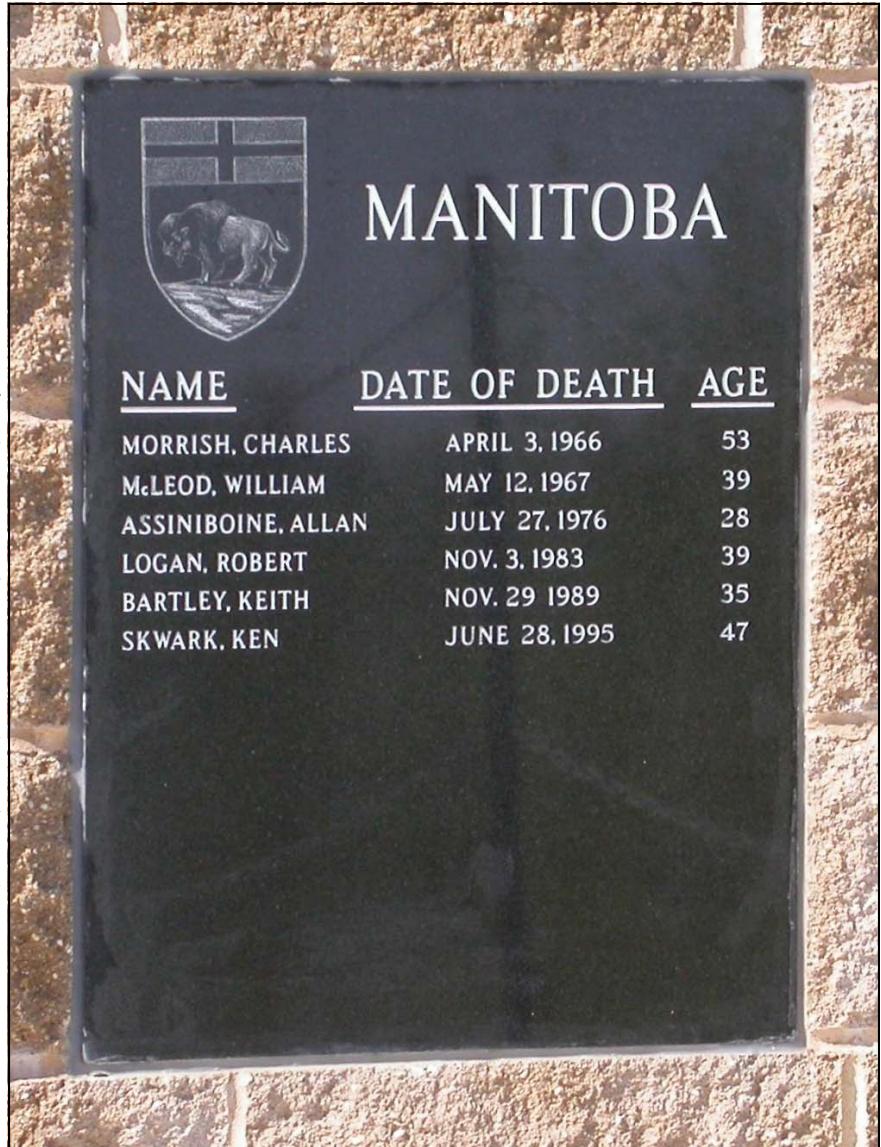
My name is Murray Bartley and my brother (Keith Bartley) was a Conservation Officer when he died tragically in the line of duty in Fisher Branch, Manitoba. I truly wanted to attend the ceremony, however, am unable to do so due to court commitments, as I am an investigator in the RCMP. Although I don't know you, Dwayne, since you are a serving member within Manitoba's enforcement field, I felt this message would be best delivered to you.

I wanted to commend you and your colleagues on an incredibly important tribute to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community. The death of my brother impacted our entire family in ways that words cannot articulate. The Museum provides a tremendous amount of closure for us and facilitates further healing. We are proud of each and every one of you and I want to extend my deep-felt appreciation to the vast number of people involved, for the tremendous effort in creation of the Museum, thereby establishing a monument that will forever stand.

My brother and his other brave colleagues throughout North America will be smiling ever so brightly on September 5, 2009. My family will be thinking of all of you on that day and I truly regret that I am not able to attend to pay my respects personally.

Take care of yourselves and peace be with you.

Sergeant Murray Bartley  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
K Division Major Crimes  
Lethbridge, Alberta



This letter was addressed to Dwayne Strate who is a member of the Game Warden Museum Board of Directors

**NAWEOA**

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

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**The family of fallen Alabama Officer Nathan Mims attended the 2009 NAWEOA Conference opening ceremony. Pictured below are Nathan's wife, Brooke, with their son, Collin, and Nathan's parents. Nathan's plaque is the second from the left.**

