



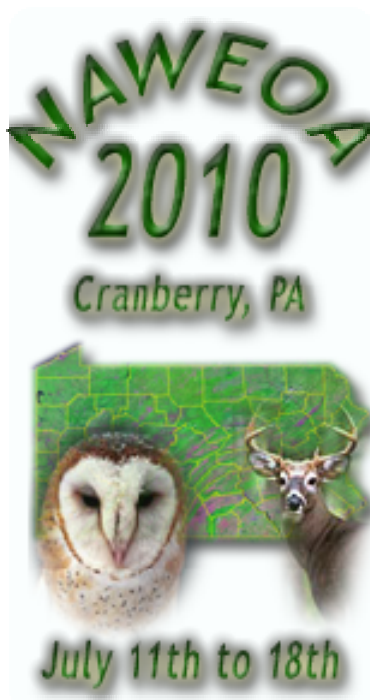
**NORTH AMERICAN  
WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION**

*"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"*



## **29th Annual NAWEOA Conference**

**July 11 - 18, 2010 ~ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**



**Spring 2010**  
**53rd Edition NAWEOA Newsletter**



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**for loads of information**

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~ Read/post interesting court cases  
~ Link to the summer conference host sites  
~ Link to other fish and wildlife websites  
~ Browse Officer Memorials  
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## 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) ) ]





# Fallen Officer Memorial



USDA Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Christopher A. Upton, 37, of Monroe, Georgia, was fatally shot on Friday, March 5, 2010. He was on patrol at the Ocmulgee Bluff Equestrian Recreation Area in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest at about 11 p.m. Two individuals were hunting coyotes with a high-powered rifle equipped with night vision and apparently mistook the officer for game. After the shooting, the hunters dialed 911 and reported a hunting inci-



dent. The incident investigation is being conducted jointly by the Forest Service and GDNR WRD and is ongoing.

Upton, a 4-year veteran of the Forest Service, had previously worked as a game warden for the Department of Defense, US Marine Corps, at Beaufort, South Carolina, and as a conservation officer, game warden and pilot with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. He is survived by his wife, Jessica, and a 4-year-old daughter, Annabelle



## MEET REGION 6 DIRECTOR JEFF WHITE

Jeff attended college at Frostburg State College where he received BS degrees in Biology, Fisheries and Wildlife Management. He became a Maryland Natural Resources Officer in November of 1979 and retired on April 30, 2008. He came back to the Department in July of 2008 as a contractual corporal in charge of the Reserve Officer Program for western and central Maryland. Jeff joined Naweoa at the summer conference in 1995 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He is a life member of NAWEOA and has attended every summer conference since 1995. He's looking forward to serving as the Region 6 Director.



## MEET REGION 7 DIRECTOR CLINT DENIKER

Hello! I am a conservation officer in northwest Pennsylvania. I was elected at the conference in Moncton, NB and am very excited to serve on the NAWEOA Board. I'm looking forward to helping you in any way I can. My heart is truly that of a conservation officer. My father was conservation officer for 37 years and I always dreamed about following in his footsteps. I began my career with the Pennsylvania Game Commission in January 1999 when I was approved for ride-along status as a Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer. I have served in a full time capacity for approximately 9 years.

I have been married to wife Kim for over 11 years and we reside near Grove City, Pennsylvania. We enjoy working on our property and caring for our two horses. When I realized that I had been elected as the Region 7 Director I was excited to begin learning more about NAWEOA. I have attended five NAWEOA conferences and look forward to seeing you in Pennsylvania for the 2010 Conference.



## President's Report by Kevin Schoepp



Hello, everyone. I would like to say that spring is on its way, but I know better. Even though we have been experiencing some decent weather of late in Saskatchewan, it's only the middle of March, and on the Canadian prairies.....anything can happen!

Our executive board has just recently returned from a busy winter meeting. We were hosted by the Florida officers in the Tallahassee area. Big thanks to VP Rich Cramer for “stick handling” the various “logistical” challenges that come along with organizing these meetings. He couldn’t have done it without our old pal Hampton Yates. Look for highlights from the meeting in the report from VP Rich. Thanks, Florida, for having us!

Speaking of “stick handling”, wasn’t the Canada/US hockey game a fitting ending to a great Olympic competition? The game

was on as Ross Stewart (2011 Conference Committee Rep.) and I made our way to Florida. When we landed in Tallahassee, I looked back at Ross and he gave me the thumbs up. Canada was up 2-1 and it was just into the third period. As we walked through the airport, I said to Ross, we just have to find a TV and watch the rest of the game, when we came around a corner and several of our comrades (Rich, Marion and Levi) shouted out from a local “watering hole”. So we settled in for a “beverage” and things looked in hand until that goal in the dying seconds. Well, my heart just sunk, because the tides had turned, and I didn’t have a good feeling about another round in overtime. All I could think of was, “it’s going to be a long week if the boys don’t pull this one off!” The rest is history and for us hockey-fanatic types in Canada, we could breathe a sigh of relief!

I don't like to beg, but consider this a plea for a 2012 Conference host. We are nearing the eleventh hour for an association to step up and take this on. Our board gave considerable time to discussing this situation and we will be approaching numerous jurisdictions to ask for serious consideration to stepping forward for this event. If there are any groups out there that are tossing this around, contact Randy and he will get you all you need to know. If not 2012, consider 2014 and beyond.

I was saddened to learn last week of the tragic loss of USDA Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Chris Upton. This is truly a devastating incident for the family.

agency and entire law enforcement community and a situation that sadly could have been avoided. It brings us all back to the very basics we were taught as youngsters when we sat in our first firearm safety classes.

I met a person in Florida who is truly an inspiration to us all. FWC Officer Vann Streety was able to attend a portion of our meeting and it was truly an honor and pleasure to shake his hand and wish him well. I know that others on the Board feel exactly the same. Many of you will recall that Officer Streety was shot multiple times last summer when he was ambushed while on patrol in Brevard County, Florida. I don't think many of us can even begin to understand the physical and psychological toll that Vann has experienced and continues to experience as he recovers from this incident. Take time to read his story at the following link: <http://www.policeone.com/Officer-Safety/articles/2000595-Ambush-in-the-brush> Vann has also been nominated to America's Most Wanted All-Star List. If he wins, he will receive \$10,000. Vann is a single father of three and may have additional surgeries to deal with. Please consider supporting Vann as there will be many obstacles yet on his road to recovery. Visit America's Most Wanted at the following link: <http://www.amw.com/allstar/2010/nominee-detail.cfm?id=7735>)

Vann left me with these words and I will leave them with you.

Stay safe and think tactical.....

☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ DIGITAL NEWSLETTER ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀

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

Please take time to access the digital version to see what you think of it.

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

***ALL NAWEOA NEWSLETTERS, EXCEPT ISSUE #6,  
ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ON THE PROTECTED SECTION OF THE  
NAWEOA WEBSITE***

***TAKE TIME TO READ A LITTLE NAWEOA HISTORY!***



## Vice President's Report by Rich Cramer



The 2010 NAWEOA Winter Executive Meeting was held at the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center in Capps, Florida, not far from Tallahassee. A big "thank you" goes out to Hampton Yates, Kent Harvey, Guy Carpenter, Jeff Babauta and all of the other Florida officers who helped plan the meeting.

An extra HUGE "thank you" goes out to former Region 6 Director Bill Brace who travelled over from Mississippi and was our chief cook for the week.



The winter meetings are designed to allow the Board ample time to get tons of business done while we are all at the same table. We also attempt to be good stewards of NAWEOA's money. The Beau Turner YCC and Mr. Turner himself were gracious enough to allow us to stay on the premises at no cost. We also bought groceries and, with Bill's able southern cooking skill, ate most of our meals on site as well.

Much was accomplished and I encourage all members to take a look at the minutes on the website as they shall be posted soon. We met at the BTYCC for two days and met for a third at the Florida Wildlife Commission's HQ in downtown Tallahassee. This was uniform day and we took the opportunity to present a number of awards to various Florida officers and to address the Florida command staff with a short presentation on NAWEOA and the 2010 conference scheduled this summer in Pennsylvania. Later that day, we were able to present additional awards to Florida officers and Alabama officers at a multi-jurisdictional cookout at the BTYCC.

I encourage all jurisdictions to take advantage of the **NAWEOA Awards Program**. This program is a very important aspect of our association and is our opportunity to showcase and honor our fellow officers. Please take the time to look at the awards section on the website at [www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org) and, if you are aware of a worthy candidate, take a little time and complete the on-line awards application.

If there are any questions about the awards program or anything at all, please feel free to contact me by email at [vpresident@naweo.org](mailto:vpresident@naweo.org) or by phone at 814/755-3249. I look forward to seeing you all in Pennsylvania this summer. It has been an honor to serve as your vice president this past year.



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission K-9 Officer Jeff Babauta and Reserve Officer Don Trussel (rt) with Mack who showed off his search skills for fish, game, firearms, empty cartridges, and lost persons.



## Past President's Report by Marion Hoffman

# Call for Elections



Hi Everyone! Hope you all have weathered the winter months and are now starting to enjoy some spring weather. Our winter executive board meeting was held this year in Tallahassee, Florida. It was nice to get out of the snow for at least a few days and get to see everyone. Thanks go to past Region 6 Director Hampton Yates for his logistical assistance in helping host the meeting. I'm sure you'll read more about the meeting in President Schoepp's article and you should also be receiving an update from your jurisdictional reps. The minutes from the meeting will be posted on the NAWEOA website in the near future.

One of my duties now as Past President is to maintain and update the NAWEOA Policy and Procedure manual as well as oversee any suggested changes in the NAWEOA Constitution. If anyone has any questions or suggestions or concerns in this area, please feel free to contact me.

This summer at the NAWEOA conference in Pennsylvania we will be holding elections for the Canadian Regional Director positions on the Executive Board. Each Director position is open for a two year term. Please remember that Regional Directors can run for two terms of office. The positions that will be up for election this year are:

Region 1 Director (Western Canada)  
Region 2 Director (Central Canada)  
Region 3 Director (Eastern Canada)  
Region 6 Director (Southeast US)

A candidate for Regional Director must be a regular member of NAWEOA in good standing and reside in the Region that they are running for. For a complete list of duties associated with these positions, please contact me at [mjfishcop@wildblue.net](mailto:mjfishcop@wildblue.net)

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

The election will be held during the Summer Conference with **all regular members at the conference (both American and Canadian) eligible to vote**. The successful candidates will be announced at the banquet on Saturday night.

A photo of all nominees will be needed to post on a bulletin board at the conference. If you wish you can send me a digital photo by email or a regular photo by mail.

If you have any questions or want to submit a nomination, please contact me at (845)-399-7207 or by email at [mjfishcop@wildblue.net](mailto:mjfishcop@wildblue.net) Thanks everybody. See you in Pennsylvania!

## REGION 1 REPORT



Region 1 Director Dave Webster

*Hello to everyone from the North West. I hope everyone has had a safe and productive fall/winter season and now are enjoying some much deserved rest as spring arrives.*

*I was fortunate enough to be part of the group of BC conservation officers sec-*

*onded to the Integrated Security Unit headed by the Royal Canadian Mounted police in charge of this past winter Olympic games held in Whistler and Vancouver. The ISU consisted of more than 16,000 personnel including members of Federal, Provincial and Municipal law enforcement as well as members from the Canadian Forces. It was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of such a high-profile event.*

**Len Butler, Conservation Officer from British Columbia**, advises that all conservation officers that assisted with the 2010 Olympics have returned home. The Olympic Games were a great success for Canada and British Columbia and from all accounts the COs played an important role in the security of the games. I am sure that there will be many stories to come on some of their experiences.

The conservation officer service is still going through a number of changes in its organization and, with the current budget forecasts, it appears that this trend will con-

tinue. One change that did occur is our new rank designation. The rank of field conservation officers will remain but field supervisors are now sergeants with the next level of officers as inspectors and superintendents. We have been advised that this change of rank designation is more in line with the other enforcement agencies and less confusing.

The COS once again had the opportunity to participate as instructors in the delivery of the 2009 Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA). One troop of 16 recruits successfully graduated from 3 jurisdictions -- Yukon, Manitoba and BC. This was the final year of a 3-year pilot project that was a complete success in the training world. After a 16-week academy, recruits return to their respective provinces fully trained and ready to jump into their new career. The success of the academy is a direct result of all the officers that instructed at WCLEA and, without them, this important training would not have taken place. Unfortunately in our current climate,



it appears that the academy will not take place in 2010, which is a loss to all jurisdictions that participated.

2010 is shaping up to be another year of change. I believe it is time for all our agencies to step back and reflect on all our successes over the last few decades. There has always been one constant that seems to get overlooked and not capitalized on, the dedication of all the officers and their commitment to the resource.

The Western Canadian Provinces and Territories continue to collaborate on the Western Canadian Game Warden magazine and, with much effort from all officers involved, it is sure to be a big success.

**Braden Cherney, Conservation Officer from Saskatchewan reports** – I would like to mention the Officer Association business as it pertains to NAWEOA. We continue to busy ourselves with planning, securing venues, booking speakers and, most importantly, entertainment. We will have an update at the conference in Pennsylvania this summer and, as I warned in the last newsletter, you will not want to miss our presentation! The 2011 planning committee is bringing along Saskatoon Tourism to help promote 2011. See you all in Pennsylvania!

On the homefront, the ministry is on the eve of transition to a results-based Regulatory reform and new Environmental Code. We are unsure at this time what this will mean for our field-level conservation officers and what effect it will have on our regular duties.

A larger file of note from the southern part of the province was the conviction of Scott Cowie. He was convicted of unlawfully hunting and acting as an outfitter without an outfitters licence. Mr. Cowie was

fined \$116,200 and was also ordered to pay \$25,200 restitution to three individuals and make a \$5,000 donation to the SASK-TIP reward Program. His licence was suspended for 5 years. This conviction was the result of a two-year investigation and all illegal wildlife seized was forfeited to the Crown.

**Ross Stewart from Environment Canada reports** – Environment Canada's Enforcement Branch is responsible for the protection and conservation of both the environment and the wildlife for future generations. Enforcement officers across Canada enforce environmental and wildlife laws, specifically: Canadian Environmental Protection Act, pollution prevention provisions of the Fisheries Act, Migratory Birds Convention Act, Canada Wildlife Act, WAPRITA, and Species at Risk Act. Under the direction of the Chief Enforcement Officer (CEO), Environment Canada's Enforcement Branch consists of a National Office in Gatineau, Quebec, and five regions; Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairie/Northern, and Pacific/Yukon. Federal enforcement officers work with other federal, provincial and territorial departments as well as international agencies and organizations.

One such investigation in Northern Saskatchewan resulted in a First Nations group being ordered to pay \$50,600 in fines and environmental fees for a massive 5,000-litre diesel fuel spill into Wolloston Lake in June 2006.

In July of 2009, wildlife officers responded to the Port of Kingsgate near Cranbrook, BC, to investigate an individual for the illegal smuggling of live animals. An Alberta resident was found in possession of a loaded handgun, five Western Rattlesnakes, six Gopher snakes, four Emperor

Scorpions and two Chilean Rose Tarantulas, attempting to smuggle them into Canada.

**Rich Elson from Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Region reports** – Well, by the time this newsletter reaches our fellow officers around North America, we should be well into our spring use of force re-certifications. We are moving towards full implementation of reality-based training using simulators and can say it has been a great addition to our program. We have our bi-annual training week scheduled for Whistler, BC, and are looking forward to a great line-up of sessions, and the after-hours camaraderie that is so important to an organization's well-being. We finally have our scholarship program in place and have awarded Tony Maestrello, son of long-time Fishery Officer Stefano Maestrello, the first annual award. We have just finished placing ten recruit officers who finished basic training on December 18th. Our recruitment future is always tied to the nation's financial situation, but we have been fortunate for the past number of years in being able to hire on new officers. Our officers had a great year generating some fantastic files and for the most part had fun doing it. Looking forward to working with those of you that are linked to our agency in the upcoming season and as always...stay safe!

*Well, that is a brief update on what has been happening the past season around Region 1 and again I would just like to say what a pleasure it has been working with all the Jurisdictional Reps and the executive of NAWEOA. We are all part of a truly great organization. Take care and look forward to seeing you all in Pennsylvania!*



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

Our content is specific to the work and interests of conservation enforcement. Regular columns include:

Firearms training ~ communication ~ park patrol ~ game warden book reviews ~ a patch exchange ~ a comprehensive digest of case investigations ~ work outside North America

Longer features address topics such as:

dangerous animal or poacher situation ~ forensics ~ officer assaults ~ a history of the profession



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# REGION 2 REPORT



**Region 2 Director Dave Grant**

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank the j-reps in Region 2 for all their support since becoming Director of Region 2. The strength of NAWEOA is in its membership and the cooperation between the jurisdictions in sharing information and ideas that benefit all Game Wardens in Canada and the United States. I encourage everyone to become more involved in NAWEOA and your own jurisdiction. Your knowledge and experience is valuable and sharing it benefits us all.*

**Manitoba** - Geoffrey Smith, President, MNROA

During these days of Government cut backs and expenditure management, we are very happy to announce that Manitoba has 6 new Natural Resource Officers in the field. We are quite happy to have these fine folks in the field – Welcome aboard! Our numbers in Manitoba do continue to drop and with current government forecasts, things are not going to get better any day soon.

One very positive note is that a cooperative venture between Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Natural Resource Officers' Association is well underway creating a second Canine Unit for the Department. For many years now, we have relied on one canine handler to cover the province. Tim Cameron has put many miles and has literally worked in almost every district in the province. The department saw the need to expand and the MNROA wanted to see it as well. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that the Canine is not only a very effective enforcement tool, it is an excellent public relations and education venue. The MNROA has purchased two German Shepherds for training purposes, as of today, both are doing very well and one will be chosen to go into full training mode with the

second dog as a back up. Come July or August, the MNROA may be in a position to sell a very capable German Shepherd to another police agency. Should your jurisdiction be looking for a dog, please drop me a line at: [Geoffrey.Smith@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Geoffrey.Smith@gov.mb.ca).

Manitoba Conservation is slowly getting closer to getting a call center set up for our field officers. The MNROA has pursued this issue for many years and we now see a light at the end of the tunnel. Though it is not what we sought out at first, the current proposed call center is a starting ground for what may turn into a very good system down the road.

The cooperative venture of the Western Canadian Game Warden magazine is well underway. Our executive and members are always seeking out new memberships – please visit our website and subscribe! <http://www.westerncanadiangamewarden.com/> We are just approaching our second year and the feed back has been very positive.

I will be stepping down as the MNROA president this April after a 3 year term – I must express my appreciation to NAWEOA for all of its support to my association and the very valuable networking that we all share. Thank you very much and I will see you at future conferences.

**Ontario** - Brett Cachagee, j-rep for Ontario and Dan VanExan, President, Ontario Conservation Officers Association

Greetings from Ontario. We have had an unusually mild and calm winter for the most part, being spared our usual pounding of snow and cold weather.

Ontario reports that there have been a number of "good news" events for officers this year. There continues to be sufficient operating dollars; a real change from four years ago, with a number of hires to replace retiring officers. For the first time ever, Ontario Conservation Officers were recognized by the Governor General's office for the Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal. There were a number of formal presentations where officers with 20 and 30 years of service were presented with the medals. This will be an ongoing event, with approximately 75 officers receiving the medals this year, while in their dress uniforms.

The Ontario Conservation Officers Association (OCO) continues to work with a professional lobby group. The insight that

this group has brought to the Association, and their ability to work the political field, has helped the members raise their profile in a professional manner with all the Members of Parliament. This endeavour continues to be really worthwhile. Meetings are planned with the new Minister of Natural Resources and her staff in the near future.

The Association continues to have a great working relationship with the Director and Manager of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Enforcement Branch. There are regular meetings and conference calls. The Branch is continuing their work on developing new standards for the hiring of recruits. As of 2010, the Branch has taken over the payment of NAWEOA memberships for all employees. This had been handled through the OCOA since the inception of NAWEOA.

This year will be the 4th year that the OCOA has run the Kids and Wardens Fishing Adventure. With the generous assistance of many partners, we continue to take 20 underprivileged kids to a northern Ontario fishing lodge. All their expenses are paid; they are fully outfitted and have an officer as a guide. These trips have made great memories for the kids and members involved.

After four years, this August will bring a turn over of the OCOA executive at there family-based annual meeting. It has been a productive, busy term for the current executive.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is making strides towards modernizing many aspects of the way we conduct business. Every officer in the province now has a "mobile office" which consists of a Panasonic Toughbook laptop. The laptop is loaded with all applications that were on our PC's in the office. Each laptop has a docking station both at the office and in every vehicle and are interchangeable no matter where you are working. The laptops can also connect securely to any wireless connection. The laptops are another excellent tool in our toolbox.

MNR is in the process of establishing physical and psychological standards for future recruiting. As part of this process every officer is being asked to undergo a psychological evaluation which will be used to establish a benchmark for future hiring. The testing is being conducted on a volunteer basis. It is in the interest of all officers to participate since the future hiring practices will be dictated by the results of this



testing. Our association endorses this testing since it will promote professionalism within our ranks. This will bring Conservation Officer hiring practices more in line with that of standard Police hiring practices with an emphasis on natural resource law enforcement.

The new fiscal year is approaching but all indications are that funding will remain status quo or slightly lower. Staffing levels also remain stable. Vacancies are getting filled however many positions remain vacant and get filled on a priority basis. There is some streamlining and some positions are being re-located. During these trying economic times we are hopeful that the Ontario provincial government will recognize the role we play as stewards of the environment.

Two Ontario officers have been awarded 2009 NAWEOA lifesaving awards. Officers Jim McMullen and Sean Cronsberry were recognized for saving the life of a lost kayaker in the middle of the night during a marine training exercise.

Looking forward to seeing you in Pennsylvania this summer. Remember to play safe and have fun.

**Nunavut** – no report for this edition

**Environment Canada - Prairie and Northern Region** - Richard Labossiere, Operations Manager, Wildlife Enforcement, PNR

For Prairie and Northern Region there

were 300 charges (jointly with the Provinces, USFWS and Environment Canada) laid during the fall. We also had Operation Double Dip in Manitoba which resulted in \$35,502.00 in fines. The total fines assessed for the fall including Operation Double Dip were \$59,753.50. These charges and fines reflect an enforcement efforts which was directed towards Land Border Blitzes, RSI's and Airport Blitzes in the region.

Operation "Double Dip" results in over \$35,000 in fines, hunting suspensions and incarceration

BRANDON, MB – Two men operating an outfitting service in western Manitoba and two American men were fined a total of \$35,512 in fines after pleading guilty to multiple violations of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (MBCA) and the Wildlife Act.

On September 10, 2009, Manitoba provincial court Judge Shauna Hewitt-Michta sentenced Jamie McCutchin, age 40, of Sandy Lake, Manitoba to \$26,462 in fines and court fees, a 10-year migratory bird hunting suspension, a five-year hunting and guiding suspension and one day of incarceration after pleading guilty to five counts of violations of the MBCA regulations and one count under the Wildlife Act. In sentencing the judge stated "You have done harm to a sport which many people love and want respected".

Dennis McCutchin, age 61, of Brandon, Manitoba was sentenced to \$5,800 in fines, a two-year migratory bird hunting suspen-

sion and a two-year hunting and guiding suspension after pleading guilty to three counts of MBCA violations and three counts under the Wildlife Act.

During an August 28, 2009 court date in Brandon, Manitoba, David and Roger Ohl of Illinois, who were clients of the McCutchins during this operation, each pleaded guilty to two counts of violations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994. David Ohl was sentenced to fines totaling \$1,750 and was given a one-year migratory bird hunting suspension. Roger Ohl was sentenced to fines totaling \$1,500.

"Operation Double-Dip," the undercover investigation leading to this sentencing, was initiated in the fall of 2007, and involved PNR's Wildlife Enforcement Division, Manitoba Conservation, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. WED, PNR was pursuing leads on an outfitting and guide operation that was suspected of multiple violations of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (MBCA) and the Wildlife Act.

Some of the multiple federal charges to which these men pleaded guilty included: unlawful possession of a migratory bird, unlawful possession of a migratory bird without at least one feathered wing, hunting of a migratory bird beyond the permitted number, hunting of a migratory bird with the aid of a recorded bird call, hunting without required tag and, possession of an untagged migratory bird carcass taken by another person.

Thank you so much for the card  
And donation. Monetary donations  
will be made in Eric's name to the  
Ponca Outdoor Expo. Eric was very  
involved with the Expo, which is  
geared toward getting people interested  
in outdoor activities. Something  
Eric thought was very important as  
his role as a conservation officer.  
The support I have received from  
Eric's colleagues has been amazing.  
What a wonderful group of people you  
all are!  
Thanks again for your kindness and  
generosity  
Judy Wiebe

*Thank you sincerely for  
sharing our sorrow.*

*Your kindness is deeply  
appreciated and will  
always be remembered.*

*The family of  
Eric B Wiebe*

Eric Wiebe was a Nebraska Conservation Officer who died of cancer in 2009. His wife, Judy, received a card of condolence and a \$100 memorial from NAWEOA.



# REGION 3 REPORT



**Region 3 Director Rick Nash**

*Hello to everyone! I hope your winter and spring are going well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the J-Reps from Region 3 for getting the information out to their officers. This will be my last report as Director for Region 3. I have enjoyed my time on the Board and wish to thank all those who have helped me along the way.*

## **P.E.I. UPDATE**

Prince Edward Island will introduce new legislation in the spring of 2010. The Wildlife Conservation Act, Conservation Officer Regulations, will become law in March 2010. This new legislation sets out minimum requirements for appointments as a Conservation Officer on P.E.I.

- (a) A minimum two-year program in renewable resources technology or a related field at a degree or post-secondary diploma level, and
- (b) the Holland College Conservation Officer Enforcement training program or
- (c) an enforcement training program that the Minister considers to be equivalent to the programs referred to in clause (a).

Prince Edward Island has also enacted a new POLICE ACT which will come into effect in March 2010. Island Conservation Officers will fall under this act in their duty to enforce Provincial and Federal statutes. A new Police Commissioner has been appointed who will oversee and investigate complaints from the public on police actions.

## **Quebec Update**

Quebec Wildlife Protection Officers ended major poaching activities in the area of Notre-dame-du-Lac. Officials with the Wildlife Department of Natural Resources and Wildlife (MRNF) terminated an illegal

hunting operation of a group of poachers who were operating mainly in the Bas-Saint-Laurent. This operation, called "Operation Balbuzard" (Osprey), required the mobilization of 155 wildlife protection officers from many regions of Quebec. The poaching activities focused on unlawful harvesting and trade of moose and deer. A two-year investigation led officers of the offices of Pointe au Pere and Notre-Dame-du Lac to search for evidence necessary to identify those persons involved. An early morning multi-location search resulted in arrests and questioning of half of the sixty suspects involved in the unlawful activities. Operation Balbuzard resulted in approximately 400 charges against those involved. If convicted, the individuals involved could face fines totaling \$625,000. Unlawful activities associated with this large-scale investigation include: hunting during a closed season, night hunting, unlawful possession of big game, shooting from a vehicle, trafficking in big game meat and grouse. This operation has led to seizure of big game meat, firearms, a vehicle, all-terrain vehicles, freezers, lights, tools, processing equipment such as a meat grinder, packing bags, knives, meat saws and fishing tackle. Information also supports the fact that those involved are suspected of fishing during a closed season and trafficking of brook trout and yellow perch.

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

The snow is melting and spring is certainly on its way in New Brunswick. It is hard to believe that a year has almost passed since we hosted the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual NAWEOA Conference in Moncton, New Brunswick. As the conference was in the planning stages, the organizing committee was certainly wondering what they had gotten themselves into; but, in the end, all went as planned and the conference was a huge success. Thank you to all who attended.

In January of 2010, Roy Marchand was recognized as New Brunswick's 2009 Shikar-Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year. Mr. Marchand is a conservation officer with the Department of Natural Resources. Roy started his career in 1993 working at the York Street office in Fredericton. Roy then took a position in Coles Island where he worked for the next nine years. In his current role as the Assistant District Supervisor, Roy supervises the conservation staff of Region 3 East. This area covers the Hampton, Sussex and Petitcodiac Districts. Throughout his 16 years with the Department of Natural Resources, Roy has been

an active member of the community including sitting as a board member of the Hammond River Angling Association. He is also an instructor for the Firearms Safety/

Hunter Education Program. Mr. Marchand's dedication to protecting our natural resources and his commitment to working closely with other law enforcement agencies, Crown prosecutors, judges, his colleagues and the general public have earned him respect around the province. Congratulations, Roy, on a job well done.

During the fall of 2009 our department had four Conservation cadets join our ranks for their six weeks of mandatory field training with training officers. The cadets were from the Conservation Education program which is offered at the Atlantic Police Academy in Prince Edward Island. Each of the cadets graduated in December and we wish them the best in their endeavors.

A Position Description Questionnaires (PDQs) review was completed between the union and the provincial government to see if there were significant differences between the conservation group and resource group's duties. The result was that there were no significant changes in our duties and, therefore, no reclassification. On a contract note, it was decided that over the next four years our group would receive 2.5% each year for the first two years and, because of a mandatory provincial wage freeze, we were forced to take 0% over the remaining two years.

Our department will be carrying out a one-year pilot project this year with the installation of mobile work stations in our enforcement vehicles. Twenty units will be installed allowing the officers to access and process information in the field which in the past had to be done from their desk top computer in the office. A process improve-



ment will be completed at the end of the project.

The implementation of tickets in 2008 has been a success. A total of 299 tickets have been written. This has certainly cut down on court time for the officers.

In 2008, the Special Investigation program adopted a provincial approach involving management and field staff in the decision-making process. The Special Investigations program has been very successful in the past year with a number of projects completed.

Take care, stay safe and see you in Pennsylvania.

#### **Nova Scotia says hi to all.**

First off, personally and on behalf of all the NS officers who were able to attend, a hearty thanks to New Brunswick for a terrific conference. How we got there, the two Pauls and I, well....that's a story for another day.

The economy has been a major topic of discussion here in NS, as is likely the case in the whole of North America. Budgets trimmed, slashed, cut or completely eliminated. The resources enforcement program, however, is still trying to move forward. It may not be at the pace we had expected or as some would like, but forward is good.

It's taken some time and effort on the part of administration to develop our SI program. With the addition of a new coordinator position to steer us along, things are happening. Projects are being developed to deal with organized and commercial-type

resource crime. Smaller operations have been successful and we learn as we go.

Some of our vehicle fleet has been updated in recent past and, I understand, other new units will be added this year. The enforcement fleet vehicles are all marked 4x4 trucks and larger SUVs, with a couple of decked-out sedans more effective for parks work. We used to hear a lot of grumbling about vehicles. Not so much these days; in fact, it seems to be on the endangered concept list, thanks to those in charge making it happen.

In my early days with DNR, we also worked fire. One day we were painting shovels and I asked why we were painting the steel point. It seemed to me it would wear off quickly with use. The answer, from the old foreman, was that if it looks good, people are more liable to look after it. The same may be apply to any piece of equipment, including vehicles.

Enough about that and on to letting you know that we are currently having computers installed in our vehicles. At least half are expected to be completed by April, with the remainder coming on stream over the next year. I suppose it's a good thing for efficiency in moving information as long as we don't forget to walk in the woods to see what's going on, at least once in a while.

Hi from the ROCK. It has been one of the mildest winters in years with less than average snow accumulations. Seals have very little ice and we're not sure if the bears are asleep yet!

#### **Newfoundland and Labrador**

During this past year, DNR has contin-

ued to evolve in response to recent changes in Occupational Health and Safety regulations. As part of the department's new "Working Alone and Working in Remote Areas" policy, all conservation officers are now expected to check in regularly with a headquarters contact and carry activated "SPOT" GPS units with them when working in remote areas. This has been a huge culture change for our officers, some of who are hesitant to have "Big Brother" watching, while others have gained confidence in being able to work with a lifeline.

There is much concern to report with regard to the iconic symbol of Newfoundland wildlife, the caribou. Populations have plummeted in many of the herds in the last few years. Wildlife management officials have responded with reductions in license quotas and have initiated various research projects to determine the cause(s). Fingering the culprit in this disaster has led to much public debate with most of the stones being thrown in the direction of our most recent immigrant, the prolific coyote. If there wasn't enough pressure, another volley has been directed towards endangered caribou herds in Labrador by way of Aboriginal protest hunts. DNR has developed detailed operational plans and mobilized conservation officers from all over the province to respond, but the sheer scope of the situation has proved both challenging and frustrating to all involved. Through it all, conservation officers in Newfoundland and Labrador continue to exhibit focus and professionalism which will carry them through the challenges ahead.

Wishing fair winds to the crew of the Pennsylvania conference committee. "Long May Your Big Jib Draw".

## **NAWEOA SUMMER CONFERENCES..... TRAINING FOR OFFICERS FUN FOR ALL!!!**



**Plan your  
summer  
holiday or  
vacation  
around the  
conference.**

**You won't be  
disappointed!**





# REGION 4 REPORT



**Region 4 Director Steve Tomac**

*Hello from the Western US. Winter is still in full swing out here with many states reporting above-average precipitation and below-average temperatures. As I write this, the snow is flying outside and the dogs are curled up on their beds dreaming of the hunt. Many states are in dire financial straits with major cutbacks on the horizon. As one person put it, "the bigger the party, the bigger the hangover". Out west, real estate prices soared to outrageous levels, only to free-fall into the abyss. Now we are left trying to recover from "the party". Home foreclosures are at record levels and abandoned houses are common. Maybe they will provide habitat for some wildlife? As a result of the economic waterfall, several states are having furloughs and layoffs are possible. Despite the poor situation, there is a lot of good wildlife work being done out here and some good cases being made on serious violators. Stay warm and safe and I look forward to seeing many of you this summer in Pennsylvania.*

## **MONTANA:** by Todd Anderson

The Montana Game Wardens Association has been busy! We have become actively involved in the political process working with legislators to introduce a bill to increase warden wages in the 2011 session. We have worked hard getting support in this area by educating lawmakers and the public. We are experiencing requirement problems and retaining our experienced and quality wardens who are forced to look at other law enforcement agencies to make a living.

One of our recent attempts to gather support has been a tremendous success! Rodeo in Montana is extremely popular and each weekend throughout the year they attract landowners, sportsmen, and resource users (the very people we work for!) from across the state. We have been

working with rodeo organizers through chute sponsorships and sponsoring the rodeo clown. We also sponsored the Montana Northern Rodeo Association director's lunch at the finals rodeo in Great Falls this winter. This allowed us to contact over 80 landowners and people from across the state. We had such success with these activities that we have been overwhelmed with requests to sponsor rodeos across the state and in the process have gained support that will be vital to our association's ability to further our legislative attempts in Helena.

We have also been actively opposing a Citizen's Initiative to ban trapping on public lands. This initiative is in the signature-gathering process at this time. Our association has written letters to the major newspapers in Montana stating our opposition to this initiative, which has also given us additional support from resource users across the state.

Our wardens continue to see an increase in "thrill killings". The rise in these cases is disturbing and we are attempting to address these violations through education and help from the public. Regional investigators and our covert unit continue to a great job assisting field wardens with complex cases and numerous large-scale poaching rings have been taken down. Illegal commercial hunting activities seem to be on the rise and our officers have made some great arrest of these violators.

One case out of Region 2 was recently completed. James Mockerman, a MI native was operating an illegal outfitting business in the Bitterroot valley. Mockerman pled guilty to two felonies and 14 misdemeanors. He paid \$34,346.00 in restitution and for the cost of the investigation. Unfortunately for Mockerman, the judge didn't think that was enough and fined him an additional \$20,000.00 for the felony counts! He also lost his hunting/fishing/trapping privileges for 20 years. His 67 illegal clients also paid fines totaling \$25,000.00.

Region 6 wardens got convictions involving a case of illegal outfitting on Block Management Areas in the Culbertson area. Block Management Areas are private lands open to public hunting. Robert Nelson of Bowling Green, Kentucky, was convicted of operating his illegal outfitting business on these BMAs. Judges in Wolf Point and Culbertson fined Nelson \$5,550.00 in fines and \$1,050.00 restitution. They also revoked his hunting/fishing/trapping privileges for 5 years.

As always, all of us Montana wardens greatly appreciate the assistance we receive from other state's officers. Without

your assistance in these cases, we would not be as successful as we are!

## **WYOMING:** by Joe Gilbert

South Pinedale Game Warden Brian Nesvik was selected as "Officer of the Year" for 2008. Shortly after receiving this award, Brian deployed to Camp Virginia, Kuwait, as battalion commander -- Lt. Colonel Brian Nesvik, Second Battalion, 300<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Wyoming Army National Guard. This is Brian's second deployment. While serving in Kuwait, Brian continued in his duties as a game warden by teaching a Wyoming hunter education course to both officers and enlisted men and women from Wyoming and Utah.

Sundance Game Warden Chris Teter was chosen as the 2009 Shikar Safari Club International "Wildlife Officer of the Year" for Wyoming. Chris has served the citizens of northeast Wyoming for over 20 years and is well known for his tireless work and fair and honest approach to everything he does. Chris is deeply respected by landowners, sportsmen and the general public in his district. Chris also serves his agency as a firearms instructor and routinely provides cutting-edge, realistic training to regional officers.

Retirements: Deputy Director Gregg Arthur, effective June, 2010. Gregg began his career in 1974 and served as a game warden in Jeffrey City and Greybull, as investigator and as regional wildlife supervisor in Laramie before promoting to his current position in 2001.

Cody Regional Wildlife Supervisor Gary Brown, effective June, 2010. Gary began his career in 1973 and served as a game warden in Cheyenne and Saratoga before promoting to his current position in 1989.

More information about the Wyoming Game Warden's Association and its members can be found on our website at [www.wyominggamewardens.com](http://www.wyominggamewardens.com).

## **IDAHO:** by Matt Haag

Idaho Conservation Officers are facing skinny budgets like the rest of our sister and brother agencies. We feel lucky to not have furloughs or pay cuts, yet. However, the legislature is still in session and funny things can happen when they meet in Boise. We are still a wildlife agency who is funded almost solely from sportsmen's license sales, which takes no money from the general tax fund. This can insulate us from some of the ups and downs other State agencies face but it does put a lot of pressure on us almost every other year to get a license fee increase or cut more people and programs.



The Idaho Conservation Officers Association (ICOA) has hired a lobbyist this year and for years to come to tackle issues for the betterment of wildlife and officers alike. We immediately were in the legislative mix this session as at least one poorly written wildlife bill was opposed and withdrawn. Along with the expansion of our legislative interests, we wish to expand our communication not just among ourselves, but also with all of our constituents and fellow officers, so we recently built a website. Come visit us at [www.icoaonline.org](http://www.icoaonline.org).

Among legislative issues and other topics, the website will serve as the primary means of information sharing about the NAWEOA conference to be held in Boise Idaho in 2013.

ICOA has already started the ball rolling with the 2013 NAWEOA conference planning and has secured high-end hotels located in downtown Boise at a great rate. The location is ideal due to its proximity to great recreation such as whitewater rafting, tubing, hiking, biking, shopping, and nightlife and a conference center for training. We are planning on a big one and encourage everyone to put it on their radar now.

The number of Idaho officers retiring has slowed to a crawl and, for the first time in many years, we have no new officers in the Academy or positioned to enter our Field Training Evaluation Program. Over 50% of our officers have been hired in the last 8 years as our Vietnam-era officers have entered into retirement.

We have 6 officers geared up and ready for the trip to Pittsburgh for the NAWEOA Conference. We're looking forward to PA officers putting on a great show.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:** by Jim Richardson

Some good news from our US National Parks. As the National Park Service approaches our Centennial in 2016, additional funding has been arriving at the parks for the Centennial Initiative. Although the bulk of the funding is to address a large backlog of maintenance needs, there is also funding for 3,000 additional summer seasonal employees, with a good number of these being law enforcement park rangers. The NPS currently has 391 units of parks, historic sites, recreation areas, seashores, national trails and rivers, and other designations. Last year NPS had about 1440 permanent law enforcement rangers and about 445 seasonal law enforcement rangers. The parks are also benefitting from funding of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), receiving nearly 1 billion dollars for 750 needed projects throughout the NPS. For law enforcement, 2 emphasis programs have received additional funding that translates into additional staffing, in-

cluding \$3.3 million for parks with marijuana cultivation problems, and significant permanent increases for parks on the Mexican border.

**CALIFORNIA:** by Lorraine Doyle

California wardens are still hanging in there. We are furloughed 3 days per month which is almost a 15% pay cut. We currently have cadets at the academy, although last year's class ended up with few successfully passing field training and probation.

The Wardens Association has a new interim president, Jerry Karnow, as our recent president, Todd Tognazzini, got a well-deserved promotion.

We continue to fight for a new bargaining unit as our current union is not peace officers only.

The K-9 program continues to improve and will hopefully grow to the proposed 24 teams.

California wardens continue to make great cases on the commercial take of wildlife and poachers poaching just for fun.

Crime Scene Wild has an episode, "Bears", with California wardens. National Geographic is working on a series about us.

**NEVADA:** by Steve Tomac

Nevada is struggling with budget woes and all of our employees are on a one day per month furlough as well as elimination of longevity pay and automatic progressions. Our Agency budget has also been hit pretty hard with cutbacks across the board. The annual fur sale just finished with bobcats averaging over \$280. Several trappers were out this winter and many good cases were made on those who chose to violate. Timely visitation of traps is still a problem and several citations were issued for this violation. This is particularly disturbing as Nevada has very liberal visitation laws (96 hours). Nevada doesn't have large numbers of anything (except slot machines), but we do have some very high quality trophy big game hunting. Consequently, we have problems with illegal guiding and illegal trophy hunting. This year was no exception. Several good cases were made on numerous trophy elk poachings as well as deer and antelope. As an indication of what these animals can be worth, one of our desert big horn sheep tags was auctioned off last month for \$135 thousand! With tags in such high demand, it seems that there is always someone willing to take their chances and hunt outside of the laws.

**ARIZONA:** by Kurt Bahti

In the summer of '09 we had an officer and a non-com shot at by drug traffickers in the southeastern part of the state. They had been out with another county employee on quads doing recon for an access project.

They came upon at least 4 male Hispanics dressed in camo using water containers left by a pro-illegal crosser group called "No More Deaths" who leave out water supplies for illegal aliens. The officer and others backed out of the immediate area and the officer peeked over a hill to observe. He saw two other camo-clad Hispanics and he started back to the quads. A round was fired by the suspected drug traffickers and impacted about 10 feet from the officer. The men immediately left the area on the quads and called for assistance. The US Border Patrol, Pima County Sheriffs, and Department of Public Safety helicopters responded immediately but the shooters had left. Several fresh 9mm shells were found where the officer believed the shots came from, making it likely that numerous shots were fired at the employees as they broke contact. Nobody was hit and one of the drug trafficker/shooters was picked up during another border incursion a few weeks later in New Mexico.

Poaching is up in an amount that the economy is down. In 2009, there were 768 Game & Fish violations called in which is up 70% from 2008. The state paid a record amount of rewards to those who tipped investigators to violations. The majority, over 400, of the violation complaints were of illegal big-game killings. This increase kept all officers extremely busy during the Fall/Winter hunting season. Lack of hours and personnel created major problems for the Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD).

The state's budget is in terrible shape and it is negatively impacting AZGFD as well even though they do NOT receive general funds. The Governor has taken away several funding sources from the AZGFD budget and it appears that employees will be taking a pay cut soon. The state has also lost some officers who have gone for higher-paying law enforcement jobs. We have a bunch of new officers who are doing their best to take up the slack with the other long-time officers.

**COLORADO:** by Randy Hancock

The biggest news out of Colorado is the economy, just like everywhere. State employees had to take eight, unpaid furlough days this fiscal year. Next year the state is paying 2.5% less into retirement and state employees are paying that difference back into their retirement. This amounts to 2.5% less take home pay each month. The Colorado Division of Wildlife will be hiring up to three new District Wildlife Managers (game wardens) this spring and will have a full class of six or seven hired next January. Due to the furlough days and lowered retirement contribution by the state, many state employees who are eligible, are retiring earlier than they had originally planned.



# REGION 5 REPORT



**Region 5 Director Scott Haney**

## INDIANA:

Indiana, like most other states, is feeling the budget crunch. Pay raises have been suspended and predictions are that it will get worse before it gets better. Fortunately, in 2009, Indiana was able to hire 24 new Officers. They finished recruit school in October and are now attending the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. The Indiana Conservation Officer's Organization is putting out a new magazine. The first issue is expected to be out in May of 2010. A free subscription to the electronic version of the magazine can be obtained at [www.icoo.com](http://www.icoo.com)

According to Indiana Conservation Officer William Browne, Rushville residents Kelley Freese, 28, John Estes, 22 and Kristy Newman, 18 face charges of illegal taking of deer, illegal possession of deer, shooting from a roadway and hunting by aid of a motor driven conveyance. Law enforcement was contacted by a vigilant citizen advising he heard gunfire near his rural Fayette County residence, adding that the shots had come from a vehicle on a nearby roadway. The citizen was able to provide law enforcement with a description of the vehicle and very good information as to where to locate the vehicle after its departure from the scene. The vehicle was stopped by area law enforcement. Investigation of the incident led conservation officers back to the scene of the original complaint where multiple deer were found to have been shot. Interviews and additional investigation has resulted in Freese and Estes being linked to the illegal taking of 11 deer recently in Fayette County. Freese, Estes and Newman have 31 charges pending on various violations relating to poaching activities and are to appear in court in the near future to answer the charges. A Wabash, IN man was arrested on warrants issued out of Wabash and Whitley Counties

charging him with numerous wildlife related charges. Grant R. Kelley 25 was charged with 17 misdemeanor wildlife and firearms counts on what Indiana Conservation Officer Jerry Hoerdts calls a "disturbing case of thrill killing". The 6 month investigation began in April after Hoerdts was approached by an individual who gave information alleging Kelley's involvement in the unlawful killing of deer. Officer Hoerdts alleges that between late October 2008 and April 20<sup>th</sup> 2009 Kelley would often leave his work site, as a self employed welder, and drive through remote, rural parts of both Wabash and Whitley Counties. If an opportunity to shoot a deer would present itself, Kelley would act on it, leaving the deer dead or dying making no attempt to harvest the meat. The affidavit alleges deer were killed at a variety of times ranging from noon through early evening and occurrence of shooting at 1 AM. The affidavit alleges that Kelley used a variety of rifles including a 30.06 and AK 47 assault rifle.

## IOWA:

An avid outdoorsman by choice and a law enforcement professional by trade, Robert O. Garrison has been named as the new chief of the law enforcement bureau for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Garrison, who served as chief of the Iowa State Patrol for eight years, has most recently served as chief of security for the Iowa Department of Corrections. He succeeds Randy Edwards who retired as chief in November after nearly 35 years with the DNR "We are extremely pleased to have an individual of Mr. Garrison's extensive leadership experience join the DNR," said DNR Director Richard Leopold. As chief, Garrison will lead a bureau of 97 employees including 91 sworn peace officers. He will start his new position during the second week of March. "I am honored by this appointment as the Chief of Law Enforcement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources," said Garrison. "The officers of the DNR have the extremely complex job of balancing public recreation with the conservation of Iowa's natural resources. Their responsibilities are very challenging and require a diverse knowledge of law enforcement, public relations and conservation techniques. I will do my best to represent the organization with the level of respect and trust that they have garnered from the citizens that they serve," Garrison added. A native of Emmetsburg, Garrison joined the Iowa State Patrol in 1975. After serving the Patrol in a variety of positions, he was named chief in October of 1999. Garrison has extensive leadership and

training experience through his time with the Patrol as well as BS and MS degrees in nursing from Drake University.

## KANSAS:

Kansas Officers have been receiving training in side scan radar for our vessels. Kansas has trained and received Stag Arms .223 rifles for all certified officers in the Department. The Department has started to provide training and issued numerous MDT for the vehicles. At in-service officers received training on racial profiling, stalking, stress management, domestic violence, Garrity rights and pursuit policy. This is the first time that the department has held in-service training for all certified officers from the LE division, Parks and Public Lands Div, instead of just the LE Division.

## NEBRASKA:

It is with deep regrets that the Nebraska Conservation Officers lost two fine officers. Eric Wiebe and Mark Reeves both passed away from fight with cancer. Both Officers will be dearly missed. In retirement news, Conservation Officer Walt Meyer retired from the commission with service of 50 years to Nebraska. This brings the Nebraska Conservation Officers to an all time low with 39 field officers.

With a higher note, The Panhandle Conservation Club held a banquet to raise money to help support conservation officers. The club made approximately \$9000 on the banquet and there were 110 individuals in attendance. The \$9000 is after all expenses were paid. The money will be utilized for equipment.

Three Merriman men have been convicted of poaching deer in Cherry County. The three have been ordered by the Cherry County Court to pay a combined \$15,000 in fines and \$5,000 in liquidated damages for the Sept. 19 illegal killing of five mule deer near Merriman. This is the results of an investigation by Conservation Officers Heath Packett and Dan Kling. The \$20,145 in fines, damages and court costs are the largest penalties assessed by a Nebraska court against individual poachers in a single, noncommercial case since electronic records were first kept in 1996.

A Valentine man has pleaded guilty to being in possession of too many trout. The Valentine man was in possession of 249 trout. Possession limit is eight in the State of Nebraska. This is the result of an investigation by Conservation Officer Frank Miller. The Valentine man pleaded guilty in Cherry County Court to possessing more than the legal limit of trout and possession of undersized largemouth bass. He was



assessed \$600 in fines, \$48 in court costs and \$5,875 in liquidated damages. Also, his hunting and fishing privileges in Nebraska were revoked for one year.

#### OKLAHOMA:

There has been "much ado" in Oklahoma in recent months. Oklahoma wardens just passed a milestone recognizing our agency centennial (2009) where the Oklahoma State Game Warden Association jumped on opportunities to celebrate their pride. A 'blowout' conference was accentuated with creation of a unique centennial badge for each officer with personal name and badge number affixed. Then a special hardbound, limited edition, "coffee-table" book was produced featuring over 120 historic photos of game wardens over the century. Oklahoma law chief, Larry Manering recently retired triggering a nationwide search to fill his post. The agency director also retired giving way for several promotions. One such move put Asst. Chief of law division, Game Warden Jim Edwards, in the assistant director's post. This marks the first time a law enforcement officer has moved up to secure such a high post since the WWII era! This also cleared the way for Game Warden Robert Fleenor to move into the Assistant Law Chief's post when vacated by Edwards. Oklahoma may be moving in a positive direction on statutory action as well. Bills have been recently introduced increasing fines and restitutions related to big game violations providing a lot more teeth. Equally as, if not more important than that, is the legal effort that making strides toward OKLAHOMA TO JOIN THE VIOLATOR COMPACT! Lastly, congratulations are in order for a couple of very special officers. "State Game Warden of the Year" recognition was awarded to Warden Bud Cramer. And a bittersweet announcement was made that one of our state's favorite veterans, Warden Supervisor Gene Pester, will retire the end of February. Many NAWEOA attendees should know Gene and his beautiful wife Gail, who are regular attendees of the conference.

#### SOUTH DAKOTA:

South Dakota's Conservation Officers had a very busy 2009 summer and fall. During the spring and summer months officers worked diligently by contacting landowners and informing them about our private land programs. Throughout the state, the pheasant population was down slightly compared to last year. Hunters had a difficult fall finding pheasants and deer due to the abundance of corn in the fields and late rain showers.

The winter has taken a toll on the pheasants and deer. As I write this, deer depredation complaints are taking up most of the COs time. The heavy snow amounts have made things complicated for deer to find a food source; therefore they are resorting to hay stacks and silage piles. The Department goals for 2010 consist of recruitment and retention of hunters and anglers.

#### TEXAS:

The Game Warden Training Center, having moved from downtown Austin to rural Hamilton County, has completed "Phase One". This includes the Administration Building, Education Building/Armory and the Gym. With the completion of "Phase One" also brings a new Academy Class of 46 and the return of our annual In-Service Training. We see the importance of the annual In-Service Training as a time, not only to improve training opportunities, but for game wardens across the state to continue and strengthen friendships, build new ones with wardens who have recently graduated and exchange stories and experiences. "Phase Two" will include a residence for the Academy Superintendent, Maintenance Building and an Entrance Portal. As time progresses there will be an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, Firing Range, Infirmary/Recreation/Laundry Building, Staff residences and a Helipad. Over the past few months we have had two Majors, Ted Tolle (Houston) and Rolly Correa (Temple) and two Captains, Doug Norman (San Angelo) and Larry Hand (Tyler) retire. Their experience and years of leadership will be greatly missed. We wish

them well in their future endeavors.

#### WISCONSIN:

Facing significant budget reductions, mileage restrictions, furloughs and warden vacancies leaving some teams down 50%, Wisconsin Conservation Wardens continue to move forward with professionalism and service to our customers. Another successful year of education and enforcement related to aquatic invasive regulations. Through a significant cooperative effort with the public, fisheries staff and LE we addressed an invasion of Red Swamp Crawfish in southeastern Wisconsin. Successful prosecution through U.S. District Court of 4 Wisconsin bait farming businesses, the result of a multi-year, multi-state and multi-agency case involving the illegal importation and transportation of over \$2.5 million worth of market value bait fish from Minnesota, Arkansas, North and South Dakota. Wisconsin Wardens have increased our abilities to respond to emergency situations. Most wardens have completed the ICS 300 training, interacted on training exercises, and utilized our unique equipment (night vision, infrared and ROV). We are equipping ourselves with equipment and knowledge to be a valuable resource when called upon to respond to natural or man made emergencies. Wardens throughout Wisconsin have successfully investigated several thrill killing cases. Closure on these non-hunting cases is extremely important to the public we serve and illicit a strong emotional response. In addition to seeking law changes that will help with future prosecution, we've partnered with UW-Green Bay on a research project to understand the "why" part of these thrilling killing cases. A cooperative effort with the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Force and Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to address felons who hunt with firearms in Wisconsin. This partnership and sharing of information has benefited our customers by removing potentially dangerous individuals from the hunting environment.

<b>N A W E O A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>AWARDS</b>
	<b>W</b>	
	<b>E</b>	
	<b>A</b>	
<p><b>NAWEOA OFFICER OF THE YEAR — NAWEOA TORCH AWARD — OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD — CERTIFICATE OF RETIREMENT ** — AWARD OF VALOUR — LIFESAVING AWARD — CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION — HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP</b> These prestigious awards are awarded by NAWEOA to deserving officers who have been nominated by their peers or agency administrators. Criteria and nomination details may be found on the NAWEOA website. <b>NOTE: The above awards shall be submitted to the NAWEOA executive for review not later than MAY 1st in any year to allow for presentation at the annual conference for that year.</b> With the exception of Officer of the Year nominations, other award nominations will be accepted up to the time of the conference and, if time allows, will be considered and awarded at the conference. Consideration is not guaranteed if nomination is not received by the general May 1st deadline.</p> <p><b>Award nominations should be made online and electronically submitted at: <a href="http://www.naweo.org">http://www.naweo.org</a></b> <b>*** Certificates of Retirement should be requested through the appropriate Jurisdictional Representative***</b></p>		



# REGION 6 REPORT



**Region 6 Director Jeff White**

## **Florida -- Guy Carpenter reporting:**

On August 24, a FWC officer arrested Robert Mock III, 18, thanks to an alert angler who reported a man in possession of four snook during the closed season. He provided dispatchers with a tag number and description of the vehicle. Upon arrival of Lt. Zukowsky at the inlet, the vehicle was already gone. Zukowsky later located Mock at his home and found the snook in a cooler still in the back of the truck. Coincidentally, two days earlier, Mock and two friends had receive citations on the same offense. Officers McDonough and Meurlot in Volusia County had filed those charges. Instead of citing Mock with another ticket he was transported to jail.

On December 10, Ernest Stamm, 49, reported something struck him in the face as he opened his front door. When emergency medical technicians arrived, they were unable to immediately get to Stamm's front door because of a bear that wouldn't leave the yard. Eventually the bear left and Stamm was taken to a hospital. Upon further investigation at Stamm's home, they found evidence of bear attractants and that bears had been frequently visiting the home. After a week-long investigation, officers pursued charges.

## **Alabama -- Joe Carroll reporting:**

Dusty Casselman, 37, was convicted in Butler County on September 22 for illegally transporting and selling feral swine. Officers with the WFF of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources began an investigation after receiving complaints of illegal hunting activities. Casselman was convicted of hunting on the lands of another without permission, hunting without a license, and failure to wear hunter orange, after being videotaped

entering private property. Casselman was trapping feral swine from the wild and selling them for release back into the wild for hunting purposes. Alabama regulation prohibits the release of feral swine into any area of the state.

June Woodruff, 52, was convicted for illegally selling venison from her deer-processing facilities in Georgiana and Montgomery. The investigation revealed the businesses were operating similar to a grocery store where customers could purchase various cuts of wild meat. State law prohibits the sale of game animals, or parts thereof, including the meat.

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

Two SCDNR law enforcement supervisors recently graduated from South Carolina's Certified Public Manager's Program. Captain William Poole and Lieutenant Mike Sabaka completed the 18-month program after passing a final exam and finishing a project to redesign and help improve the processes associated with the issuance of written warnings for natural resource violations.

SCDNR recently accepted the retirement of Lieutenant Ulysses Fleming. Lt. Fleming was hired Jan. 26, 1970, as the first African-American officer for the SCDNR Law Enforcement Division. Lt. Fleming bid farewell to nearly 40 years of working in the field.

In late 2009, SC officers served 23 federal felony and 36 state misdemeanor warrants on individuals involved in illegal cockfighting in rural SC. Although not typically investigated by SCDNR, the current arrests and indictments were generated by an undercover SCDNR agent who attended and covertly videotaped eight of these events.

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

Agents cited two men for deer violations in Lafourche Parish on December 20. Agents cited Timmy Andras, 43, and Alex Andras, 24, for taking deer from a moving vessel, failing to maintain sex identification, taking over the limit of deer, and violating deer-tagging requirements after finding the Andras in possession of 5 whitetail deer. None of the deer were tagged and had apparently been taken from a moving motorboat. Agents participating in the case were Sgt. Joe Arnaud and SA Jamie Folse.

Thomas and Monique Use, ages 39 and 37, were cited on December 23 for numerous Wildlife and Fisheries violations.

Agents cited the Uses ending a lengthy undercover investigation. In late 2007, agents learned that Thomas Use was allegedly hunting deer at night and selling the deer from his residence. Undercover agents made contact and were able to document 22 violations including: selling fish without a license, selling reptiles or amphibians without a license, selling furbearing animals without a fur dealer's license, and selling deer meat.

Agents arrested a convicted felon for allegedly possessing a firearm and stolen articles on January 8. Responding to a tip, agents went to a wooded area where they found four men hunting deer. Kirkpatrick Tasker, 29, was arrested for possession of a stolen ATV and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Tasker was also cited for failing to wear orange and three counts of deer-tagging requirements. Two other men received wildlife citations. Agents participating in the case were SA Randy Lanoux, Sgt. Todd Lewis, Agent Carl Armstrong and Sgt. William Roberts.

Agents arrested one hunter and cited 10 more on December 29 for wildlife violations on a hunting lease in Concordia Parish. Agents investigated the area after hearing several gun shots coming from a wooded area. Agents arrested Winston Fortenberry, 52, after he was found to be in possession of four deer he allegedly killed that morning. Fortenberry was cited for over the limit of deer, hunting license violations and failure to tag deer. Lt. Russ Kiser, SA Trey Mason and SA Lee Tarver participated in the case.

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

On January 12, two CPOs were the first on scene of a house fire in Pulaski County. The officers assisted an elderly woman, her daughter and great-grandson in evacuating the home which was completely engulfed in flames. The officers assisted the family to a safe location and stayed on scene.

On January 22, a CPO was dispatched to a complaint of waterfowl hunters having their hunt impeded by a homeowner in Northumberland County. The homeowner admitted to using his boat's horn to scare away waterfowl because he did not want the hunters in the area. A warrant was obtained for impeding a lawful hunt.

On January 23, District 11 officers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Officer conducted a waterfowl surveillance and saturation patrol in Westmoreland County. The officers observed one group of hunters

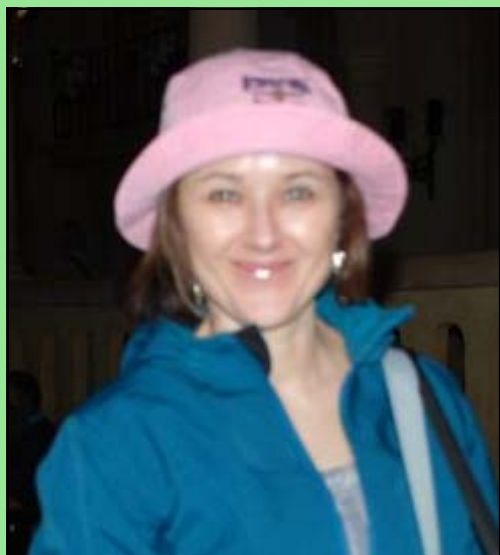




*Field Notes*

*Spring 2010*

## *Meet the Game Warden Museum Manager*



Brenda Hevenor has lived a variety of places -- both in the United States and Canada -- over the past 30 years with her spouse and three children. Brenda's experience has been widespread both in work and volunteerism. The non-profit sector has been the major focus with work ranging from management to board positions.

Brenda moved to the International Peace Garden four years ago when her spouse, Douglas, accepted the CEO position of the Garden. At this time, the North American Game Warden Museum required a museum manager for the busier summer months. Brenda has filled this position for the past 2 1/2 years, working with the International Peace Garden in a variety of areas to enhance the experience of visitors to both the Museum and Garden.

**CHECK OUT  
THE  
NORTH  
AMERICAN  
GAME  
WARDEN  
MUSEUM  
ON**

**facebook**



More than  
\$76,000  
raised to date!



Brad  
Sponsor  
Kurlicki

# 9th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament

**August 12, 2010**

**Kingswood Golf and Country Club**

**LaSalle Manitoba**

**Putting and chipping contests.**

**Many other event holes and awards.**

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

**Special guests from  
Manitoba Moose**

**REGISTRATION: Begins 11:00am**

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

**FORMAT: Texas Scramble**

**Blue Bombers**

**Blue Lightning**

**Tournament limited to 132 golfers**

**First come first serve**

**Register as an individual or as team.**

**REGISTER EARLY - Deadline July 20**

**Hole sponsorship**

**available for \$200**

**sponsors provide**

**own signage**

Name of golfer	Name of golfer	Name of golfer	Name of golfer
Company	Company	Company	Company
Address	Address	Address	Address
City/Prov./Post Code	City/Prov./Post Code	City/Prov./Post Code	City/Prov./Post Code
Phone	Phone	Phone	Phone

**I am proud to support the Game Warden Museum as a no-show golfer**

Name of golfer	Amount of donation (min. \$50.)	Phone
Company	Address	Tax receipt (yes or no)

**Please return this form with payment to: Winnipeg Moving & Storage – 400 Oakpoint Hwy – Winnipeg, MB. – R2R 1V1 To pay by credit card or for more information contact Brad Krulicki at 1-877-974-6683 or [bkrulicki@winnipegmoving.com](mailto:bkrulicki@winnipegmoving.com).  
Thanks for your support.**

The North American Game Warden Museum is a not-for-profit organization.  
Your donation is considered tax-deductible as defined by U.S. and Canadian charitable contribution guidelines.  
[www.GameWardenMuseum.org](http://www.GameWardenMuseum.org)

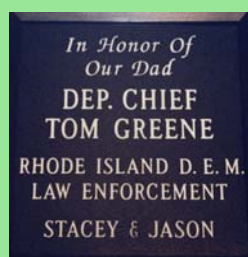




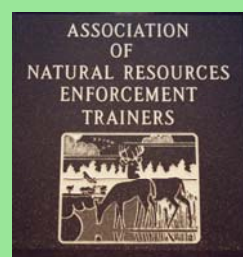
## SUPPORT THE GAME WARDEN MUSEUM

### PURCHASE A PAVING STONE

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



Engraved Paving Stone  
\$150



Engraved Paving Stone With Logo  
\$250

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

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

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

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

#### 3. *Complete the sponsor and payment information*

##### Sponsor Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

##### Payment Options

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check or Money Order payable to: **NAWEMMEC**

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

**or**

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

☐ I authorize my paving stone to be used in marketing materials.

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

March 2009



## Meet the Museum's Newest Director.



Montana Warden Kevin Holland is the North American Game Warden Museum's newest director. Kevin has been a Montana Game warden for over 21 years. He worked in Wisconsin as a Warden Special for approximately five months and as a city police officer in Wisconsin for three years.

Kevin has been a regional representative for the Montana Game Warden Association for six years and has been the Montana Game Warden Association treasurer/secretary

for the past five years. He co-produced a boating under the influence prevention video and classroom curriculum that was nationally recognized and is currently being used nationwide. Kevin is active in the water-related enforcement programs in Montana. He also worked in the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks covert unit for a number of years.

Kevin is a graduate of the University of Stevens Point, Stevens Point WI, with a Bachelor of Science degree in resource management.

He looks forward to working with fellow directors as the western US representative to the Museum board. If Kevin can be of any assistance to you, feel free to contact him.

MT Game Warden  
Kevin Holland  
MT Dept. FW&P  
2300 Lake Elmo Dr.  
Billings MT 59105

work phone #: 406-247-2947  
email: holland@MT.gov

## Annual Memorial Service



*Saturday August 28th, 2010  
at the  
North American  
Game Warden Museum  
in the  
International Peace Garden.*

*Game Warden families and members of the public are encouraged to attend.*

*If you want further information or would like to help out at the ceremony please contact Paul Hopkins in Manitoba, a Museum Board Member, or your Jurisdictional Representative.*



rallying ducks with a motorboat. Three hunters were contacted and multiple other violations were also detected. A second group of hunters were found to be using a floating blind without the proper license and a license violation.

VCP Officers have charged 31-year-old Jason D. Cloutier with manslaughter, reckless handling of a firearm, and trespassing to hunt stemming from an incident that occurred November 17 on county-owned property near the Ferrum College. Jessica Goode, age 23, was shot and killed and Regis Boudinot, age 20, was shot and injured in the incident. Both attended Ferrum College and were participating in a school project when the incident occurred. Mr. Cloutier claimed that he thought he was shooting at a deer.

VDGIF received laboratory confirmation on January 19 that a white-tailed deer tested positive for CWD. This is the first confirmed case of CWD in Virginia. The deer was killed in Frederick County less than one mile from the WV line. Virginia now joins 17 other states and Canadian provinces with CWD.

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

On October 17, MNRP charged 5 individuals with migratory waterfowl violation. During a routine bait flight, MNRP Officers located a pond which had corn in the water. On the opening day of the waterfowl season, officers set up surveillance of the area and observed individuals shooting at waterfowl. The individuals had 23 wood ducks and 2 mallards in their possession and were charged with baiting and over daily limit.

On November 25, the MNRP charged Travis Heavner, 28, with jacklighting. MNRP Officers observed Heavner shine a spotlight from a vehicle. Officers recovered a .17-caliber rifle, ammunition, a knife and a spotlight from Heavner's vehicle.

On November 24, NRP charged Russell Swift with harvesting oysters within an oyster sanctuary. Swift was observed by MNRP Officers harvesting oysters within the Sanctuary located in Tangier Sound.

On February 4, NRP arrested Dennis Bittinger on an arrest warrant that stemmed from a three-month investigation surrounding the illegal killing and possessing of wildlife and fish. The investigation resulted in a search warrant being issued on Bittinger's residence and hunting property and 20 violations being cited.

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

WV has joined 31 states as a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. The IWVC is an agreement that unresolved hunting and fishing violations in one state can affect a person's hunting or fishing privileges in other participating states.

The publication of a trophy buck photograph resulted in officers charging a Brooke County man with the illegal killing of the buck on the first day of the deer firearms season. On Nov. 23, Raymond Owens claimed that he had killed the buck on the first morning of the deer season on his own property. The buck was transported to the Cabela's store where Owens checked on the details of the Big Buck Contest held at the store. A photographer from a Wheeling newspaper was at the store and photographed the buck. Sgt. Steve Shriner saw the photo in the paper and told CO Dave Himmelrick. Himmelrick had received a spotlighting complaint the previous night in the Bethany area. After a short investigation, it was determined that Owens had been hunting without a license and killed the deer on another person's property the night before.

A lengthy bear-poaching investigation was brought to a conclusion October 22, when WVDNR officers apprehended a group of eight hunters in Nicholas County for using bait to lure black bear into sites where they could be shot from elevated and camouflaged stands. It is illegal to bait black bear in WV. "This group of hunters, all of whom were residents of Ohio, had been participating in this type of illegal activity for a period of several years," said Capt. Waugh of the WVDNR. Seven baited shooting sites were located by Conservation Officers Duffield, White and Manager Pratt. On October 22, the hunters were apprehended at a cabin used as a base camp from which to stage these illegal activities.

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

WO Jeff Hummel, on December 30, while investigating a suspicious vehicle and three suspects for the sheriff's department in an area where several home burglaries had occurred, was shot at close range by one of the suspects with a shotgun. The suspects then stole Hummel's state truck. The sheriff arrived moments after the shooting and, despite severe injuries to his arm and back, Hummel got in the sheriff's truck and proceeded to chase the suspects until they wrecked and fled on foot. The GOOD news is that Officer Hummel is doing well and the suspects were caught.

TWRA has its first new Director since 1974 with the selection of Ed Carter. Director Carter was hired in 1972 and has worked his way up through the ranks over the years. He was the Chief of Boating and is a strong supporter of law enforcement.

WO Mike Beaty heard through the "grapevine" that a hunter whose license had been revoked had killed an 8-point buck and had someone else check it in for him. Searching the state's deer kill database for that particular county and surrounding counties at that time period, the possibilities were narrowed down to two checking stations. One of the checking stations just happened to keep surveillance video and it showed this individual and another hunter coming in to check this buck. Ultimately, three juveniles and an adult were charged.

WO Jarod Coxey has added a new tool to his law enforcement bag -- the internet. Receiving information that an individual had killed 7 bucks, well over the state limit, he logged onto MySpace where he found the individual with multiple photos of deer that he had apparently killed this season. Coxey found the individual and contacted him with yet another buck he had killed. Numerous seizures and charges followed.

#### **Georgia -- Melissa Cummings reporting:**

A second Georgia CR was found to have fallen in the line of duty after 42 years of digging into the details. Ranger William Hobbs of Blakely was shot while on duty on July 9, 1967, while assisting the local Sheriff's Office with a domestic situation. He was asked by one of the deputies to accompany him to the Bankston residence. Upon arrival, Bankston was on the porch but retreated into the house. As the officers went up onto the porch, Bankston came to the door and shot them through the screen. Hobbs was hit in the face and fell back into the yard. The deputy, also hit, fled on foot. Blinded by bird shot, Hobbs lay in the yard as Bankston came out and shot him several times with the officer's own revolver. The injured deputy made it back to the Sheriff's Office where he recruited several other officers to accompany him back to the house. Bankston was killed in a short standoff with the officers. Hobbs was taken to the hospital, but died 10 days later from his injuries.



# REGION 7 REPORT



**Region 7 Director Clint Deniker**

*With spring upon us in Pennsylvania, our thoughts have turned to the 2010 NAWEOA Conference. With the conference only a few months away, rarely a day goes by without someone mentioning the conference. As the chair of the Warden Skills events, I have one of easier tasks to complete. As of now, I have recruited approximately 60 volunteers to help run the events that will comprise the skills events. For those of you planning on participating in the Warden Skills Events, you have quite a day in store for you.*

*While preparing for this newsletter, I sent out a feeler to the many jurisdictions in Region 7 asking for input/interesting points for the newsletter. I received several responses and due to the lack of space I will have to paraphrase as best as possible. Hopefully I won't miss anything; but if I do, be assured it wasn't deliberate.*

**Steve Thomson from Ohio reports** that the following officers received awards. Investigator R.T Stewart received the Officer of the Year Award from the National Wild Turkey Federation. Wildlife Officer Ken Bebout received the Waterfowl Enforcement Officer of the Year from the Mississippi Flyway Council. Ken also received the Ohio Officer of the Year from the Midwest Association of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officer. Finally, Wildlife Officer Bob Nelson received the Ohio Bowhunters Association Officer of the Year Award.

Steve also reports that thirteen Wildlife Officer Cadets have finished their FTO program and are now working in the field. Like many wildlife agencies, Ohio is delaying the hiring of the next class of Cadet until 2012 due to budget constraints.

Thanks to a change in state law, Ohio officers are able to apply large restitutions to cases involving the illegal taking of trophy deer. Some of these cases have involved \$10,000 - \$20,000 in restitution for trophy deer. Moreover, other species like the Trumpeter Swan have been valued at \$2,500.00 each. In one particular case, a violator was assessed \$5,000.00 in restitution for illegally killing two Trumpeter Swans. Finally, Ohio is implementing a new internet license system which will enable hunters to check game through the internet, phone or at game-tracking stations.

It sounds as though Ohio is holding the "thin green line" in admirable fashion. Keep up the good work, guys. Moving on to Vermont, Travis Battle reports that the Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is going through nearly universal changes in command staff. In the past 18 months, Col. David LeCours accepted the Chief Warden position while Maj. Dennis Reinhardt accepted the Deputy Chief Warden position. Don Isabelle, Curtis Smiley and Kim Klein each accepted lieutenant positions covering three of the four supervisory districts. George Scribner and Travis Battle were promoted to sergeant in two of the supervisory districts. The vacancies they filled came after numerous retirements within the department. Vermont, like many states, is finding it difficult to fill vacancies due to lack of qualified applicants.

Despite being short-staffed, **Vermont** officers made numerous arrests for poaching at night, baiting deer, killing over the bag limit, and failing to report big game harvests. While working closely with neighboring states and nearby provinces, Vermont officers (including undercover officers) were able to prosecute individuals for illegal guiding. Working with PA officers, Vermont's officers were able to prosecute individuals for using hounds to hunt bear. Finally, Vermont took delivery of two 20' Boston Whaler boats for use on Lake Memphremagog and Lake Champlain.

Moving on to **Maine**, the fall deer hunting produced the lowest harvest in many years but Maine wardens had a productive fall nonetheless. Wardens were busy dealing with snowmobilers and ice fishermen while the snow and ice lasted. With open-water fishing beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Maine wardens will be increasingly busy. With turkey season just around the corner,

Maine is seeing a change in spring turkey regulations to allow hunters to purchase a permit to kill a second bird.

As always, the Maine Warden Service is moving progressively forward with the formation of five new corporal positions. The newly appointed corporals will oversee the specialty teams such as Firearms Training, the Dive Team, and K-9 team. Wardens Andre Glidden, Michael Joy, and Wade Garner were promoted to corporal to oversee these teams. Aaron Cross and John MacDonald were also promoted to corporal to administer the Whitewater Rafting Division and the Outreach and Education Division, respectively.

Those wishing to learn more about the Maine Warden Service can visit their website at: [www.MaineGameWarden.com](http://www.MaineGameWarden.com). Ever improving, each officer was recently issued a Mossberg Model 590 shotgun to replace their aging Mossberg Model 500 shotguns. Maine plans on adding a patrol rifle to the officers' arsenal in the near future.

On March 9, 2010, the Maine Warden Service celebrated its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During the anniversary celebration, the following officers received awards: Warden Paul Farrington-K9 -- Conservation Case of the Year; Warden Doug Kulis -- NWTF; Sergeant Mark Warren -- Supervisor of the Year; Pilot Daryl Gordon and Wardens Eric Blanchard and Doug Kulis -- Exemplary Service Awards; Warden Bruce Loring -- Meritorious Service Award; Retired Resident Agent in Charge Chris Dowd (USFWS) -- Colonel's Award; Retired Warden Larry Grant -- Lifetime Distinguished Service Award; Retired Warden Donald Gray --Legendary Game Warden; and Warden Michael Morrison -- Maine Game Warden of the Year. Thanks to Game Warden Chris Dyer for the comprehensive report from Maine. Stay safe.

**Dave Walsh from New Hampshire reports** that NH Fish and Game Department Officers spent five days in El Salvador as part of a training exercise with local divers. This was the second time since May 2009 that NH officers have had this unique opportunity. As you can see from the attached photos, it looks as though the NH guys learned a great deal with great hosts. Representing NH in 2009 were Officers Thomas M. Dakai (Dive Master) and Dive Team Member Bradley R. Morse. Dive Master James Kneeland and Dive Team Member Bradley Morse represented



NH in 2010. In all, 14 divers from the U.S. Army Special Forces, NH F&G, the Tourist Dive Team, and the National Police Reactionary Group attended the training.

As part of a technical display, NH F&G divers brought their Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) and two EXO full facemasks with wireless communication technology with them to demonstrate their capabilities to the other divers who attended the training. Hopefully, divers from El Salvador will be able to travel to NH for the next exchange. According to Dave Walsh, plans are already underway.

Recently Lt. John Wimsatt was laterally transferred to Chief of District Five. Sgt. Jeff Martson was promoted to lieutenant of District Six. Two trainees were hired to fill vacancies; they are Eric Fluette and Geoffrey Younglove. Congratulations, guys.

In Pennsylvania, the 28<sup>th</sup> Training Class for Wildlife Conservation Officers started on March 21, 2010, at the Ross Leffler School of Conservation (RLSC) in Harrisburg. One of the oldest schools of its kind in the world, RLSC has graduated over 600 hundred officers since its creation in the 1930s. Once these cadets graduate, they will be assigned to vacant districts throughout the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania Wildlife Conservation Officers have worked without a contract since June 30, 2007. Moreover, Pennsylvania's Waterways Conservation Officers have worked without a contract for the same amount of time. Hopefully, we will have a contract in the next few weeks. The major stumbling block is money and the inability of the agencies to pay.

Several PGC officers have received awards including Officer Mark Allegro and Officer John McKellop who were recognized by the USFWS for their help in working to protect the Erie Wildlife Refuge. Land Management Officer Jerry Bish was awarded the Ducks Unlimited Award for his continuous work to improve waterfowl habitat. Officer Travis Anderson was named the NWTF Officer of the Year and Officer Kevin Mountz was awarded the Officer of the Year Award from the Northeast Chiefs Association.

Pennsylvania officers continued to make several large cases ranging from the illegal possession of songbirds to apprehending the hardcore nighttime poacher. As a testament to how well PA officers are applying their trade, the Pennsylvania Game Commission continues to enjoy a 95.6% conviction rate on individuals charged with wildlife

violations. Hopefully, an enhanced penalty bill and legislation to include PA in the Interstate Compact Act will soon make it through the legislative body.

**Marion Hoffman reports that New York** is suffering from the same economic woes that are affecting all of the States. The availability of funds for overtime has been reduced. Field officers have done their best to reduce the fuel bill by planning their daily patrols to minimize auto mileage. Since we had a Basic School just before the financial crunch hit, we are at nearly full staff at the field level. However, retirements are starting to decimate the ranks of first line supervisors and investigators. Approval needs to be obtained from the state budget office to make promotions, and we are working on getting the approval to make some new Lieutenants and Investigators for the first time in a year.

All the news is not gloomy however. Funding was obtained to replace all of the body armor in the field, nearly all of which is past its expiration date. New dual band portable radios have been purchased which will allow the officers in New York City, who number about two dozen, to have direct radio contact with the NYPD, who number about forty thousand. The importance of this is hard to comprehend until you have patrolled a beat that includes eight million people, most of which don't really understand who those folks in the green uniform are.

Our marine unit continues to get significant operating support from NOAA National Marine Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement through the Joint Enforcement Agree-

ment. The JEA has provided funds to purchase boats and other equipment, and keep them running, that would have been difficult to get anywhere else. In return, NOAA has gotten some excellent enforcement work from us in the waters around New York City and Long Island. This summer we will be dealing with the implementation of New York's new recreational marine fishing license, sure to be an adventure. Enforcement has been complicated by the filing of a lawsuit by some Long Island towns that claim saltwater fishing cannot be subjected to a license by the state.

As homeland security continues to be a major issue in New York, we continue to be heavily involved. A significant number of our field officers are now equipped with personal radiation detectors, and our larger patrol boats have some very sophisticated radiation analyzers. As conservation officers are usually found where other law enforcement officers do not go, we hope that this will give us the ability to detect potential terrorist staging areas in our more rural communities.

It appears that spring has finally arrived and our officers are looking forward to the beginning of our trout season. I'd just like to take a moment to wish everyone a very safe and healthy new season!

*In closing, I would like to encourage you to attend the 2010 NAWEOA Conference in Western Pennsylvania this year. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our core committee, a good time should be had by all. I look forward to seeing you all there in July. Have a safe and productive spring enforcement season.*

Alabama Conservation Officers Joel Hendron and Joe Carroll (NAWEOA J-Rep) accept a plaque from NAWEOA President Kevin Schoepp honoring the loss of  
**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Conservation Officer Cecil C. Chatman.**



Officer Chatman died as the result of an assault after being struck on the head in the parking lot of a rural Alabama business in 1982.



# NAWEOA Officer Exchange Program

## Canadian Officer to Colorado

### By Dave Palmer, Ontario

NAWEOA conventions are always a great time for both the officer and his/her family. Going to a NAWEOA convention, whether it's in Canada or the United States, is always a wonderful adventure. Where else can you go and have 200-plus knowledgeable staff of the host province or state as your guide (tipping is not required)? Moncton, New Brunswick 2009 was no different. After the officers luncheon, Randy Hancock, District Wildlife Manager (DWM) for the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDW), had two boxes with the names of the CDN and US officers who were registered for the convention. An officer and an alternate would be drawn for the NAWEOA Officer Exchange Program. As Randy was about to draw a Canadian officer, my thoughts were, "I hope it is someone I know," but the rush that comes when you hear your name called is indescribable. Saying "yes" is easy; choosing where to go is tough. With the help of NAWEOA's CDN 2007 winner Gary Zacher, a computer, and having three Ws (Wildlife, Wilderness, and West) as my criteria, I chose Colorado. Randy Hancock and Lyle Sidener, AWM, both welcome my choice with Randy as my contact person. Through e-mails I advised Randy that I preferred this exchange to be a working experience with the Colorado officers, not a tour of Colorado. Randy welcomed the idea and arranged for 10 days in the northwest part of Colorado during their elk hunt from October 19th to October 28th. Part of this exchange is to not go overboard in spending, so I booked a flight from Syracuse NY – JFK – Denver, Colorado. Crossing the CDN – US border has never been a problem for me until I found out some border guards do not like 4-letter words. Holiday, vacation, and shopping are good words to use; WORK is a bad word. Ten minutes later we both agreed I was going on a vacation.

October 19, 10:30 a.m. -- Denver airport, clear blue sky, 24°C/75°F -- I knew the Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement Bob Thompson was to meet me to start my journey. I heard my name over the speaker asking me to go to an information desk. I thought this was good, Bob is paging me. Wrong, one of my bags was left in JFK. Randy did tell me that my adventure would begin once I arrived in Denver. Bob and I did connect and we headed for the USFWS National Eagle & Wildlife Property Repository in Commerce City. Here I met the Chief of Law Enforcement Jay

Sarason and Ken Shaw, IT Specialist of CDW. We were given a tour by Supervisory Wildlife Repository Specialist, Bernadette Atencio. The national eagle repository processes about 2,000 bald and golden eagles per year, then distributes the feathers, talons and whole eagles to Native American Tribes around the country to use them for religious purposes. The National Wildlife Property Repository is the final destination for all illegal wildlife that is caught and confiscated by federal agencies in the US. About 1.5 million mammals, insects, reptiles, birds and assorted sea life are stored here for training and education. After lunch, Bob and Jay gave me the tour of the Region and SW District Offices. That evening I was hosted by Bob and Martha and tasted my first Mexican meal.

October 20, 5:00 a.m. -- my bag arrived on Bob's driveway. At 6:00 a.m. Bob and I are westbound on I-70. Once through the Continental Divide via the Eisenhower/Johnson Tunnel, we reached our destination, the check station at Dotsero. I met Area 8 Area Wildlife Manager (AWM) Perry Will and his staff. They were looking for violations of illegal transporting of wildlife but, because the weather had been so warm, not many elk or deer came through. A DNA sample was taken from each animal in hope that once CDW has enough samples in their database, they will be able to tell which area a legal or illegal animal was taken from. I was told that if you don't like the weather in Colorado, just wait 15 minutes and it will change. I witnessed this during the check station from being hot to cold to hot. Of course, sampling some of the officer's green chilli didn't help. DWM Bill Andree and Kim were my hosts for the next two nights.



October 21 -- At 6:00 a.m. Bill and I headed for the above-Vail ski area to check for hunters in the White River National Forest. All federal and state trust-land hunters have to walk or use a bicycle or horse to access this area. At 11,000 ft., there was four inches of fresh snow, lots of mule deer, few hunters, and no elk. Trespassing is another problem in this ski area that takes up a lot of Bill's time. The \$500,000 houses are invaded by bear from spring to fall and in the winter the elk move in. Bill and I continued checking hunters from all over the US in the Piney Lake area. We



checked over 50 hunters but only two noticed the Canadian flag on my name tag. To hunters, all Game Wardens must look alike. Of course, it helps if I don't speak any Canadian to them "Nice toque, eh". Bill gave a hunter a ticket for failing to fill out his kill seal immediately after killing an elk. This hunter was trying to apologize for his mistake, hoping not to get a \$68 ticket. Bill explained to me that it was not the money, but the losing of 10 of his 20 points. Losing all your points could result in the suspension of all hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact means that if a hunter is suspended in one state, this also goes for the other 32 states in this agreement. This hunter will get his 10 points returned to him after 5 years.

October 22 -- I'm off to Rifle to be teamed with Area 6 AWM Bill De Vergie. Bill and I traveled to Meeker in the White River Valley Area. Bill arranged for me to have a new partner, Miss Annie, for the next 5½ hours as we went on a horseback patrol checking for interior hunters and inspecting habitat work done for elk. I then traded Miss Annie for wildlife technician Terry Ivie. Terry and I went to patrol the Marvine Creek Valley Area. The valley is mostly private property with the White River National Forest bordering each side. Hunters park on the side of the road to climb up into the national forest only to see 100 to 200 elk grazing in private land. Terry made accommodations for me in the staff house.

October 23 -- Terry and I hiked to Trappers Lake, Colorado's second largest lake. Trappers Lake holds the largest population of native Colorado River cutthroat trout in the world. CDW has an outpost cabin on the lake so they can do extended patrols. This was the second to last day of the elk hunt. Most of the camps were leaving due to the warm weather. At 12:15 p.m., I met DWM Mike Swaro, the 2009 NAWEOA Torch Award recipient. Mike and I went to the Craig area where we were going to assist in a youth elk hunt. As part of their Hunter Outreach Program, CDW has made arrangements with private ranches to allow youth (12 – 17), women, & Vets who have never hunted or have limited hunting experience a chance to hunt. Each hunt is organized and supervised by outreach program certified huntmasters and volunteers. Mike went with Devon (15) and I had Riley (12). Although lots of elk were seen, they were just too far for these first-time hunters. Mike and I returned to the staff house in Craig.

October 24 -- I got to see some pronghorn antelope before meeting Area 10 AWM Jim Haskins in Hayden. Jim gave me a tour of the Steamboat Springs area office where I met DWM Mike



Middleton, my host for the evening. Mike and I traveled north along the Wyoming border checking hunters heading into a private-land hunt area.

October 25 -- Last day of the hunt. I met Area 9 AWM Lyle Sidener near Whiteley Peak who took me to Kremmling to meet with DWM Mike Crosby and Arrow. Mike and I assisted DWM Gene Abram on a trespassing complaint where the landowner found a dead mule partly gutted and a \$400 camera nearby. The owner of the camera showed up, stating that he left the camera in the field yesterday when he was trying to go to the washroom. He knew nothing of the deer 10 feet away. Mike and Gene had the defendant to show where he went to the washroom but the only dirty deed found was the deer. I found out later that day a true confession was reached. Our next call was to assist in finding three fingers left at an accident site on the side of a hill. Fortunately, one of the other persons in the accident picked them up. Mike and Leslie were my hosts for evening.



October 26 -- Blue sky & sunny, -18°C/0°F -- was a perfect day to chase kokanee salmon in the Williams Fork River. Mike, Lyle, retired DWM Jerry Claassen and other staff from the Hot Sulphur Springs Office netted, milked, and fertilized kokanee salmon eggs to be taken to the Glenwood Springs Hatchery. Our 50+ spectators were each given 10 female salmon as reward for their cheering efforts. Jerry and Debi were my hosts for next two nights. Jerry gave me a tour of Rocky Mountain National Park and Granby/Grand Lake area. Unfortunately, most of the park was closed due to snow.

October 28 -- Jerry drove through a snow storm to deliver me to DWM Vicki Vargas-Madrid in Denver. Due to the snow storm, we stayed at the office. That evening, before I was driven to the airport, I got to celebrate Vicki's 25th birthday again, with her family.

NAWEOA, I want to thank you for allowing me to take this outstanding journey into the wilds of Colorado. This has been an adventure that money cannot buy. The warm hospitality the officers and their families gave me is second to none. I thank them for allowing me to be a part of their daily life. Northwest Colorado with its vast wilderness, majestic mountains and wealth of wildlife will have to be revisited once I retire. Randy Hancock, thank you! First for picking my name; second, for agreeing to be my host state; and third for organizing to last detail a trip of a lifetime.



# Wildlife Officer Recognition

OOY = Officer of the Year

## REGION 1

### Alberta

**Dave Barret** — 2009 Alberta Fish and Wildlife OOO

### British Columbia

**Kevin VanDam** — 2009 OOO

### Saskatchewan

**Steve Dobko** — 2009 Saskatchewan Conservation OOO

**Carrie Grimard** — 2009 Sask. Labour Service Conservation OOO

## REGION 4

### Nevada

**Fred Esparza** — OOO - Nevada Game Wardens Assoc.

### Colorado

**Mark Lamb**, Dist. Wildlife Manager, Wildlife OOO

## REGION 5

### South Dakota

**Jamie Pekelder**, 2009 Shikar-Safari OOO Award

### Wisconsin—Conservation Wardens

**Dave Walz** — 2008 Haskell Noyes Award

**Jeremy Peery**—2009 Haskell Noyes Award

**Jeff Knorr** — Wisconsin Boating OOO

**Nick Nice** — Wisconsin Waterfowl OOO

**Jim Horne** — Outstanding Professional in Hunter Ed.

**Shawna Stringham** — Virginia Hart Award

**Casey Krueger** — 2008 Wisconsin NWTF OOO

**Nate Kroepin** — 2009 Wisconsin NWTF OOO

**William Schwengel** — Supervisor Lower Chippewa Team — 2008 Shikar Safari International Award

**Carl Mesman** — Supervisor Wautoma Team — 2009 Shikar Safari International Award

### Texas

**Chris Green** — 2009 Southern States Boating Law Administrator and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

**Chris Green** — NASBLA Water Safety Officer of the Year

**Brent Whitus** — 2009 Southeastern Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Assoc. (SEAFWA)

**Sgt. Chris Davis** — 2009 Shikar-Safari International

**Clint Hunt** — 2009 Association of Midwest Fish & Game Law Enforcement Officers (AMFGLEO)

## REGION 6

**Florida — Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

Officer **Michael Naujoks** — Outstanding Service

Officer **Jason Cooke** - Outstanding Service

Officer **Sandra Blackburn** - Outstanding Service

Officer **Arnold McMillion** - Outstanding Service

Officer **Rich Wilcox** - Outstanding Service

Officer **Kurt Arendas** — Certificate of Valor

Officer **Van Streety** — Certificate of Valor

Officer **Ryan Smith** - Life Saving

### Georgia-GA DNR/Wildlife Resources Div.: Law Enforcement

Captain **James Bell**- Intern'l Hunter Safety Ed. Hall of Fame

Ranger **William Hobbs** — Fallen Ranger (recognized after 42 yrs)

Cpl. **Johnny Ashe** — National Wild Turkey Federation OOO

Cpl. **Brian Hobbins** — DNR Law Enforcement Ranger of the Year

Sgt. **Mike Burgamy** — DNR Law Enf. Supervisor of the Year

Cpl. **Craig Fulghum** — Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl OOO

RFC **Mark Stephens** — DNR Law Enforcement Boating OOO

### Maryland- Maryland Natural Resources Police(MNRP)

Officer First Class **Timothy M. Kraemer** — OOO

Sergeant **John D. Bailey** — Conservation Officer of the Year

Officer First Class **Andrew R. Felsecker** — Boating Safety OOO

### Tennessee- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency(TWRA)

Wildlife Officer **Philip Earhart** -TWRA 2009 SEAFWA OOO

Wildlife Officer **David Sexton** - Shikar-Safari Club International

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2009

Wildlife Officer **Roy Smith** - 2009 Boating OOO for TWRA

### United State Fish and Wildlife

Special Agent **Jane Whaley** — Life Saving (Florida)

### West Virginia-W. V. Div. of Nat. Res./Law Enforcement. Sec.

Officer **Warren E Goodson**- Conservation Officer of the Year

## REGION 7

### Maine

**Mike Morrison** -- Warden OOO/Shikar Safari Club Wildlife OOO

**Christopher Dowd** (USFWS) Retired Resident Agent in Charge - Colonel's Award

Sgt. **Mark Warren** -- Supervisor of the Year Award

Warden **Bruce Loring** -- Meritorious Service Award

Warden Pilot **Daryl Gordon** -- Exemplary Service Award

Warden **Eric Blanchard** -- Exemplary Service Award

Warden **Doug Kulis** -- Exemplary Service Award

Game Warden **Paul Farrington and Koda** -- K-9 Conservation Case of the Year Award

Retired Game Warden **Donald Gray** -- Maine Warden Service Association Legendary Game Warden

Retired Game Warden **Larry Grant** -- Lifetime Distinguished Service Award

### New York

ECO **Scott Steingart**, 2009 Shikar Safari OOO

ECInvestigator **Dan Sullivan**, 2009 NECLECA OOO

ECO **Chris Childs**, 2009 NY State Rifle and Pistol Assoc. OOO

ECO **Dan Sullivan**, 2009 National Wild Turkey Fed. OOO

ECO **John Dobies**, 2009 Samuel S. Taylor Bravery Award



**New Hampshire Dive Team Members  
Thomas M. Dakai (Dive Master)  
and Bradley R. Morse received five days  
of training in El Salvador during 2009**



about 30 yards, trying to figure out what we were. Carl gave a grunt and the moose came in closer, but walked past us at about 30 feet from where we were standing, and headed further down along the river bank, grunting and racking as it went. Carl gave another grunt and the moose seemed to turn around and come back towards us, but was somewhat reluctant to come right out into the open. Carl then began racking some alders with a paddle and that was all it took, the bull came up to within 30 feet again, just on the edge of the opening in front of us. A little more "paddling" and Carl had him at about 20 feet broadside, his right ear cocked downward. Unsure if the bull was going to charge or not, I took the opportunity to leave some evidence on my camera should our remains be trampled into

The photo above is of Ontario Conservation Officer Carl Alexander and a bull moose that he called in to about 20 feet! He and I were working together in a remote area of Cochrane District in October of 2009 when this photo was taken. Carl and I were working along a riverbank when, out of nowhere, this bull came in grunting and racking the bushes in front of us. As Carl and I were trying to get into better position to see the moose, it stopped in its tracks at

the mud on that riverbank. After a few photos the moose decided it wasn't a good idea to stick around and be blinded by my camera flash. It took off and we never saw it again..... and that was "all in a day's work".

Robin Thompson  
Conservation Officer



## **For Immediate Release**

Brooke McKay  
Marketing Coordinator  
Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.  
573.346.4911

# **Conservation Agent's Surviving Spouse Attends C.O.P.S. Grief Retreat**

By: Brooke McKay

"The C.O.P.S. Retreat helps you see that life can get better and that moving on does not mean forgetting. C.O.P.S. understands the sacrifice your officer went through and helps you keep their legacy alive," explained Melanie Teagan, surviving spouse of Lieutenant Delmar Teagan, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, End of Watch 4/13/2007. Melanie attended this year's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) Surviving Spouses' Getaway, the weekend of September 18-21, at the YMCA Trout Lodge in Potosi, Missouri. Melanie was one of 90 surviving spouses that attended the retreat this year. This retreat is held for the spouses of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. At the retreat, survivors attend grief seminars led by mental health professionals, find great support from their peers, and also have a great time in a beautiful setting that is removed from the stresses of everyday life.

While on duty, Lieutenant Teagan was on a 4-hour drive home from Tallahassee, Florida, where he had been teaching defense trainings to new recruits in the academy; He was hit head-on by another driver, just five minutes from home. Teagan died at the age of 32. He had been with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for 10 years. "At the time of the accident our oldest son, Merrick, was 5 years old, our middle son, Morgan, had just turned two, and I was 4 months pregnant with our third child, Kaeli," said Melanie.

Melanie and her children attended National Police Week in Washington, DC, in May the year after Delmar's death to attend the ceremonies, but to also attend the National Police Survivors' Conference sponsored by C.O.P.S. Melanie recounted, "Although it was hard, our family needed it. I know for Merrick, it was a place where he finally felt normal. Merrick started Kindergarten just four months after Del was killed and he hated being the only boy without a daddy. When he went to the FBI Academy, he was so excited to tell me that he had met other kids who lost their daddies the same way. For me, it was reassuring to see that the things we were dealing with were normal. That our feelings and emotions were normal."

"I attended my first C.O.P.S.' Spouses' Retreat in 2008, and it was phenomenal. The seminars were extremely helpful. Not only did I learn how to deal with life and my emotions, but also how to help my kids cope, which was a huge thing for me. I want to make sure my kids come out of this as whole as they can," stated Melanie. At C.O.P.S. Spouses' Retreat, outdoor challenges are presented by the Missouri Department of Conservation through its "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" program. The program helps the survivors learn new outdoor skills and rebuild self-esteem which is often destroyed with the sudden, violent death of a loved one. The Missouri Department of Conservation teaches classes for the survivors in archery, shotgun, pistols, and provides a canoe trip. The classes help participants deal with the difficulties they are experiencing from the death of their spouses and the Conservation Agents certainly push the survivors to expand their comfort level by learning new skills. Many of the past participating spouses say the weekend activities positively changed their lives.

"This year, we marked our two-year anniversary since losing Del. I cannot honestly say that this year was great. We have come a long way and C.O.P.S. has helped that happen. Merrick will be 8 in November and is in the second grade and he loves it. He still desires to be a police officer or wildlife officer like his dad. Morgan is 4 ½ and has started a pre-kindergarten program this year. He talks about daddy all the time and how he wants to be just like him. And our little girl turned 2 in September," said Melanie.

In August 2009, the Teagan family finally finished their trial. Melanie is currently working on a foundation in Delmar's name that should be official by the end of 2009. The goal of the foundation is to help families of fallen officers with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. "We are excited to be able to keep Del's name alive through our foundation and hope to branch out in the future to include other local agencies," concluded Melanie.

Concerns of Police Survivors' mission is to "rebuild shattered lives" of the surviving family members of law enforcement officers who have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. In addition to the Spouses' Retreat, C.O.P.S. hosts a week-long summer camp for younger children, Outward Bound® experience for teenagers, and retreats for adult-aged children, parents, siblings, and in-laws of fallen officers and a two-day grief conference each May during National Police Week. Starting in 2010, C.O.P.S. will be holding its first retreat for affected co-workers.

C.O.P.S. is a national organization with 50 chapters throughout the United States. C.O.P.S. is a not-for-profit organization with a membership of more than 15,000 surviving families; and, unfortunately, that membership continues to grow as 140-160 law enforcement officers are killed every year in the line of duty.

To obtain more information about C.O.P.S. or its programs, contact [www.nationalcops.org](http://www.nationalcops.org) or contact Brooke McKay, Marketing Coordinator, Concerns of Police Survivors, P. O. Box 3199, Camdenton, MO 65020; phone: 573-346-4911; email [brooke\\_mckay@nationalcops.org](mailto:brooke_mckay@nationalcops.org).



*NAWEOA awards  
presented to  
Florida  
Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission  
officers at the 2010  
NAWEOA winter  
executive board  
meeting  
in Tallahassee*



**ABOVE: OFFICER VANN STREETY RECEIVED THE NAWEOA AWARD OF VALOUR.**

Front row left to right: Officer Kurt Arendas, Officer Vann Streety, Lt. Col. Mike Wiwi. Back row left to right: Lt. Col. Adams, Capt. Moore, Lt. Yates, Col. Brown, Lt. Guy Carpenter II, Officer Rich Wilcox.

**RIGHT:**

The family of  
Officer **Rich Wilcox** was present  
when he received  
the NAWEOA Outstanding Service  
Award



**BELOW :**

Officer **Kurt Arendas**  
received  
the NAWEOA Life Saving Award



**RIGHT:**

Officer  
**Guy Carpenter II**  
received the  
NAWEOA  
Certificate of  
Appreciation





# **IS IT YOUR TURN??**

## **Be a host for the NAWEOA Summer Conference!**

**If your jurisdiction and/or  
officer association  
is interested in hosting a  
NAWEOA conference,  
contact**

**Conference Liaison**

**Randy Hancock**

(conference@naweo.org)

**or**

**President Kevin Schoepp**

(president@naweo.org)

**We have hosts for  
2010, 2011, and 2013**

► **2012** ◀

► **2014** ◀

► **2015** ◀

**have not  
been bid for!**

## **2009 NAWEOA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE In Moncton, New Brunswick**

\*\*\* 308 officers representing 54 jurisdictions \*\*\*

### **HOW MANY OFFICERS WILL REPRESENT YOUR JURISDICTION AT THE 2010 NAWEOA CONFERENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA?**

Alabama Fish & Game.....	1
Agent de protection de la Faune du Québec.....	20
Alaska Wildlife Troopers.....	1
Alberta Fish & Wildlife.....	6
British Columbia Conservation Officer Service.....	6
Fisheries & Oceans Conservation & Protection.....	12
California Fish & Game.....	6
Environment Canada.....	23
Colorado Division of Wildlife.....	5
Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police.....	5
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.....	3
Idaho Department of Fish & Game.....	6
Illinois Department of Natural Resources.....	2
Indiana Department of Natural Resources.....	2
Iowa Department of Natural Resources.....	2
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks.....	1
Maine Game Wardens.....	2
Manitoba Conservation.....	12
Maryland Natural Resource Police.....	4
Massachusetts Environmental Police.....	3
Michigan Department of Natural Resources.....	3
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.....	2
Mississippi Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.....	1
Missouri Department of Conservation.....	5
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.....	3
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission.....	1
Nevada Department of Wildlife.....	1
New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources.....	58
New Hampshire Department of Conservation.....	4
New Jersey Fish & Wildlife.....	4
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Police..	12
Newfoundland & Labrador Department of Natural Resources.....	6
North Dakota Game & Fish Department.....	2
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.....	23
Nunavut Department of Environment.....	3
Ohio Division of Wildlife.....	1
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.....	2
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.....	24
Oregon State Police / Fish & Wildlife Division.....	2
Pennsylvania Game Fish & Boat Commission.....	34
Prince Edward Island Department of Natural Resources.....	3
Rhode Island.....	1
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.....	15
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.....	1
Utah Division of Wildlife.....	3
US Fish & Wildlife Service.....	2
Vermont Fish & Wildlife.....	1
Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries.....	1
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.....	1
West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.....	2
Western Australia.....	1
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.....	2
Wyoming Game & Fish Department.....	2
Yukon Conservation Officer Service .....	1



# North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association

*29th Annual Conference*

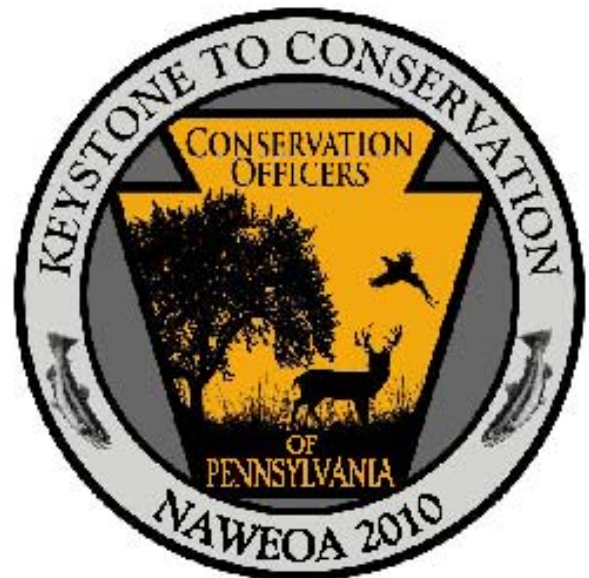
## Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association

*is honored to host*

# NAWEOA 2010

JULY 12 - JULY 18

**[www.pawco.org](http://www.pawco.org)**



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



# THE CONFERENCE...

## Social Agenda

Hospitality Area Opens Sunday at 8 pm & will close at 1:00 am each night.

### Monday, July 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, July 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, July 14, 2010

Phipps Conservatory (Half Day - Spousal Luncheon)

Gateway Clipper Fleet Dinner Cruise (Evening)

### Thursday, July 15, 2010

Flight 93 Tour/ SGL 93 Dedication

Torch Run/ BBQ (Included w/ Flight 93 Events)

### Friday, July 16, 2010

Warden Skills Event/BBQ (Half Day)

Mount Washington Tour (Half Day)

### Saturday, July 17, 2010

Spousal Tour of Amish Country in Volant (All Day)

Moraine State Park (All Day)

Various Local Tours (All Day)

*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.*



## Business Agenda

### Sunday, July 11, 2010

Registration Area Open

### Monday, July 12, 2010

Registration Area Open

### Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Registration Area Open

NAWEOA Executive Meeting

### Wednesday, July 14, 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, July 15, 2010

Registration Area Open

Retired Officers Breakfast

Speaker/Training Sessions

SGL 93 Dedication

Exhibit Trade Show

### Friday, July 16, 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, July 17, 2010

J. Rep Breakfast

Registration Area Open

Speaker/Training Session

Closing Ceremony

Banquet



**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 REP, 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:	
Youth Name:		Age:		T-shirt size:	
Youth Name:		Age:		T-shirt size:	

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	\$80.00		
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*** May not be available after 5/15/10	Cost	# of persons	Total
Whitewater Rafting with Wilderness Voyagers	\$80.00		
Hiking/Biking	\$30.00		
Frank Lloyd Wright's "Falling Water" Tour	\$80.00		
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	\$80.00		
Warden Skills Event/BBQ	\$0.00		
Mount Washington Tour (spousal tour)	\$10.00		
Phipps Conservatory (spousal luncheon and tour)	\$0.00		
Tour of Amish Country in Volant (spousal tour)	\$20.00		
Moraine State Park (spousal tour)	\$10.00		
Torch Run/Flight 93 Tour/BBQ	\$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: <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	Card Number:	Expiration Date:
Name on Card:		Phone Number:
Signature:		
Date Processed (office use only):		Make Checks to: NAWEOA 2010

## Special Offers:

<b>Group Photo</b> Wednesday, July 14th	
<b>Buy Now for only \$10</b> (will be \$15 at conference)	

<b>Draw Tickets</b> 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)
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	Quantity	Total
Single Tickets for \$5		
Three Tickets for \$10		

<b>**Airport Shuttle Information:</b>
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.bearuncampground.com](http://www.bearuncampground.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)**





The North American Game Warden Museum is pleased to announce that **Nueltin Lake Fly-In Lodges** has generously donated a fly-in fishing trip for two to be **live auctioned** at the NAWEOA conference this summer in **Pennsylvania**.

This once in a lifetime trip for two is a five day fly-in trip to a first class lodge located on the Manitoba/Nunavut border in northern Canada.

This trip includes the flight from Winnipeg, Manitoba and is valued at \$8,000.00.

Take the time to discuss this dream vacation with family, friends, and co-workers and plan to bid at the **live auction in Pennsylvania**. The fishing is incredible and the scenery and accommodations are world class. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity.

Check out the website [www.nueltin.com](http://www.nueltin.com) .

You won't be disappointed!





**NAWEOA**

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Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

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*North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association  
Board of Directors 2009 Winter Meeting  
Hosted by Beau Turner (front, center)  
At the Beau Turner Youth Conservation Center  
Near Tallahassee, Florida*

