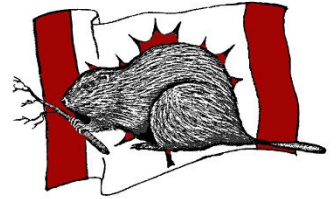




**NORTH AMERICAN
WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION**

"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"



31st Annual Conference

NAWEOA
*Sun and Saguaro
Centennial*
July 23-28, 2012
Tucson, Arizona

Spring 2012
57th Edition NAWEOA Newsletter

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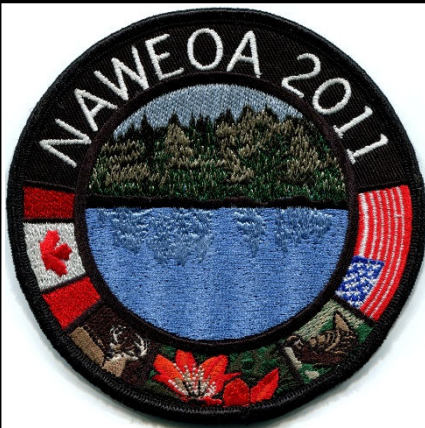
Visit NAWEOA's website:

<http://www.naweo.org>

for loads of information

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

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



SOUVENIR PATCHES AVAILABLE

← 2011 NAWEOA conference patches remain available for purchase. The cost per patch (including shipping and handling) for all patches from 2004 through 2011 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)]



Fallen Officer Memorial



Sgt. Paul Stuckey

**Louisiana Department
of
Wildlife and Fisheries**

On the night of September 30, 2011, Sgt. Paul Stuckey 47, of Zachary, was on duty and responding to a night hunting complaint when he was shot at close range. He was getting his shotgun out of the backseat of his unit when it discharged, hitting him in the chest. Sergeant Stuckey had notified his supervisor at approximately 2:15 a.m. that he had received a report that someone was hunting near St. Francisville in West Feliciana Parish. A fisherman located his body at daybreak at an old ferry landing along the banks of the Mississippi River.

He was an 18-year veteran of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Louisiana State Police investigated the shooting and found it to be accidentally self-inflicted.

Paul is survived by his wife, Kim, and three children. They reside in Slaughter, Louisiana.



**Ranger
Margaret
Anderson**

**U.S. National Park
Service**

On Sunday, January 1, 2012 Ranger Anderson of Eatonville, Washington was shot and killed while attempting to stop an individual who failed to yield at a chain control check point at Mount Ranier National Park.

Ranger Anderson was a full-time law enforcement ranger with the National Park Service. Enforcement of Fish and Wildlife law was a major portion of her duties. She was 34 years old and had worked for the NPS since the summer of 2000 when she was a seasonal ranger at Bryce Canyon NP. She worked as a Park Ranger for about four years.

Ranger Anderson is survived by her husband, Eric, who is also a National Park Service Ranger, and two young daughters.

***PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND RESOURCES WHICH
CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES***

MANY GIVE A LITTLE, SOME GIVE ALL

President's Message by Rich Cramer

I recently spent some time reading several old NAWEOA newsletters on the NAWEOA website. These glimpses of the past are fascinating and very enlightening. You see the same messages of encouragement, camaraderie, fellowship, support, professional development and an ever present goal to improve the lot of the field "game warden" across the North American continent throughout each issue. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those inspired officers who came before us to form, foster and grow this association. It is our duty, as current members, to see that the Association continues to prosper.

Communication with the members is one of the keys to maintaining an active and beneficial association. The NAWEOA Board has several avenues available to communicate with the membership. This newsletter is the one thing that reaches every member twice each year. The spring issue is filled with reports from across the US and Canada. The NAWEOA website is another avenue of communication, not just with our members, but also with the public at large. Perhaps the most important, and



somewhat underutilized, link in the NAWEOA communication chain is the Jurisdictional Representative, or J-Rep, network.

Information via e-mail flows to the Board from the J-Reps and from the Board to the J-Reps on a frequent basis. Currently, this is the best method available to the Board to disseminate information in a timely manner. It is the fervent hope of the Board that each J-Rep, in turn, provides pertinent information to the membership which he or she represents in some manner or form.

The J-Reps are an extremely important cog in the NAWEOA communication network. While requiring a bit of work, an active J-Rep provides an outstanding service to both NAWEOA and the members of his or her jurisdiction.

I encourage each of you to get as involved with NAWEOA as you are able. NAWEOA Regional Director positions come open each year at the annual summer conference. Perhaps your association or agency has an open J-Rep position. Remember, each jurisdiction selects its own J-Rep; the J-Reps are not elected or appointed by NAWEOA. One of the greatest, most rewarding, but also the most difficult, ways to get involved is to host an annual conference. NAWEOA currently has hosts for 2012 (Arizona) and 2013 (Idaho). If you have an active officers' association and the support of your agency, there is no better way to show support for your fellow officers from across North America. Thanks and I'll see you all in Tucson. Stay safe and may God bless you all.

Past President's Report by Kevin Schoepp

Call for Elections

Hello, Everyone! It is hard to believe that spring is just around the corner. Where has the time gone? We haven't really had much of a Canadian winter this year, and who can complain about that?! Very little snow in southern Saskatchewan and we haven't had any sustained cold snap to speak of.....well, I just jinxed that.....

We are off to rural Mississippi and the annual NAWEOA Winter Executive Board Meeting in a couple of days. Wouldn't yah know it, our old friend Bill Brace has taken us under his wing and is hosting us for the week. It should be a great meeting and a chance to see a part of the country not many of us have ever traveled to.

I must say that this past 2011 Summer Conference in Saskatoon was an event and undertaking that I will always treasure. It really was great to welcome and host so many people in our province. That being said, a move to the Past President's role with NAWEOA and some decompression time was welcomed. It is a little weird for me when I look around the table now, as I find myself as one of the "elder statesmen" on the Board. Next to Rob and Levi, I'm the longest-serving member on the Board. I guess we are all getting old! We are in good hands with Rich and Dave and I know

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they are working hard with our new Secretary-Treasurer Steve Beltran to keep things on track. There will be some challenges as we move through this transition period with many new members on the Board, but things are smoothing out and all is in good shape.

Election Call! A reminder to the membership that there will be a number of positions on the Executive Board that will be open for election at this summer's conference. 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)

Director positions are for a two-year term. Our constitution allows for a director to serve two terms. The candidate for a Regional Director position must be a regular member in good standing and must reside in the region for which they are running. Anyone interested in running for a director position on the Board can contact me at s.k.schoepp@sasktel.net and I can provide a complete list of duties and responsibilities.

Persons can be nominated at the conference or nominations can be sent to me prior to the conference. Nominations will be accepted until the call for the closing of nominations at the conference. Nominations that are submitted must be seconded and both the nominator and the seconder must be regular members in good standing. Candidates will be given an opportunity to speak at the conference during the NAWEOA Business Meeting. Persons nominated who are not in attendance at the conference may have an attending delegate speak on their behalf. All regular members attending the conference are eligible to vote. The successful candidates will be announced at the banquet on Saturday night.

Thanks, everyone, and I look forward to seeing you in Tucson!

Vice President's Report by Dave Webster



I would just like to start off my report by saying how truly proud I am to be serving NAWEOA as Vice President. It is both an honour and humbling to be part of such a great organization.

One of the first duties I was assigned when I took over the Vice President position was to plan the 2012 Winter Executive Meeting. I would like to take this opportunity

to thank retired Mississippi Officers Bill Brace and Bill Collins who were instrumental in hosting the NAWEOA Board of Directors in DeKalb, Mississippi, this past February. I would also like to thank the East Mississippi Sportsmen Association for allowing us to use their camp facility during our stay. Both Bills were excellent hosts as well as our cooks at the camp. Without their support and extreme effort in helping organize this meeting, it would not have been possible.

We were able to meet, sleep and eat at the same location, allowing us to get through a substantial business agenda. The Board meets every winter to discuss ongoing issues important to the NAWEOA organization. Reports were given from each Regional Director as well as the executive support members which include the Newsletter Editor, Webmaster and Conference Liaison. I would also like to thank our new Secretary-Treasurer Steve Beltran, who has taken on the huge task of managing NAWEOA's books and all that comes

with it. It has been a steep learning curve for Steve, but it has become very clear that he is the right person for the job. We had presentations from the past conference host in Saskatchewan as well as the two upcoming hosts from Arizona and Idaho. We discussed the Fallen Officer Fund as well as the budget for the upcoming year. The minutes from the meeting should be on the website by the time this newsletter goes to print, and I would encourage you to look at them when you have an opportunity.

As Vice President, I look after the NAWEOA Awards administration and would urge all of our members to go to the awards section of the NAWEOA website at www.naweo.org. Within the awards section, you can review the categories and criteria to recognize our fellow members and the excellent work they do all across the continent.

Take care and stay safe. Hope to see you all in Arizona.

CONFERENCE LIAISON REPORT by Rick Hildebrand



Conference planning is going strong in Arizona for 2012 and in Idaho for 2013. Be sure to check the NAWEOA

website for links to the specific conferences to help you plan your attendance. These annual conferences are quality events, geared towards the entire family. That's one of the aspects that make NAWEOA conferences so different from the standard business-type conference. Many long-lasting friendships are made each year at these conferences and are renewed annually.

Looking forward to 2014, there has been no jurisdiction that has identified itself as willing to host the NAWEOA conference for that year. Further, to a mandate provided to the NAWEOA Executive at the 2011 Conference in Saskatoon, the Board has made the decision to take on the responsibility of organizing the conference for 2014. Several officers have already come forward to play key roles in the conference planning and organizing.

Randy Hancock of Colorado will be the 2014 Conference Chairperson, and Steve Tomac of Nevada and Scott Haney of Texas will be Vice-Chairs. I will be working with these individuals in developing the conference planning. We will need many others to play a role in this conference, both in the planning and in the delivery stages

of the conference. If you are interested in taking an active role in the planning and/or delivery of the 2014 conference, please contact Randy, Steve, Scott or myself. We will also be seeking to have individual jurisdictions sponsor an event, speaker or hospitality night during this conference. This is a great opportunity for those jurisdictions not in a position to take on hosting the entire conference to play a role in supporting this one in 2014.

Over the next few months, we will send out Requests For Proposals to a number of facilities in Reno, Nevada, followed by an onsite visit by our core planning group in early June. This will build on previous work already completed under Randy Hancock's tenure as Conference Liaison to ensure we select a facility capable of providing the service required to host a NAWEOA conference. Should there be several facilities meeting all the requirements and coming in at the same or very similar cost, there may be presentations by

the finalist bidders at the conference in Tucson in July. In that case, the delegates would vote to determine the successful venue.

Although a conference delivered in such a way will no doubt see some differences from the norm, the NAWEOA Executive Board is confident that we can provide a quality conference to the delegates, with applicable training and professional development. This will be a challenge, hence our need to engage many volunteers to play an active role in planning and delivery. There will be further information forthcoming as we move forward. Anyone willing to become a member of the planning team should contact me at rhildebrand@shaw.ca or by phone at (250) 578-0221.

Please note that this is not a permanent change to the way conferences are hosted. This is strictly a response to, hopefully, a rare situation. Having said that, we would really encourage any jurisdictions contemplating hosting a conference in the future to come forward to identify their intent to myself. I can provide prospective hosts with the information they need to consider hosting the conference. Currently, we have years available to host NAWEOA commencing 2015.

See you in Tucson!

REGION 1 REPORT



**Region 1 Director
Daryl Bodnaryk**

Saskatchewan has experienced one of the mildest winters recorded in our history. We continue to benefit from these warm temperatures -- nothing beats sitting on an ice-covered lake with fishing rod in hand..... it sure makes ice fishing enjoyable!

I have just returned from the winter meeting at DeKalb, Mississippi. Our Saskatchewan Conference team gave a presentation and presented a cheque to the NAWEOA Board after our successful conference held in Saskatoon in July (Hooked on Saskatchewan). I would like to acknowledge all the officers who attended and worked on the various committees to make this conference once again a great accomplishment. I will take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Environment for their continued financial support and allowing time for our officers to host this annual event. Saskatchewan has hosted the NAWEOA conference three times since 1980. This conference is a reflection of the dedication by all officers that support our Conservation Officer Association.

Thanks to the J-Reps in Region 1 who continue to disseminate information to our officers and provide news articles and updates for the NAWEOA newsletter. The commonality in our profession is reflected throughout the North American Wildlife Officers -- it is my privilege to work on your behalf. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email.

Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers President, Zolton Molnar

Hello from the Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers.

Now that we are on the back slide of the 2011 NAWEOA Saskatoon convention, we can breathe a bit easier with the stress removed knowing that the Saskatoon convention was a success. Thanks to the NAWEOA and SACO membership. The con-

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vention undertaking would not be possible without that support.

Speaking of fantastic teamwork -- I thought I would do a quick update of the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA) that Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Yukon have been operating since 2007.

In 2005, the Western Canadian natural resource law enforcement chiefs set up a small working group (with representation from Yukon, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia) to determine the feasibility of establishing a centralized, cross-province training program for conservation law enforcement recruitment. The intent was to develop a single-source delivery program with common screening standards, training standards, lesson plans, cost efficiencies and the creation of a larger pool of trained candidates for all participating provinces to draw from.

The Academy was primarily held in Hinton, Alberta, taking advantage of Alberta's Hinton Training Center to house the academy, which was a great success.

In January 2010, the WCLEA organizing committee chose to move the academy to the Albert's Head Military Base, close to Victoria, British Columbia.

The intent was to take advantage of further cost efficiencies, a warmer climate and a winter delivery which would ease the burden of training during peak enforcement times.

Conservation Officers trained so far utilizing the WCLEA delivery:

2007 – 26

2008 – 41

2009 – 16

2011 – 20

2012 - 15

for a total of 118 Conservation Officers.

The project has been a success for all participating agencies. Graduates exit the academy fully trained for field duties, hitting the ground running and doing fantastic work. Partnership and interagency relationships have never been stronger among the participating agencies. Candidates, instructors and the organizing committee have all built strong networking relationships and have been making improvements to the delivery every year. All training venues consist of approved lesson plans, simplifying and legitimizing course content delivery.

Venues such as the academy and NAWEOA reinforce that the color of a uniform shirt makes no difference in quality of the officer wearing it.

Stay safe.

Ross Stewart, Federal Wildlife Officer with Environment Canada

Environment Canada – WED (Wildlife Enforcement Directorate)

Environment Canada Wildlife Enforcement Directorate recently completed a competitive process for GT 05 Wildlife Officers across Canada. PNR(Prairie and Northern Region) were successful in bolstering our ranks with four new officers.

Chad Harden is coming to WED PNR from Yellowknife, having worked as an Environmental Enforcement Officer and as a Conservation Officer for the Government of Nunavut.

James Gonek comes to WED with 8 years of experience with the Fisheries and Oceans Conservation and Protection Branch.

Andrew Smith is coming to Saskatoon WED PNR from Smithers, having worked as an Environmental Enforcement Officer.

Marc Boiteau is coming to Winnipeg WED PNR from Winnipeg, having worked in Environmental Enforcement. Marc was a Manitoba Natural Resource Officer for 20 years before taking a position with the Environmental Enforcement Division of Environment Canada.

The officers attended the Wildlife Enforcement Standardized Training (WEST) in Ottawa in January - February 2012. WEST provides officers with practical training related to the role of the Wildlife Enforcement Officer.

Manitoba Outfitters Fined for Illegally Exporting Wildlife

Chris Switzer and Helen Switzer of Bear Valley Outfitters pleaded guilty to and were fined for violations against *The Wildlife Act* (Manitoba) and *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA). They were charged in April of 2010 following a joint investigation which included officers from Manitoba Conservation, Environment Canada, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Saskatchewan Environment.

The investigation spanned three years and was focused on the illegal exportation of black bear parts, including hunting trophies taken through the couple's outfitting business, Bear Valley Outfitters, near Swan River, Manitoba.

Christopher Douglas Switzer pleaded guilty to two counts under *The Wildlife Act* (Manitoba) for possessing wildlife without authority and two counts under WAPPRIITA for exporting wild animal parts to the United States without a valid federal *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) export permit, and making false

statements to wildlife officers. He was ordered to pay a fine of \$8,500 and was given a court-ordered prohibition against applying for or obtaining CITES export permits for a period of four years.

Helen Susan Switzer pleaded guilty to one count under *The Wildlife Act* (Manitoba) for using false information to obtain a provincial wildlife export permit and two counts under WAPPRIITA for exporting wild animal parts to the United States without a valid federal CITES export permit, and supplying false information to obtain a CITES export permit. She was ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000 and was given a court-ordered prohibition against applying for or obtaining CITES export permits for a period of two years.

Yukon Conservation Officers Association, Kirby Meister

In the last newsletter, we reported that we were opening a new district office in the community of Carmacks in central Yukon. Dean McLean was the successful candidate hired for the position, and he started work in Carmacks during the busy season last summer. Dean has kept quite busy there and has done some great work already. The department has been putting quite a bit of effort and funding into getting Dean the facilities and equipment that he needs to run a District operation.

We had also reported last time around about the mineral exploration boom happening in Yukon. 2011 proved to be a record-setting year for that industry in our Territory in terms of dollars spent and, as predicted, that certainly had an impact on our officers' workloads. For 2012, it looks like it's shaping up to be an equally busy field exploration season for the industry and that will mean that, like last year, our COs will be busy trying to keep the bears and people from killing each other. Efforts to "bear proof" remote geology camps and to train their staff on how to handle encounters with bears paid off with only one minor bear attack reported in 2011, despite the huge increase in people working in bear country. We're hoping things go smoothly again for the upcoming season.

Yukon Conservation Officer Services continues to provide excellent training for the officers. This winter alone, there is or has been training provided in the areas of interview and interrogation, basic intelligence gathering, chemical immobilization re-certifications, and ice rescue, to name a few. We have a full week of training every spring for all officers, which includes firearms and self-defensive tactics re-certifications. Much of this type of training is now scenario-based.

There is an annual get together of wildlife enforcement officers from Alaska, Yukon, and neighbouring jurisdictions, called

the "North of 60 Conference". This year, it is being held in Haines Junction in southwest Yukon and is being hosted jointly by our agency and Parks Canada's enforcement section. We're looking forward to that in April.

For a small agency like ours, it's difficult to send someone to the NAWEOA Conference each year, but we are hopeful that we'll have someone in Arizona for that event, which is now just around the corner.

Have a safe summer, everyone.

Alberta Game Warden Association President, Brian Voogd

At the time of writing, in late February, we have experienced a relatively mild winter all across Alberta. However, we always look forward to spring and it is not here yet!

A significant change has just officially occurred for Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officers. Last October, immediately after the majority governing Conservative Party elected a new Premier, it was announced that the Enforcement Field Services Branch of the Fish and Wildlife Division, in the Department of Sustainable Resource Development, was moved to the Department of Solicitor General and Public Security. February 17 it became official.

No operational changes have occurred as many factors must be considered and negotiated, resulting in the several month delay. This is a major change from the history of Fish and Wildlife Officers being along side wildlife and fishery biologists and forestry and public land officials departmentally. The Department of Solicitor General and Public Security, (SolGen), as you can envision, is effectively law enforcement based. The constant message has been that this will be a "seamless transition" with assurances that our role will not change. Working relationships with former departmental colleagues will continue through Memorandums of Understanding. There is actually good reason for optimism on many aspects, namely increased support in the realm of law enforcement. Transportation Officers from Commercial Vehicle Enforcement and Conservation Officers (responsible for Provincial Parks) from the Department of Tourism, Parks and Recreation also were transferred into SolGen. Each agency will continue to be its own entity. Our service is now called the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch in SolGen.

Field Officer numbers are also significantly down with retirements occurring in an aged force with little recruitment in the past few years. With slightly over 100 field officers at this time, over 25% are working over the 55-year-old pension-eligible age. Many more are not that far off. We are hopeful for that to change as a recruit com-

petition did occur with an eligibility list being created.

February 17-19, 2012, was the AGWA Annual General Meeting in which we had productive meetings, presentations and our first-ever banquet in which officers wore dress uniforms. It was a proud and memorable night. Congratulations go to Lyle Lester of the Cardston District, the recipient of the 2012 Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer of the Year Award.

Finally, several of our members continue to work very diligently along with our Saskatchewan and other Provincial comrades to produce the *Western Canadian Game Warden Magazine*. The quality of product they produce never ceases to amaze me, with countless hours of volunteer time committed for the purpose of educating our stakeholders. Check it out at <http://www.westerncanadiangamewarden.com/> and consider subscribing.

2012 Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer of the Year

Lyle LESTER

District Fish and Wildlife Officer

Cardston District

Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch

Department of Solicitor General and Public Security

The photograph below is of Lyle Lester (on the left) receiving congratulations and a plaque from Brian Voogd, President of the Alberta Game Warden Association.

The Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer of the Year is selected by a cooperative process between the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch and the Alberta Game Warden Association. The recipient receives recognition from both parties, as well as from the Shikar Safari Club International.



REGION 2 REPORT



Region 2 Director Dave Grant

Greeting from Region 2

This will be my last Spring Newsletter report. It is hard to believe that four years as a Director have come and gone so fast. I must say that it has been both a rewarding and enlightening experience that I have very much enjoyed.

I have been involved with the NAWEOA Board of Directors for the past eight years through my involvement with the Game Warden Museum and as a NAWEOA Director. During that time, I have been able to see firsthand the benefit NAWEOA provides to all members by sharing information on enforcement efforts, officer safety, and assisting the families of those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We have an unique and dedicated organization that is truly a benefit to all.

I encourage you to learn more about all of the things that NAWEOA does and get involved. It is your Association and it will only grow stronger with your support.

Ontario – Brett Cachagee, J-Rep

Hello from Ontario.

The entire Province of Ontario is in a holding pattern awaiting the aftermath of the "Drummond Report" which is an all-encompassing deficit-reduction report written by an economist. The government will take into consideration the recommendations from the report and take appropriate action. This report may impact the delivery of our enforcement program and all government agencies in the Province. We will also have a clearer picture as to where we stand once the Provincial budget is delivered and implemented in the spring. It seems that this is an ongoing theme right across North America. It is anticipated that there will be, at the minimum, some belt tightening and changes in the way we deliver our program. Stay tuned!

On the good news front, Ontario is NAWEOA Newsletter Spring 2012

nearing completion of a Conservation Officer recruitment and training review. The review is expected to standardize our recruitment. It will look at things like psychological and physical standards. On the training front, we currently train for use of force and firearms separately; we will be combining the training to block training where you will get all of your training completed in one shot over a week. This will limit the amount of time officers have to travel. These are steps the Ministry of Natural Resources is taking to further improve our professionalism and hiring practices.

As far as equipment and vehicles, we are in pretty good shape; however, some officers have to share vehicles. New snow machines, ATVs and boats seem to be getting replaced when needed for the most part. Our entire fleet has been outfitted with Mobile Work Stations over the last few years and is running across the province. All officers have laptops in their vehicles with access to all of our applications needed to conduct our day-to-day activities. This is a great tool and increases our efficiency in the field.

As officers retire, vacant positions don't always get filled immediately. Some positions remain vacant for long periods of time and some don't ever get filled. Positions get filled on a priority basis.

An interesting and new policy and directive for officers in Ontario is the way we take statements. We now have to digitally record all of our statements instead of writing them out. Every officer has been issued a digital recording device. It makes it easier to take statements since you don't have to worry about writing out the statement and you can focus more on the task at hand. Of course, there is policy which governs how the statement is saved, stored and disclosed. We also save some paper since we don't have to write the statements anymore!

The Ontario Conservation Officers Association has been successful in getting retiree badges to members who retire as a Conservation Officer. Currently, officers return their badges to get redistributed to other officers. This is a great memento for retiring officers.

Ontario has had many good investigations and convictions. To see news releases and our Association's website, go to ocoa.ca

Despite the difficult times we all seem to be going through, don't lose sight of the fact that we still have the greatest jobs in the world. Stay safe.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Prairies

Area, Central and Arctic Region – Ray Thibadeau, J-Rep

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in Central and Arctic Region (C&A) have gone through some major changes since the conference in Saskatoon. Office closures and staffing changes continue to challenge staff in C&A. Prairies area, which includes Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, has been combined into one large district. There are 3 Fishery officers (FO) and one Field Supervisor to cover the Prairies. Those FOs are based in Prince Albert, SK, and Edmonton, AB. Ontario has also started to move towards this area model. The FOs are based in Parry Sound and Burlington, ON. The Western Arctic Area is short 2 FOs. DFO is hoping to get two cadets out of the recent FO competition to fill these vacancies. Eastern Arctic area is still dealing with retention issues. DFO is currently undergoing a strategic operating review so many more changes are anticipated in the upcoming year.

During these times of change and uncertainty, we have still been able to do some good work across the region. Alberta recently got a guilty plea and a \$90,000.00 penalty that was directed to be used for Fish Habitat enhancement in the watershed where the offence occurred. Saskatchewan was involved in a joint operation to help rescue hundreds of thousands of fish that became stranded below a water-control structure during the floods this past summer. Ontario was able to wrap up a prosecution that resulted in a conviction totalling \$37,000.00 on 4 accused; half of the fine monies were directed back to the resource. Western Arctic Area conducted two arctic sovereignty patrols with Department of National Defence aircraft over the Beaufort Sea. Eastern Arctic Area conducted two offshore patrols, one on the HMCS Summerside and one with the Canadian Coast Guard, that involved boarding domestic fishing vessels and patrolling Canada's international fishing boundaries. The Eastern and Western Arctic areas have requested assistance from the Prairies and Ontario throughout the summer of 2012. Officers will be assisting with monitoring the various whale hunts and fisheries in remote communities throughout the Arctic.

That pretty much sums it up for DFO in C&A.

Nunavut – Rob Harmer, J-Rep

Nunavut recently lost an officer to cancer. We have a number of vacancies within our Department. During the Fall of 2011, we had a couple of questionable polar bear defence kills that were addressed.

Manitoba – No Report for this edition from the J-Rep

Manitoba – Dave Grant, Director

Manitoba is much like many of the other jurisdictions in Canada. We will be facing some tough economic times, the extent of which will not be known until the Provincial Budget is released in April. So far, the cuts that have been identified have not been too drastic and most have been achievable with minimal impact to employees.

Our turnover rate continues to be high. Retirements and promotions continue to make vacancies within our entry-level posi-

tions. Fortunately, our Department continues to place a high importance on Natural Resource Officer positions and we continue to recruit and fill vacancies rather than leave them vacant. Our latest group of recruits (9) are scheduled to graduate the Western Canadian Law Enforcement Academy by the end of March. This will still leave us with at least 10 additional vacancies; we hope to fill as many as we can before the end of the year. In addition, we will have as many as 25 NROs who will be eligible to retire within the next 5 years. If anyone is looking to become a resource officer, there will be plenty of opportunities

in Manitoba.

It looks like we will be experiencing an early spring. Snow levels in the south are below normal with temperatures above normal across the entire province. Manitoba officers are still very much involved in fire suppression and, if there are no significant rainfalls, we can expect to be very busy. The Central areas of the province were very dry going into winter and will be prone to some extreme fire events if the moisture levels don't improve.

Take care, be safe, and hope to see you in Arizona in July.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT



**Secretary/Treasurer
Steve Beltran**

The information from the secretary/treasurer office is evolving as the transition continues. The time of this transition is spread out over the year as the winter meeting and summer conference bring in new challenges. A special "thank you" goes out to Steve Kleiner as I have great appreciation for his efforts over the last 13 years. Most officers do not know what it takes to keep track of 8000 members, each having specific needs. With this in mind, please be patient as the transition evolves and the learning curve is met. Also, please offer constructive criticisms to me and the Board directly on how we can improve the secretary/treasurer position. Additionally, if there was a level of service that you have come to expect and it is absent, please be patient or offer a reminder to me so that I can research and meet those needs.

There are some new technical programs to come and integrate with membership management. Most of the items generated today in correspondence is done by personal computer and set in place by the secretary/treasurer. My goal, in the near future, is to automate the process so payment, membership, newsletter, and access information is going to be server-driven. This transition will allow officers and jurisdictional representatives to ensure their information is kept up to date and will provide direct payment receipt of annual dues.

The position is demanding and exponential in service, and with the support of the NAWEOA Board, jurisdictional representatives, and membership, the core services can continue and flourish. I look forward to serving the NAWEOA community in the future. Please email me at secretarytreasurer@naweo.org or Stevebeltran@gmail.com for more information.

NAWEOA NEWSLETTER ON-LINE IN FULL COLOR

***ALL NAWEOA NEWSLETTERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ON
THE PROTECTED SECTION OF THE
NAWEOA WEBSITE.***

TAKE TIME TO READ A LITTLE NAWEOA HISTORY!

REGION 3 REPORT



Region 3 Director Shawn Farrell

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

It's been a strange winter here on the Island -- not what we call winter really with temperatures hardly falling below -20 Celsius, that's -4 Fahrenheit for you American folks. The kids haven't even put on their winter coats! Looks like my wood pile may last until fishing season this year. By the time you read this, it will be spring and we will be looking forward to that first feed of trout and lobster boil.

My report for the 2011 field season is not a positive one for our Island's natural resources. In late July of 2011, there were three major fish-kill events on Island rivers. The three rivers in question were high-quality angling rivers with some of the highest density of sea-run speckled trout in Canada. The timing of the kills was especially detrimental to the trout population because many of the large breeding stock were up in the river system where the cool water is found as Island rivers are all spring fed. They spend the late summer upriver prior to spawning in October and November and then return to the estuary. The three rivers have been closed to angling and will most likely remain closed until populations can sustain a harvest again; this may take years as many age classes were lost.

Conservation Officers were first on the scene and began the investigation into these events. Officers walked many kilometers of waterway to find the source of these fish kills, collecting evidence along the way which included speckled trout over 6 lbs. as well as salmon fry. These are late-run Salmon rivers and the adults were not in the upper reaches of the rivers at that time. Legal samples were collected from points where we believe these events occurred. Agricultural pesticides were identified in our samples. Officers also identified land-use violations. Charges have been laid and we are still before the courts at the time of writing this update.

Island Conservation Officers spend a lot

of time with the agricultural community to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Act and other land-use legislation. Officers carry out ground and aerial patrols to identify potential threats to our environment. We were in the process of completing our aerial surveys when these fish-kill events occurred.

The hunting and trapping season was very productive for our officers. Convictions are up over 2010. Some would say this is not a good thing, but we know we're doing our job! Approximately 90 % of Prince Edward Island is privately owned, so many of the complaints are trespass issues, especially in the trapping industry. Fur prices have risen the past two seasons bringing more people into the industry, creating some conflicts with seasoned trappers.

Our staffing levels have not improved from last year. Actually, we lost an officer to another division and the position hasn't been replaced. I don't expect any vacant positions to be filled in the coming fiscal year. In November of 2011, our Department was shuffled and the Investigation and Enforcement Section now reports to the Attorney General's Office under the new Department of Environment, Labour and Justice. There will be changes to our work duties, but our priorities on law enforcement will remain.

In Conservation,
Wade MacKinnon

QUEBEC

Hello everyone,

Quebec wildlife conservation officers have renewed their contract. They also received a new pay scale. For 2012, the nominal class wages will be between \$41,387 and \$57,310 and \$56,482 to \$61,988 for the main class.

In July 2011, officers of the Côte-Nord Region have proceeded to dismantle a group of poachers who captured and sold anadromous Atlantic salmon. 50 offenses were filed against six individuals from the Lower North Shore Area during Operation BANQUISE; 73 salmon, 56 threads, and a freezer were seized.

In February 2012, two groups of poachers have been dismantled in the Mauricie-Centre du Quebec region.

Operation STERNE helped the wildlife officers put an end to the activities of eight individuals in this region. The 76 offenses with which the individuals are accused were: excess taken possession and unlawful sale of migratory birds, shooting with a firearm from vehicle, migratory bird hunting with baited sites, and misinformation given when registering big game. Weapons and migratory birds were seized in this opera-

tion.

Wildlife officers conducted the interception of 26 people during Operation PERCIDÉ. 86 offenses were recorded and two fishing huts and three snowmobiles were seized. The main accusations are catching yellow perch beyond the daily limit, fishing out of season, illegal possession of yellow perch, and waste of fish.

The Quebec Wildlife Conservation Officer Association (AAPFQ), regions of Estrie-Monteregie Montreal, are organizing the 25th edition of the annual officer family activity. The event will be held at Lac Mégantic from August 17 - 19, 2012

Officers and members of the AAPFQ were active during the holiday season. They participated in several activities to help people in need or for charity.

We also take this opportunity to announce that the Association now has a new website: www.aapfq.com

Michel Morin

NEW BRUNSWICK

Hello from New Brunswick! Another good year was had here in the east. Our winter is going well and we are hoping for an early spring, but I suspect we are still a month or more out from seeing much in the way of green. This year's snow fall, at this point, has been less than previous years and is badly needed for our deer herd.

Our Mobile Workstation Project is moving along well and we are continuing to deploy them to our officers. They have been a real boon for our field capabilities as it has freed us up from needing to report into our offices. The rollout will take a while longer, but we will eventually get there! We will soon be outfitted with new body armour which has a bit of a style change that has received good reviews from our officers. Our vehicles are sporting a new look with new door flashes and a stripe package. The vehicles look sharp and have been well received by both officers and the public alike.

We have been working on revamping our Crime Stoppers program and have made some great strides. We have developed a new "Target Poachers" logo and all of our vehicles will soon be sporting the new logo. As well, we will soon have a new Crime Stoppers trailer which will be a nice show piece to be used at events. After having seen the beautiful job done on the one that was displayed at the NAWEOA conference in Saskatchewan, our guys got to work on developing one for us here.

Speaking of last year's conference, I was fortunate enough to have been able to attend. Excellent job, folks! Not only was it another excellent conference, I had a great time!

Our Defensive Tactics Instructors and Range Officers have been working hard on new programs for us and we will be getting a chance to see the fruit of their labours this spring. Part of this program will be the introduction of simmunition to our training regiment. In our southern region, we were able to get a new range for training due to the hard work of a few of our officers. The new range has turned out very well. We thank the officers for their efforts on our behalf.

Our Shikar Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year is James Mundle. This is a very well-deserved honour for James; congratulations! James is well respected by his fellow officers and exemplifies the kind of officer for whom the award is meant.

Last year was the first year in a while that we were fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to hire some new officers, which has been an excellent boost to our program. It's always good to get some new officers as it serves to revitalize our efforts. We all welcome them aboard and look forward to seeing a few more join our ranks this year, if all goes well. Like many other agencies, we are facing an aging workforce and have lost a few officers to that 'golden

handshake' called retirement. We are expecting to see a few more of these in the coming year. As we lose these officers, we lose their experience. This loss is tough but, hopefully, the new officers will help fill the void with their enthusiasm. We can't say enough in the way of thanks to these officers that have put in such long and dedicated careers.

Art Cronin

NOVA SCOTIA

No submission

NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR

No submission

REGION 4 REPORT



Region 4 Director Lew Huddleston

I would like to first talk about the recent winter meeting that was concluded March 2, 2012. I have to admit that I was surprised at the amount of business items that were covered. For three days, the Board discussed a number of different topics and issues, generally coming to a consensus. The update from the meeting will be coming out soon. I know from having a leadership role in the Idaho Conservation Officers Association for a number of years, there is a tendency to continue to beat "dead horses". I am pleased to say we didn't beat too many equine that were already deceased (inside joke). For those of you that know Steve Beltran, you might want to have him show you a couple of the posters that he developed as memories of the winter meeting.

I hope everyone is planning on attending the 2013 summer conference in Boise, Idaho. It seems like we went from being three years out to 18 months out overnight. As time marches on, it seems to be getting a little bit more exciting and a little bit scari-

er at the same time.

I also hope that everyone realized that the registration for Arizona 2012 is up and running. I am looking for a tremendous turnout and fun times.

Be safe and see you in Arizona.

Alaska -- Jurisdictional Representative Steven Arlow

No report was submitted.

Arizona -- Jurisdictional Representative Gabriel Paz

Hello everyone, my name is Gabriel Paz and I am the new NAWEOA J-Rep for Arizona. I am the Law Enforcement Program Manager for the Arizona Game and Fish Department out of Tucson, Arizona, and I've been with the department for 15 years.

As part of one of my J-Rep duties, I just returned from the NAWEOA winter meeting in De Kalb, Mississippi, where I briefed the Board of Directors on behalf of my FOP Lodge for our upcoming conference. In the two short days I spent in Mississippi, I "seen things I'd never seen before, and been places I ain't never been" as quoted from Retired Mississippi Conservation Officers Bill Brace and Bill Collins who picked me up from the airport. Brace and Collins did a fantastic job hosting the meeting and truly made the two short days an adventure I will never forget. Thank you for your hospitality and thank you to the Board for welcoming me to the meeting.

Our Department has, for the first time in 10 years, filled all of our Wildlife Manager positions (74 Officers) statewide and, in addition, 14 field supervisor positions are also full for a total of 88 field officers. In the last two years, the Department has also hired 9 new Law Enforcement Specialists

or Off-Highway vehicle officers with hopes of adding 5 more soon. With the addition of the new LE Specialists, the Department now has an all-time record of 150 officers including staff officers and program managers throughout Arizona. Recently, I also learned that our Law Program will start recruiting this fall for 3 to 4 new wildlife managers in hopes of filling open districts as officers retire or move up the ladder.

As many of you know, our Arizona Game Rangers Lodge #71 will be hosting the 2012 NAWEOA Conference in Tucson, Arizona, this July and our Conference team is rocking and rolling to make this conference a great event for those of you who plan on attending. I personally look forward to welcoming you all to my home town and will do everything I can to make sure that you all get the full flavor of what Arizona and the Old Pueblo (AKA Tucson) have to offer. For more information about this year's conference, please visit our website at NAWEOA2012.com. Be safe out there and make sure you take time to be with your family. Life is too short, slow down and enjoy it.

I hope that everyone knows that registration is now up and running for the summer conference. Hope to see a tremendous crowd at Tucson. (Lew)

California -- Jurisdictional Representative Lorraine Doyle

The California Wardens Association continues its battle for better pay for its officers in a time when higher wages for government employees is not popular. Unfortunately, they have to fight their own union at the same time. The union continues to undercut any progress the association might make.

The state continues to pare down vehi-

cles and cell phone/internet access. The state is about two years behind on vehicle replacements. Some vehicles have gotten to the point where they are not drivable but yet there is no replacement. Officers continually have to justify internet access, home office phones and cell phones. The State General Services have never been easy to deal with and it only seems to be getting worse.

Colorado -- Jurisdictional Representative Vicki Vargas-Madrid

In February of 2011, Colorado Governor Hickenlooper and his administration won broad bipartisan support for its proposal to merge the Colorado State Parks and the Division of Wildlife. The merger is the result of an effort to streamline state government.

Mike King, the director of the Department of Natural Resources, said one of the benefits of the merger is the opportunity to build a broader and more robust constituency for natural resources in Colorado. At key points in the process, DNR did seek input from employees, members of the public and organizations.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission will vote on a final implementation plan for a merger between Colorado State Parks and the Division of Wildlife at its monthly meeting in February.

Colorado did set up the first wildlife check station conducted on a major Colorado interstate in nearly 20 years. The two-day operation was held November 7 and 8th. All west-bound traffic on I-70 was diverted into the Colorado Department of Transportation Port of Entry weigh station in Loma. Wildlife officers conducted hunting and fishing satisfaction surveys, collected DNA samples from harvested big game, and conducted compliance checks.

Approximately 1,755 vehicles entered the check station. Only vehicles with passengers who had been hunting and fishing were directed into the search bats. Other motorists were quickly sent on their way.

Most of the 300 people contacted were in full compliance. Officers issued 22 charges to 13 hunters/fishermen. Approximately 120 officers participated in the 24-hour check station. 97 of the officers were from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 8 from Colorado State Police, as well as other county state and federal officers. Two Utah officers also attended.

According to Check Station Supervisor and Area Wildlife Manager JT Romatzke, "It was a well-executed operation by all those involved. We planned it for nearly five months, and it paid off making it likely that we will conduct more of these in the future."

Idaho -- Jurisdictional Representative Matt Haag

I think most everyone had a fairly slow fall. The entire fall seemed to be unseasonably warm and dry, not making for good hunting conditions. The guys in Region 3 did put together an extremely good case against some illegal outfitters that had been coming here for the past 10 years. The interesting note was that they were from New Zealand. They didn't seem to pay too much attention to season dates, whether they needed a license or tag, or taking all edible portions of the meat. The investigation is ongoing so I can't reveal too much. I know the investigation took a tremendous amount of time, manpower, planning and some luck. Congrats to the Region 3 guys.

While we still are struggling with budgets and lack of any raises for the fourth consecutive year, our agency just hired six new officers - four were last fall and the additional two this spring.

The one good thing is that we have avoided any furloughs or firings. There is scheduled to be a large number of retirees in the next couple of years. It might be quite a while before we get completely full.

Our Enforcement Assistant Chief Greg Wooten will be spending the next year in Afghanistan. Lt. Col. Greg Wooten, US Army Reserve, started his deployment on November 30, 2011. Greg completed his final prep in the states and was deployed to Afghanistan between Christmas and New Year's. God speed and a quick and safe return home! Greg!

We hired four new conservation officers in August and they recently completed the 10-week Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) academy that is required of all peace officers in the State of Idaho. We are proud to report that our officers stood out at POST; CO Kyle Christopher graduated Top Cop (top of class), Fitness Possible, and Sharp Shooter; CO Chris Rowley vice president of his class, top EVOC driver, fitness excellence, and sharp shooter; CO Tim Klucken fitness possible; and CO Jake Leal Sharp Shooter. These new officers will attend a one-week mini-academy with our own officers, and then head off to FTO for another ten weeks. Congratulations to our new guys, and welcome aboard!

Recently we have been recruiting out of state at Universities that have strong wildlife programs such as University of Montana, Montana State, Colorado State, and Humboldt State. Our recruiting efforts have been paying off in recent years as we are starting to see students from those schools have an increased interest in applying for CO positions with Idaho. In addition, our association (ICOA) offers two \$500 scholarships for any students who are interested in a career in wildlife enforcement in Idaho. The students must be at the sophomore level or higher and attending a four-year

institute in any state, and enrolled as a natural resource major (fisheries, wildlife, range management, etc). For more information, please check out our website at www.icoaonline.org.

We are looking forward to a great conference in Arizona and are excited to see some old friends and meet some new ones. ICOA is predicting that we have between 20-30 officers attending. We are also excited about our upcoming conference next year and are diligently planning. For more information, and to keep track of our progress, visit our website <http://www.idahonaweoa2013.org/>

Montana -- Jurisdictional Representative Todd Anderson

Montana continues to lose experienced wardens to other agencies and jobs with higher pay. We continue to work hard at reversing this trend by preparing for the next legislative session. We are currently exploring a decertification from our current Montana Public Employees Union and forming a union using our Game Warden Association as the bargaining unit. The Outdoor Channel is currently showing the second season of "Wardens", highlighting the work of our officers. The show has been a hit and we have received good feedback from the episodes.

Game populations in most of the state have been hit hard by last year's brutal winter and a wide spread outbreak of EHD decimating many of our white tail deer herds. Wolves continue to be a hot topic in MT. We had our second hunting this year and hunters found out quick that a hunted wolf is a smart wolf. 166 wolves were killed out of a quota of 220. We continue to investigate and prosecute large-scale commercial wildlife cases. In one case, Oregon residents Richard Weiner and son, Mark Weiner, operated Oregon Outdoor Adventures, an unlicensed MT outfitting business for five years until 2010. Paying clients hunted a ranch in Park County without licenses. The Weiners were convicted of Lacey Act violations, fined a total of \$60,000.00, and lost hunting privileges worldwide. The case was investigated by the UFSWS and state Game Wardens.

National Park Service -- Jurisdictional Representative Jim Richardson

US Park Ranger Margaret Anderson was killed by gunfire on New Year's Day 2012 from a man who drove through a chain control station on the road to Paradise at Mount Rainier National Park. Ranger Anderson had used her patrol car to block the road just before the gunman arrived at her location, protecting over 100 visitors and staff recreating at Paradise at

the time. An additional Park Ranger was shot at but not hit. The gunman fled on foot and was found deceased in a nearby creek bed from hypothermia following an extensive search by tactical teams.

Ranger Anderson is survived by her husband (also a Park Ranger at Rainier), and two young children. Her funeral service was widely attended by law enforcement officers from many agencies, including the Idaho F & G Honor Guard.

Funding for National Park law enforcement and all services in general is going through a belt-tightening process. Look for smaller seasonal ranger staffs at many National Parks this summer. Jim Richardson, Whiskeytown Chief Ranger.

Nevada — Jurisdictional Representative Fred Esparza

Nevada Game Warden Association would like to announce that Mike Geist has been selected as the Nevada Game Warden Association "Game Warden of the Year". Mike is from Overton Nevada.

New Mexico -- Jurisdictional Representative Robert Griego

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has recently gone through some significant changes. The New Mexico

Game Commission appointed Jim Lane as our new director. Mr. Lane was our Chief of Wildlife Management and before that worked for Kentucky Game and Fish. Jim Lane is not a commissioned officer but has been very supportive and attentive to the Game Wardens in New Mexico. Under Mr. Lane's regime, we have changed our uniform color to gray uniform shirts, black pants and black hats. If you saw us before, we wore baby blue shirts. The Officers all welcomed the color change. We are also changing the color of our patrol vehicles from silver and white to tan.

The department is also in a state of transition because of officers promoting, retiring or resigning. We are supposed to have twelve sergeants in the state and are currently down to seven. We have also had a wave of five- to ten-year veterans leaving the department for other agencies or other employment opportunities. The economy and stagnant wages are taking their toll, but we are all trying to be optimistic with our new administration. Through all the bad, our officers are staying focused on catching bad guys and keeping up the camaraderie.

Oregon -- Jurisdictional Representative David Rzewnicki

No report submitted.

Utah -- Jurisdictional Representative Stacey Jones

No report submitted

I recently had a conversation with the publisher for the Game Warden magazine that Idaho distributes. He told me that Utah is working with him to produce a similar magazine for the Utah Conservation Officers Association.

Washington -- Jurisdictional Representative Jeff Lee

No report submitted

I would like to announce that Washington has jumped on board with co-hosting a hospitality night at the 2013 NAWEOA conference in Boise, Idaho. I know that they are already working on donations for food items for the hospitality night. Idaho is looking forward to seeing a large contingency from Washington in Boise in 2013.

Wyoming -- Jurisdictional Representative Joe Gilbert

No report submitted.

REGION 5 REPORT



Region 5 Director Scott Haney

Kansas – Greg Salisbury

In Kansas, we are facing serious challenges with state funding. (Hey, this is the same opening statement as last year!) Kansas game wardens will receive no step increase or cost-of-living increase this year. I guess we should feel fortunate for the best job in the world and no furloughs like some of our brethren. Still, it is tough to have a fixed income with the price of electricity, food, gas, heat, all going up, up, up.

Kansas game wardens continue to do an outstanding job of protecting our valuable natural resources. A recent case in

Topeka had a poacher with a new state record whitetail tell his fairy tale at a Monster Buck Contest to only have his trophy taken away by those rotten game wardens. Kansas officers feel the potential new record should have been taken legally, during an open season, during daylight hours, with the correct caliber of weapon, and on property where permission was granted. To make the story even more interesting, this subject was in a pickup truck in 2007 where his brother shot at some geese decoys in a field with a high-power and killed an 18-year-old college student who was legally hunting. This is the third deer that could have been certified as a new state record but failed certification due to poaching or lack of proper deer permit. The current record still stands from 1974.

Lastly, our law enforcement division recently completed annual in-service. We received some great training and presented department awards at the annual banquet. Cooperation on a variety of cases with USF&W Service and sister state DNR agencies is at an all-time high. Feel free to contact a Kansas Game Warden if you have information that needs to be verified or assistance on a wildlife case. Be safe!!

Illinois – Steve Beltran

The Illinois Department of Natural Re-

sources has undergone specialized training on public media relations in early 2011 which has transferred to positive exposure for the department in 2011. The department also instituted a Facebook page which continues to grow as members of the public continue to use social media as a preferred communication tool. These two methods of communication have provided the additional exposure needed to inform the public and state legislature of the importance of the Illinois Conservation Police.

Illinois Conservation Police is currently hiring 15 new officers to start in the academy in June 2012. The deep deficit and retirements has limited the expansion of the agency. One million dollars was allocated to support the hiring of the new officers.

Several high-profile poaching cases have been released to the Associated Press. One case in particular addressed the poaching complaint of a high-profile hunter who had his illegal harvest on the front page of several national magazines and was also highlighted in a video hunting series. The deer racks were seized in cooperation with several other agencies in the states.

Iowa – Dave Tierney

The Federal Communications Commis-

sion has mandated all state and local government radio users "narrowband" their police radios by January 1, 2013. Iowa lawmakers approved 14 million dollars to purchase new police radios to comply with the mandate. Iowa DNR Conservation Officers received a portion of the 14 million dollars which will be used to purchase 100 hand-held and 100 mobile radios.

Iowa DNR Conservation Officers have lost six officers to attrition, but have been approved to hire one replacement Conservation Officer. Currently the Law Enforcement Bureau has 77 officers plus 6 Recreation Safety Officers (RSOs) working in the field. The number of Conservation Officers is down from a high of 88 officers including the 6 RSOs.

In 2010, Iowa lawmakers approved Iowa's first dove season which began in the fall of 2011. Last fall, as the dove season was underway, the Iowa Natural Resources Commission proposed an administrative rule requiring dove hunters to use non-toxic shot in response to fears of lead being ingested by non-game birds. The Iowa House of Representatives passed a bill to allow dove hunters to use lead shot to defeat the administrative rule restricting lead shot. The measure needs to pass both the House of Representatives and the Senate and be signed by the governor in order for the law to go into effect, which would effectively defeat the administrative rule. At this time, it is unknown if the bill will pass the Senate and make it to the Republican Governor's office for his signature.

Oklahoma – Carlos Gomez

Our wardens recognize leadership and supervision are not necessarily the same thing as we have completed our first full year under the new leadership of Colonel Robert Fleenor and Lt. Col. Bill Hale. Border to border, the troops give an enthusiastic "thumbs up"! Morale is the highest it's been in years and is improving steadily.

2011 was a landmark year for our state's conservation enforcement with the joining and implementation of the NWVC (compact) and creation of a restitution schedule that assigns a dollar value for all fish and wildlife species found in the state. Concurrently, a new law passed directing the courts to use the restitution schedule as a guide when assessing damages.

For many years, our duty rifle has been a "loaner" M-14, .308 from the U.S. Army. Those are now in the process of getting replaced with M-4s outfitted in .223 caliber and with holograph sights.

Also, in 2011, our sportsmen experienced the implementation of the state's new online deer check station program. The program will save the state funds from

operating manual (hands/eyes on the animal) check stations, but its economic impact is still in question as wardens realize the legal sportsmen are not the only group of hunters enjoying the convenience of entering their harvest in the records.

On trucks, our division has been fiscally troubled by a 60K-mile warranty on Ford vehicles and is now opting for the 100K-warrantied Chevrolets.

Lastly, our agency purchased and designed one of the popular PR tools - an "operation game thief" trailer that exhibits agency programs, successes and promotes the reporting of game violations.

Missouri – Shawn Pennington

Missouri Conservation Agents, like many other wildlife officers, continue to face concerns about lack of pay increases. However, we are fortunate to continue our training program with a new training academy class of twelve recruits beginning in March 2012. With the slow economy and the numerous cuts over the past few years, we find our Protection Division Staff climbing back to full strength with the addition of the twelve new Agent Recruits.

A recent change in Missouri State statute initiated on August 28, 2011, now makes it illegal for felons to possess a firearm on the state level. State Statute 571.070 states that, "A person commits the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm if such person knowingly has any firearm in his or her possession and : (1) Such person has been convicted of a felony under the laws of this state, or of a crime under the laws of any state of the United States which, if committed within this state, would be a felony; or (2) Such person is a fugitive from justice, is habitually in an intoxicated or drugged condition, or is currently adjudged mentally incompetent." A violation of Statute 571.070 is a class C felony with a maximum penalty of seven years in prison and fines up to \$5,000.

Prior to 2010, Missouri law enforcement officers, including Conservation Agents, were only able to pursue these cases at the Federal level, coordinating with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) through the United States Attorney Office. In many instances, these cases were only pursued if the offender was previously convicted of a violent felony. The new statute has allowed Missouri Conservation Agents and other law enforcement officers to work with local prosecutors to determine whether specific cases will be pursued. This is important to Missouri Conservation Agents since many come into contact with felons who are knowingly in possession of a firearm while

hunting. This change allows the agent to pursue charges against a felon at either the state or federal level, depending upon the circumstances of the case.

Nebraska – Jeff Jones

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Law Enforcement is seeing the winds of change. Law Enforcement Administrator Ted Blume retired along with two Assistant Administrators, Wes Loos and Rod Loos. Ted Blume, Administrator of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Law Enforcement Division the past 12 years, retired on Oct. 14, 2011. Blume was a 39-year veteran of the Agency. He started at Game and Parks as a conservation officer in 1973.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Director Rex Amack announced his intent to retire in April 2012, at the end of his current term. Amack's 24 years at the helm of the 475-employee agency distinguishes him as the longest-serving director in Game and Parks history. As director of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Amack was the Agency's Chief Conservation Officer.

Craig A. Stover was promoted to Law Enforcement Division Administrator for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Stover has been Acting Division Administrator since the retirement of Administrator Ted Blume in October. He began his career at Game and Parks as a Conservation Officer in 1988. He had been stationed in Alma, Omaha and Kearney before being promoted to Southeast District Law Enforcement Supervisor in Lincoln in 1996. Stover was promoted to Assistant Law Enforcement Administrator in Lincoln in 1999.

As of this writing, the Law Enforcement Division is in the process of replacing two of the Assistant Law Enforcement Administrator vacancies. One Conservation Officer has been hired and is in the Field Training Program. Brian Piernicky began his duties as a Conservation Officer in December 2011. Brian has a degree from Chadron State College in Range Ecology with a Wildlife minor and has previous work experience with Cabela's and NGPC as a temporary. Brian will be stationed in McCook, NE, upon successful completion of his FTO training. Three Conservation Officer Candidates have accepted conditional offers of employment and will enter the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in April of 2012.

South Dakota – Shawn Wichman

South Dakota's Conservation Officers had a very busy 2011 summer and fall. Due to record amounts of snow cover from the 2010 winter, officers spent the majority

of their spring and summer months working flood relief along the Missouri River. The little time Officers were away from the relief they spent working boaters and anglers. The flooded lakes provided some of the best and longest spring and summer fishing in years. Officers also worked diligently by contacting landowners and informing them about our private land programs. Officers provided educational opportunities to help recruit and retain the youth hunters and anglers. This past October, a department policy was put into place that limits officers' access onto private land without permission from the landowner or operator.

Throughout the state, the pheasant population was down significantly compared to last year due to the spring flooding and rains during the peak of the hatch. The mild fall weather provided ample opportunities to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Throughout the state, moisture has been scarce since about mid-July. Therefore, farmers were able to harvest their crops early. Unfortunately, this also gave them opportunities to burn winter cover for wildlife and insert drain tile to traditional wet lands that will now be planted to crops. This, along with the loss of CRP ground, may contribute to low wildlife numbers for 2012.

Texas – Scott Haney

A big "howdy" from Texas. In a few months, we will be gathering in Tucson for the 2012 conference and looking forward to seeing many of you again.

The Texas Game Warden Training Center is finishing the second phase, which includes the entrance gate, residence, firing range, maintenance buildings and some road signs. We are currently in the fund-raising mode to raise the remaining \$6 million needed to complete the last phase, of which \$3 million is intended for the pool facility.

There are currently 46 cadets attending the training academy with a beginning date of February 1st and a graduation date near the end of August, 2012.

Two more SAFE boats are being built that will be posted on the Mexican Border. The SAFE boats are being funded by general revenue and includes operating monies. Our operations on the border are funded by an additional 1.2 million dollar MOU with DPS to serve as a force multiplier, paying for operations and overtime. Seven 240b machine guns will be deployed on the SAFE boats for use on our bordering waters.

We are working hard to become more efficient in our operations and are consolidating whenever feasible and necessary, all while conserving our base and FTEs. We are working diligently to address field operations' issues such as fuel and trucks by working to improve our processes through grants and appropriations.

As with other parts of the nation, our fiscal outlook is not too promising; however, we will continue to work to keep our services essential to the people of the state of Texas.

Wisconsin- Todd Schaller

Facing tight budgets, vacancies and significant changes, Wisconsin Conservation Wardens continue to adapt and move forward with professionalism and dedication.

Security Details— In 2011, Wisconsin Conservation Wardens were called upon to assist with security details at the State Capitol. This multi-agency effort was outside the traditional warden role. The primary role of Conservation Wardens was assisting with capacity management, visitor screening and general security. At the peak, an estimated 100,000 protesters visited the State Capitol grounds.

Fatality-Free Gun Deer Season – Thanks to the educational efforts of Conservation Wardens and volunteer Hunter Education Instructors, Wisconsin experienced its second consecutive fatality-free gun deer season.

Passing on the Tradition – Wisconsin Conservation Wardens are working with local conservation organizations on programs that pass on Wisconsin's outdoor heritage and tradition. Statewide, wardens are involved with youth fishing clinics, Learn to Hunt events, and conservation youth days. In 2011, the Bureau of Law Enforcement hired a Hunting and Shooting Sports Coordinator to lead this effort.

Drug Grows – Illegal marijuana grows on public property (federal, state, county) have increased in Wisconsin and Conservation Wardens are often called upon to assist. Wardens were among more than 200 law enforcement officers from local, state and federal agencies in the raid that was initiated by a hunter finding a grow in November 2010.

In early 2012, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin announced 10-year federal prison sentences for three citizens of Mexico for their involvement in a marijuana grow operation in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in northern Wisconsin. Additional sentencing proceedings are expected in the coming weeks for the remaining defendants.

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

N A W E O A	A W A R D S	<p><u>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</u> 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. <u>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.</u> 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><u>Award nominations should be made online and electronically submitted at: http://www.naweo.org</u></p> <p><u>*** Certificates of Retirement should be requested through the appropriate Jurisdictional Representative***</u></p>

REGION 6 REPORT



Region 6 Director Jeff White

FLORIDA by Guy Carpenter

Wildlife Officer Steve Allan from the Northwest Territories came down for a week, participating in the Officer Exchange program.

Feb. 29, 2012: FWC law enforcement officers completed a comprehensive investigation Wednesday that included more than 300 criminal violations by 56 individuals in Putnam, St. Johns, Alachua, Volusia and Marion counties. The 15-month operation targeted individuals who illegally harvested, bought and sold protected species of the state's fish and wildlife resources. Charges included 34 felonies and 280 misdemeanors related to buying and selling deer, turtles and saltwater and freshwater fish. Several suspects were booked into local county jails on Wednesday for felony violations

carcass and then took a second buck on the following day. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officers seized 85 illegal deer racks and a Ruger M77 .300-magnum rifle.

LOUISIANA J Rep had no report

The tragic self-inflicted shooting death of Sgt. Paul Stuckey heads the sad news from the state. The investigation has been completed and was found to be accidental; as Paul was removing his shotgun from the back of his patrol unit, it discharged, killing him instantly.

LDWF is the first agency to earn the national accreditation of the National Operation and Training program.

MARYLAND by Jeff White

Twenty-five people died in boating accidents this year, ranging in age from 14 to 81. Warm weather, alcohol and minimal staffing may have added to the number. The four FOP Lodges are pushing a minimum-staffing bill to bring officer numbers to an acceptable level to properly maintain public safety.

DNR has proposed to suspend the fishing privileges of 60 recreational fisherman for violating Maryland's fisheries laws. The suspensions were proposed due to violations which include taking fish during closed seasons, taking fish during spawning seasons, taking fish in closed areas, exceeding daily catch limits, and possession of female crabs.

Last year, the MNRP had to shut down rockfish season a month early because of serious poaching incidents; but, this year, officers have encountered no illegal activity so far. Officers said the lack of poaching can be attributed to several factors, including milder weather, new technologies and tools, and a no-tolerance position by the Department against poaching. This year, prior to the season opening up, the Department took a stance where they made it known that if illegal nets were found again this year, they would consider shutting the season down again. Last year, NRP found 10,000 yards of illegal gill nets in the waters of Chesapeake Bay, with about 16 tons of rockfish recovered in those nets. The previous year, the police had found 15,000 yards of illegal gill nets; the key difference was that those nets had only a couple hundred pounds of rockfish in them.

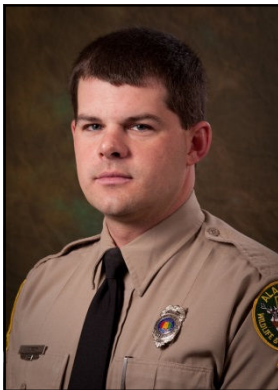
MISSISSIPPI J Rep had no report

September 01, 2011: After completing 12 weeks of training with the MDWFP Conservation Officers, 11 cadets graduated from this year's MDWFP Wildlife Law Enforcement Training Academy.

ALABAMA J Rep had no report

Mark Rouleau has been promoted to Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement with the Alabama WFF.

When an Alabama television station broadcast a photo and story about a "mystery man" who helped a plane crash victim and then disappeared from the scene, several viewers recognized him as CO Joe Lindsey. Lindsey exhibited grace under pressure when he helped move a boy away from the crash scene and kept him calm until paramedics arrived. He acquired the name "mystery man" from on-lookers who say he appeared out of nowhere and then left the scene just as quietly. Lindsey, however, knew the plane was in trouble because he saw it take off. He was at the airport picking up his son when he saw a family of four board the small plane. It never cleared the trees at the end of the runway, so Lindsey knew it was going to crash. He immediately drove to the crash site to provide assistance. Although he was not on duty, his training as a first responder and enforcement officer paid off as he immediately saw the boy needed to be moved to safety away from the plane. When paramedics arrived, he felt he was no longer needed and left the scene to continue his day. The boy he helped ended up being the only survivor of the crash.



GEORGIA J Rep had no report

The GWRD recently promoted Eddie Henderson to the position of Colonel, Chief of Law Enforcement.

KENTUCKY J Rep had no report

1-31-12: Sgt. Denny Broyles was returning home when he heard news reports about a bridge collapsing due to a barge strike. He said, "It was dark and raining, and I just knew it was not going to be good." He contacted area COs who confirmed two spans of the U.S. 68 bridge over Kentucky Lake had collapsed after being struck by a barge. "There's no hesitation in circumstances like this," said Major Larry Estes. "This situation was potentially life threatening, and our COs possess the skills, training and equipment to respond. People look to us for help." Officer Broyles' background is a shining example of this experience. Throughout his career, he has spent weeks away from home helping people stranded in remote areas without power from winter ice storms or other disasters. In 2005, he was deployed to provide law enforcement relief and emergency rescue to New Orleans residents devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Dec 20, 2011: A Nelson County man is facing multiple wildlife violations in an ongoing investigation by the KDFWR. The suspect is facing 88 counts of illegally taking or possessing deer or their antlers. Eighty-five of the charges are related to possessing illegal antlers. He also is charged with one count of killing over the limit of antlered deer during the current deer season. COs Steve Nelson, Jeffrey Jewell, Brandon Boone and Sgt. David Kuhn responded on Dec. 4 to a complaint by a concerned citizen that the suspect had taken an antlered deer, disposed of the



Field Notes

Spring 2012

Heroes of the Past



On the night of October 21, 1984, Officer James S. Wood was shot and killed while at his home. The individual who fired the shot was someone who had received a citation from Officer Wood earlier in the day. The man discovered where Wood lived and went to his home at approximately 10:00 p.m. When Officer Wood's wife answered the door, he asked to speak with the officer and shot him when he came to the door.

The first officer to arrive at the scene suffered a fatal heart attack when he saw the body of Officer Wood and learned that his friend had been shot and killed.

The suspect who murdered Officer Wood was apprehended and sentenced to 20 years.



Game Officer L. Seeley Houk was shot and killed in Hillsville, PA, while issuing game violation citations to a group of immigrants. The killer was a leader of an organized crime ring. After shooting Officer Houk with a shotgun, the man weighed down the body and submerged it in the Mahoning River in Lawrence County.

The suspect was sentenced to death and hanged in October 1909.

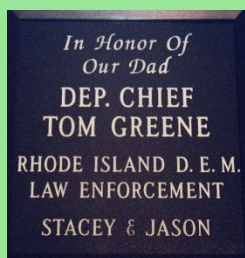
**Let us all take a moment
out of our busy day
to honor our profession's
fallen officers.**



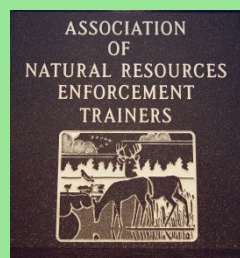
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March 2011

Message du président

Par Rich Cramer

J'ai récemment passé un certain temps à lire quelques anciens bulletins de la NAWEOA que l'on retrouve sur le site Web de la NAWEOA. Ces aperçus du passé sont fascinants et très éclairants. L'on retrouve les mêmes messages d'encouragement, de fraternité, de camaraderie, d'appui, de développement professionnel et dans chaque numéro un but toujours présent, celui d'améliorer le sort des agents de la faune sur le continent nord-américain. Nous avons une dette énorme de gratitude envers les agents inspirés qui nous ont précédé pour former, encourager et développer cette association. Il est de notre devoir, à titre de membre actif, de s'assurer que notre association puisse continuer à prospérer.

La communication entre les membres est l'une des clefs permettant de maintenir une association active et en santé. Le conseil de la NAWEOA a plusieurs moyens disponibles afin de communiquer avec ses membres. Le présent bulletin est l'un des manières de rejoindre l'ensemble des membres deux fois par année. Le numéro du printemps est rempli d'articles en provenance des USA et du Canada. Le site Web de la NAWEOA est un autre moyen de communication, non seulement avec nos membres, mais également avec le public en général. Certes, le moyen le plus important et quelque peu sous-exploité de la chaîne de communication de la NAWEOA, est le réseau des représentants de section, ou «J-Reps Network».

L'information par le biais de messages électroniques parvient au Conseil en provenance des représentants et est acheminé du conseil aux représentants sur une base régulière. Actuellement, c'est la meilleure méthode disponible au Conseil, afin de diffuser l'information en temps opportun. Le Conseil conserve ardemment l'espoir que chaque représentant, en alternance, fournisse de l'information pertinente aux membres qu'il ou elle représente de quelque manière que ce soit. Les représentants constituent un rouage extrêmement important du réseau de transmission de la NAWEOA. Même si cette tâche exige un peu de travail, un représentant actif rend un service exceptionnel à la NAWEOA et aux membres de sa section.

J'encourage chacun de vous à vous impliquer avec la NAWEOA autant que vous le pouvez. Des postes de directeurs régionaux de la NAWEOA s'ouvrent à chaque année lors de la conférence annuelle d'été. Peut-être est-ce le cas dans votre association ou agence et qu'un poste de représentant est ouvert. Rappelez-vous, chaque juridiction choisit son propre représentant ; les représentants ne sont pas élus ou ne sont pas nommés par la NAWEOA. L'une des meilleures, des plus gratifiantes, mais également des plus difficiles manières de s'impliquer, est d'accueillir une conférence annuelle. La NAWEOA a actuellement des hôtes pour 2012 (l'Arizona) et 2013 (l'Idaho). Si vous avez une association active d'agents et l'appui de votre agence, il n'y a pas de meilleure manière de démontrer votre soutien à vos collègues agents de toute l'Amérique du Nord. Merci et je vous verrai à Tucson. Soyez prudents et que Dieu vous bénisse.

En tant que membre de la division de l'application de la loi sur la faune d'Environnement Canada, moi et un certain nombre de nos officiers avons participé à la Conférence de la NAWEOA de 2011 qui avait lieu à Saskatoon, en Saskatchewan. C'était une belle opportunité de se porter volontaire, de donner un coup de main au comité chargé de l'organisation et de faire partie de la conférence NAWEOA. Je n'ai pas pu assister au Déjeuner des agents parce que l'on requerrait mes services afin de transporter des tentes et des tables tel que l'exigeait mes tâches de bénévoles, et alors que je m'affairais à ce travail, mon téléphone s'est mis à vibrer dans ma poche. Quelques agents de mon agence m'envoyaient un message pour me dire que j'avais gagné l'échange entre agents. J'ai immédiatement supposé que quelques-uns d'entre eux se moquaient de moi, restant assis là et riant de ma réaction. Ce n'est que presque six heures plus tard, après que toutes mes activités de volontariat eurent été complétées, que je les ai finalement crus. Et cela, seulement après avoir obtenu la confirmation auprès d'autres sources externes bien sûr (comme n'importe quel agent doté d'une intelligence rudimentaire le ferait!).

À l'instant où je le réalisais finalement, je me suis mis à me demander à quel endroit aux États-Unis je souhaitais aller, afin d'expérimenter ce qui vivaient au quotidien des agents d'Amérique du Nord qui allaient m'accueillir. Immédiatement mon esprit a opté pour un endroit chaud. J'habite l'arctique canadien et quand vous supportez des journées avec des heures d'ensoleillement limitées, des températures de -40 degrés (c'est la même chose en Celsius ou en Fahrenheit) et l'hiver pendant huit mois de l'année, la chaleur et le soleil semblent toujours attrayants. En contactant le Lieutenant Guy Carpenter du *Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission* (FWC), nous avons pu déterminer le moment où nous serions en mesure d'y parvenir. J'avais espéré y aller en novembre, mais en raison de ma charge de travail et de la saison de chasse chez nous je ne pouvais tout simplement pas y aller à cette période de l'année. La période disponible par la suite était celle de février, qui correspond au moment de l'année où sévissent les froids les plus intenses à la maison.

J'ai quitté Yellowknife par -25 °C, soit -13 °F et suis arrivé en Floride alors qu'il faisait 15 °C/60 °F. Pour mon organisme, c'était comme si j'avais retrouvé l'été plus tôt! Après deux jours de voyage, c'était merveilleux de sentir l'humidité et une certaine chaleur. Le lieutenant Carpenter est venu me chercher et m'a conduit au *Lake Marion Hunt Club* près de Kenansville en Floride. Pour ceux de vous qui ne connaissez pas cet endroit, je vous suggère de vérifier sur Google. Vous verrez alors que c'est dans le Comté d'Osceola. Une fois là-bas, j'ai rencontré ceux qui allaient être mes hôtes pour une grande partie de la semaine, à savoir Cliff et Janet Kunde, qui m'ont fait manger les plus merveilleuses spécialités du sud, dont un plat de maïs concassé, des choux verts et des biscuits nappés de sauce, en plus de rencontrer mon collègue pour la semaine, l'agent Kenneth Trusley du FWC.

Le jour suivant l'agent Trusley devait être au palais de justice, afin de traiter quelques dossiers et en nous rendant sur les lieux, nous avons vu un cerf commun qui venait de se faire frapper par une petite Honda Civic. J'étais certain qu'il s'agissait d'un petit chien, mais en l'inspectant davantage j'ai constaté que c'était un cerf commun de la Floride et qu'il était considérablement plus

petit que les cerfs que j'étais habitué d'apercevoir au Canada. Lorsque cette situation fût traitée, nous étions de nouveau en chemin vers le tribunal où j'ai rencontré l'agent Paul Mendez avec qui je passerais la journée suivante en bateau. Après avoir vécu un certain cafouillis au tribunal, avec lequel tous les agents sont familiers j'en suis certain, nous nous sommes dirigés vers le secteur de gestion de la faune des Trois Lacs que Kenneth patrouille habituellement. En tentant de voir des porcs sauvages, des dindons et d'autres cerfs minuscules, j'ai complètement manqué une tortue gaufrée. C'est uniquement en raison du sens de l'observation aigu de Kenneth qu'il a pu me signaler sa présence. Je peux vous affirmer tout de suite, qu'aucune tortue ou lézard ne vit dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest au Canada où je suis assigné. Apercevoir ainsi cette espèce était tout à fait passionnant pour moi. L'on m'a dit qu'elle était en danger. Cependant, après en avoir vu deux en l'espace de seulement quelques heures, je me demandais si quelque chose m'échappait à propos de sa réapparition.

Le jour suivant je suis sorti avec l'agent Mendez sur le lac Cypress, le lac Hatchineha et le lac Kissimmee. C'était l'une de ces journées où il n'est pas nécessaire d'être sur l'eau en raison des conditions climatiques, mais ceci n'allait pas nous arrêter. Nous étions déterminés à sortir et la journée s'est avérée splendide. Nous avons vérifié plus de 14 bateaux pour les permis de pêche, les enregistrements, les prises, « la présence de vêtements de flottaison pour chacun des occupants, d'un extincteur, d'une bouée de sauvetage de classe 4, d'un klaxon, d'une sirène ou d'un sifflet. » Je maîtrisais d'ailleurs cette expression après quelques bateaux. Cependant, dès que je parlais, la plupart des gens savaient que je n'étais pas du coin. L'agent Mendez m'expliquait que j'étais venu ici du Canada pour apprécier le soleil et l'eau agitée que la Floride pouvait m'offrir. C'était une journée un peu plus froide, mais les lacs n'étaient pas gelés, alors c'était une journée magnifique pour moi de toute manière!

Une patrouille d'aéroglesseur était planifiée pour le lendemain sur les marais de Gardner et j'ai appris d'entrée de jeu, que ces bateaux peuvent être mis à l'eau et récupérés de n'importe où. C'était une belle manière de voir le secteur des lacs et des marais, tout en vérifiant encore plus d'embarcations et de personne sur l'eau ou à la chasse dans le secteur. Après une longue journée, nous nous sommes dirigés vers Stuart en Floride afin de se préparer pour une sortie de deux jours sur l'océan en compagnie de l'agent Kelsea Wiernicki du FWC. L'agent Wiernicki s'est gentiment arrangée afin que Kenneth et moi puissions aller travailler dans son secteur du comté de Martin. Nous avons procédé à des vérifications auprès de pêcheurs, tant pour les poissons d'océan que pour le matériel de sécurité requis. Tout en patrouillant dans le Manatee Pocket j'ai pu apercevoir des lamantins simplement en suivant le groupe de touristes, dont je faisais clairement partie, observant à partir d'un pont. Aussi, j'ai pu observer un pêcheur commercial capturer du maquereau et un pêcheur sportif utiliser un filet maillant pour attraper du mullet. C'est non seulement quelque chose que vous ne voyez pas et ne devriez pas voir dans la région de Yellowknife, puisque nous avons des règlements contre l'utilisation des filets maillants.

Après deux jours sur l'océan nous nous sommes dirigés vers Kenansville et le secteur de gestion de faune et avons vérifié des pêcheurs d'achigan au lac Jackson. J'étais heureux de les entendre se plaindre au sujet de la pêche; Je commençais à me demander si pêcher en Floride était une histoire à succès constante. J'ai finalement entendu les histoires familières comme à la maison, tel que «des poissons ne mordent pas», «où sont allés tous les poissons» et «Je blâme les autres utilisateurs du secteur.» Durant cette journée, nous avons également vérifié une personne qui prospectait pour la prochaine saison de chasse au dindon dans le secteur. L'agent Trusley et moi avons vérifié deux campeurs s'installant pour la nuit à un terrain de camping et après avoir prodigué les premiers soins pour une blessure mineure à une oreille, nous avons été témoins d'un feu dans le secteur de gestion de la faune. Nous avons vu une fumée épaisse et de petites flammes basses, pas le genre de feux sauvages auxquels j'étais habitué dans le nord. Cependant, ce n'est que

plus tard que nous avons appris que c'était un feu contrôlé qui avait été fait de façon très efficace.

Mon dernier jour a commencé avec une excursion à Gatorland, «la capitale mondiale des alligators». Je n'avais seulement vu qu'un alligator sauvage et je commençais à douter de la quantité abondante d'alligators qui m'avait-on affirmé, peuplait la Floride. Nous avons inspecté la condition des animaux en captivité, les diverses espèces exotiques dont ils prenaient soin et observé au-dessus de nous, la tyrolienne nouvellement installée. Les gens payaient de l'argent pour faire un tour de cette tyrolienne qui passait en haut d'un enclos abritant les plus gros alligators que je n'avais jamais vus. L'agent Trusley et moi avons passé outre l'inspection aérienne et avons gardé les deux pieds sur terre!!! Après avoir terminé notre journée à Gatorland et dans le secteur de gestion de la faune, Ken et moi projections participer à une chasse au sanglier dans le secteur du camp de chasse du lac Marion. Cela a été interrompu cependant, à la mode des gardes-chasse, puisque nous devions répondre à une «chasse au serpent.» au lac Kissimmee. Le jour précédent, l'on a signalé qu'un grand python s'était enroulé autour d'un alligator de 10 pieds de long aux abords du lac. Ainsi, les shérifs du comté d'Osecola, deux agents du FWC, et un Canadien crédule se sont rendus à l'endroit mentionné à bord de trois aéroglesseurs. À la grande déception de chacun, le serpent n'a pas été localisé et après avoir vérifié les environs au moyen des trois embarcations, les recherches ont été interrompues. Ça, ça aurait été de belles photos!!!

Me réveillant à 1 heure du matin, le lieutenant Carpenter m'a gentiment reconduit à Orlando pour mon vol de retour au Canada. C'était une expérience étonnante et j'aimerais remercier le FWC, les agents remarquables des comtés d'Osecola et Martin, en particulier Ken Trusley, Guy Carpenter et Paul Mendez, pour un séjour extraordinaire et une brève introduction au travail diversifié et admirable qu'ils effectuent. Un gros merci à mes hôtes aimables, Cliff et Janet Kunde, au club de chasse du lac Marion que je pouvais appeler "ma maison" pendant mon séjour, et aussi, à la division d'application de la loi sur la faune d'Environnement Canada qui m'a soutenu pleinement lors de cet échange entre agents. C'est quelque chose que je n'oublierai jamais et je peux difficilement attendre de revenir en Floride par mes propres moyens, afin de vivre mes propres aventures et contempler de nouveau la beauté de cet état incroyable.

“So, You Think YOU'RE Spread Thin?” Oklahoma Travels to British Columbia by Carlos Gomez, Oklahoma J-Rep

Lors de mes 32 années de service d'application de la loi en matière faunique, j'ai été béni à plusieurs reprises (et maudit plusieurs fois aussi). J'ai été actif avec la NAWEOA pendant environ 15 années et cela m'a valu de grandes amitiés sur tout le continent. Le point est, que j'ai beaucoup appris sur la gestion du réseautage, des liens professionnels, de la confrérie qui se développe au terme d'années de travail, apprendre, et se soutenir. Or, cette expérience a donné à ces liens, une toute nouvelle signification! Vous avez vu des images de la Colombie-Britannique; nous savons à quel point elle est belle! Mais au lieu d'utiliser de l'espace pour cela, j'ai préféré décrire d'une façon ou d'une autre, ces gens très spéciaux qui habitent le nord-ouest. D'abord, quelques points culminants concernant les différences et les similitudes propres à chaque juridiction, mais, encore plus important, j'espère pouvoir décrire le lien fraternel qui s'est emparé de moi, après n'avoir partagé que quelques heures avec chaque agent de la faune. Ces liens se sont naturellement approfondis avec chacun d'entre eux, à chaque fois qu'il nous a été possible de passer du temps ensemble, et partager ne serait-ce que deux ou trois jours. Au risque de me faire harceler (pour avoir écrit de la "bouillie émotionnelle"), ces liens ont même favorisé des rapports «familiaux» plus approfondis lorsque le temps le permettait. Vous voyez, je pensais que j'avais saisi convenablement ce que les liens entre agent de la faune

signifiaient, mais après un voyage en Colombie-Britannique de seulement deux semaines et demi en septembre dernier, j'ai réalisé ce que ça voulait vraiment dire de faire partie de la grande famille de la NAWEOA!

Permettez s'il vous plaît de vous relater quelques comparaisons démographiques entre les agents de la faune de la Colombie-Britannique et de l'Oklahoma. En Oklahoma, il y a bien 3.5 millions de personnes, dont 1 million vivant dans la région métropolitaine qui m'est assignée. Ils sont servis par une centaine d'agent de la faune, alors que ma région est couverte par 8 agents. Le 1/3 de notre population réside dans une seconde région métropolitaine (la Ville d'Oklahoma) et est desservi par 8 agent de la faune. Le dernier 1/3 des résidents de l'Oklahoma est dispersé à travers notre état d'une superficie de 6.8 million d'acres et cette zone est patrouillée par 84 autres agents de la faune. C'est une moyenne de 68,000 miles carrés par agent de la faune, environ 125,000 personnes par agent en milieu urbain et environ 18,000 personnes par agent de la faune en milieu rural.

La Colombie-Britannique a une population d'environ de 4.5 million d'individus, desservie par environ 160 agent de la faune. En analysant rapidement ces chiffres, ils pourraient sembler corrects, jusqu'à ce que vous appreniez que le ¾ d'entre eux habite directement dans une grande région métropolitaine! Il ne faut pas s'inquiéter cependant, puisqu'il y a QUATRE agent de la faune pour servir ces 3 million de personnes! Vous voyez, je me suis plaint pendant des années (avec fierté) à propos du fait que les agents de la faune d'Oklahoma oeuvrant en milieu métropolitain, desservaient presque 10X plus de gens que leurs homologues en milieu rural et comment ils devaient assumer ce faisant, des impôts et des coûts immobiliers plus élevés, en plus d'autres dépenses excessives, etc. Mais ces chiffres concernant la Colombie-Britannique signifient que leurs agent de la faune desservent environ 10X plus de gens que je ne le fais! Et puisque la Colombie-Britannique s'étend sur plus de 235 million d'acres, cette étendue massive (plus grande que la Californie, l'Oregon et l'état de Washington combinés) représente 1.5 million d'ACRES/OFFICIER! CELA ÉQUIVAUT À L'OKLAHOMA S'IL ÉTAIT PATROUILLÉ PAR UN PEU PLUS DE QUATRE GARDES-CHASSES!

J'ai voyagé de Tulsa en Oklahoma au début du mois de septembre jusqu'à Vancouver en Colombie-Britannique, où j'ai rencontré mon homologue urbain, Jack Trudgian. Comme moi, Jack était "condamné à perpétuité" à œuvrer dans la région métropolitaine connue comme le "bas-continent". Comme moi, son temps est voué à expliquer aux masses, la présence d'un agent de la faune de conservation en milieu urbain, pour résoudre par la suite, un nombre incalculable de conflits faune-humains dans la mégalopole. Ajoutez-y un peu de bonne pêche, beaucoup d'utilisateurs de la ressource qui entrent et qui sortent de la ville avec du poisson et du gibier, ainsi qu'une grande diversité ethnique et vous obtenez Tulsa multiplié par trois! Le désir de Jack de vivre de belles expériences de chasse et de pêche de qualité, le forcent de prendre des vacances à l'extérieur de la région, ce qu'il parvient rarement à faire. Son téléphone portable n'a JAMAIS arrêté de sonner et je me suis demandé s'il devait y répondre à l'infini parce que j'étais présent. Je sais que le miens sonne beaucoup (quoique moins que le sien) et je réponds à ce "flot" d'appels en lots, les retournant par groupes de cinq ou dix à la fois. L'économie était d'intérêt pour moi, alors que je venais de compléter la reconstruction de ma maison de 2 500 pieds carrés pour la somme de 190 000\$. Mon terrain d'un-demi acre coûtait près de 50 000 \$, alors que l'essence atteignait les 3 dollars\$/gallon. Nos deux épouses ont travaillé pour le gouvernement aussi. Jack mettait les dernières touches à sa nouvelle maison de 4800 pieds carrés et sa facture s'élevait à environ un million de dollars! Le prix de son terrain de presque un acre représentait à lui seul, environ la moitié des dépenses, alors que l'essence oscillait autour de 5 \$/gallon.

Il m'a fallu quelque temps pour réaliser et m'habituer à l'ampleur du territoire que représente la Colombie-Britannique. J'avais de grandes visions "de voyager partout en Colombie-Britannique "Je veux voir tout", je pensais! Mais, j'apprenais qu'il fallait des heures de voyage pour qu'un agent de la faune puisse en rencontrer un autre dans le comté voisin et que certains de ces agents pouvaient ne pas se croiser pendant

toute une année! J'ai compris pourquoi je n'allais avoir assez de temps que pour me précipiter sur au plus, le tiers de cette province géante qui se classe troisième en taille, derrière le Québec et l'Ontario. Jack m'a amené vers l'est à Osoyoos où j'ai rencontré un monsieur qui m'était familier, M. Dave Webster. J'ai passé deux jours à apprendre les problèmes saisonniers auxquels Dave et d'autres agents doivent faire face. Tous les agents de la faune qui comprennent les conflits entre les hommes et la faune savent comment les résoudre, mais j'ai appris que ceux de la Colombie-Britannique étaient juste "plus gros"! Alors que nous devons résoudre des problèmes de rats-laveurs semant le chaos, ils ont des ours noirs pesant entre 300 et 700 livres. Alors que nous composons avec des coyotes poursuivant la volaille, ils traitent avec des loups et pour chaque lynx et (l'occasionnelle) piste de gros chat aperçu dont nous entendons parler, ils ont des rencontres avec de véritables lions! En compagnie de la famille de Dave, l'on m'a fait goûter à d'excellentes recettes de saumon (qui aurait cru que Dave était un bon cuisinier) et a aussi rencontré son extraordinaire sergent, Lin Butler. Nous avons mis des pièges à ours et patrouillé, mais étions surtout à la recherche d'ours importuns. Dave avait abattu 16 ours jusqu'à date cet été, en plus des 8-10 autres 'fauteurs de troubles' toujours actifs auxquels il fallait faire face. Un homme vivant au bord de ville nourrissait les ours, malgré les lois interdisant cette activité. Coupable de culture de marijuana et en attendant sa peine, il espérait que la concentration d'ours garderait les curieux au loin, mais ne put finalement composer avec plus de 30 de ceux-ci, qui ont entouré sa maison. Comme les ours ont continué à venir, ces gloutons voraces et dépendants, ont commencé à se disperser dans la ville, faisant une entrée fracassante dans les maisons et les jardins d'innocents citoyens. Ce cultivateur s'apparentait à quelque chose comme un "unibomber-sociopathe", pour lequel Webster a risqué sa vie à plusieurs reprises, afin de le conseiller sur les lois relatives au nourrissage, alors qu'il devait faire face tout le temps aux ours. Puisque l'homme vivait aux "limites de la ville", Dave faisait cavalier seul trop souvent. Tandis qu'il répondait à des appels d'ours rôdeurs dans sa communauté, un propriétaire lui lançait un "Dieu merci, vous êtes ici", tandis qu'un autre lui demandait "Pourquoi vous ne laissez pas les ours tranquille" ils n'endommagent rien (avant qu'il ne s'agisse de leur maison!).

Puis, l'on m'a assigné à un agent de la faune dévoué nommé Arnie DeBoon. Le travail d'agent de la faune était une affaire de famille pour lui, alors que son frère est aussi agent en Colombie-Britannique. Là j'ai appris que l'un des poissons trophées de l'Oklahoma, l'Achigan à grande bouche, est vénéré en Colombie-Britannique par certains à titre de poisson unique, combattif, sportif, mais détesté par d'autres et considéré comme destructeur, vorace et comme une ordure. Certains le percevaient comme nous considérons le Bar rayé; d'autres, comme nous voyons la Carpe! Tandis que nous patrouillions avec Arnie, nous avons rencontré un chasseur à l'arc qui avait eu la veille, une rencontre avec un ours brun à une distance de 20 verges. L'homme tremblait toujours quand il nous a raconté son histoire. Arnie m'a amené vers l'est, à la rencontre d'un personnage amusant nommé Joe Garay. Joe m'a hébergé dans un camp appartenant aux agents près de la frontière du Montana. Nous avons passé une journée entière à patrouiller un secteur connu sous le nom de "Flathead Valley". Une patrouille en VTT nous mena aux camps ELK, où chacun avait une histoire de Grizzly à raconter. Nous avons procédé à la vérification de randonneurs que nous croisé dans le fossé continental séparant l'Alberta et la Colombie-Britannique. Là, nous avons découvert que des quadistes avaient contourné des barrières et des panneaux pour se rendre dans une zone vierge interdite aux véhicules à moteur...foutus Albertains! Nous avons aussi rencontré des journalistes de télévision et des biologistes qui filmaient un documentaire sur le Grizzly, puisque "le Flathead" possède la densité la plus élevée d'ours bruns continentaux au monde! J'ai appris cela après un voyage dans un secteur à la végétation dense et après la découverte d'une grande trace d'ours sur la route. Je menais le bal, tandis que Joe, trimballant le seul fusil de chasse et la seule arme de service, étais à ¼ de mille derrière moi!

Plus tard et suis resté pour une nuit chez un agent expérimenté, Joey Caravetta, dans la communauté touristique de Fernie. Il m'a partagé un certain nombre d'histoires de surveillance quelque peu embarrassantes,

et comme tous les autres, s'est insinué dans mes bonnes grâces. J'ai rencontré plus tard, un jeune agent nommé Justin Bell et un agent expérimenté nommé Josh Lockwood. Dans la ville de Revelstoke, j'ai de nouveau vu aux premières lignes, comment les problèmes d'ours noirs dictaient les activités estivales dans chaque communauté. Un ours de 400 livres a été pris au piège devant moi que j'ai eu le mécontentement d'abattre un ours de 150 livres dans un arbre d'un parc de maisons mobiles. Josh m'a accueilli avec un grand souper de steak, et m'a amené en patrouilles sur le Lac Shuswap, qui est l'un des meilleurs "lacs de fête" en Amérique du Nord. C'était un beau lac, clair, couvert de bateaux-maison et surplombé de falaises rocheuses remplies de conifères et de grandes maisons au style rustique. Nous avons patrouillé toute la journée à bord d'un bateau Zodiaque de 24 pieds propulsé par deux moteurs de 150-hp, qui nécessitaient l'utilisation de protecteurs auditifs et de casques avec écouteurs aux fins de communication. Nous étions avec un agent fédéral du *Department of Fisheries-Oceans* dans son bateau, puisque leur embarcation était la plus appropriée et la mieux équipée pour le travail à effectuer (ça vous rappelle quelque chose?). Josh m'a montré comment quelques agents des régions éloignées s'étaient procuré des radios "Sirius", ce qui leur permettait d'écouter quelque chose en travaillant lors de patrouilles en milieu éloigné. De plus, chaque agent a reçu un sac téléphone satellite qui pouvait être utilisé en cas de nécessité et un dispositif de localisation GPS "pour que leurs restes puissent être retrouvés" s'ils devenaient handicapé, ou pire.

L'une de mes dernières grandes excursions fût partagée avec un jeune agent enthousiaste, James Zucchelli. James m'a transporté dans des secteurs prisés pour les mouflons. Le mouton était abondant partout me semblait-il, mais nous avons vu quelques gros bédons entre Clinton et Lillooet! J'ai partagé avec sa famille entière, incluant ses fils turbulents, de supers steaks de cerf muet! La journée suivante nous sommes allés au Lac et à la rivière Chilko et nous avons rencontré un homme, que James décrivait comme "le garde-chasse des garde-chasse". Ken Owens était tout un agent - travailleur, habile avec toutes sortes d'équipements, un chasseur endurci et le genre de type sans fioritures, bien "terre à terre"! Mais je dois dire que je n'ai jamais rencontré un Canadien qui utilisait le mot "Hein?" aussi souvent! Nous avons vérifié des chasseurs de chèvre, des pêcheurs et n'avons pu qu'observer, alors que des autochtones des "premières nations" s'en prenaient à une ressource aquatique sensible et fortement protégée. Les ours bruns, les aigles, les chèvres et le saumon ont contribué à rendre les journées mémorables, mais nos discussions du soir dans un camp rustique, alors que nous étions assis autour du poêle à bois, les ont certes dépassées en termes de plaisir. Affectés par quelques bières, nous avons à nous trois, parlé de politique, de la loi, des pénalités, de la tactique, de la géographie et des associations d'agents pour en faire les meilleurs sujets d'études dont je puisse me souvenir!

J'ai fini ma tournée en compagnie de Bob Butcher qui, quoiqu'il profitait d'un congé, a pris le temps de m'aider à attraper un esturgeon (qui m'a-t-on dit, a dépassé tout ce que Steve Beltran ait pu attraper quelques années auparavant!). Après un tour d'hélicoptère intéressant au-dessus du fleuve Fraser avec Bob et un ami, on m'a confié à un grand agent que j'aurais aimé mieux connaître, soit Paul McFadden. Paul était "un chasseur passionné" et, pendant notre brève rencontre, ce fût facile de l'aimer et d'admirer ses trophées et ses accomplissements.

Finalement, laissez-moi vous dire que j'ai probablement rencontré les gens les plus dévoués, chaleureux, généreux et gentils, des gens aussi passionnés que débrouillards au niveau des ressources naturelles que la terre ait connus. En 55 ans, je pensais avoir vu un tas de gros gibier, avoir composé avec des grandes populations indigènes et de grands enjeux, vu divers habitats, des terrains accidentés et des gens brusques, avoir affiné le dicton "s'adapter et surmonter" ... puis, j'ai vu la Colombie britannique!

Sergent Paul Stuckey Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

La nuit du 30 septembre 2011, le sergent Paul Stuckey, 47 ans, originaire de Zachary en Louisiane, était en devoir et répondait à une plainte de chasse de nuit lorsqu'il a été tiré à bout portant. Il prenait son arme de soutien sur la banquette arrière de son unité de patrouille, lorsqu'une décharge l'a atteint mortellement à la poitrine. Le sergent Stuckey avait informé son surveillant vers 2:15 heure du matin, de la réception d'un signallement indiquant que quelqu'un chassait près de la rue Francisville à West Feliciana Parish. Un pêcheur a localisé son corps à l'aube, dans une vieille descente à bateau, le long des berges du Fleuve Mississippi. Il était un vétéran comptant 18 années d'expérience au sein du *Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries*. La police d'état de la Louisiane a étudié le tir et a déterminé qu'il s'agissait d'un accident. Paul laisse dans le deuil son épouse, Kim, et ses trois enfants. Ils sont résidents de Slaughter en Louisiane.

Garde Margaret Anderson U.S. National Park Service

Le dimanche 1er janvier 2012, le garde Anderson de Eatonville dans l'état de Washington a été tué en devoir en tentant d'intercepter un individu ayant omis de s'arrêter à un point de contrôle situé dans le Parc national du mont Ranier.

Le garde Anderson était chargée de l'application de la loi à temps plein avec le *U.S. National Park Service* (NPS). L'application réglementaire des lois relatives au poisson et à la faune représentait la majeure partie de ses tâches. Elle avait 34 ans et travaillait pour le NPS depuis l'été 2000 alors qu'elle occupait un poste un garde saisonnier au *Bryce Canyon National Park*. Elle a travaillé à titre de Garde-Parc pendant environ quatre ans.

Garde Anderson laisse dans le deuil son mari, Eric, qui est aussi un garde au *National Park Service*, ainsi que ses deux jeunes filles.

Wardens on Wheels



The 6th Annual Game Warden Museum Chapter of Wardens on Wheels Rally will take place the weekend of August 11, 2012, commencing at Lake Metigoshe, ND. This specific event began in 2007 and has raised \$11,700 for the museum. Contacts for the function are Rob Grainger of Saskatchewan (rob.grainger@gov.sk.ca) and Paul Hopkins of Manitoba (paul.hopkins@gov.mb.ca).

In addition, the 4th Annual Missouri Chapter of Wardens on Wheels Rally will be held during the weekend of June 9, 2012, beginning in Kirksville, MO. For more information, contact Lynn McClamroch (mcclal270@yahoo.com).

Several people have shown an interest in expanding the number of Wardens on Wheels chapters; but, like everything else, it requires someone to take a lead role in getting one established. If you would like to begin your own regional chapter, advice and/or assistance can be gained from Rob and Paul.





VISITING OFFICER PROGRAM

The North American Game Warden Museum invites all officers from across North America (and we would entertain going international with this) to participate in the museum's Visiting Officer Program.

Visiting officers stay in supplied trailers at the International Peace Garden and spend their day at the Museum in their agency uniform meeting the public. This is a great opportunity for officers to promote their agency (or your state or province) and to share information or stories with visitors to the Museum. Officers are encouraged to bring any displays, power points, handouts or promotional DVDs they may have. Participating officers in the past have even brought their RAP or TIP trailers.



In the past, the Museum has had visiting officers from Utah, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Montana, Manitoba, North Dakota, and Washington. Typically, officers stay for two to three days over a weekend.

If you or your agency are interested in participating in this program, please contact our museum manager, Brenda Hevenor at nagwmuseum@hotmail.com or northtrekker@hotmail.com. She can be reached by phone at 204-534-2510 (Canada) or 701-263-4390 (US).



The 11th annual benefit golf tournament in Manitoba will be held on June 27th at Kingswood Golf and Country Club.

However, we are currently searching for a new sponsor since Brad Krulicki has met his objective of raising \$100,000.

If you know anyone who may be interested in playing a key role throughout this event, contact Blake Patterson at 204-734-6852.



Follow us on Facebook for updates, photos, and other links!

**NORTH CAROLINA by Lt. Michael Ervin/
Marine Police**

The Agency had 25 Iraqi special police officers come to train with the us in January of this year. They were instructed on boat boarding, navigation, personnel safety, and other onboard exercises that would be useful in daily boat patrols, both inshore and offshore. We also showed them how we board larger vessels as well as the smaller ones. We were able to take them offshore and run in the Atlantic for routine patrol..

Wildlife Resources Commission J Rep had no report**SOUTH CAROLINA by Henry Barnett**

J Rep Adam Keeter is taking on a new law enforcement position with the federal government and is resigning as SC J Rep at the end of February. Good luck, Adam, and welcome, Henry Barnett, new J Rep.

The S.C. DNR Board named Col. Alvin Taylor as permanent director of the Agency.

With approximately 460,000 acres in lakes, 8,000 miles of rivers, and 3,000 miles of coastline, SC has seen a 17% increase of registered motorboats in a period from 2001 to 2011 with 447,227 boats being registered in the state. In that same time frame, 120 recreational boating accidents were averaged with 98 being in 2011, which is a 18% reduction from the annual average.

The SC Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers' Association sponsored a veterans' deer hunt in conjunction with the Jarret Rifle Company and Cowden Plantation. There are annually two hunts that take place on the Cowden Plantation in Jackson, SC, with about 50 veterans participating. Officers and club members sit with the veterans on the stands and enjoy a day of food, fellowship, and camaraderie.

Officers with the SCDNR have been kept busy on a number of different fronts over the past year. In July and August, officers assisted with executive protection and static security for the Southern Legislative Conference in Charleston, SC. In January, officers assisted with various security details of GOP presidential candidates campaigning across the state prior to the Republican Presidential Primary.

TENNESSEE by Mike Stockdale

Darren Rider, formerly the Chief of Boating Safety, is now Col. Darren Rider overseeing the recently combined Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Divisions of TWRA. Darren began his career as a Wildlife Officer. He has shown interest in paying his officers' NAWEOA dues.

TWRA suffered a major loss when Ken

Ripley, a highly-honored, highly-respected and long-time TWRA employee, passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 9. Ken served the Agency for 31 years, and he was one of two TWRA boating investigators at the time of his passing. The investigation is continuing and the outcome should be known by the middle of April.

It seems that drugs and wildlife continue to go hand-in-hand. WO Sam Bedwell responded to a call from the Sheriff's Office in reference to a meth search warrant they were executing. After arriving at the scene, Sam contacted Officers Stephen Graves and Ray Garton for assistance. In addition to numerous live wild animals, one chest freezer contained 20 cottonmouth carcasses, several copperheads, a mud snake, water snakes, rat snakes and 18 plastic grocery bags full of owl, hawk, cardinal, coot and other assorted feathers. Freezer bags full of barred owl and cooper's hawk talons, a frozen owl head, bags of random snake heads, a Pileated woodpecker, etc. The defendant is facing a total of 120 possible state and federal charges including Lacey Act violations.

The TWRA has commissioned 14 persons who have completed wildlife officer training.

VIRGINIA

The VCPA has been spending a considerable amount of time debating legislation during the 2012 General Assembly session. The majority of this legislation, if passed, would have had a negative impact to all VA CPOs. These bills are as follows:

SB 17 (changing CPO name back to Game Warden) – Withdrawn by patron (Request of VCPA)

SB 25 (Governor to appoint DGIF Director) Tabled until 2013

SB 26 (requiring reasonable suspicion to check licenses, bag and creel limits) Defeated

HB 150 (prohibiting CPOs from hunting or fishing in their patrol areas) Tabled

SB 176 (removing tidewater from DGIF jurisdiction for enforcing boat and fishing laws) Tabled until 2013

Senate Bill 26 and House Bill 150 were high priorities of the VCPA. Senate Bill 26 would have prohibited all CPOs from performing random license inspections of anyone found hunting and fishing in the Commonwealth. This change would have an immediate negative impact to Virginia's fish and wildlife populations and the safety of its sportsmen. The passage of this bill would have limited an officer's ability to ensure hunters and anglers were participating fairly. Officers would not be able to look for live bait or unlawfully creel fish in special regulation trout streams or inspect bag limits during the hunting season without

reasonable suspicion or probable cause. Due to case law presentations in subcommittees and contacts made through VCPA membership with Senators, Delegates and other outdoor organizations, it was defeated in the Senate.

Due to positive meetings between the VCPA President and the patron of House Bill 150, the bill was tabled. The passage of this bill would have prevented CPOs from hunting or fishing on lands and waterways located within their assigned patrol areas.

WEST VIRGINIA by Kaven Ransom

The Governor is in favor of a pay raise, but it is not going to happen this year.

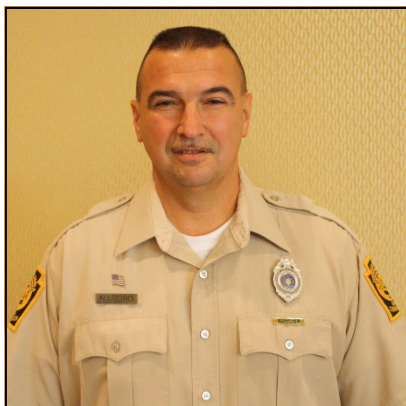
The Law Enforcement Section normally has a staffing level of 126 officers and eleven support personnel. The Section currently has 104 officers. Eleven officers retired, six officers and one administrative secretary resigned, and eight new officers were employed during FY 2011. Four officers were activated for military service.

Several defensive tactics classes were held to train officers to defend themselves. In a continuing effort to be prepared for the worst in Homeland Security, officers received training on various Homeland Security topics. West Virginia hosted a NASBLA Boat Accident Investigation School in June 2011. Over twenty West Virginia officers attended to further their skills in crash investigations and prevention. Four officers attended the National Marine Patrol Officer Course conducted at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Charleston, South Carolina. Officers attended training sessions during the NASBLA and the IHEA to keep current with national and international issues.

The mandatory Hunter Education Program in West Virginia continues to be a success. During FY 2011, approximately 7,000 students graduated from 463 statewide classes. NRP Officers logged 3,100 hours and drove 35,400 miles. West Virginia experienced 14 Class A hunting incidents resulting in three fatalities. There were nine Class B hunting incidents resulting in three fatalities. A Class A hunting incident is defined as a hunting-related injury resulting from the discharge of a firearm or bow. A Class B incident is defined as any other hunting-related injury.

West Virginia has approximately 63,000 registered boats. Unfortunately, the state had 19 boating accidents in FY 2011, resulting in seven fatalities. Alcohol, operator inexperience, and lack of training account for these tragedies. Operation Dry Water, a national campaign to reduce boating accidents, was conducted June 24-26, 2011. Increased patrols, with emphasis on enforcement of boating while drunk and reckless operation of a motorboat, were conducted across West Virginia and the US.

REGION 7 REPORT



Region 7 Director Mark Allegro

Tom Burrell of the PA Fish and Boat Commission reports that 2011 saw WCOs facing many of the same challenges as officers from across North America. Budget constraints restricted overtime while the workload continued to grow, especially in the areas impacted by Marcelus Shale drilling. Much of the summer was affected by heavy rains and high water, which combined to make boating especially dangerous. Overall, 86 recreational boating accidents were investigated, an increase of 16% from 2010, resulting in 22 deaths. On the plus side, many officers were able to obtain new Chevy Tahoe patrol vehicles which were ordered prior to budget constraints. Seven new officers also joined our ranks following graduation in September.

While budget issues will continue to be a problem in 2012, we are hopeful that pending legislation will provide some funding due to a proposed drilling impact fee. Officers are also scheduled to obtain new Glock sidearms during late spring/early summer to replace the Beretta 96D that has been issued for over 10 years. Finally, the Commission has passed regulations requiring the wearing of PFDs on all watercraft under 16' during cold weather months which will take effect in November.

Marion Hoffman of New York reports that Director Peter Fanelli advises that New York has been suffering from the same economic downturn as all the other states. It may be a little worse here because so much of the State's income tax revenue is tied to how well Wall Street is doing. Manpower in the Division of Law Enforcement is down 13% from full strength. To meet budget shortfalls, all NY employees have a nine-day furlough imposed on them over the next two fiscal years, with all or part of the withheld salary paid back at a later time, depending on bargaining. All categories of spending have been reduced.

It is not all bad news as the officers' new union finally reached agreement on a contract for the fiscal years of 2005 to 2014. It has been a long wait! After a moratorium on hiring and promotions, two new regional commanders (Captains) and six new field supervisors (Lieutenants) are about to be made. All of our 40-cal. Glocks in the field, many of them showing substantial wear, are in the process of being replaced with the fourth generation in a trade-in deal that has zero net cost. Sixty-eight rifles from the Defense Department 1033 Program are in transit. Fourteen new 4X4 Tahoes are also in transit, a far cry from the number we need, but the first new vehicles since 2008. Three new SAFE boats are under construction thanks to funding from NOAA and Homeland Security. New York's Environmental Conservation Officers have become the leading edge in radiation interdiction in the maritime environment.

On the management side, face-to-face interaction between the Chiefs, both nationally and in the Northeast, has been a challenge under this economy. Thanks to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, all of the Chiefs have been invited to a training week at their National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in April. New York's participation is only possible because USF&W is footing the bill.

Chris Dwyer of Maine reports we have hired seven new Game Wardens, three were academy certified and went directly into the field. The other four graduated from the 18-week criminal justice academy and are now completing on-the-job training. A Game Warden pilot was also hired. All 8 Wardens will attend a 12-week Advanced Warden School in the spring. We just purchased 60 M4 Patrolman's carbines from Windham Weaponry, a Maine company. The rifles are being issued out and the 4-day training for each officer is being completed. We now have rifles and shotguns in almost every Warden service vehicle. A new Mobile Incident Command Vehicle is going on-line. It is a Freightliner truck with a 28' custom body that houses satellite communications, server and printers. The vehicle is used for mobile command to assist in any incident statewide with the ability to maintain contact anywhere in the state. The Maine Warden Service had its second involvement with a police-involved shooting in as many years this past November. This involved a member of the Warden Service assisting in a track to locate a subject who was eluding police. The incident is still

under investigation by the Attorney General's Office.

The fall hunting season was busy considering the low deer numbers. Many great cases were made. The winter season was slow to get started as most lakes and ponds didn't freeze up until January. Snow has eluded most of Maine, keeping snowmobilers in extreme W and N Maine. Our annual awards ceremony will be held in April.

Gary Toward of the PA Game Commission reports that on December 18, 2011, Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer David Dryer, acting in the capacity of East Washington Police Officer, was shot and killed during a traffic stop on Interstate 70 in Washington County. David was a Deputy with the PA Game Commission for more than 15 years. The suspect fled the scene and barricaded himself in his home. After several hours, he left his home and was shot and killed after opening fire on police officers.

A new class of Wildlife Conservation Officer Cadets will begin training at the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Ross Leffler School of Conservation on March 18, 2012. The 29th WCO Cadet class is presently made up of 35 candidates, 5 of which are female. This is believed to be the largest class to be enrolled and the most females ever to begin a class. Training will consist of 50 weeks of in-house and field-assignment periods of instruction.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission, in conjunction with PA. Fish & Boat Commission officers, PA. State Police, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services and numerous local and municipal police departments, conducted "Operation Talon" during a short period in October, 2011. Saturation patrols were initiated in areas where historical data indicated such action may be most beneficial. PA. State Police aviation units flew fixed wing and helicopter patrols over Northwest, Southeast and South Central Pennsylvania to identify late spotlighting activity. Law enforcement contacts were made with 313 individuals that resulted in 94 written and verbal warnings, 192 citations, 5 DUIs, 2 felons not to possess firearms, 1 loaded concealed handgun without a permit, and possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia. Typical game law violations included unlawful devices, unlawful use of lights while hunting, spotlighting violations, unlawful taking of big game, damage to property, shooting on or across highways, littering and restrictions on vehicles.

Keith Williams of Connecticut reports that Colonel Kyle Overturf, Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police, continues to run the agency as best he can despite hard economic times. Officers are covering multiple districts as they continue to patrol and respond to calls. Thankfully, the threat of layoffs on two of our officers fell short and they remain on duty. We remain at 52 officers with retired officer positions not likely to be filled. Our boating season was very busy. Over a dozen BUI arrests were made and several major boating accidents occurred, some of which involved fatalities. The fall hunting season was also very busy resulting in numerous arrests for illegal deer hunting. Three hunting-related shooting incidents also occurred, one a fatality. The agency purchased 4 new 21' Zodiac rigid hull inflatable vessels for patrol. One will be going to Candlewood Lake, CT's largest lake, two on Long Island Sound and one on the Lower Housatonic River. Officers received valuable night-time firearms training through the Blue Line Corporation, a self-contained mobile firearms training range from Massachusetts. The winter season has been unusually warm with little to no ice fishing activity. Trout stocking will begin soon.

Michelle Wiegand of Michigan reports that they are celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Conservation Officers protecting Michigan's Natural Resources in 2012. Two separate gatherings are planned in 2012, one a memorial ceremony in May during National Police week for Michigan's fallen officers at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center at Higgins Lake. The second gathering is a two-day event in August to include a fishing tournament, golf outing, and memorial ceremony & banquet. Also, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division has reestablished its Honor/Color Guard and

has created a rifle team. Both will participate in the memorial ceremonies during the year.

A selected group of Conservation Officers participated in a three-day winter survival training (in Michigan) put on by Dave Canterbury of the Pathfinder School (located in the Algonquin Park, Ontario, Canada). The officers learned winter survival skills with limited food, supplies and tools. Survival skills included building shelters (including the use of a snow tunnel), fire building, orienteering, and making emergency sleds and snowshoes from tree branches.

Steve Thomson from Ohio reports a cadet class of 11 reported for training on January 9. They will graduate on June 29 and then report for duty to begin the 6-month field training program. This is the 27th Wildlife Officer Training Academy since 1951 and continues a proud tradition as the oldest state agency with law enforcement officers (1886 – first game wardens). The hiring process for another academy is likely to start later this year. Check ohiodnr.com for more information.

Ohio introduced a new Automated License System that provides instant information to the officers in the field for game check information and license sales. A number of cases are currently going through the courts throughout the state based on information from the system and its new reporting capabilities.

All new law enforcement vehicles will be rolled out to the field with a new graphics package. The new design better identifies the vehicle as a law enforcement officer and presents a more professional image. All new vehicles will be black due to the ever-increasing cost and unpredictable color of green paint. Also, the trucks will continue to be installed with low-profile LED light bar and grill lights.

Kevin Clayton of Massachusetts reports Environmental Police Officers continue to patrol the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the face of dwindling numbers and an effort to bolster the ranks of field officers here.

A couple of months ago, the Massachusetts Human Resources Division offered an entry-level exam across the state. Several hundred took the exam. According to exam-takers I interviewed, the exam was both easy and vigorous. Responses ranged from "impossible" to "fair". It is unclear when the list may be certified. A number expected for hiring has yet to be determined. The general feeling of the field officers is that, given the past history of hiring, the number will likely be lower than desired. Field Officers hope that backgrounds and selection process begins sooner than later.

The officer numbers are at their lowest in several decades, yet we continue to fight the good fight, delivering law enforcement's "greatest bang for the buck" in this Commonwealth.

Congratulations to a number of officers (MA and USFWS) in north-central regions who worked diligently toward the apprehension of two alleged bear hunters in January 2012. DNA evidence was investigated. A story in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette stated, "Mr. Burdzy Jr., 29, a corrections officer, is charged with illegally hunting a bear with a dog or by baiting, altering or forging a license, violating fish and game laws by unlawfully killing and possessing a bear, conspiring to provide false information during an investigation and witness intimidation. Mr. Burdzy Sr., 52, is facing the same charges except for altering or forging a license."

[See article for details: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20120207/NEWS/102079935/1116>]

All court action is pending as the case was just filed.

NAWEOA Officer Exchange Program

Carlos Gomez — Oklahoma to British Columbia

In my 32 years of wildlife enforcement, I've been blessed many times (and cursed a few times as well). I've been active in NAWEOA for about 15 years and that has availed great relationships around the continent. Point is, I've learned full well about networking, professional connections, the *brotherhood* that grows from years of working, learning, and supporting each other. But, this experience gave that

bond a whole new meaning! You've seen pictures of BC; we know how indescribably beautiful it is! But rather than use space for that, I wanted to somehow describe these very special folks in the big northwest.

First, some highlights of differences and similarities of each jurisdiction, but, most important of all, I hope I somehow describe the *brother-to-brother bond* that

engulfed me after only hours were shared with each officer. Those bonds naturally deepened with each man whenever we were afforded enough time to share even a couple of days. At the risk of getting hazy (for writing "emotional mush"), those connections even lent deeper "family" connections when time permitted. You see, I thought I'd gained a decent grasp of what warden relationships were

about, but, after travelling to British Columbia for just two and one half weeks last September, I realized just what it *really* meant...to be a part of the NAWEOA family!

Please allow the discussion of some demographic comparisons between BC and Oklahoma wardens. **OK has 3.5 million (M) people** with 1M of those living in my assigned metropolitan region. They are **served by 100 wardens** and my region is covered by about 8 officers. Over 1/3 of our populous resides in a second metropolitan region (Oklahoma City) and is serviced by about 8 officers. The last 1/3 of **Oklahomans is dispersed across our 6.8 M acre state** and that area is patrolled by 84 other wardens. That is an average of 68,000 square miles/warden and about 125,000 people/metro warden and about 18,000 people/rural warden.

BC has a population of about 4.5 M people serviced by about 160 wardens. A shallow glance at those numbers would seem ok until you learn about ¾ of them live in one large, metro region! Not to worry though as there are **FOUR officers to service these 3M people!** You see, I have moaned for years (with pride) how **an OK metro warden services almost 10X the populous of my rural counterparts** and suffered higher taxes, real estate costs, and other excessive expenses, etc., while doing so. But these BC numbers means **their officers service about 10X the number that I do!** **And since BC covers 235M acres,** their massive expanse (larger than California, Oregon, and Washington combined) shares out to **1.5 MILLION ACRES/officer! THAT EQUALS OKLAHOMA GETTING PATROLLED BY JUST OVER FOUR GAME WARDENS!**

I travelled from Tulsa, OK, in early September to Vancouver, BC, where I was met by my metropolitan counterpart, Jack Trudgian. Like me, Jack was a "lifer" in the metro region known as the "lower mainland". Like me, his time is spent explaining to the masses why there's a CO in the city, then solving untold numbers of human-wildlife conflicts in the megatropolis. Sprinkle in some great fishing, a lot of resource users both in and travelling back to the city (with fish and game), and a wide ethnic diversity, and you have Tulsa times three! Jack's desire for any quality hunting/fishing experiences force him to take vacations escaping the entire region, which he rarely can. His cell phone NEVER stopped ringing and I wondered if he thought he had to answer it incessantly because I was there. I know mine rings a lot

(though less than his) and I answer my "flow" of calls in batches, returning them in groups of five or ten at a time. Economics were of interest to me as I had just completed a "rebuild" of my 2,500-square-foot home for \$190K. My ½ acre housing lot costs \$50K and gas about \$3/gallon. Both our wives worked in government also. Jack was putting the finishing touches on his new 4,800-square-foot home and his note was for about \$1M! His one-acre lot accounted for almost one-half the bill and gas was over \$5/gallon.

It took a while for the sheer magnitude of the BC area to sink in. I had grand visions of "travelling throughout BC." "I want to see it all", I thought! But, I would learn that it takes hours of travel for one CO to meet up with another CO in the neighboring county and some of those officers might not intersect for a whole year! I came to understand why I was only going to have enough time to dash through the lower 1/3 of this giant province that ranks third in size behind Quebec and Ontario. Jack would taxi me eastward to Osoyoos where I met a familiar gentleman, Mr. Dave Webster. I spent a couple

days learning about the seasonal problems Dave and other COs have to cope with. All COs understand human/wildlife conflicts and how to resolve them, but I learned BC's were just "bigger"! Where we resolve raccoons creating havoc, they have 300- to 700-lb. Black bears. Where we have coyotes chasing poultry, they respond to wolves, and for every bobcat and (an occasional) big-cat track sighting we hear about, they have encounters with real lions! While with Dave's family, I was fed some excellent salmon recipes (who'd have guessed Dave was a good cook), and also met his great Sergeant, Lin Butler. There, we set bear traps and patrolled but mostly seeking 'trouble-bears'. Dave had destroyed 16 bears so far that summer with another 8-10 active 'trouble-makers' still to face. One man living at the edge of town was feeding the

bears, despite the laws prohibiting the activity. Guilty of a "grow-op" (marijuana) and awaiting sentencing, he had hoped the bear concentration would keep snoopers away, but eventually could not keep up with the 30+ big appetites that surrounded his house. As bears kept coming, the voracious, dependent gluttons began to disperse about town ripping into innocent homes and gardens. The 'grow-op' man was something of a "unibomber-sociopath" that Webster repeatedly risked his life with to counsel on feeding laws, all the while facing bears. And, since the man lived "out of city limits", Dave was on his own way too much of the time. While responding to a "bear-prowl" call in his community, one homeowner would swoon with "Oh, thank God you're here" while another would growl "Why don't you just leave them (bears)



alone; they're not hurting anything (till it's their house!).

Eventually I was passed on to a life-long, devoted CO named Arnie DeBoon. CO work was in his blood as his brother was also a CO in BC. There I learned that one of our "trophy" fish in OK, the largemouth bass, is revered in BC by some as a unique, hard-fighting, sport fish but detested by others as a destructive, gluttonous, trash fish. Some saw it like we see Striped bass; others, like we see Carp! While on patrol with Arnie, we met a bowhunter who'd just had a 20-yard "stare down" with a Grizzly the day before. The man was still trembling when he told the story. Arnie moved me east to a fun character named Joe Garay. Joe hosted me in a remote CO cabin near the Montana border. From there, we spent an entire day patrolling a guarded area

known as "Flathead Valley". An ATV patrol would lead us to elk camps where everyone had a "grizz" story to tell. Hikers were checked as we crossed the continental divide that separated BC and Alberta. There, we discovered where AT-Vers had bypassed gates and signs to motor into the pristine "no-motorized vehicle" area of BC... danged Albertans! We also met with TV journalists and biologists who were filming a Grizzly bear documentary as "the Flathead" boasted the highest density of inland Grizzlies anywhere in the world! I learned this after riding through a densely brushed area and spotting a big bear track in the road. I was leading through the tight cover while Joe, packing the only shotgun and sidearm, was ¼ mile behind me!

I would later meet and stay a night with a seasoned veteran officer, Joey Caravetta, in the resort community of Fernie. He had a number of "tight-spot" covert tales to share and, like everyone else, was very ingratiating. I later met a young officer named Justin Bell and a seasoned vet named Josh Lockwood. In the town of Revelstoke, I again saw firsthand how the Black bear problem dictated summer activities in every community. A 400 pounder was live-trapped that I had the displeasure of destroying and a 150 pounder was shot right from a tree in a mobile home park. Josh would host me with a great steak dinner and patrols on Shuswap Lake, which is one of the top "party lakes" in North America. It was beautiful, clear, and water-covered with house boats and lined with rocky, conifer ridges and big rustic-style homes. We patrolled all day from a 24-foot Zodiac "soft-side" boat powered by two 150-hp engines that required ear protection and headsets for communication. We were riding with a Department of Fisheries-Oceans (federal) officer in his boat as their outfit was the best financed and outfitted watercraft for the work (sound familiar?). Josh showed me how some officers in remote regions would purchase their own "Sirius" entertainment radio plan so they could listen to something while working on distant patrols. Additionally, each officer was issued a satellite bag-phone that could be used when necessary and a GPS location beacon device "so their remains could be found" if they were to become disabled, or worse.

One of my last big excursions would be shared with an enthusiastic young officer, James Zucchelli. James transported me through some prime Bighorn sheep areas. Sheep were plentiful everywhere it seemed, but we saw some



heavy rams between Clinton and Lillooet! His family, complete with rambunctious sons, shared great Mule deer steaks! The next day we headed to Chilko Lake and River and met a man James would describe as "a game warden's game warden". Ken Owens was just such a warden -- hard-working, skilled with all kinds of equipment, hard-hunting, and a no-frills kind of guy, and so "down to earth"! But I must say I never met a Canadian who used the word "Eh?" so much! We checked goat hunters, fishermen, and had to watch as "first nations" (native) people hammered away at a sensitive, heavily protected fish resource. Grizzlies, eagles, goats, and salmon made for some memorable days, but our evening discussions in a rough cabin as we sat around the wood stove may have topped that for fun. Touched by a few beers, the three of us took topics of policy, laws, penalties, tactics, geography, and officers associations and made learning more fun than I can ever remember!

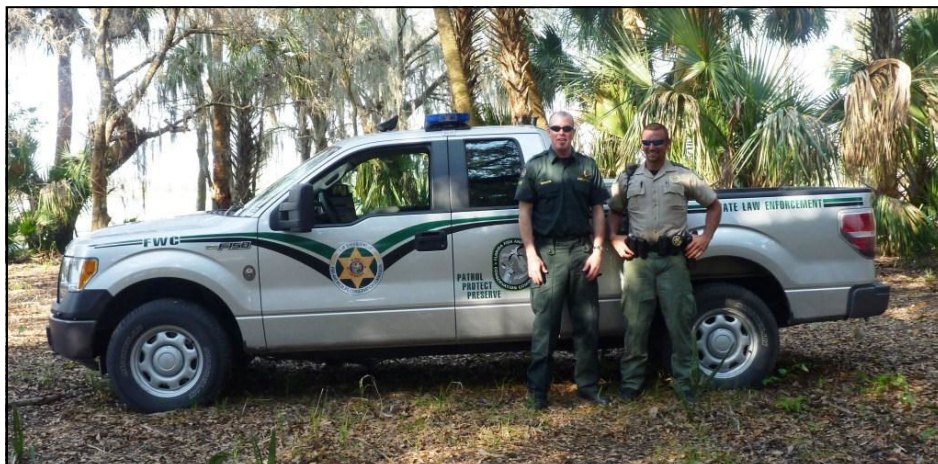
I ended my tour with CO Bob Butcher who, though he was enjoying some time off, made time to help me catch some sturgeon (which I was told topped anything Steve Beltran caught a few years earlier!). After an interesting helicopter ride down the Fraser River with Bob and a friend, I was passed to a great officer I longed to know better, Paul McFadden. Paul was "an ardent hunter" and, in my brief meeting, it was easy to like and admire his trophies and accomplishments. Lastly, let me say I've met possibly the most devoted, warm, generous, and kind people who are as passionate and resourceful about natural resources anywhere on earth. In my 55 years, I thought I'd seen lots of big game, handled large native populations and issues, seen diverse habitats, rugged lands and people, and refined the adage of "adapt and overcome"....and then I saw British Columbia!

NAWEOA Officer Exchange Program

Steve Allan — Northwest Territory to Florida

As part of Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Division, I and a number of our officers attended the 2011 NAWEOA Conference held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. It was a great opportunity to volunteer, help out the organizing committee, and be a part of the NAWEOA conference. I was not in the Wildlife Management Area that Kenneth usually patrols. In an attempt to see wild hogs, turkeys and more tiny deer, I completely missed a gopher tortoise. It was only because of Kenneth's keen observation skills that he was able to point it out to me. I can tell you right now no tortoises or lizards live in the Northwest Territories of Canada where I am posted. So seeing this species was quite exciting to me. I was told it was endangered. But after I saw two in only a matter of hours I was wondering if I had missed something about its comeback.

The next day I went out with Officer Mendez on Lake Cypress, Lake Hatchineha, and Lake Kissimmee. This was one of those days when you don't need to be on the water due to the weather conditions but this wasn't going to stop us. We were determined to go out and it proved to be a great day. We checked over 14 boats for fishing licenses, boating registration, their catch, and "PFDs for all occupants, a fire extinguisher, class 4 throw cushion, horn, able to attend the Officer's Luncheon because I was required to transport tents and tables as part of my volunteer duties and while I was doing that my phone was buzzing in my pocket. A number of officers from my agency were messaging me to tell



me that I had won the officer exchange. I immediately assumed the group of them were pulling my leg and were sitting around laughing at my reaction. It wasn't until almost six hours later after all the volunteer activities were completed, that I finally believed them. And this was only after confirming from other outside sources of course (as any officer would do when given sketchy intelligence!).

Once the realization set in, I went to work trying to determine where would be a place in the USA that I would like to go and experience the host of work officers across North America deal with on a day-to-day basis. Immediately my mind went to somewhere warm. I live in Canada's arctic and when you are experiencing short hours of daylight, -40 degree weather (this is the same in both °F and °C) and winter for eight months of the year, warmth and sun

always sound inviting.

By making contact with Lieutenant Guy Carpenter of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), we were able to work out a time that we could make it happen. I had hoped to go in November, but due to my work load and hunting season at home I was just not able to go then. The next available time was February, which is during our deep freeze.

I left Yellowknife at -25 °C which is -13 °F and arrived into Florida to 15 °C/60 °F. To my body it was like I had found summer early! After the two days of travel it was great to feel some humidity and heat. I was picked up by LT Carpenter and we drove to the Lake Marion Hunt Club near Kenansville Florida, for those of you who don't know it I would say best to Google it and you will see it is in Osceola County. Once there I met my hosts for most of the week, Cliff and Janet Kunde, who fed me the most wonderful southern food complete with grits, collared greens and biscuits with gravy and met my coworker for the week, FWC Officer Kenneth Trusley.

The following day Officer Trusley had to be at the court house to deal with some citations and along the way we came across a deer that had been struck by a small Honda Civic. I was pretty sure that this was just a small dog but upon further inspection I saw that it was a Florida white-tail deer, and it was quite a bit smaller than the deer I was used to seeing in my parts of Canada. Once this was dealt with, we were back off to the courthouse where I met Officer Paul Mendez who I would spend the next day on the boat with. After dealing with a mix up at the courthouse, which I am sure all officers know all too well, we left to go to the Three Lake bell or whistle." I had this phrase down to an art



after a few boats. However, once I spoke most people knew right away I wasn't a local. Officer Mendez would explain that I was down from Canada and here to enjoy the sunshine and rough water that Florida had to offer. It was a colder day, but the lakes weren't frozen so this was a great day for me either way!

An airboat patrol was the plan for the next day on Gardner Marsh and I learned first hand these boats can be launched and loaded anywhere. This was a great way to see the lake and marsh areas, checking more boats and dealing with quite a few more people on the water and some hunting in the area. After a long day we drove

bridge. Also, I was able to watch commercial fishers pull mackerel and a recreational fisher use a cast net to catch horse mullet. This is not only something you do not and should not see being used in the Yellowknife area, but we actually have regulations against the use of cast nets.

After two days on the ocean we headed back up to Kenansville and the Wildlife Management Area and checked fisherman on Jackson Lake fishing for bass. I was glad to hear them complain about the fishing; I was beginning to wonder if fishing in Florida was a constant success story. I finally heard the familiar stories from home, that "the fish weren't biting", "where did all

was a controlled burn and was done very effectively.

My last day was set to start with a tour of Gatorland, "The Alligator Capital of the World". I had only seen one alligator in the wild and I was beginning to doubt the abundant amount of alligators I was told were in Florida. We inspected the conditions of the captive animals, the various exotic species in their care, and eyed up the newly installed zip line. People would pay money to zip line over a pen of the largest gators I have ever seen, Officer Trusley and I were able to avoid the aerial inspection and kept our feet on the ground!!! After finishing our day at Gatorland and in the management area, Ken and I were planning to partake in a boar hunt at the Lake Marion hunt camp area. This was interrupted however, in true game warden fashion, by us having to respond to Lake Kissimmee for "snake hunting." The day before, it was reported that a large python was wrapped around a 10ft. gator on the edge of the lake. So, the Osecola county Sheriffs, two FWC officers, and an unsuspecting Canadian on three air boats proceeded to the location it was observed. To everyone's disappointment the snake could not be located and after checking the area with all three boats the search was called off. Now those would have been some pictures!!!

Waking up at 1 am I was graciously given a ride by LT Carpenter to Orlando for my flights back to Canada. It was an amazing experience and would like to thank FWC, the outstanding officers in Osecola and Martin Counties, especially Ken Trusley, Guy Carpenter and Paul Mendez, for an amazing time and a brief introduction into the diverse and great work they do. A huge thank you to my gracious hosts, Cliff and Janet Kunde, at the Marion Lake Hunt club for an amazing place to call "home" during my stay; also, to Environment Canada Wildlife Enforcement for fully supporting me on this officer exchange experience. It is something I will never forget and cannot wait to make it back to Florida on my own to experience more adventures and beauty of this amazing state.



down to Stuart, Florida to get ready for couple of days on the ocean with FWC Officer Kelsea Wiernicki. Officer Wiernicki kindly went out of her way to accommodate Kenneth and me to come down and work in her area of Martin County. We checked fishermen for ocean species as well as the required safety gear. While patrolling in the manatee pocket I was able to see manatees by just following the group of tourists, which I was clearly one of, watching from a

the fish go" and "I blame the other users of this area." During that day we also checked a person who was scouting for the upcoming turkey season in the area. Officer Trusley and I checked two campers set up for the night at a campsite and after providing some first aid for a minor ear injury we witnessed a fire in the management area. We saw huge smoke and low small flames, not the kind of wild fires I was used to from the north. However, it was later we learned it

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Wildlife Officer Recognition

OOY = Officer of the Year

REGION 1

SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan OOO - Bruce Reid
Saskatchewan Labour Service OOO - Jaret Engele

REGION 4

CALIFORNIA

Medal of Valor - **Warden Kyle Kroll**
Lifesaving Award - **Lt. Danny Stevenson**
Lifesaving Award - **Capt. Nathaniel Arnold**
Lifesaving Award - **Warden Justin Sandvig**
CA Game Warden Foundation Special Award -
Warden Chad Elliot & Warden Matt Galli
Dept. of Fish & Game Warden of the Year -
2008 **Sean Pirtle**
2009 **Chad Alexander**
2010 **Robert Pelzman**
2011 **Paul Cardoza**
2012 **Brian Boyd**
Shikar-Safari OOO -
2009 **Warden Nicole Kozicki**
2010 **Assistant Chief Mike Carion**
2011 **Captain Nathaniel Arnold**
NWTF OOO - **Lt. Sean Olague**

IDAHO

Safari Officer OOO 2011 - **Marc Arms**

REGION 5

ILLINOIS

Shikar-Safari OOO - **Dave Hyatt**
NASBLA Boating OOO - **James Mayes**
AMFGLEO Illinois OOO - **Dave Hyatt**
MFC Waterfowl Mississippi Fly Counsel - **Chris Mohrman**
Illinois OOO - **Dave Hyatt**
NWTF OOO - **Sgt. Laura Petreikis**
NWTF OOO - **Officer Tony Petreikis**

KANSAS

Award of Valor — **Landen Cleveland**
Award of Valor - **Lance Hockett**
Award of Valor - **Marvin Peterson**
Shikar-Safari OOO - **Doug Whiteaker**
Nat. Res. Advancement Education Award - **Greg Salisbury**
Lifesaving Award - **Terry Mills**
Lifesaving Award - **Marvin Peterson**
Boating OOO - **Tyson Neilson**
Richard Harrold Award for Investigations - **Vince Wonderlich**
Retired K-9 Units Recognized by the Dir.-
Brian Hanzlick (Alley) & Dan Melson (Chase)
Award of Merit - **Jason Harrold, A.J. Meyer, Dennis Zehr, Brad Hageman, Lynn Koch, Dan Melson, Ryan Walker**

OKLAHOMA

Shikar-Safari OOO - **David Folz** (David's father also won this award, making them the only father/son to receive it)

SOUTH DAKOTA

Lifesaving Award – **Tim McCurdy**
Shikar-Safari OOO - **Bob Losco**
NASBLA Boating OOO - **Sam Schelhaas**
NWTF South Dakota OOO - **Chad Williams**
SDCOA OOO - **Chad Williams**

TEXAS

AMFGLEO OOO - **Chris Bird**
SEAFWA OOO - **Sgt. Bradley Chappell**
Shikar-Safari OOO - **Michael Hansen**
NWTF (Texas Chapter) OOO - **Matt Thompson**
Southern States Boat. Law Admin.- **Ryan Hall**
Int'l Assoc. of Marine Investigators - **Clint Borchardt**

WISCONSIN

2011 Wisconsin NWTF OOO - **Dale Youngquist**
2011 Shikar-Safari OOO - **Thomas Krsnich**

REGION 6

ALABAMA

NASBLA State Boating OOO - **Officer Walter Lacey**
SEAFWA Conservation OOO - **Officer Richard Hartzog**
SSCI Wildlife OOO - **Officer Michael Jackson**
NWTF OOO - **WCO Keilan Lord**

FLORIDA

NASBLA State Boat OOO - **Officer Ken Thompson**

GEORGIA

Law Enforcement Supervisor of the Year - **Sgt. Tim Kendrick**
NWTF OOO - **RFC Eric Brown**
Ranger of the Year - **RFC Tim Butler**
NASBLA State Boating OOO - **RFC Robert Timmons**
Investigative Ranger of the Year - **Cpl. Michael Crawley**

KENTUCKY

NASBLA State & National OOO - **Officer Jarrod Alley**
Kentucky OOO - **Officer Travis Neal**
Shikar-Safari OOO - **Officer Chris Fossit**

LOUISIANA

NASBLA Boating OOO - **Senior Agent Toby Myers**
Shikar-Safari OOO - **Sgt. Randy Lanoux**

MARYLAND

Maryland OOO - **Cpl. Roy L. Rafter, Jr.**
Conservation OOO - **Cpl. Roy L. Rafter, Jr.**
NASBLA Boating OOO - **Cpl. Jeffrey W. Sweitzer**

NORTH CAROLINA—Wildlife Commission

NASBLA Boating OOO - **Senior Officer William Cain**
Wildlife Federation Enforcement OOO - **Capt. Jon Evans**
Shikar-Safari OOO - **Gary Caulk, Jr.**

NORTH CAROLINA—MARINE PATROL

Conservation Officer of the Year - **Sgt. Jason Walker**

SOUTH CAROLINA

NASBLA State Boating OOO - **1st Sgt. Ken Simmons**
South Carolina OOO - **Pfc. Cary T. Robinson**
QDMA Wildlife OOO - **Sgt. Lynwood Kears**

TENNESSEE

NASBLA State Boating OOO - **Officer Jeff Roberson**
Shikar-Safari OOO - **Jeff Prater**
SEAFWA Conservation OOO - **Officer Mark Ventura**
NWTF OOO - **Officer Kevin Hoofman**

VIRGINIA

NASBLA State Boating OOO - **CPO James Brooks**
Virginia OOO - **CPO Richard Howald**

WEST VIRGINIA

NASBLA State Boating OOO - **NRP Officer Timothy White**
SEAFWA OOO - **NRP Officer Jeff Craig**

REGION 7

CONNECTICUT

OOO — **Keith Williams**
Medal of Outstanding Service -
Sean Buckley
SCO John Marvin
Joe Ruggiero
Todd Chemacki
Medal of Meritorious Service—
Matt Stone
Tate Begley
Nicholas Miosky
Keith Williams

MICHIGAN

Lifesaving Award -
Sgt. Marc Pomroy, CO Dave Pointer, Sgt. Joe Molnar,
CO Scott Brown, CO Chad Foerster, CO Robert Hobkirk
(x2), CO Ken Kovach, CO Todd Szyska, CO Mark Ennett,
CO Jonathan Skilba
2010 Shikar-Safari OOO - **CO Steve Lockwood**
2011 AMFGLEO OOO - **CO Steve Lockwood**
2011 Shikar-Safari OOO - **CO Dave Painter**
2012 AMFGLEO OOO - **CO Dave Painter**

NEW YORK

Shikar-Safari ECO/ECI of the Year - **Vern Bauer**
NECLECA ECO/ECI of the Year - **Bob Peinkofer**
NYSRPA OOO - **Jonathan Ryan**
NWTF OOO - **Darci Dougherty**

OHIO

NWTF OOO - **WO Brad Kiger, Franklin County**
Ohio Bowhunters Assoc. OOO - **WO Tony Zerkle, Fairfield County**
Shikar-Safari OOO - **D1 Investigator Kandy Klosterman**
Mississippi Flyway OOO - **WO Scott Denamen, Geauga County**

PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION

Lifesaving Award - **Scott Christman**
Lifesaving Award - **Aaron Lupacchini**
Outstanding Service Award - **Walter Buckman**

WEBMASTER REPORT

by Rob Brandenburg



Digital communication improvements are happening around us every day. Many of us are turning to Facebook to keep our friends posted. NAWEOA, in an effort to reach more officers, has opened a Facebook page. You can find us at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Naweo/231028496914481>.

Here you can like us, and post information from your jurisdiction or information of general interest to our profession. When you post here, it is also automatically posted to the NAWEOA website. Take a look at our home page and you can see the Facebook module in the lower right-hand section of the home page. You can also post pictures and videos. If you are using Facebook, check us out.

Thanks,
Rob

*The WebWarden,
where your business should be.*

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO CONSIDER HOSTING A NAWEOA Summer Conference!

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

Conference Liaison
Rick Hildebrand
(conference@naweo.org)

or
President Rich Cramer
(president@naweo.org)

We have hosts for 2012 and 2013

NO HOSTS ** FOR **

► **2014** ◀
► **2015** ◀
► **2016** ◀



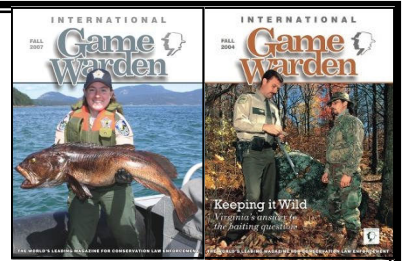
IGW is a growing trade magazine dedicated to serving the professionals in natural resource and wildlife law enforcement. In its early years primarily serving US and Canadian conservation officers, IGW became known as "THE trade publication of the profession," in North America.

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



To learn more about the magazine or subscribe, visit:

www.igwmagazine.com

Or contact:

Marion Hoffman

Subscriptions Manager

International Game Warden

subscription@igwmagazine.com

(845)331-6975



Present at 2012 winter BOD meeting at the Eastern Mississippi Sportsman Association, DeKalb, MS:

(front row from left) Host retired Mississippi officer Bill Brace, Reg. 6 Dir. Jeff White, Reg. 5 Dir. Scott Haney, Sec/Treas Steve Beltran, Reg. 7 Dir. Mark Allegro, Reg. 1 Dir. Darryl Bodnaryk, Reg. 2 Dir. Dave Grant, SK officer Brad Johns, SK officer Dale Achtymichuk; (back row from left) Reg. 4 Dir. Lew Huddleston, Webmaster Rob Brandenburg, Reg. 3 Dir. Shawn Farrell, Vice Pres. Dave Webster, President Rich Cramer, Past Pres. Kevin Schoepp, Conference Liaison Rick Hildebrand, Ass't Host retired Mississippi officer Bill Collins. Taking photo: Newsletter Editor Levi Krause.



NAWEOA 2012

July 23-28, 2012

Tucson, AZ

Tucson, AZ —The “Old Pueblo”— Welcomes You in 2012!

INSIDE:

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Bus & Soc Agendas	2
AZ Centennial	3
Training	3
AGRL	4
Welcome from AGRL	4

Special points of interest:

- World class resort
- Beautiful southwestern landscape
- Top notch training
- Championship golf
- Elegant dining cuisine



The Arizona Game Ranger's Lodge would like to welcome each and everyone of you to join us for the 2012 NAWEOA Conference in scenic Tucson, Arizona.

The host resort is the beautiful Loews Ventana Canyon, nestled at the edge of the rugged Santa Catalina Mountains.

The golf tournament will be on one of two championship golf courses at the resort.

The torch run will have the back-drop of scenic Sabino Canyon, just a

few short miles from the resort.

Make sure you pack your favorite Sombrero for Thursday's hospitality night.



Tucson has been known as the “Old Pueblo” since the early 1900's

The Game Warden Skills Games are on-site and will test your athleticism and border knowledge.

The speakers and training will be top-notch from a wide source of local and nationwide training experts, including Dr. Kevin Gilmarten.

Come join the fun, experience tremendous learning opportunities, and the camaraderie of Arizona's first NAWEOA Conference during the state's Centennial Celebration.

Welcome from Conference Chairman—Kurt Bahti

The 2012 NAWEOA summer conference in Tucson is shaping up to be a very memorable one that you don't want to miss. There has never been one this far in the southwest before, so plan on attending. Your family will undoubtedly enjoy what we have to offer in Arizona.

We didn't get the confirmation that we were hosting until the very end of 2010, so we are doing our best to catch up on fund-

raising. In Saskatchewan, the officer association for Pennsylvania committed a donation for our 2012 conference. We'd like to invite any other officer associations who didn't get the chance to donate to contact me at kb2@hughes.net. Normally, these occur at the conference when the host is selected (usually 2+ years out) but we had not been selected yet at the New Brunswick Conference. We would appreciate any help we can get.

We are also open for associations to host a night of the hospitality room or the Warden Skills dinner. Thank you in advance.

Make sure to make your reservations early at Loews's Ventana Canyon Resort as there will be a two-day overlap of another conference, so the rooms will go fast. We want everyone to be able to stay at the host resort; you will really enjoy the location. Check it out on our website.

Business Agenda

TUESDAY, July 24

0800 - 1700 NAWEOA Executive
Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY, July 25

0745 - 0900 Group photo/Officer Procession
0900 - 1100 Opening Ceremony &
Tribute to Fallen Officers
1100 - 1200 Keynote Speaker—Dr. Gilmartin
1200 - 1330 Officer Luncheon & Awards
1330 - 1630 Motivational Speaker—Dr. Gilmartin
Please remain in uniform all day
1700 - 2000 NAWEOMMEC Annual Torch Run &
Cookout at Sabino Canyon

THURSDAY, July 26

0800 - 1200 Breakout—Border issues, Arizona
Reptiles & Enforcement, Sky Island
1200 - 1300 Lunch on your own
1300 - 1600 Forensic Entomology—Dr. Anderson

FRIDAY, July 27

0800 - 0845 Breakout (Critical Incidents, Seated
FST battery, TASER)
0900 - 0945 FLIR, IANRAC, TASER
1000 - 1145 NAWEOA Business Meeting/
Candidate speeches
1300 - 2000 Warden Skills Competition &
Warden Skills BBQ

SATURDAY, July 28

0645 - 0745 NAWEOA Executive/J-rep breakfast
0800 - 1145 Computer Crimes
1200 - 1300 Lunch on own
1300 - 1445 Wildlife Road Crossing Research/
Warnings, Border Issues, AZ Reptiles
and Enforcement
1500 - 1545 FLIR, IANRAC, Seated SFST Battery
1615 - 1645 Closing Ceremony

REGISTRATION DESK HOURS:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>OPEN</u>	<u>CLOSE</u>
Sunday	1200	1700
Mon - Friday	0800	1700
Saturday	0800	1200

Vendors

Open Wednesday at 1200
Thursday 0800-1700
Friday 0800-1430
Saturday 0800-1200

Social Agenda

MONDAY, July 23

0730 - 1200 Golf Tournament
0630 - 1700 Field Trip AZ Sonora Desert Museum
0800 - 1700 Field Trip to Kartchner Caverns Park
2000 - 2400 Hospitality Room Open

TUESDAY, July 24

0630 - 1700 Field Trip to AZ Sonora Desert Museum
0800 - 1700 Field Trip to Kartchner Caverns Park
2000 - 2400 Hospitality Room Open

WEDNESDAY, July 25

0800 - 1200 Opening ceremonies/Officer Photo
1200 - 1330 Spouses' Luncheon (Dr. Gilmartin)
1200 - 1700 Kids activity room
1330 - 1630 Social activities/trips or free time
1700 - 2000 NAWEOMMEC Annual Torch Run &
Cookout at Sabino Canyon
2000 - 2400 Hospitality Room Open

THURSDAY, July 26

0800 - 1700 Trips/activities/spouse and kids activity
rooms
0700 - 1000 Guided hike in Ventana Canyon
0900 - 1300 Shopping Trip for spouses
1000 - 1400 Teenager Trip to Colossal Cave
0900 - 1700 Kids Room activities
1200 - 1330 Female Officer Luncheon
2000 - 2100 Future Conference Bid Presentations
2045 - 2400 Hospitality Room Open

FRIDAY, July 27

0800 - 0900 Retired Officers' Breakfast
0900 - 1300 Teenager Trip to Colossal Cave
1430 - 2000 Warden Skills Events/cookout
2000 - 2400 Hospitality Room Open
2000 - 2200 Youth Activities Room

SATURDAY, July 28

0645 - 0745 NAWEOA Executive Breakfast
0800 - 1530 Trips/activities for spouses
0800 - 1530 Kids activity room
1800 - 2200 Banquet/ Auction,
1800 - 2200 Kids' pizza dinner - Activities, pool/
movies

Come celebrate Arizona's Centennial!

Arizona Game and Fish Department employees have a proud history of protecting wildlife. The State Game and Fish Commission was started in 1884. The first State Game Warden was appointed in 1913, the year after Arizona's statehood.

Our first Arizona Resident license was issued in 1917 and cost 50 cents. This license entitled a person to hunt, fish, and trap.

In 1960, the Game Rangers were given the choice of becoming Wildlife Managers or finding another job. Wildlife Manager duties include both game management and law enforcement.

In 1970 Wildlife Managers became State-certified peace officers.

In 1979, the first female officer graduated from the police academy.

In 1988, the Department transitioned from personally owned revolvers to issued semi-automatic handguns.

The AZGFD has had two officers killed in the line of duty with both being killed in helicopter crashes. Allen Severson was killed in 1980 and

Estevan Escobedo was killed in 1994. Our goal is to never forget the sacrifice they made for managing wildlife.

Our wildlife officers are pleased to bring the 2012 NAWEOA Conference to Arizona in conjunction with our state's centennial.

In addition, the International Association of Natural Resource Crimestoppers is planning a conjoined annual conference at this event (www.ianrc.org).

We hope to show you some real Southwestern hospitality. Check out the Arizona Game and Fish Department's website at: www.azgfd.gov



"The first AZ resident license cost 50 cents in 1917 and was good for hunting, fishing, and trapping."



Dr. Kevin Gilmartin will be a Conference speaker

Dr. Gilmartin is a behavioral scientist specializing in law enforcement related issues. He is a principal and co-founder of Gilmartin, Harris, and Associates, a behavioral sciences/management consulting company specializing in law enforcement/public safety consultation. He previously spent twenty years working in law enforcement in Tucson, Arizona. During his tenure, he supervised the Hostage Negotiations Team and the Behavioral Sciences Unit. He is a former recipient of the International Association of Chiefs of Police-Parade Magazine, National Police Officer Citation Award for contributions during hostage negotiations.

He presently maintains a consulting relationship with public safety and law enforcement agencies nationally in the U.S. and in Canada. He is guest instructor at the FBI Academy's Law Enforcement Executive Development Institute (LEEDS and EDI). He is an adjunct instructor at Cornell University's New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, the University of Massachusetts Police Leadership Institute, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia, and Sam Houston State University's Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas. He is retained as a consultant to several Federal agency national critical incident response teams.

He is a charter member of the IACP-Psychological Services Section and former vice-president of the Society of Police and Criminal Psychology. The Department of Justice, FBI, and International Association of Chiefs of Police have published his work. He holds a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Arizona and is a licensed psychologist in the state of Arizona. He is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and resides in Tucson, Arizona, and Salem, Oregon.



www.facebook.com/pages/2012-NAWEOA-Conference-Tucson-Arizona/215575131798884

What is AGRL?

The Arizona Game Ranger Lodge #71 (AGRL) is a member organization of North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association (NAWEOA) and actively supports wildlife conservation programs in Arizona. AGRL members include both active and retired officers from the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD).

AGRL is proud to give back to the broader Arizona community by sponsoring projects including the Red Mountain Challenged Kids Fishing Day, White Mountain Kids Fishing Day, trash cleanups throughout the state, youth hunting camps, events benefiting wildlife, and brings Christmas cheer to an outdoor family in need.

AGRL assists AGFD employees and their families in times of need and supports AGFD Law Enforcement functions including the Colorado River Law Enforcement Association and Conservation Law Enforcement Association Conferences. AGRL will dedicate proceeds from the conference to a scholarship fund for students pursuing natural resource related degrees.

We are on the web!

www.naweoaz2012.com

Welcome from the AGRL President—Stewart Kohnke

When Kurt Bahti first brought up the idea to bring NAWEOA to Arizona in 2012, I thought he was crazy. Well, since then, we have made a lot of progress and we are definitely excited to bring you the best Arizona has to offer. We have put together an awesome team. This team has been working non-stop since we got the bid in December. That's right, we have only a year and a half to put this together.



We have picked the beautiful Loews Ventana Canyon Resort just outside of Tucson to host the conference.

The conference website is in place and we have produced a video up and running by mid-December. You can check out on YouTube.



We have procured the talents of world renowned speaker Dr. Kevin Gilmartin and we are currently filling out the remainder of the training schedule.

Our goal is to have the full registration site up and running by mid-December.

Early registration is recommended to guarantee your resort room at the reasonable conference price.

The main tours that we have lined up are the inspiring Karcchner Caverns, and the beautiful Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum. We also have shorter tours to the Pima Air Museum,

Sonoita wine tasting, and Tombstone, site of the OK Corral.

I look forward to the meeting you in Tucson!

THE FEDERAL WILDLIFE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 144 ♦ Washington, KS 66968



President – Dave Hubbard ♦ Vice President – John Brooks ♦ Secretary/Treasurer – Ellen Goeckler

**12th Anniversary NAWEOA Museum
5k Torch Run/Walk
Tucson, Arizona
July 25, 2012**

Now is the time to get your Wildlife Officer Association or Organization listed on the back of the commemorative 2012 Torch Run T-shirt by having your Association or Organization make a donation to this NAWEOA project. All net proceeds from the Torch Run will be donated to the NAWEOA Museum and Fallen Officer Memorial Project to assist in the construction and maintenance of the Museum and Memorial. The 2001 through 2011 donations have totaled over \$96,000 thanks to Association, Organization, Corporate and Individual contributions.

If interested in making a donation, please fill out and return completed form by June 1, 2012 to the Federal Wildlife Officers Association (FWOA) at the address listed below. All payments should be made to the: FWOA Torch Run Project

Detach and Return with Donation to:

2012 NAWEOA Torch Run

FWOA
P.O. Box 144
Washington, KS 66968

Name of Association: _____
As it should appear on T-shirt

Donation amount (\$U.S): \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ More _____

Contact person: _____ **Title:** _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Dedicated to the protection of wildlife, the enforcement of federal wildlife law, the fostering of cooperation and communication among federal wildlife officers, and the perpetuation, enhancement and defense of the wildlife law enforcement profession.

WWW.FWOA.ORG

NAWEOA

Stephen Beltran-Secretary, Treasurer
P.O. Box 7
Leaf River, IL 61047

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NAWEOA Fallen Officer Plaque presented to wife of Maine Warden Pilot Daryl Gordon who lost his life in an on-duty plane crash

NAWEOA Region 3 Director Shawn Farrell met with a few members of the Maine Warden Service on March 5, 2012, and presented Rita Gordon with a NAWEOA Fallen Officer Memorial Plaque.

Before presenting it, he gave a brief explanation of NAWEOA and what occurs when a fallen officer is remembered at our conferences. Rita was very honoured to have the plaque and she said that even a picture would have done. However, she was glad that Shawn was persistent in presenting her the plaque in person. Rita thanked the NAWEOA organization.

From left to right are Colonel Joel Wilkinson, Chief of Maine Warden Service, Rita Gordon, wife of deceased Maine Game Warden Pilot Daryl Gordon, and Shawn Farrell.

