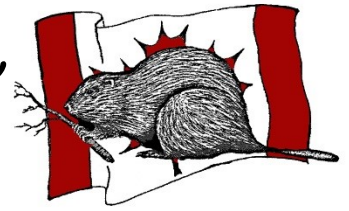


NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"



2016 Annual Conference Burlington, Vermont
Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center
July 9 thru July 15

<http://naweo.org/Conf/>

SPRING 2016
65th Edition NAWEOA Newsletter

NAWEOA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President Lew Huddleston P.O. Box 131, Menan, ID 83434	(208) 881-1321 C	president@naweo.org
Vice President Shawn Farrell 56 Lombardi Lane, Fredericton, New Brunswick, E3A 1N9	(506) 476-0377	vpresident@naweo.org
Past President Dave Webster Box 850, 7290 2nd St., Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0	(250)442-5643 H (250)442-4355 W	president@naweo.org
Secretary/Treasurer Steve Beltran P.O. Box 7, Leaf River, IL 61047	(815)243-7777	secretarytreasurer@naweo.org
Director Region 1 Lori Backen Second Floor, Provincial Building, 401 Center Street, Hanna, AB T0J 1P0	(403)845-5540 W (403)844-0672 C	region1@naweo.org
Director Region 2 Kurt Henry 63 Granite Cress, Thompson, MB	(204)679-0731 C	region2@naweo.org
Director Region 3 Roger Selesse 69 A Boulevard Perron, Pointe a La Garde, QC, G0C 2M0	(418)788-0005 H (506)789-2336 W	region3@naweo.org
Director Region 4 Rick Langley PO Box 1352, Pinetop, Arizona 85935	(928)606-1667	region4@naweo.org
Director Region 5 Jeff Jones 405 S. Madison, Hartington, NE 68739	(402)254-9124	region5@naweo.org
Director Region 6 Jason Blaylock 16234 Williamsville Rd, Kosciusko, MS 39090	(601)416-8495	region6@naweo.org
Director Region 7 Kevin Clayton Po Bx 1311, Harwich, MA 02645-6311	(508)962-8684	region7@naweo.org
Webmaster Robin Brandenburg 352 Hwy 'M', Steelville, MO 65565	(573) 775-2270 H	webmaster@naweo.org
Conference Liaison Scott Haney 530 CR 422, Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455	(903)305-8146 C (903)572-5242 H	conference@naweo.org



SOUVENIR PATCHES AVAILABLE

2015 NAWEOA conference patches are **Sold Out**.

2012, Arizona and 2013 Idaho Are available.

The cost per patch (including shipping and handling) is \$7.00 each USD.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAWEOA

Mail to: George A. Wilcox

P.O. Box 480

Millville, PA 17846

[1996 through 2010 patches are only available over-the-counter at the Game Warden Museum

The President's Report

By Lew Huddelston



Well the winter meeting is in the rear view mirror and now our sites next set on the summer conference in Vermont. I, for one, am extremely excited about the conference being held in Vermont. Growing up in the Nebraska panhandle and moving to Idaho for college I have been in

most of the states around Nebraska, as well as all the western states starting at a line north and south of Nebraska west to the Pacific Ocean. I have attended conferences in Quebec and Newfoundland. I have been through parts of the southeast United States. I've been to a conference in South Carolina and winter meetings in Mississippi. However, I have never been to the Northeast. So hopefully all those members that are in the same boat will take this opportunity to attend and experience the Northeast for themselves. I have heard a number of very complimentary things about Burlington, Vermont and the Northeast.

A big Thank You needs to go out to Vermont officers and their association for steeping up and wanting to help with an entire 5 day conference. The Executive Board and Scot Haney, the conference liaison, (big Thank You to Scott as well) are still planning a good portion of the conference and will provide a good portion of the manpower.

The winter meeting was another 3 ½ days of long meetings with a number of varying ideas and opinions being voiced. There were a number of issues discussed during the meeting. But before I talk about those I have to also thank Shawn Farrell and Jayson Blaylock. They are the ones that did most

of the planning for the meeting and Jayson is the one that coordinated the meeting location. A secluded 2,000 acre private lodge surrounded with trees, whitetail deer, and turkeys and as some of the board members found out, raccoons. Some of the board members were taken out and experienced a raccoon spotlighting southern style. A big Thanks you out to Billy and Mickey, the two caretakers of the property, as well as to Scott Haney. Scott again did a significant portion of the cooking for the meetings. Again, Thanks Scott, it really helps with the meeting having someone do the cooking and get the food. We have found it is also less expensive.

Obviously the Vermont conference was a big topic of discussion. We also talked about IGW and Brent Wyatt West Productions and their plans for bringing in advertising dollars. Everyone is eagerly looking forward to the report we get from them in Vermont. We talked about a meeting I had with corporate Cabela's in Sidney and moving forward with them coming on board as a sponsor of NAWEOA. It will be a long process but we are moving forward.

Through the Mississippi officers association we had a chance to meet with Elizabeth Reyer-Corley who is a representative of American Income Life. NAWEOA is in the process of signing up for a no cost \$2,000 accidental death or dismemberment policy to cover all NAWEOA general members.

The minutes from the meeting will be posted on the protected website if anyone would like take a look at was discussed.

That's about it for now. I hope to see a tremendous turnout for the Vermont Conference. Looking forward to seeing all the attendees.

Lew Huddelston

The Vice President's Report

By Shawn Farrell



First of all I would like to thank the NAWEOA executive board for all of their hard work and dedication. The past few years have been very challenging in the way of conferences and this year is no exception. Our board members (both past and present) have worked

tirelessly to ensure our members have had quality conferences to attend. For that I am very grateful. One of the roles as VP is to organise the winter executive meeting. This year was a first for me and with the excellent help and coordination from Mississippi Officer Jason Blaylock (Region 6 Director) our Executive board met at Black Creek Farms located just outside Lexington Mississippi. The location was very suitable for the needs of the executive board and a huge thanks go out to Bill, Micky and the owners of the property.

The Vice President's Report (Continued)

By Shawn Farrell

You folks definitely went above and beyond to ensure our executive board members were comfortable.

The winter meeting is designed for the board to get together in person to discuss issues important to the NAWEOA organization. Reports are also given by each of the Regional directors as well as those in support roles. When deciding on a meeting location we always try to keep NAWEOA's finances in mind.

This year our accommodations were free for the week and some meals were supplied by the hosts. Groceries were purchased and Scott Haney (former Region 5 Director now Conference Liaison) graciously cooked the remaining meals for the executive. Last summer's shortened conference appeared to be successful and replenished some of the funds that we have been using to host our past conferences. Despite some tornado warnings the week was very busy for the executive. I invite the membership to review the minutes on the protected site. The minutes are usually posted not long after the publishing of the spring newsletter.

This summer's conference will be held in Burlington,

Vermont and will return to a 5 day format (July 9-15, 2016). A big thank you to Scott Haney and to the Vermont Game Wardens Association for stepping forward to assist with the 2016 conference. I encourage all who are attending to invite a fellow officer to attend and to stay at the host hotel. A 50% food discount will be offered to those staying at the host hotel if they chose to eat at the hotel restaurant.

Conference locations tend to be a challenge so if you know of any agencies/associations considering taking on the rewarding challenges of hosting a conference, please get in touch with NAWEOA Conference Liaison Scott Haney at texaswarden04@live.com

As Vice President I look after the **NAWEOA Awards Program**. There are officers amongst our ranks who deserve to be recognized for the excellent work they do and I encourage you all to go to the NAWEOA website (www.naweo.org) and review the award categories.

The Past President's Report, Call for Elections

By Dave Webster



I find myself starting my first term as Past President and wondering where all the time has gone. My time on the board has been sometimes challenging but always rewarding and I would

encourage anyone who was

interested in taking a more active role within NAWEOA to consider joining the executive. This year the winter meeting was held in Mississippi and I think I can speak for the entire board when I say we had excellent meeting facilities with the most gracious hosts. As per usual there was an extensive agenda and much ground was covered. Another big thank you to Jason Blaylock and Shawn Farrell for organizing this year's meeting location and logistics.

One of my duties as past president is to help manage elections and this year in Burlington Vermont we will be conducting elections for all three Canadian Regions. Region one will see a new Director as Lori Backen has completed two full terms. Both Directors for Region two and three will be able to run for their second terms.

You must be a regular voting member in good standing with NAWEOA to be eligible for these positions. A candidate for regional director must also reside in the Region they are running for.

You may nominate someone at the summer conference or send nominations directly to me prior to this year's conference. All nominations must be made by a NAWEOA member in good standing and seconded by a NAWEOA member in good standing. Candidate speeches will be held during the general

The Past President's Report (Continued)

By Dave Webster

membership business session at the summer conference.

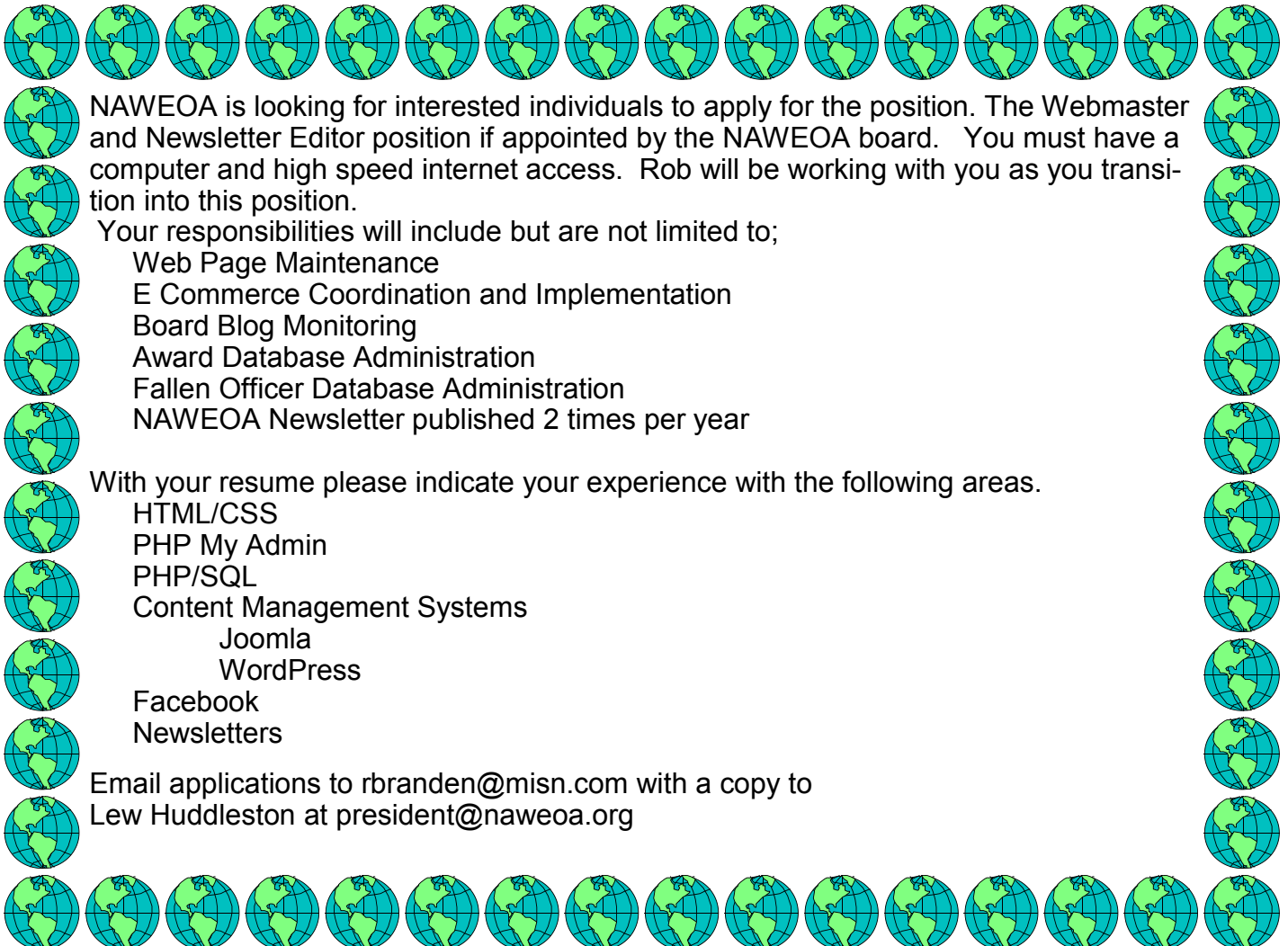
Being on the Executive Board of NAWEOA is a demanding but rewarding job. You must be able to attend the annual summer conference as well as the winter executive meeting. Much of the business of NAWEOA is conducted via e-mail and as such it is a requirement to have access to a computer and internet service to participate as a member of the board. For a

complete list of duties associated with these positions, or if you have questions regarding the nomination or election process, please feel free to contact me at dave.w.webster@gov.bc.ca

I will be accepting nominations from now until they close during the summer conference in Burlington Vermont, look forward to seeing you all there!

Dave Webster
Past President NAWEOA

Webmaster and Newsletter Editor Wanted



NAWEOA is looking for interested individuals to apply for the position. The Webmaster and Newsletter Editor position if appointed by the NAWEOA board. You must have a computer and high speed internet access. Rob will be working with you as you transition into this position.

Your responsibilities will include but are not limited to;

- Web Page Maintenance
- E Commerce Coordination and Implementation
- Board Blog Monitoring
- Award Database Administration
- Fallen Officer Database Administration
- NAWEOA Newsletter published 2 times per year

With your resume please indicate your experience with the following areas.

- HTML/CSS
- PHP My Admin
- PHP/SQL
- Content Management Systems
 - Joomla
 - WordPress
- Facebook
- Newsletters

Email applications to rbranden@misn.com with a copy to Lew Huddleston at president@naweo.org

Rapport du président

Lew Huddelston



Et bien la réunion d'hiver est derrière nous et maintenant nous visons la Conférence d'été qui aura lieu au Vermont. D'une part, je suis extrêmement heureux que la Conférence sera au Vermont. Avoir eu grandit dans l'enclave du Nebraska et d'avoir été au collège d'Idaho, j'ai été dans la plupart des États autour du Nebraska, ainsi que

tous les États occidentaux commençant au nord et au sud ouest du Nebraska à l'océan Pacifique. J'ai assisté à des conférences au Québec et à Terre-Neuve. J'ai passé dans les parties du sud-est des États-Unis. Je suis allé à une conférence en Caroline du Sud et les réunions d'hiver au Mississippi. Cependant, je n'ai jamais été au nord-est. Alors j'espère que tous les membres qui sont dans le même bateau auront l'occasion d'assister et de vivre l'expérience du nord-est, par eux-mêmes. J'ai entendu un certain nombre de choses très élogieuses sur Burlington (Vermont) et le nord-est

Un gros merci doit être mentionné aux agents du Vermont et à leur association pour avoir pris l'initiative d'accueillir une conférence de 7 jours. Le Conseil d'administration et Scott Haney, La personne liaison de la Conférence, (un gros merci Scott) travaille aussi à la planification de la Conférence et fournirons une bonne partie de la main-d'œuvre.

La réunion d'hiver était de 3 jours et demi, il y a eu un bon nombre de débat sur certaines d'idées et d'opinions différentes. Il y avait un grand nombre de points ont été discuté au cours de la réunion. Mais avant d'en parler, je dois aussi remercier Shawn Farrell et Jayson Blaylock, qui ont fait

l'essentiel de la planification pour la rencontre, Jayson est celui qui a coordonné l'emplacement de la réunion. Une propriété privée ayant 2,000 acres entourées d'arbres, de cerf de Virginie et dindes. Certains des membres du comité ont participé à la chasse au raton laveur avec chiens ce qui c'est avérer une expérience unique à la saveur du sud. Un grand Merci à Billy et Mickey, les deux gardiens de la propriété, ainsi que Scott Haney. Encore une fois, Scott a fait la plupart des repas ce qui nous a aider à sauver du temps au réunion et a réduire les coûts des dépenses

Évidemment, la Conférence du Vermont a été un grand sujet de discussion. Nous avons également parlé d'IGW et Brent Wyatt Ouest Productions et leurs plans de vente de publicité pour amener de l'argent dans nos coffres. Tout le monde attend avec impatience le rapport que nous recevrons du Vermont. Nous avons aussi parlé d'une rencontre que j'ai eue avec l'entreprise Cabela's à Sidney, et nous allons de l'avant avec eux pour qu'ils deviennent un commanditaire de NAWEOA. Ce sera un long processus, mais nous progressons.

Par l'intermédiaire de l'association des agents du Mississippi, nous avons eu la chance de rencontrer avec Elizabeth Reyer-Corley, qui est une représentante de l'American Income Life. NAWEOA est en train de s'inscrire pour une assurance (sans frais au membre) de \$ 2 000 pour un décès accidentelle ou démembrement, qui couvrirait tous les membres actifs de NAWEOA.

Le compte rendu de la réunion est affiché sur le site Web protégé si quelqu'un souhaite jeter un coup d'œil à ce qui a été discuté.

C'est tout pour l'instant. J'espère de voir un énorme taux de participation à la Conférence du Vermont. J'ai hâte de voir tous les participants.

Lew Huddelston

Rapport du vice président

Shawn Farrell



Premièrement je veux remercier les membres de l'exécutif pour leurs travail et dévouement pour la NAWEOA. Les dernières années ont été un grand défi en ce qui concerne les conférences et ne sera pas une exception pour la prochaine. Les membres de l'exécutif (passé et présent) ont travaillé ardemment afin de s'assurer que les

membres puisse participer à des conférences de qualité. Pour cela je suis reconnaissant. Un des rôles du vice président est d'organiser les réunions d'hiver

pour l'exécutif. Cette année était une première pour moi et avec l'aide et la coordination d'un agent du Mississippi, Jason Blaylock (Directeur Région 6) les membres de l'exécutif se sont rencontrés à Black Creek Farm situé à l'extérieur de Lexington au Mississippi. L'endroit était parfait pour les membres et un gros merci pour Bill, Micky et les propriétaires, vous avez définitivement été outre mesure afin que tous soient très confortables.

Les rencontres d'hiver sont désignées afin de permettre à l'exécutif de se rencontrer en personne et de discuter des points importants pour l'organisation NAWEOA. Des rapports sont aussi donnés par chaque directeur de différente région ainsi que ceux

qui ont des rôles de support. Quand vient le temps de faire un choix sur endroit où auras lieux la rencontre nous regardons aussi les finances de NAWEOA. Cet année les accommodations étaient gratuite ainsi que quelque repas fournis par nos hôtes. L'épicerie a été faite par Scott Haney (ancien directeur de la région 5 et maintenant agent de liaison pour la prochaine conférence)il a préparé gracieusement tous les autres repas.

Il semble que la conférence de l'été dernier qui était plus courte, a quand même été un succès et a aidé à renflouer nos coffres. Dans lequel nous avons pu servir pour d'autres conférences. En dépit des avertissements de tornade, la semaine a été très occupée pour l'exécutif. J'invite les membres à réviser les minutes sur le site protégé. Les minutes sont habituellement disponibles peu de temps après la publication de l'info lettre du printemps.

La conférence cette été auras lieux à Burlington au Vermont et retournera au format de 5 jours (9 au 15 Juillet ,2016). Merci à Scott et l'association des agents du Vermont, pour avoir été de l'avant et de nous assister avec la conférence de 2016. J'encourage tous les agents qui planifient d'assister à la conférence d'inviter leurs collègues de venir et

de rester à l'hôtel hôte. Un rabais de 50% sur tous les repas est offert pour tous ceux qui demeureront là.

C'est un défi constant pour trouver de nouvelles endroits pour nos conférences. Si vous connaissez des agences ou association qui désire relever le défi gratuitement et de tenir une conférence, svp contacter Scott Haney, l'agent de liaison des conférences NAWEOA. A texaswarden04@live.com

Etant vice président je m'occupe du programme de Prix de NAWEOA. (Bravoure , reconnaissance, d'honneur etc.) Ils y a des officiers parmi vous qui méritent d'être reconnus pour leurs actions et le travail qu'ils font et j'encourage chacun de vous, à visiter le site NAWEOA (www.naweo.org) et voir tous les catégories de prix.

Si vous avez des questions au sujet des prix ou de NAWEOA svp envoyer moi un courriel à vpresident@naweo.org ou téléphoner moi au 506 458 5897. C'est un honneur et un privilège de vous servir tant que vice président de la NAWEOA. J'espère que vous aurez un printemps et une été productive et de vous voir au Vermont.

Rapport du président sortant, appel pour les élections

Dave Webster

Me voici à mon premier mandat comme président sortant et je me demandais où tout le temps avait passé. Mon mandat au Conseil d'administration a été parfois difficile mais toujours gratifiant et j'encourage tous ceux qui étaient intéressés à prendre un



rôle plus actif au sein de la NAWEOA à envisager d'adhérer à l'exécutif. Cette année la réunion d'hiver a eu lieu au Mississippi, et je pense que je peux parler pour l'ensemble du Conseil quand je dis que nous avons eu d'excellentes installations pour les rencontres avec les hôtes

des plus gracieux. Comme d'habitude, il y avait un agenda très chargé et nous avons couvert beaucoup de points. Merci encore à Jason Blaylock et Shawn Farrell pour avoir organisé cette réunion. Une de mes fonctions comme de président sortant est d'aider à gérer les élections et cette année à Burlington, Vermont nous aurons les élections pour les trois régions canadiennes. Région 1 verra un nouveau directeur, comme Lori Backen a déjà rempli deux mandats complets. Les deux directeurs pour la région 2 et 3 seront capables de se présenter pour

leur deuxième mandat.

Vous devez être un membre régulier de NAWEOA pour présenter votre candidature à un poste de directeur. Le candidat doit également résider dans la région qu'il veut représenter.

Vous pouvez nommer quelqu'un lors de la Conférence d'été ou envoyer des candidatures directement à moi avant la Conférence de cette année. Toutes les nominations doivent être faites par un membre de la NAWEOA en bon terme et appuyées par les membres de NAWEOA. Discours du candidat aura lieu pendant la session d'affaires lors de la Conférence d'été.

Être sur le Conseil exécutif de NAWEOA est exigeant, mais un travail gratifiant. Vous devez être en mesure d'assister à la Conférence annuelle d'été ainsi que la réunion exécutive de l'hiver. Une grande partie de l'entreprise de NAWEOA est par courriel et comme suite il est requis d'avoir accès à un ordinateur et avoir l'internet pour participer comme membre du conseil. Pour une liste complète des tâches associées avec ses positions ou si vous avez des questions visant les nominations ou le procès de l'élection, svp contacter moi à : dave.w.webster@gov.bc.ca. Je vais accepter des nominations à partir de maintenant jusqu'à ce que sa ferme durant la conférence d'été à Burlington, Vermont.

J'ai hâte de voir tous les participants.

North American Wildlife Enforcement Officer's Association

Invites you and your family to the:

2016 Annual Conference Burlington, Vermont

Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center

July 9 thru July 15

Exploring Burlington and Vermont's Lake Champlain Region

Whether visiting Vermont for the first time or revisiting cherished places from childhood or college years, time spent in Vermont will always satisfy a traveler's desire for natural beauty, real community and unabashed authenticity. From exploring the mountains to the Champlain Islands; to the valleys and beloved Queen City, the Burlington and Lake Champlain region is an ideal destination to take in the beauty of the seasons, the working landscape and its welcoming people.



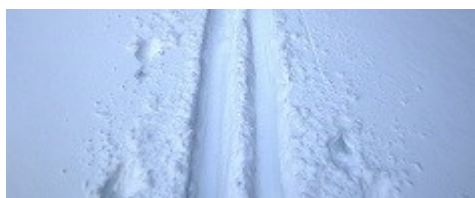
[Burlington](#)

As the largest city, Burlington is known as Vermont's Queen City, and is a vibrant "college town" that tech and creative businesses naturally migrate toward. Burlington has the dual pleasures of having the sophistication of world-class dining, shopping, and entertainment while also being nestled between an outdoor enthusiast's haven, Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains.



[Lake Champlain Islands](#)

Jewels within the nation's sixth largest lake, the Lake Champlain Islands are popular with oenophiles, cyclists and those seeking a charmingly slower pace. The Islands beckon with gorgeous views, cultural heritage and natural history as well as thriving arts and agricultural communities.



[The Mountain Experience](#)

Whether exploring the peaks or admiring views from the verdant valley below, travelers soon understand why Vermont is called the Green Mountain State. No visit is complete without at least a little reflection on these rolling peaks. Whether embarking on the nation's oldest through-hike, the Long Trail, or savoring local cheeses at a mountain-side restaurant, there are options for all varieties of mountain-life enthusiasts.

The Sheraton Hotel

is working hard to make the 2016 conference a great experience for all attendees. The room rate will be \$125.00 a night and before you wonder is that the best “we” could do I want to let you know that includes 50% off discount for attendees’ food in either of the two restaurants. I believe 50% off on food during your stay at the Sheraton is worth a few dollars more a night for the room. The Sheraton Hotel will pick NAWEOA attendees up from the airport for free.

[You can book your room here.](https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/wildlife201)
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/wildlife201>



Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center Lobby



Top photo by Allison Volz Photography

BURLINGTON - VERMONT'S QUEEN CITY

Burlington is vibrant, entrepreneurial and historic, yet innovative. It's a city that has kept its charm while also being positively edgy. Locals and visitors alike enjoy Burlington's walkable downtown, its abundance of parks and cheerful streets ripe for exploring the city's dining, shopping and abundance of arts. Foodies will savor exploring the chocolateries, breweries and farm-to-table restaurants offering local meats, the freshest produce and world-renowned cheeses and maple products. Outdoor enthusiasts are drawn to Waterfront Park, where in addition to miles of recreation paths north and southbound, the city's nearby beaches are prime for an afternoon swim, kayak or paddleboard. There are also opportunities to learn to sail or take a sunset cruise. Of course, after sunset, enjoy downtown Burlington's night-life at its theaters, bars and brew pubs - many of which are host to a festive live music scene.



EXPLORE & RELAX IN THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS

Jewels within the nation's sixth largest lake, the Lake Champlain Islands are popular with oenophiles, cyclists and those seeking a charmingly slower pace. Referred to simply as "the Islands," they beckon with gorgeous views, cultural heritage and natural history as well as thriving arts and agricultural communities. With 200 miles of shoreline to explore and enjoy, the Islands are a prized summer and fall vacation destination, as well as an ice-fishing and snowmobile enthusiasts' winter retreat.

Conveniently half way between Montreal and Burlington, the Islands, just 30 miles long by eight miles wide, are a key destination along the Lake Champlain Byway. The southernmost town in the Islands, South Hero, is just twenty minutes from Burlington and home to Vermont's first vineyard, Snow Farm Winery, a lively stop along the Champlain Coast Wine Trail. The largest town in the Islands with a population of 2,000, Grand Isle is 35 minutes north of Burlington and a quick ferry ride from Plattsburgh, New York. In Grand Isle, the Hyde Log Cabin, built in 1783, is one of the nation's oldest remaining log cabins. An hour north of Burlington, Isle La Motte is home to the historic St. Anne's Shrine and lesser known, yet historically profound, Chazy Reef, the world's oldest coral reef.

On a clear night, whether camping or staying at an inn, take time to enjoy the reflection of stars glimmering on the water. Some lucky locals and travelers have even witnessed the Northern Lights from these shores.



EXPLORE THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE'S PEAKS & VISTAS

Whether exploring the peaks or admiring views from the verdant valley below, travelers soon understand why Vermont is called the Green Mountain State. No visit is complete without at least a little reflection on these rolling peaks. Whether embarking on the nation's oldest through-hike, the Long Trail, or savoring local cheeses at a mountain-side resort, there are options for all varieties of mountain-life enthusiasts.

Endless recreational opportunities abound and every season is stunning! Vermont is 76 percent forested, so it's incredibly easy to find yourself immersed in autumn's blazing red and orange hillsides, bright white peaks against bluebird skies in winter, witness the springtime awakening of seemingly neon tree-buds and fiddleheads as they reinvigorate forests to the lush, glorious green of summertime.

In summer, the mountains and resort towns offer up golfing, mountain biking, waterparks, or natural swimming holes and waterfalls, tennis and hundreds of miles of hiking trails. Mountain towns and resorts are often bustling with a variety of sports clinics, arts events and beer festivals as well! The more adventurous travelers can soar through the air on gliders or explore ropes courses. Of course, there's always the option to simply relax with a massage and savor fine dining at mountain resorts in any season. Often, after experiencing Vermont's mountains in summer and winter, many choose to visit again for fall foliage. Fiery red maple canopies and seemingly glowing mountainsides provide stunning drives and picturesque outdoor recreation in the mountains; plus, being harvest season, a farm-fresh picnic and crisp, fresh cider are perfect treats while enjoying the views.

Burlington serves as a perfect starting point and base for mountain adventures. Within 30 minutes to 1.5 hrs, find yourself at five nearby mountain resorts: Bolton Valley Resort, Stowe Mountain Resort, Sugarbush Resort, Smugglers' Notch Resort, and Jay Peak Resort.

2016 NAWEOA Annual Conference Business Agenda

Friday, 8 July

- 1300-UTC: VGWA Annual Meeting (Sheraton).

Saturday, 9 July

- 1300-1900: Registration open.

Sunday, 10 July

- 0800-1800: Registration open.
- 0800-1700: NAWEOA Executive Board Meeting

Monday, 11 July

- 0800-1800: Registration open.
- 0745: Group Photo (Uniform Day).
- 0830-1100: Opening ceremonies and tribute to fallen officers.
- 1200-1400: Officer Luncheon and presentation of awards
- 1400-1600: Keynote Speaker-Joe Wiegand, Theodore Roosevelt Reprisor.
- 1730-UTC: Torch Run, followed by awards and dinner on-site.
- 1300-1700: Exhibitors

Tuesday, 12 July

- 0800-1800: Registration open.
- 0800-1000: Speakers/training (three one-hour classes will be presented, attendees may attend two.
- Fish ID (Shawn Good, VT F&W biologist),
- Boone and Crockett Scoring and VT Big Game records (LT Curtis Smiley, VT F&W Dep't)
- Marijuana Eradication Teams (MERT), a joint effort between the VT NG and VT's law enforcement agencies, including air to ground communication (CW3 Kevin Carvey).
- 1000-1200: NAWEOA Business Meeting and Officer Exchange.
- 1130-1300: Lunch on your own.
- 1300-1700: Speakers/Training (three two-hour classes will be presented, attendees may attend two.
- Trapping, equipment and techniques (NY ENCON)
- Interviewing and Interrogation (Mark Allegro, PA Game Commission).
- 0800-1700: Exhibitors

Wednesday, 13 July

- 0800-1800: Registration open.
- 0900-1100: Training session, Ben Kilham, black bear expert.
- 1130-1230: Lunch on your own.
- 1300-1900: Warden skills
- 0800-1200: Exhibitors

Thursday, 14 July

- 0700-0800: J-Rep Breakfast (by invitation only).
- 0800-1000: Training-
- K9 training
- Body cameras.
- 1000-1200: NAWEOA Business Meeting
- 1200-1300: Lunch on your own;
- 1200-1300: Female Officers Lunch
- 1200-1300: Retired Officers Lunch
- 1300-1600: Training-Rainforest Reptiles; venomous reptiles/alligators/crocodiles (families welcome).
- 1630-1730: Closing ceremony.

Friday, 15 July

- 0900-UTC: NAWEOA Business Meeting

2016 NAWEOA Annual Conference Social Agenda

- **Friday, 8 July**
 - 1800: Hospitality Room; VGWA/NAWEOA mixer.
- **Saturday, 9 July**
 - Time TBD: Golf Tournament
 - 1800-2400: Hospitality Room.
- **Sunday, 10 July**
 - 1800-2400: Hospitality Room.
 - 0900-1700: Tour; Vergennes, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Fort Ticonderoga, NY
 - 2000-2400: Hospitality Room (sponsored by the Massachusetts Environmental Police Officer's Association)
- **Monday, 11 July**
 - 1200-1400: Spouse/Guest Luncheon, including silent auction and guest presenter. TBD.
 - 1730-UTC: Torch Run, followed by awards and dinner on-site.
 - 1900-2200: Youth Room.
 - 2000-2400: Hospitality Room (sponsored by the New York Conservation Officers Association)
 - Retired VT LT Warden Eric Nuse and author Megan Price to the social agenda for Monday night from about 1900 to 2000. They will lead a "Moth Story Hour" during which other wardens will be invited to share their Warden stories with the assembled crowd.
- **Tuesday, 12 July**
 - 0900-UTC: All day tour, including
 - Morse Farm (Maple syrup making demonstration),
 - State Capital (lunch at the State House),
 - Rock of Ages granite quarry in Barre,
 - Ben and Jerry's ice cream
 - 1800-UTC: Sunset Dinner Cruise on Champlain with DJ
 - 1900-2200: Youth Room
 - 1900-2400: Hospitality Room (Sponsored by the Connecticut Conservation Officers Association)
- **Wednesday, 13 July**
 - 1300-1900: Warden skills competition and barbeque, hosted by the VGWA.
 - Youth skills competition
 - K9 demonstration for youths presented by Warden Rob Sterling (VT F&W)
 - Let's Go Fishing program for kids (VT F&W)
 - Shooting scenario van provided by VT Hunter Education.
 - 2000-2400: Hospitality Room sponsored by the New Hampshire Conservation Officers Relief Association
 - 2000-2200: Movie and pizza night for youths.
- **Thursday, 14 July**
 - 0830-1245: Shuttle to and from downtown Burlington.
 - 1200-1300: Female Officers Lunch
 - 1200-1300: Retired Officers Lunch
 - 1730-UTC: Grand Banquet; social hour, meal, auction(s).
 - 1800-2200: Youth room open.
- **Friday, 15 July**
 - Tours on your own.

2016 NAWEOA Winter Meeting Report

Lexington, Mississippi

By Roger Selesse



This winter the Executive Board met the week of 21st of February in Lexington, Mississippi, approximately 1 hour 15-minute drive from Jackson. Jason Blaylock, Director-Region 6, managed to find a super cool location for our meeting - a privately own property of 2,000 acres named Black Creek Farms.

A few of our Board members arrived at the location a couple of days early in order to prepare the facilities for our weeklong meeting. The rest of the Board members arrived on Sunday and were picked up by Rob Brandenburg and Scott Haney.



Our meeting started on Monday morning with an extensive agenda. We discussed many topics ranging from our last conference experience, ongoing business, budgets, a mission/ vision statement ,minor housekeeping and the upcoming conference this summer in Burlington, Vermont, July 9th-15th, 2016. The first morning was very productive and our host prepared a very special meal, Crawfish with vegetables all cooked in a special spice. We also had the opportunity to meet a retired Football player, Ron Estay who won a total of seven Grey Cups and is in several Hall of Fames north and south of the border. The second part of the day, we continued our meeting agenda. Scott Haney, liaison officer for the Vermont Conference, was with us again this year to prepare super nice meals,

saving us lots of time and money. Throughout the week, the Board met for long hours in order to get through our agenda.

A representative of American Income Life Insurance gave a presentation and offered NAWEOA members the opportunity to enrol in a Free Accidental Death & Dismemberment insurance, there will be more follow-up on this topic.



During the meeting we discussed and participated in an exercise led by Region 7 Director, Kevin Clayton. The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) exercise helped us to focus our thoughts toward developing a vision and a mission statement for the association. We plan to have vision and mission statements for a consideration by the membership within the next year."

During our stay, we were put on alert with a severe tornado warning heading in our direction. Luckily all we got was strong wind and lots of rain.

Thursday after our last meeting, we all gathered and enjoyed Scott's delicious smoked brisket supper. Jason rounded up a few local dog handlers who introduced the 3 Canadian Directors to a raccoon night hunt. This was a great experience enjoyed by everyone.

Friday most left very early to go back home.

I am taking the opportunity to invite all members to participate in our next conference in Burlington, Vermont. There will be great speakers and workshops for everyone. The officers in Vermont are working hard to make this next conference a memorable event for all.

A special thanks to our host and employees for making this winter meeting a great success.

Rapport de la Réunion Hivernale NAWEOA 2016

Lexington, Mississippi

Par, Roger Selesse



Bonjour à tous
Cet hiver les membres de l'exécutif se sont rencontrés dans la semaine du

Scott Haney, notre officier de liaison pour la conférence du Vermont, était avec nous encore cette année, afin de préparer nos délicieux repas, ce qui nous aide à économiser du temps et de l'argent.

Une représentante de la compagnie American Income Life Insurance, est venue donner une présentation et

21 février à Lexington, Mississippi, situé approximativement 1h 15 de route de Jackson. Jason Blaylock, Directeur de la Région 6, a réussi de nous trouver un endroit super pour notre réunion. Une propriété de 2000 acres du nom de Black Creek Farms.

Quelque un des membres de l'exécutif sont venus un couple de jour à l'avance afin de tous préparer pour notre semaine de réunion. Les autres membres sont arrivés dimanche et ont été accueillis et transportés par Rob Brandenburg et Scott Haney.

Notre réunion a débuté le lundi matin avec un agenda très chargé. Nous avons discuté plusieurs sujets,



L'expérience de notre dernière conférence, les affaires régulières, budget, l'engagement de notre ass.

vision / mission et de la prochaine conférence qui aura lieu à Burlington au Vermont du 9 au 15 juillet 2016. Le premier matin a été très productif et nos hôtes nous ont préparé un repas spécial, des écrevisses et des légumes tout cuit avec des épices particulières. Nous avons aussi eu l'opportunité de faire la rencontre d'un ex-joueur de football du nom de Ron Estay, qui a gagné un total de 7 Coupes Gray et qui fait partie de temples de la renommée de la côte nord et sud de la frontière. La deuxième partie de la journée, nous avons travaillé sur notre agenda.



membres de la NAWEOA l'opportunité de souscrire gratuitement à une police d'assurance de décès accidentelle et de démembrement. Il y aura un suivi à ce sujet.

Pendant notre séjour, nous avons été mis en état d'alerte à cause d'une tornade qui se dirigeait dans notre direction, heureusement nous avons seulement eu de forte pluie et de vent violent.

Jeudi après notre dernière réunion, nous nous sommes tous réunis pour apprécier un délicieux repas préparé par Scott. Jason a réuni quelques maîtres chiens et a initié les 3 directeurs Canadien à la chasse aux rats laveurs avec chiens le soir. Cela a été une très bonne expérience qui a été appréciée par tous les membres.

Je prends l'opportunité pour inviter tous les membres à participer à notre prochaine conférence à Burlington, au Vermont. Il y aura de bons narrateurs et des ateliers pour tous. Les officiers du Vermont, travaillent très fort pour mettre en place la prochaine conférence et pour qu'elle soit mémorable pour tous.

Un remerciement spécial à nos hôtes et leurs employés, qui ont contribué au succès de notre réunion annuel.

Region 1 Director Lori Backen



Alberta Game Warden Association (AGWA)

This past August, 11 Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer recruits graduated from the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy at Hinton, AB. They were posted in various districts

throughout the province. Matthew Visentin received the Chief's award as the top recruit of his class.

On a sad note, it is with the heaviest of hearts that we announce the passing of Kuma, an Alberta Fish and Wildlife K9 service dog.

Kuma was one of the first wildlife management dogs to enter Canada 15 years ago with his brother Mica, where he was partnered in Alberta with his lifelong friend and handler, District Officer John Clarke.

Kuma was based out of the Crowsnest Pass, but worked throughout the province with District Officer Clarke. Kuma quickly became respected and admired for his bravery and willingness to enter any situation without hesitation alongside John.

The main focus of Kuma's career was bear management. He worked on hundreds of bears, both grizzly and black bears alike. Kuma excelled at tracking, treeing and "pushing" bears out of unwanted areas, thereby preventing conflicts with humans. Kuma also became well known for his work teaching the local herds of bighorn sheep to stay off the highway, chasing rogue moose out of town, and seeking out the odd visiting cougar.

One of the amazing attributes Kuma demonstrated was his ability to be strong, fearless and aggressive when needed on duty, but also able to play with small children and do so many tricks for them. Kuma attended many school talks and presentations every year. He met over 100,000 people throughout his career and was friendly and gentle to them all.

Saskatchewan Regional Update

This year Saskatchewan was proud to host the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy at Candle Lake. The venue worked out very well as candidates from western Canada participated in the training program once again. The graduation ceremony took place last week and we welcome our new members to our respective jurisdictions. Congratulations! I am told at this point that Saskatchewan has 52 full time Conservation Officers in our agency who have graduated from the program since it began.

Our officers association 'SACO' is proud to announce that this April we will be having our 35th annual officers convention. The event will be held in Saskatoon and hosted/organized by those officers in the Saskatoon district. I have no doubt that this year's convention will be a terrific success and one to be remembered for years to come. We especially look forward to a presentation on the history of SACO which will be put on by Les Oystryk, Dave Harvey and John Edwards. These three men were instrumental in the early years regarding the creation of our officers association and they have much to offer in experiences and stories.

Brock Lockhart, SACO President

Yukon Conservation Officer Association

The Yukon as with many agencies is experiencing significant change as employees retire or move on to new career opportunities. With an agency as small as the Yukon with less than twenty officers one or two changes make a big impact on the agency as a whole.

In August 2015 after 34 years of service Torrie Hunter retired as the North Regional Manager in Dawson City Yukon. Torrie Hunter had a long and accomplished career in the Yukon and was highly respected by his peers and the Yukon communities he worked and resided in.

Kirby Meister was the successful candidate in succession as is the new North Regional Manager. Kirby is a twenty year veteran of Conservation Officer Services Branch in the Yukon as a district officer and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position and the officers he now supervises. Currently, the Yukon is in the process of recruit-

ment to fill three vacant district positions and one anticipatory entry level officer position. I believe this level of vacancy and recruitment has not been experienced by COSB in 30 years. This is expected to bring new officers, experiences, skills and knowledge to our Branch keeping us current and revitalized as a law enforcement agency above the 60 parallel.

On Feb 19th 2016, Tynan Thurmer graduated from the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy held this year in Candle Lake Saskatchewan. All reports back from the instructors at the academy have been very positive including his time of 2:54 seconds in the final PARE test which is very impressive. Tynan with this new training and experiences gained in Saskatchewan is a very strong contender for a permanent position within our agency this year.



Four the first time in five years large numbers or caribou from the Porcupine Caribou Herd migrated to their winter range adjacent to the Dempster Highway in October and will remain there until March 2016.



NAWEOA Newsletter Spring 2016

As large numbers of caribou have not been found on these wintering grounds for many years it resulted in licensed hunters and subsistence hunters from Yukon and Northwest Territories harvesting large numbers of caribou. As a result of this hunting activity it kept officers across the Yukon busy as we rotated staff into this remote area to monitor the hunt. As with any large hunt complaints were received regarding alleged dangerous hunting, meat wastage or user conflicts. Officers on the highway monitored this activity used education compliance practices and enforced public safety regulations to keep all highway users and hunters safe. Some cases of meat wastage were investigated and officers were successful in using our Facebook page in generating TIPPS and identifying suspects in at least one of these cases. Our Facebook page appears to be followed closely by northern communities and sparked outrage and condemnation for the persons involved. This is a case where social media has resulted in conversation, education and possibly social change for future hunting activities along the Dempster Highway by all user groups.

Ryan Hennings
President, YCOA

Alberta Natural Resource Officer Association (ANORA)

No report provided.

Northwest Territories

No report provided.

Department of Fisheries and Ocean – Pacific Region

No report provided.

Parks Canada

No report provided.

British Columbia

No report provided.

Region 2 Director Kurt Henry



I have just returned from the winter meeting which was held in Mississippi this year. Thanks go out to Jason Blaylock for securing and hosting a very successful and entertaining winter meeting.

The meeting went well often with long day's discussion the present way of doing business and the way or future we would like the association to continue. Often the discussion was safe to say dynamic! At the end of the day and week I believe we all got to say how we felt and each other's options were received.

Thanks to Clayton who gave the group some home work to think and submit a mission and vision statements for what NAWEOA means to us.

Manitoba;

Manitoba will be hosting its 33 annual convention in Swan River Mb. On March 19 2016 this shows the committed effort of officers to their association over the past years. At this convention they will be voting on a name change as the department has changed the working title of the officer in the field from Natural Resource Officer to Conservation Officer. So the MNROA will soon have a new title.

Manitoba Conservation Officers are unionized under the Manitoba Government and General Employees union. After nearly two years without a contract the two parties finally ratified a collective agreement for 5 years two prior and three forward. The general increase was not as good as most would have liked but will see an 8% rise over the 5 years of the agreement. The Officers do have a special wage adjustment presentation

in the near future too possibly gain a further adjustment to an already lower than average wage for Conservation Officers in Canada.

Manitoba has just finished the training and placement of four new officers from WCLEA and has just started an agreement with the Winnipeg Police Service to train another three officers for field placement in the fall of 2016. Managing vacancies and retirements seem to be an endless task for management.

Nunavut; No report, but it's cold up there

Ontario;

Hello from Ontario Canada.

We have had an unusually mild winter, giving the critters a reprieve.

The state of affairs in Ontario is good. Positions that become vacant are getting filled in a timely manner. Ontario has a successful Conservation Officer Internship program. It relies heavily on the program to get new hires. Successful intern candidates participate in a 40-week placement. The interns work under direct supervision with a coach officer. The interns also attend Ontario Police College. Upon completion the interns are in a good position to compete for full time placement.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry now employs a new standard for hiring new recruits. In order to qualify to be selected as an officer one must pass a physical fitness test and psychological testing as well as thorough background checks.

The operating budgets remain good. Equipment is getting replaced when necessary. All in all, things are good!

Conservation Officers in Ontario now utilize a new police records management system called NICHE. It is the same records management system used by the Ontario Provincial Police and many other police agencies in Ontario. All charges and checks go into the system and the information is shared among agencies who have access to the records management system.

In November the Provincial Government announced that the spring black bear hunt will be re-instated. The spring bear hunt was cancelled in 1999 amid public pressure. Since 1999 the black bear population has steadily increased. The number of bear human encounters has been steadily increasing.

Have a safe spring and summer! Ontario Conservation Officer of the year was Peter Giboe. The Ontario Conservation Officers hosted their 36th annual convention in North Bay in Aug of 2015

National Capital Commission;

We have been working hard at changing our procedures and the way we work (stemming from my arrival here, modernization is part of my mandate). As such, we have changed our Chemical Immobilization procedures and policies, going from Katamine/Xylazine to Telazol/Medetomidine, from Cap-Sur to Pneu Dart. We are also studying uniform changes, including a complete colour-palette overhaul.

We have also assisted the City of Ottawa for Large Wildlife Management multiple times, creating a niche for our service outside the Federal Lands in the area. In the future, our service will most likely continue to assist cities and regional municipalities in the area, due to our proximity and service offer.

We are continuing with our overhaul of our procedures, professionalization of our services.

Fisheries Officer Association Central and Arctic Region;

I have lost contact with the jurisdictional representative for this association. It was Officer R. Thibadeau. If anybody can help me reconnect with this group of officers I would appreciate the help. I can be reached at kurt.henry@gov.mb.ca

Environment Canada;

Environment Canada, aka CWS, as many of you still refer to us as, has now been renamed Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) under the new Liberal Government. Our new Minister is Catherine McKenna.

We recently hired 13 new Wildlife Officers and they are now all trained, designated and on ac-

tive duty.

We had some excellent results recently on files throughout the country.

We recently received a ruling from Supreme Court of Canada regarding the extradition of a convicted narwhal tusk smuggler, (plead guilty and fined \$380K, 8 months probation and 4 months house arrest) to the United States to face USFWS Lacey Act money-laundering charges. Progress Energy located in Northern British Columbia plead guilty to charges under Migratory Birds Convention Act. Sixteen Migratory Birds (ducks) became trapped and died in a fracking pond. After a through investigation the company plead out to \$200K penalty.

In New Brunswick, 7500 Migratory Birds comprised of 26 different species, were killed when they made contact with burning natural gas from a flare stack at a Canaport LNG facility. The company was fined \$750K contrary to MBCA and Species at Risk Act.

In Quebec, an auction house in Montreal was fined \$23,500 for 12 counts of unlawful export of wildlife products made from wildlife and 4 counts of knowingly possess wildlife for purposes of transport contrary to Wild Animal and Plant Protection Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act. The wildlife included elephant ivory, leopard & lynx fur and walrus Ivory.

More files in more detail to come in future WCGWM and IGW Magazine.

We are anticipating a respectable turn out at NAWEOA in Vermont this year and look forward to seeing everyone again.

Gord Barker

J-Rep for ECCC Federal Wildlife Officers and VP of CFWOA(Canadian Federal Wildlife Officer Association)

Region 3 Director Roger Selesse



Hi everyone.

It is now the time to give you a little update, since our last conference in SC, which by the way a great success. The next conference as you probably know by now will be held in Burlington, Vermont

from the 9th to 15th of July with the opening ceremony on the 11th. The Vermont officers are committed and are working very hard to make this conference a memorable one.

In NB, the Resource Service component, which consists of Forest Rangers and Conservation Officers, were able to sign a new contract with our employer. The employer has agreed to conduct a study on our different jobs and compare it with other agencies for wages by the end of this contract.

Some officers were looking at the possibility of forming another component that would have included all regulatory personal, of different components and departments. At this time the executive members of those components have decline this proposition.

Conservation officers are now under the Department of Public Safety, with this change of Departments, we also had changes in the structure of our regional boundaries, we are now down to 3 regions. Some of the district boundaries have also changed, specifically in the West and North West part of the province.

A few officers have retired in NB and in QC. I want to take this opportunity to wish them a great retirement and wish them all the best. I also want to specially recognize Richard Kinston a former Conservation Officer, from Sunny Corner, New Brunswick, Who got us involved in the NAWEOA



association in the early 90's. He always was a great ambassador for the NAWEOA. and still is. Thanks Richard.

Our NB Conservation Officer Association annual meeting is scheduled for April 2nd in Moncton. We look forward to another big turn out from the multiple agencies that are involved in the NBCOA.

Last year our officers were able to dismantle an illegal operation involving US and Canadian citizen who were smuggling bear gallbladders. A joint effort between NB and QC, for illegal Moose hunting in NB was very successful, the inter agency networking is a tremendous benefit to several agencies.

As usual we got our share of illegal moose hunting after the season, thanks to the general public who are concerned about this recurring problem and are giving tips to our officers, with successful results.

We are all waiting for a few important court decisions, concerning First Nations peoples and the bartering of wildlife and non-traditional articles (vehicle).

To finish I want to thanks all the Region 3 J rep. for their assistance and sharing of information from time to time.

You are always welcome to submit new ideas, request award certificates or retired officer certificates.

Region 3 Continued

Hope to see you in Burlington next summer.
Work safely.

Thanks
Roger Selesse
Region 3 Director

Quebec

No article submitted from J-rep.

Nova Scotia

No article submitted from J-rep.

Prince Edward Island

No article submitted from J-rep.

Newfoundland & Labrador

No article submitted from J-rep.

Art Cronin, J Rep, New Brunswick Department Public Safety

Hello from New Brunswick! Another good year was had here in the east. Our winter is going quickly and we are hoping for an early spring. This year's snow fall has been a great deal less than previous years and is badly needed for our deer herd following two years of heavy snow falls.

We have had some very major changes in our program over the past year to say the least. All of which has left us being better and more effective than ever. April 1st of last year saw all Conservation Officers move from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Public Safety. Almost immediately new responsibilities were asked of us and our ranks took it in stride and are performing well above expectations. One of the first changes to come down the pipe was

our appointments as Special Contestable which has given our Officers many new powers and authorities to aid us in our primary mandates.

Like any major change, some things take time and we are working on getting many things changed over to reflect our new home with DPS. New flashes, Crests, insignias, vehicle markings just to list a few all are under way. Part of our success thus far must be attributed to the fact that heading up our new enforcement program is an Officer that came up through our ranks. Rick Nash is our Superintendent and has been doing an amazing job at our helm. Our Province like many other agencies is facing some serious fiscal challenges and I for one am confident that under Rick we will get through it.

Our Shikar Safari Wildlife Officer of the year is Greg Darrah. This is a very well deserved honour for Greg. Greg is well respected by his fellow officers and exemplifies the kind of officer the award is meant to honour.

As always I need to mention the fact that we had a few officers retire. As we lose these officers, we lose their experience. This loss is tough but hopefully the younger 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.

Thanks needs to go out to two of our Officers who have been very active with the NAWEOA executive. Both Shawn Farrell and Roger Selesse have been working hard and we are proud to have them be from our ranks. I am sure that they will do a great job in support of NAWEOA.

As we approach our spring season its worth, as always, to mention Officer Safety. Spring water conditions present many safety challenges. Be Safe out there, watch out for yourself and fellow Officers.

Respectively Submitted;
Conservation Officer Art Cronin
New Brunswick, Canada

Région 3 Directeur Roger Selesse



Bonjour a tous
Il est maintenant temps de vous metre a jour, depuis notre dernière conférence en Caroline du Sud, qui sois disant en passant a été d'un grand succès. Vous savez probablement déjà que notre

prochaine conference aura lieux a Burlington au Vermont du 9 au 15 juillet, La cérémonie d'ouverture sera le 11 juillet. Les officiers du Vermont son dédier et travail très fort afin d'en faire une conférence mémorable.

Au Nouveau Brunswick , la composante des Ressources, qui consiste des Gardes Forestier et les agents de conservation, ont réussi a signer une nouvelle entente collective avec notre employeur. L'employeur a accepter de faire une etude afin de comparer nos différentes emplois et renumeration avec d'autre agences.

Certains officier envisageais la possibilité de cree une autre composante qui consisterais a inclure tous les qui font des taches connexe a l'application des règlements de different ministère. Pour l'instant les membre exécutif de ces composantes ont decliner cette proposition.

Les agents de conservations font maintenant partis du ministère de la sécurité public. Avec ce changement de ministère nous avons aussi eu des changements par rapport au region et certain district on vue leurs territoire changer. Tous particulièrement dans l'Ouest et le Nord Ouest e la province.

Quelque officiers du Nouveau Brunswick et du Quebec se sont retirer. je veux prendre l'opportunité de leurs souhaiter une bonne retraite. Un remerciement spécial a Richard Kinston, un ancien agent de conservation de la region de Sun-



ny Corner au Nouveau Brunswick, qui nous a impliquer dans l'association NAWEOA au debut des année 90. Il est et a toujours été un grand ambassadeur de NAWEOA. Merci Richard

La réunion annuel de l'association d'agent de conservation du NB est cédule pour le 2 avril a Moncton. On anticipe une autre bonne participation de tous les agences qui font partie de NBCOA.

L'an dernière, nos officiers ont réussi a démanteler un opération illégal impliquant des citoyen Canadien et Américain qui fessaient la contrebande de vésicule biliaire. Un effort conjoint entre le NB et le QC pour la chasse illegal d'originaux a porter fruit. La collaboration inter.agences est un grand bénéfices pour plusieurs agences.

Comme d'habitude nous avons eu notre juste part de la chasse a l'original illégal cette saison, merci aux public general qui sont préoccupé de ce problème reçurent et qui donne de l'information au agents pour des résultats concret .

Nous attendons tous quelque decision importante de la cours au sujet des gens des premiere nations et le troquage d'animaux de la faune et d'article non traditionnelle (Véhicule)

Pour finie je veux remercier tous les représentant de la Region 3 pour leurs assistance a partager l'information de temps en temps.

Région 3 Directeur Roger Selesse

Vous êtes toujours les bienvenus à soumettre de nouvelles idées, demande de certificat de prix d'honneur, de retraite ou autre.

Quebec
aucun article soumis

Nouvelle Écosse
aucun article soumis

Île du Prince Édouard
aucun article soumis

Terre Neuve & LaBrador
aucun article soumis

Merci
Roger Selesse
Directeur Région 3

Art Cronin, J Rep, Ministère de la sécurité publique du Nouveau Brunswick;

Bonjour du Nouveau-Brunswick! Une autre bonne année a eu lieu dans l'est. Notre hiver s'en va rapidement et nous espérons un printemps précoce. Les chutes de neige de cette année ont été beaucoup moins abondantes que l'an dernier, ce qui a favorisé notre troupeau de cerfs après deux années de chutes de neige abondante.

Nous avons eu quelques changements très importants dans notre programme l'an dernier pour dire le moins. Ce qui nous a aidé à être meilleure et plus efficace que jamais. Le 1er avril de l'année dernière tous les agents de Conservation ont été transférés du ministère des ressources naturelles au ministère de la sécurité publique. Presque immédiatement de nouvelles responsabilités nous ont été données cela fonctionne très bien au-delà de toutes attentes. Un des premiers changements a été notre nomination comme Constable spécial qui a donné à nos agents de nombreux nouveaux pouvoirs et autorités pour nous aider dans nos mandats pri-

maires.

Comme tout changement majeur, certaines choses prennent du temps et nous travaillons pour changer plusieurs choses qui reflètent notre nouveau Ministère. Des nouveaux écussons, insignes et décalques sur les véhicules, juste pour en énumérer quelques-uns le tout est en évolution constante. Notre succès jusqu'à présent doit être attribué au fait que la position de directeur de notre nouveau programme d'application de la Loi est un agent qui vient de notre ancien ministère et était un officier de champs. Il s'agit de Rick Nash, il est notre surintendant et fait un travail incroyable. Notre Province comme de nombreux autres organismes font face à certains défis économiques graves et je suis confiant qu'avec Rick, nous surmonterons ce défi.

Notre récipiendaire pour le prix Shikar Safari est Greg Darrah. Il s'agit d'un honneur bien mérité pour Greg. Il est très respecté par ses collègues/officiers et illustre le type d'officiers, que le prix vise à honorer.

Comme toujours, j'ai dû mentionner le fait que nous avons eu quelques officiers qui se sont retirés. Comme nous perdons ces officiers, nous perdons leur expérience. Cette perte est difficile, mais nous espérons que les jeunes officiers contribueront à combler le vide avec leur enthousiasme. Nous tenons à remercier tous ces officiers qui ont mis tant de dévouement à cette belle carrière.

Remerciement à deux de nos agents qui ont été très actifs avec l'exécutif NAWEOA. Shawn Farrell et Roger Selesse qui ont travaillé très fort et nous sommes fiers de dire qu'ils sont de nos rangs. Je suis sûr qu'ils feront un excellent travail en appuyant l'association NAWEOA.

Alors que nous approchons le printemps, comme toujours, nous rappelons aux agents à être prudents et de travailler en sécurité. Les conditions de printemps représentent de nombreux défis de sécurité.

Agent de conservation Art Cronin

Region 4 Director Rick Langley



The West has had a crazy winter with a lot of ruckus surrounding wolves, grazing rights/ "Federal land grabs", the Bundys and their occupation of the Malheur Refuge in Oregon, and the transfer of federal lands back to the States. Be safe out there and continue to hold

that "Thin Green Line".

Arizona Jurisdictional Report – Gabriel Paz

Greetings from sunny Arizona and I hope everyone wintered well. With most of our hunting seasons over for the year our officers are finally able to slow down for a bit and take a couple weekends off just in time for spring break. A few spring bear hunts and turkey hunts and it's all OHV's, fishermen and reptile collectors until the fall.

In the past year our Arizona Game Rangers Lodge has been working hard to do something that hasn't been done in a long time, get our officers some much needed compensation. We have a core group of officers who have worked diligently to put a package together to not just show everyone how undercompensated we are, but a plan to increase salaries so that we can keep young officers from leaving to better paying police agencies. In the last couple of years we have lost some really good officers who were highly trained and in the near future retirements may create a situation where we will have to hire a lot more new officers to keep up with retirements so having a new plan in place to keep officers is essential. So far the budget package has the support of our agency and our Commission and we are all working hard to get the legislature to approve it and hopefully move it forward. Keep our officers in your prayers and hopefully we can gain enough momentum with our legislature to push the package through and get our younger officers the compensation they need.

Down in Southern Arizona we just had our yearly Southern Arizona Commission Meeting and during the revocation hearing portion of the meeting a couple of officers finally put to bed some of our most heinous

poachers that our officers have ever caught and our Commission threw the book at them. I don't want to disclose too much information so that you all can learn about the case when you read about it someday in the International Game Warden Magazine so I will leave it at that. Other than that we have just had another big case break open down in our country with a young man who got greedy and poached 3 mule deer bucks and over 10 javelina so just when you think you can catch your breath the Game Warden Gods bless us with another knucklehead to once again hone an officers skills and tie them up for several weeks putting a package together that can ultimately lead to convictions and potentially big civil assessments and a lifetime revocation.

Right now I'm looking forward to heading up to Vermont to NAWEOA 2016 to get some top notch training, visit old friends and make new ones. Over the last six years it's been such a fun ride and I'm always thankful for the opportunity to get involved with this game warden organization. Over the last year I personally know of at least 5 cases that our officers made through NAWEOA contacts and it was all made easier because of the NAWEOA Network!

Game Ranger Matt Braun was selected as the National Wild Turkey Federation's Arizona Officer of the Year. Congratulations Matt!

Adios for now the Arizona Border Lands and we wish you all well. Expect the unexpected and stay safe!

Nick Buckler, President of the California Fish and Game Wardens' Association writes:

Fellow Resource Protectors and NAWEOA Members,

Greetings from California! It is mid-February as I write this and California has eased some drought-related tensions with an almost 'normal' winter. As a chukar hunter I am sad to see the season end, but am excited at the prospect of spring rains and a good hatch. As a Game Warden, what should be the slower time of year never really appeared! This has been a busy winter and the case files, search warrants, and arrest warrants piled up on my desk are all I have to show for it.

Water theft has become a hot topic in CA, with a large portion of water thieves in the north part of the state stealing water from salmon, trout, and steelhead, not to mention deer, quail, turkeys, and bear, only to truck the water back to their marijuana crops. California still has not legalized marijuana, though it will likely be on our November 2016 ballots...again. California remains completely inundated with unlawful marijuana gardens. Many of them are still run by Mexican nationals carrying guns, but more and more have hidden themselves under the guise of

Region 4 Director Rick Langley Continued

medical marijuana. I do not know what will happen if and when their cash crop is legalized. I do know that California Game Wardens are swamped with these dangerous and meaningful habitat investigations dealing with armed criminals.

Water and marijuana are definitely hot topics here in CA, but there is another issue plaguing California's valuable natural resources and the consumptive resource users whose passion lies in the forests and fields of our country. Many traditional hunting and trapping methods, seasons, and ways are being severely changed from within and without the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Fish and Game Commission, and a large group of dedicated, well-funded, and mobilized non-consumptive resource user groups. We lost bobcat trapping this year and although we all know the black market never stops, now, once again, we've lost the 'eyes and ears' in the field once-legal trappers are no longer out in the brush.

Most CA Wardens hunt and fish, which is what drew most of us to this crazy and addicting job of resource law enforcement. For those of us who have hunted, fished, and rambled around the wild for many generations and who now are charged with providing stewardship and enforcement related to the wildlife to which we are so dedicated, some of these law and regulation changes have been very difficult. As everybody reading this knows, we don't make the laws, but we are judged by them and we do have discretion to enforce them. Still, it can be difficult enough to build and maintain relationships with many hunters and anglers; it is even more difficult to earn and keep the trust of hunters and anglers who feel abandoned by the laws and regulations guiding them.

The California Fish and Game Wardens Association (CFGWA) hosted a booth at the International Sportsmen's Exposition this year in Sacramento. It was a lot of work and preparations, but we had a lot of fun and are already prepping for next year's event. Just like every year, CFGWA had our annual raffle, sales, and all members meeting concurrent with our Advanced Officer Training.

The highlight of Advanced Officer Training for me was listening to CA Game Warden Frank Milazzo who was named the California Game Warden of the Year. He brought a fiery-eyed older gentle-

man who sat at his table during the awards ceremony. As the ceremony culminated with the Warden of the Year Award, Frank made an outstanding speech in which he described a day fishing with his grandmother when he was a boy in the late 50's. He described a Game Warden who checked them and how that inspired him to become a Game Warden. Of course the 'old man' at the table was exactly that retired Warden who had checked him so many decades ago. I spoke with the retired Warden and learned he had a very similar experience in the early 1930's.

Let that be a lesson to us all: you never know when or how you can have a positive impact on someone's life. In this rapidly evolving day in age, where cops seem to be the 'bad guys' more often, take time to enjoy your family, your patrol, your district, your community, and the resources we all strive to protect.

A footnote for another award winning officer: Warden Aaron Freitas was selected as the National Wild Turkey Federation's Officer of the Year for California.

From Julie Bryant, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Idaho is dealing with several legislative issues that could drastically affect their Conservation Officers' abilities to do their job.

For example a few proposed bills brought forth by a State Representative Which would repeal an existing law that allows Conservation Officers, upon their retirement, to be issued their badge, gun and handcuffs, if three of their fellow officers certify "that the retiring officer has served meritoriously for a minimum of 15 years and should therefore be so honored." *As far as I know all other law enforcement agencies (State, County, City) in the state allow this. This law was written specifically about Conservation Officers.*

Another Bill would restrict inspections and searches by Fish & Game officers of storage facilities, tents, and other locations, requiring a search warrant or consent for any inspection or search. *Thus Conservation Officers could not search a truck, cooler or tent with probable cause. However, a county deputy or ISP trooper that was assisting could search a truck, cooler or tent with probable cause.*

The next bill changes the wording of IDFG check stations to "Fish and game check stations are only authorized to stop licensed hunters and fishermen." . . . *So poachers without a license are not allowed by the law to stop. Further verbiage impeded conservation officers from stopping a vehicle that was suspected of hunting that went past a check station unless the officer know the occupants had a fishing or hunting license.*

Region 4 Director Rick Langley Continued

Lastly, a senate bill was introduced that would prohibit any IDFG employee or Commissioner from applying for or obtaining any controlled hunt tags. Several units and/zones have unlimited tags for residents in deer and elk (over the counter tags), but in 2015 there were 22,365 elk, 16,916 deer tags for controlled hunts. Pronghorn, moose, big horn sheep, and goat are all controlled hunts which equates to 2,345 pronghorn, 863 moose, 50 mountain goat tags, and 89 big-horn sheep tags. So... a Conservation Officer who dedicates their career and life to conserving many of these species would never be allowed to hunt them in their own state.

From Major Michael Perry, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

New Mexico's Legislative Session just ended in mid-February. The NM Department of Game and Fish came through this process with six new full time employee positions for Game and Fish Officers. We are on track to hire, train and fill these six expansions and a handful of current vacant districts by June. We

have been working very hard to fill open districts and attempting each time to become full staffed at the district officer position. Currently we have 90% of our district officer positions filled which is an improvement from recent past. We are also looking to add possibly two additional supervisory districts housing the additional expansion districts and sergeant positions. Our recent move to expand officers in the field will create smaller geographic patrol areas for some locations and increase officer's time in public educational settings as well as focused law enforcement patrols.

We also recently honored two commissioned officers at the annual Governors Banquet and Auction. Corporal Curtis Coburn received the Shikar Safari Outstanding Officer award for his dedication and well-rounded activities. Corporal Coburn, Ruidoso District Officer, has assisted in habitat projects, hunter education classes, archery programs he helped create. His law enforcement cases are top notch and he is a senior field-training officer.

Officer Eric Frey, the Statewide Sport Fish Restoration Manager, also received the Directors Wildlife Conservation Professional of the Year award. Officer Fry is a commissioned officer working under the Fisheries Management Division and has supervised several projects that increase angler satisfaction.

Retired Newfoundland/Labrador Conservation Officer Brent Cole, regimental #59, has gone 10-35 for the last time.

It is with a heavy heart that we pass on the news of his death. Brent succumbed to complications from his condition having been paralyzed from a moose/vehicle collision some years ago.

Brent passed suddenly yet peacefully away at the HSC on April 2, 2016, Wayne (Brent) Cole age 51. Surrounded by his loving family and friends.



Brent was a long time NAWEOA supporter having served as the Region 3 Director on the NAWEOA board from 1998 thru 2001. He has many friends among the NAWEOA family and will be sorely missed. Please take a moment to say a prayer for Brent and his family.

Brent loved the beauty of nature and had a unique appreciation for the finer elements in life. His truest blessings were his beloved wife Mary, his children, and his four precious grandchildren. He thrived for many years as a conservation officer and more recently embarked on a new journey as a writer. All who knew Brent will miss his warm, and approachable smile. He was an charismatic speaker but an even better listener. He will be sadly missed by all those he touched on his life journey.

Donations of flowers greatly accepted and monetary donations in his memory can be made to Spinal Cord Foundation, NL Or donations on line at sci-nl.ca

Cards to: The Cole Family, P.O. Box 541, Whitbourne, NL, Canada A0B 3K0

Brent's Obituary <http://www.hollowaysfuneralhome.ca/index.php?id=4>

Region 5 Director Jeff Jones



Tracey Blake, Jurisdiction Rep for Arkansas

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is currently in the process of hiring 16 new officers. There's a good probability that

will also hire more officers this time next year. We've had a change in our administration. Colonel Todd Callaway will be retiring in June and Major Pat Fitts has been named our new Colonel. Captain Greg Rae has been named the new major for the south region. Chief of Staff Jeff Crow has been named the new director with the retirement of Mike Knoedl coming in June.

Shawn Pennington, Jurisdiction Rep for Missouri

Moral within our law enforcement (Protection) division is as low as we've seen in quite some time. Lack of pay raises and salary compression is taking its toll. We have drastically fallen behind. We are seeing Agents leave at the highest rate in 15 years. With other State L.E. Making almost half again what we make, with less education and training requirements, it's easy to see why. This has also had an effect on our ability to recruit and keep new Agents. We are having a new training class starting this Spring. However, the number and quality of potential recruits is a fraction of what it was even ten years ago. With changes in retirement multipliers along with no set salary structure makes competing with other state and federal law enforcement jobs tough. We are struggling with replacing vehicles in a timely manner too. Some Agents are driving worn out trucks with 170000 plus miles on them. So, as one of the "best funded" conservation agencies in the U.S., you can see why we are struggling to maintain a positive attitude!

Steve Vasicek, Jurisdiction Rep for Illinois

Things have been kind of in the tank with Illinois DNR

conservation police. Have a slashing new big business Governor whom is trying to lay off the last class we hired, and prospectively the one before that. There are a lot of long faces and it is exceedingly hard to keep our young officers optimistic when you have nothing to base it on! Our soldiers continue to make cases though and I will send you some details to give them some kudos. We've been killing snow geese and catching cold water largemouth bass here in the southernmost tip of IL, waiting for gobbie and crappie time...

Brian Updike, Jurisdiction Rep for North Dakota

Spring is on the way! The weather has been unseasonably warm. Anglers are in a rush to remove ice houses from the lakes, as vehicles are breaking through the ice. I am new to this association position, so not sure what information you already know. Long time Killdeer warden, Bill Schaller, retired this month after almost 40 years of service. Kurt Aufforth retired last year. Peter Milley was hired in spring 2015. Kaylor Johnston and Jonathan Peterson were hired in the fall of 2015. Johnston and Peterson are both attending the state LE academy. We will be testing and interviewing for two wardens and a warden pilot next month.

Paul Kay, Jurisdiction Rep for Iowa

We are in the final process of hiring 6 officers. This will probably be our last hire for quite some time, even though we are short 15 field officer positions, due to our budget. Things look very grim in the future. We haven't had our statewide meeting/awards banquet. I heard the other day it is being pushed off until August.

Stacey Lewton, Jurisdiction Rep for Nebraska



This Year we are saddened by the loss of CO Darin Gress who passed away from complications of heart

surgery on May 15th 2015. He was 43. Darin started with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as a Conservation Officer in October of 1999 where he was stationed in Hebron NE. He was an avid outdoorsman and was a member of Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever. He received the 15 year service award from both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Darin was a steady officer who always kept his nose to the grind stone gutting out long hours in the field for his constituents. He was pleasant to work with and could be counted on to lend a hand in patrolling our lakes in the summer months as well as working many night details on illegal hunting activity during the winter months.

Darin was also heavily involved in youth outreach programs in his area. Darin started and headed the effort to get the states Hunter Education Program in the Hebron High School. Darin also worked in obtaining a 10000.00 grant for the Fairbury High School's trap team. Darin could always be counted on to assist with outreach programs in his area of patrol as well as larger outreach programs and expos. Darin will be missed not only by the friends loved ones that he left behind. But also by the constituents who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him to insure the states natural resources have a voice. In other news the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has hired three new conservation officers. Kevin Bergstrom is hired as a conservation Officer and will be stationed in North Platte. His primary duties will be boat enforcement and boating education. John Lee and Matt Taylor have been hired as Conservation Officers. John will be stationed in Imperial and Matt in Hebron.

Alex Thomas has resigned her position as a Conservation Officer to pursue a career in teaching. She was stationed in Ponca. Conservation Officers Jeff Jones and Cory Krause will cover the vacant duty station till it is filled.

The Boating Division has once again been absorbed into the Law Enforcement Division. In addition to this move the Law Enforcement Division is planning to hire more boating enforcement officers to aid in the education and enforcement needs around the state.

Mark Ohm, Jurisdiction Rep for South Dakota

South Dakota has welcomed some new officers and said goodbye to some as well. Jack Freidel, a life member in the South Dakota Conservation Officers

Association (SDCOA), has begun a well-earned retirement after working for nearly 41 years for Game, Fish and Parks. Scott Mikkelson has also hung up the gun belt after 26 years and has received the Tom Petry Lifetime Achievement Award from SDCOA. In the past year we have also welcomed several new officers to the ranks. This includes WCOs Spencer Downey and Trevor Laine as well as WCO Trainees Ryan Pearson, Jake Miller, Michael Undlin, and Jake Hasz.

We would also like to congratulate all of our annual award nominees, but especially our award recipients. In addition to Scott Mikkelson the following officers are receiving awards this year:

Life Saving Award:

- WCO Brian Humphrey
- WCO Brian Ridgway
- WCO Bryce McVicker
- WCO Josh Carr

Award of Valor

- WCO Brian Ridgway

Pinch of the Year

- WCOs Brian Humphrey and Nate Stukel

Patton Torch Award

- WCO Josh Vanden Bosch

Officer of the Year

- WCO Dan Altman

Congratulations once again to all of our award recipients! They are all very well deserved.

As always our officers have made some great cases this year. In particular I would like to bring attention to our Pinch of the Year, a case which involved 15 officers in 2 states. This case started out as a simple fraud license investigation. In the end, officers were able to document violations involving multiple family members and friends of the main player. Over 40 violations were documented on the main subject alone. Two subjects in this case pled to four charges. Penalties totaled \$18,946 in fines, restitution, and civil damages; 90 days in jail (all suspended); hunting and fishing license revocation for 5 years; a ban from engaging in any hunting activity or transportation of game for 5 years; and mandatory attendance of a South Dakota Hunter Education class. This was a great case made possible by the cooperation of officers across jurisdictional lines and SDCOA would like to thank our neighbors in Iowa for their cooperation on this

case as well as many others.

Dave Younquist, Jurisdiction Rep for Wisconsin

In February the Wisconsin DNR launched a statewide recruitment for 72 LTE Rangers and Wardens. The first of its kind; a joint LE hiring process between three bureaus at WI DNR, Parks, Forestry, and LE. This recruitment closed on February 23, 2016 and the hiring team has invited over 100 qualified applicants to be interviewed.

The interviews are being held in 4 different locations around the state to accommodate the large number of qualified applicants. Eau Claire, Green Bay, Fitchburg, and Waukesha. The interviews will run 2-3 days depending on location and start March 3, 2016. We will be conducting background investigations in late March early April and we hope to onboard up to 72 officers in May 2016.

In the meantime here is the new patch that we are going to have on our uniforms. We are now going to be “one DNR” so that uniforms and patches for our wardens and rangers area all the same and we are all considered natural resource LE officers in our state. The next steps will be working with finance on a vendor to develop the patch and finalize the implementation plan/timeline.

Special thanks to the patch ad-hoc committee; Jason Fritz, Dave Borsechnik, Phillip Brown, Brian Luebke, Ed McCann, John Sinclair and Paul Leezer



Scott Haney, Jurisdiction Rep for Texas

Boating Officer of the Year

- Braxton Harris

Midwest Officer of the Year

- Kurt Kelley

SEAFWA Officer of the Year

- Matt Kiel

Shikar-Safari International Officer of the Year

- Benny G. Richards Jr.

National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year

- Ellis Powell

Big Howdy from Texas! Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. continues to run cadets through the Game Warden Training Center. For the first time the Training Center will include both Park Peace Officer cadets and Game Warden cadets in one academy. Texas now has 10 K-9 teams fully trained with primary focus on search and rescue, with additional capabilities in narcotics detection, wildlife detection and article search.

The LE Division also continues in its efforts to update the vehicle fleet and aircraft. Delivery of an additional 128 vehicles in the near future outfitted with overhead light bars to match the 130 patrol vehicles delivered last year. A new Airbus AS350B3e helicopter was purchased with funds appropriated by the 83rd Texas Legislature. The new helicopter is equipped with the following: Night Sun Search light, laser pointing light, a rescue hoist and cargo hook, and MX-10 Thermal Imager/video camera system operated by the Co-pilot/Tactical Flight Officer that sends images to a Churchill Monitor and to two thumb drive USB storage disks. This new state-of-the-art helicopter has already been extremely effective as another law enforcement tool for the division.

TPWD-LE continues to be recognized as being the lead agency enforcing the Texas Water Safety Act on all public waters in the state. Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) is an integral part of that enforcement effort and game wardens have incorporated “no refusal weekends” and “mandatory blood draws” as tools to be utilized when handling BWI suspects. Texas also continues to be active in the border patrol efforts.

Carlos Gomez, Jurisdiction Rep for Oklahoma

Wardens in OK are riding a wild roller coaster of recent events and developments. Morale has been high among wardens in recent years, in large part due to equipment and training upgrades but are conflicted by a chronic, convoluted pay situation. Our agency paid \$100k a couple years ago to an independent research group to conduct a thorough, agency-wide, pay study, results recommended pay increases to most areas in the agency. Pledges were made by administrators but recommendations are still waiting to be fulfilled.

Now, \$4 gas has led our governor to order all agencies to install CNG systems to utilize the \$1.60/gal CNG fuel on all new vehicles (at \$10K/vehicle) but simultaneously granted a waiver to the highway patrol. Then, after the bottom fell out on oil prices, current gas prices fell here to \$1.18/gal making our budget good for patrol but devastating to our state that estimates a \$1.3B shortfall from lost (oil production) revenues.

Then, legislators seeking ways to save money began discussing a governor-supported idea to consolidate ALL state law enforcement including wardens. One form of that would essentially take us away from the wildlife department and place us under the department of public safety. There would be both pros and cons and wardens are debating the possibilities. Additionally, wildlife legislative controversies have just surfaced because of several newly introduced bills seeking to prevent wardens from entering private property (but with wording that applies this restriction to "all law enforcement"). Led by partisan politicians catering to a wealthy few, this wide-ranging detriment to wildlife and sportsmen seems to be overlooking the 'poacher free-for-all' that would be created since OK is 95% private land.

Further, the impact of these developments remains unknown to our associations goal to host a NAWEOA conference in future years. Even though, Oklahoma's wildlife agency has expressed support to and our association is providing for, the attendance of a host-committee to the VT conference this year.

Chris Vinton, Jurisdiction Rep for Minnesota

Food will be discounted at 50% ONLY for registered delegates and their families, staying at the host hotel, Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center, July 9 through July 15,

The Enforcement Division recently honored six conservation officers for their outstanding service in 2015.

Conservation Officer Jeff Johanson of Osakis was named Officer of the Year. "Officer Johanson understands the importance of maintaining the balance in today's conservation law enforcement, as we strive to gain voluntary compliance through education, outreach, and enforcement," said Col. Rodmen Smith, DNR Enforcement Division director. "He has proven that he can successfully manage sensitive issues between stakeholders and the DNR."



L-R: DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr, Conservation Officer of the Year Jeff Johanson, Enforcement Division Director Rodmen Smith.

The following conservation officers also received awards for their achievements in 2015:

Education Achievement Award

- Phil George

Waterfowl Enforcement Achievement Award

- Tony Salzer

Willard Munger Wetland Achievement Award

- Larry Hanson

Boat and Water Safety Achievement Award

- Chad Thesing

Meritorious Service Award

- David Schottenbauer

Region 6 Director Jason Blaylock



Mississippi:

This past summer, July 16-18 2015, the National Lawfit competition was held, with approximately 150 competitors descending on Olive Branch, MS to compete in the 14th annual

event. Competitors traveled from all around the country as far away as New Jersey, as well as numerous local police departments, sheriff's departments and multiple state agencies that all reside in Mississippi. The National Lawfit championship stayed home within the state of Mississippi but the agency that it will reside with is the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, who dethroned the 8 time defending champion, the MS Highway Patrol, in convincing fashion. The previous Lawfit record for points ever scored by a 4 man team was 1515 in 2014, set by MHP; that total was shattered by MDWFP with an astronomical total of 1599.

The competition consisted of 6 events that stretch over 3 days. The events are bench press, 1.5 mile run, 1 minute times sit-ups, a flexibility test, pull-ups, and the final event is a suspect pursuit course.

- MDWFP Lawfit Team members:
- Lt. Chris Reed (team captain)
- SGM Marcus Christon
- Pvt Justin Gates
- Pvt Derrick Scott
- SGM Ron McMillan
- Pvt Justin Adams

MDWFP set numerous national records at this year's event. They are:

- 4 man team point total – 1599 (Reed, Christon, Gates, Scott)
- 2 man team point total – 819 (Christon, Gates), 780 (Reed, Scott)
- Pull-ups – 67 by Marcus Christon

-Bench Press – Justin Gates lifted 330 lbs which was 221% of his bodyweight

-Marcus Christon scored the most points (418) of any competitor in the 14 year history of the event

-Justin Gates scored 401 pts. The only other competitor to score over 400 pts in the 14 yr history of the event was Mst Sgt John Perkins of MHP (403 in 2008)

Florida:

Colonel Brown would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the 2016 FWC Division of Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Dustin Lightsey, who will represent the FWC at several awards events throughout the year. His performance and dedication makes us all proud, and this honor is well-deserved. We received a large number of outstanding nominees this year, which is a true testament to the quality of the employees in our Division and made these selections exceptionally difficult. Officer Lightsey's energetic attitude, attention to detail, and passion for the people he serves makes him a valuable asset to the FWC, as well to his fellow officers.

Tennessee:

We hired 5 officers last summer and they are in their final phase of the FTO program. Officers with high mileage vehicles (140k) are getting Ford F150 4 door trucks with ½ cages. After years of converting recreational vessels into patrol boats, the Agency began purchasing Brunswick-Boston Whaler 21' and 23' Guardian patrol boats. We are transitioning from a VHF repeater radio system to a 700 MHz trunking system. February is law enforcement in-service month for our Agency where four different sessions are held with around 60 officers attending each week. The highlights at this year's in-service were Maritime Tactical Weapons Training and Active Shooter Response. The TWOA holds a social each night for officers to fellowship. The Honor Guard has served during 6 retired officer's funerals this past year. Past TWOA President Leith Konyndyk was selected as SEAFWA Wildlife Officer of the Year and the NWTF Officer of the Year. All officers received a 2% raise last July and those not at the top of their pay scale

received an additional 4.5%. We are starting to see the benefits of a new illegal kill/possession of big game law that was enacted last summer where restitution is based upon the number of points. For white-tail deer, less than 8 antler points is \$1000, between 8 and 10 points is \$1500 plus \$500 per point and over 11 points is \$1500 plus \$750 per point. There are also provisions in the law for restitution for Turkey, Elk, and Bear.

Virginia:

Virginia's Conservation Police Officers have continued to work with dwindling officer numbers due to retirements and resignations for the past 3 years. After initiating a hiring process to fill nearly 36 positions in the early part of 2015, the process came to an unexpected halt in the late summer months of 2015. The suspension of the hiring process was initiated by Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources due to concerns with the lack of diversity in the final applicant pool. As a result of the hiring suspension, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries subsequently entered into a contract, in January 2016, with a private contractor to help them with their diversity recruitment. VDGIIF and the contractor are currently working on a plan to assist with diversifying the conservation police officer ranks. In February 2016, the VDGIIF received approval to continue with their conservation police officer recruitment. The department will now look to fill up to 45 officer positions throughout the Commonwealth. Applications are currently being sought with a closing deadline of March 25, 2016.

Georgia:

Ranger of the Year – Corporal Casey Jones
Supervisor of the Year – Sergeant Rick Dempsey
Georgia Boating Officer of the Year – Corporal Jason Roberson
Investigative Ranger of the Year – Ranger First Class Fred Hays
Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award – Corporal Brian Adams
James R. Darnell Award Recipient – Corporal Bob Holley
NWTF Officer of the Year – Corporal Mark Patterson
Hunter Education Instructor of the Year – Cor-

poral Daniel Stiles

Torch Award – Ranger First Class Daniel Gray

This year, all of the Division's officers participated in Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERT), the national standard for active shooter response. The two-day course prepares the first responder to isolate, distract, and neutralize an active shooter. It includes weapon manipulation, threshold evaluation, concepts and principals of team movement, setting up for room entry and room entry techniques, approach and breaching the crisis site, follow-on responder tactics, improvised explosive devices and post-engagement priorities of work. Additionally, five Rangers were certified as ALERT instructors.

South Carolina:

PFC Wes Stewart of Lancaster was awarded the title of statewide S.C. Department of Natural Resources wildlife officer of the year for 2015 during ceremonies held Sept. 23, 2015 in Columbia. The annual officer of the year awards and banquet are dedicated to the late Chief R.M. "Bobby" Gifford, highly regarded chief of natural resources law enforcement for many years. The S.C. Wildlife Officers' Association, the Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund, the family of Chief Gifford and DNR together honored the state's top officers.

The following were selected as outstanding DNR officers for 2015 from each of the state's 4 Natural Resources Enforcement Regions and Marine Law Enforcement investigations and Education and Staff Operations along with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators officer. The statewide honor of Officer of the Year was chosen from these candidates.

Region 1 – LCPL Erik Martin

Region 2 – PFC Wes Stewart

Region 3 – LCPL Steven Johnson

Region 4 – SGT Freddie Earhart

U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that William Martin of Yemassee, Keith Gebhardt, and Mark Argetsinger of Beaufort, were sentenced in federal court in Charleston, SC, for the unlawful trapping and killing of migratory birds at Mackay Point Plantation (a quail hunting preserve) in Jasper County. This crime is a violation of the

Migratory Bird Treaty Act under Title 16, US Code, Section 703. United States Magistrate Judge Bristow Marchant of Charleston sentenced Martin, Gebhardt, and Argetsinger to 6 month probation, community service, a 1 year ban on trapping, and a fine. In addition to the guilty pleas of Martin, Gebhardt, and Argetsinger, Mackay Point Plantation LLC. has agreed to pay \$250,000 in community restitution. The U.S. Attorney's Office in South Carolina and the Fish and Wildlife Service will divide these funds among local animal charities such as the Center of the Birds of Prey and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Region 7 Director Kevin Clayton



United States Military Fish and Wildlife Service

Jurisdictional Representative Lissa Grimes, Criminal Investigator. US Marine Corps--

I believe that your member agencies should know that there is another tool in meeting your mission. Military installations (not all) across the DoD have Conservation Law Enforcement Officers (CLEOS). There are approximately 150 CLEOs that are professionally trained and have 2 driving Federal Laws. 16 U.S.C. 670 (The SIKES Act). This law requires many things of a military installation's natural and cultural resources section, but one part is CLEOs. These CLEOs enforce all natural and cultural federal laws. 10 U.S.C. 2671 (Hunting, Fishing, Trapping on Military Installations) this law mandates CLEOs to enforce host state hunting and fishing laws at the host state bail amounts (of course depending on the type of jurisdiction, e.i. concurrent, proprietary etc.). With this said, if you have a military installation within your jurisdiction, reach out to them. If they have CLEOs assigned, build that bridge (if you have not already). In today's world of shrinking budgets,

The killing of birds of prey, such as hawks and owls, to improve quail hunting has become a widespread problem in the Southeast. The \$250,000 in community restitution is one of the largest financial penalties in the history of the Fish and Wildlife Service. U.S. attorney Bill Nettles stated after the guilty plea and sentencing that the "Federal Government has a strong interest in protecting our nation's natural resources, including wildlife." Nettles further stated that "Today's sentence sends a strong message to unscrupulous hunters and landowners who think they are above the law.

they can be an asset within your state.

Mark Sledge

National Military Fish and Wildlife Association
Conservation Law Enforcement Working Group
Chair

Maine Warden Service

Jurisdictional Representative Officer Troy Thibodeau

Anyone Seen My Skidder?

Game Warden Wayne Carter conducted an investigation in conjunction with Department of Environmental Protection Agency where a subject stole a skidder and did substantial damage to the shoreline of Hadley Lake in the town of East Machias. This case remains under investigation.

Honoring the Past

A memorial was placed in honor of Maine Game Wardens Lyman O. Hill and Charles W. Niles by several game wardens in the Machias area. Both Hill and Lyman were shot and killed in 1886, Maine's first two game wardens to die in the line of duty.

New York Environmental Conservation Officer's Association

Jurisdictional Representative Officer Chris DeRose --No submissions

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Jurisdictional Representative Michael Johnson

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is celebrating its 150th year as one of our nation's premier conservation agencies. Celebrations are scheduled throughout the year to recognize current and past agency members.

The Agency is also looking forward to the anticipated graduation of the 21st WCO Class on June 24th of this year. Currently 18 Waterways Conservation Officer Trainees are attending the H.R. Stackhouse School of Fisheries and Watercraft Safety.

Waterways Conservation Officer Michael E. Johnson was awarded the NASBLA Butch Potts Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the Northern Caucus.

The Bureau of Law Enforcement has been operating with approximately 25 officers short of its normal compliment. Some officers have been covering multiple districts as well as participating in specialized Teams, such as SWERT (Swift Water Emergency Rescue Team) and HART (Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team). The Bureau was still able to conduct significant law enforcement duties with 49 Boating Under the Influence arrests, almost 6,000 citations, and over 28,000 Boating Safety Checks. Officers also investigated 155 pollutions.

Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife, Enforcement Section

Jurisdictional Representative Officer Daniel Carrow

New Officers: 2015/2016

AFC Joel Brosuis, Delaware State Police Academy graduate assigned to Sussex County.
AFC Timothy Koebel, New Castle County Police Academy graduate assigned to Sussex County.

Currently, there are four recruits slated to attend the 2016 Municipal Recruit Class at the Delaware State Police Academy in Dover, Delaware.

K-9 Recruits: 2016

The Agency has obtained two K-9s which are slated to attend training later this month. The K-9s will be assigned to AFC. Chelsea Allen in New Castle County and AFC. Joshua Hudson in Sussex County.

sex County.

Check this site if looking for Seasonal Positions in Enforcement.

<http://statejobs.delaware.gov/index.shtml>

Vermont Game Warden's Association

Jurisdictional Representative Officer Dennis Amsden

We are very much looking forward to hosting the annual training conference in Burlington. The registration site is live. Take a look and register as soon as possible in order to secure the best room rate. **Food will be discounted at 50% ONLY for registered delegates and their families, staying at the host hotel, Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center, July 9 through July 15, with opening ceremonies on Monday, July 11.** This is a tremendous savings the NAWEOA conference is able to offer to its members.

2015 was another busy year here in The Green Mountain State. Major Dennis Reinhardt retired and LT. George Scribner was selected to be our second in command. Senior Warden Justin Stedman was then promoted to Lieutenant, replacing Maj. Scribner's old position. Senior Warden Robert Sterling was promoted to a newly created K9 Specialist and will assume oversight of our ever growing K9 Unit.

Legislatively it was an eventful year. Our early archery season will be lengthened by five days at the end of the season and crossbows will be allowed for anyone without a special permit over the age of 50. Vermont also placed a ban on using natural deer urines. Also, we have decreased the bow season limit from three to two deer (the annual limit would remain at three), all of which should make for an interesting year for our field Wardens. The legislature is looking into making a repeat offender law, which would be great (keeping our fingers crossed).

We had a notable case where the homeowners were baiting deer into their backyard and selectively harvesting the mature buck of the year from a shooting port in the bedroom was plead out in court, large fines were handed down from the court.

Several awards were handed out this year due to great work and tremendous effort.

Gold Muskets- Lt. Greg Eckhardt, Senior Warden Chad Barrett and Senior Warden Stephen Majeski

Silver Muskets- Senior Warden Stephen Majeski, Warden Josh Hungerford, and Warden Ethan Coffey

Bronze Musket- Warden Robert Currier, Warden Wesley Butler and Warden Timothy Carey

6X6 Fitness Award Lt. Justin Stedman, Sgt. Warden Travis Buttle and Senior Warden Jason Dukette

Lifesaving Award- Warden Robert Currier, Warden Josh Hungerford and Warden Wesley Butler

Warden of the Year Nominees Commissioner's Award) Senior Warden Stephen Majeski, Warden Robert Currier, Warden Jenna Reed, and Warden Josh Hungerford

Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police

Jurisdictional Representative Sergeant Keith Williams

Our State Parks & Forests continue to see overwhelming crowds during the summer months. Fortunately, we were able to make numerous fish and game arrests during the course of the year that included several pre-season spring turkey hunting arrests, closed season commercial lobster arrest and approximately 10 BUI arrests. Our boating season was active involving several serious accidents of which involved our Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (BARU). Our K-9 unit responded to many calls for service including two poaching cases where an over the limit of fish was located by the K-9 in hidden locations.

CT EnCon Police were able to get three new Officers through the Police Academy and into field. Two lateral transfers are now completing Field Training. We are looking to hire two more Officers in 2016. EnCon Officer Matt Stone was nominated as the Officer of the Year.

Massachusetts Environmental Police Officer's Association

Director, Sergeant Kevin L. Clayton

Colonel James McGinn, Esq. is our new Director.

He comes to us from the private sector. Formerly he served as a Sergeant in the Massachusetts State Police.

After Col. McGinn came aboard, he enlisted the services of a former Lieutenant Brian Perrin, Esq. to serve as his Lieutenant Colonel (Deputy Director). Lt. Col. Perrin worked for the Winthrop Police Department. Over the course of this past year, the Agency, the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Law Enforcement, has realized a minor recovery from dwindling numbers. We were close to 75 officers last year and now have hired 14 more. Our numbers are now closer to 90.

Awards presented in 2015 for the year of 2014.

Medal of Life Saving- EPO Arthur O'Connell and K-9 Diesel

NECLECA Officer of the Year Award - Sgt. Mathew McClintock

Shikar-Safari Club-Officer of the Year Award- EPO William Ramsey

NASBLA Boat Educator of the Year Award- Sgt. Mark Brighenti

DIRECTORS COMMENDATIONS:

Lt. David Unaitis

Sgt. Jerry Shampang

EPO John Tranghese

EPO Arthur O'Connell and K9 Diesel

EPO Daniel Reeve

Officer Thomas Burbank is the **2015 Shikar-Safari Officer of the Year**

Officer Daniel Reeve is the **2015 Northeast Chiefs Conservation Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**

New Hampshire Conservation Officer's Relief Association

Jurisdictional Representative Lieutenant Dave Walsh

NH currently has 39 Conservation Officers for the State which has a resident population of 1.3 million people not to mention the seasonal influx of hunters, fishermen, and other outdoor enthusiasts from nearby metropolitan areas such as Massachusetts and New York. Recruitment and testing is currently underway.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is authorized to sell voluntary Hike Safe Cards for \$25 per person and \$35 per family. People who obtain the cards are not liable to repay rescue costs if they need to be rescued due to negligence on their part. An individual may still be liable for response expenses if they are deemed to have recklessly or to have intentionally created a situation requiring an emergency response. Hike safe card sales brought in more than \$75,000 to the Search and Rescue Fund in 2015, the first year they were available.

A new television series featuring New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Conservation Officers is in the works. Engel Entertainment, Inc., has signed a contract with New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to develop the project.

New Jersey Conservation Officer's Association

Jurisdictional Representative Lieutenant Michael Massey, ret.

Once again there has been a major shakeup with the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Law Enforcement Bureau. Within 2015 the turnover in senior officers – Captains and above - has been astronomical. To date we have had FOUR Captains retire. In addition, the Chief of the bureau has retired. Currently we are also on track to lose the Asst. Chief to retirement in June. These personnel losses have resulted in the promotion of the two remaining Captains to higher administrative roles.

Last year did not see all losses, in the last year we hired and got two additional Conservation Officers through a police academy and into the field. We will see one additional officer come out of the police academy in March.

The state has opened a new CO Recruit announcement and the test will be given soon. The initial promotional announcement closed in January of 2016. The division intends to hire 3-5 new recruits. If things run true to form, we may be able to actually hire someone by early fall.

Pennsylvania (Conservation Officers of

Pennsylvania)

Jurisdictional Representative Wildlife Conservation Officer Gary Toward, ret.

Law Enforcement:

If you attended the NAWEOA Conference in Columbia, SC last year, you may remember the training presented by the PA. Game Commission about the tracking team. Following the murder of a township police officer, WCO Brian Singer and DWCO Jeffery Flowers of Westmoreland County were instrumental in recovering evidence in the murder investigation of St. Clair Township police officer Lloyd Reed Jr. Singer, a PGC Tracking Team member, and his DWCO Flowers were able to backtrack the suspect's movements after the murder which led to the recovery of the rifle believed to have been used by the suspect as well as other important pieces of evidence. The PA State Police were very grateful for the assistance of the PGC in this investigation.

Awards:

WCO Seth Mesoras of Cambria County was selected as the NWTF Officer of the Year. WCO Daniel Puhala from Allegheny County was chosen for the Sikar-Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year.

Ohio Game Protector's Association

Jurisdictional Representative Steve Thomson

Ohio Wildlife Officers and Investigators responded to ninety four (94) incidents of reported pollution of state waters or land in 2015. Twenty three (23) of these incidents resulted in an assigned in-depth investigation. These investigations documented the death of 161,285 wild animals. In 2015 the Ohio Division of Wildlife collected over \$110,300.00 in restitution from those found responsible for causing the pollution and the related death of wild animals. Investigating the cause of the death of wild animals resulting from the pollution of land or water is a high priority for Ohio wildlife officers, second only to hunter incident investigations.

Ohio Officers-of-the-year;

Shikar Safari Ohio Wildlife Officer of the Year, 2014 –Wildlife Officer Supervisor Steve Thomson
National Wild Turkey Federation Wildlife

Officer of the Year, 2015 –Wildlife Officer Mark Basinger

Ohio Bow Hunter's Association Wildlife Officer of the Year, 2015 – Wildlife Officer Eric Bear and Wildlife Officer Matt Teders (co-winners)

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Agencies, Ohio Wildlife Officer of the Year, 2015 –Wildlife Officer Brad Kiger

Mississippi Flyway Ohio Waterfowl Officer of the Year, 2015 – Investigator Kevin Good

Ohio Turn-In-A-Poacher (TIP) officer of the year - Investigator Kirk Kiefer

Rhode Island Environmental Police Officer's Association

Jurisdictional Representative Officer Jennifer Ogren

Rhode Island Environmental Police welcomed a new Chief this year. Chief F. Dean Hoxsie was appointed on January 4th. Along with a new chief, we have three new officers. This has been a much needed boost to our staffing levels which have plummeted to historic lows. This Department also gained a K-9 team. Officer Christopher Duguid acquired a now 2 1/2 year old Belgian Malinois named Bear. Bear has proven in a very short amount of time to be an incredible asset to our Department.

Our officers were involved in the security details for the Volvo Ocean Race in Newport this past May. This is a sailing race across the world with Rhode Island as one of its stop-overs. Fort Adams State Park served as the Race Village. Our officers conducted 24/7 details for over a month during the creation of the village, the races themselves, and the dismantling of the village. This race drew in over 131, 000 visitors with an average of 10,000 per day. The event was so successful that they have announced its return to Newport in 2018.

The most interesting case occurred this summer, when one of our marine officers, Kyle Murray, was patrolling Pt. Judith which is a major fishing port and popular tourist area. The officer was heading towards a local fishing access when he observed a pickup truck with out of state plates

pulling out of a parking lot. In the bed of the truck was a kayak with a lobster pot tied on top. The lobster pot appeared to be recently hauled. It is illegal for non-residents to fish for lobster in Rhode Island, so the officer stopped the vehicle to question the operator. Upon closer inspection of the pot, the officer realized that it was "his" personal lobster pot. The operator of the pickup was quite surprised, to say the least.

The following officers were recipients of awards in 2014 and 2015:

Shikar Safari Officer of the Year 2014 – Christopher Duguid

Shikar Safari Officer of the Year 2015- Mark Saunders

NACLECA Officer of the Year 2014- Gilbert Andrade

NACLECA Officer of the Year 2015-Jean Paul Forcier

NASBLA Boating Officer of the Year 2014- Richard Browning

NASBLA Boating Officer of the Year 2015- Adam Hill

Michigan Conservation Officer's Association

Jurisdictional Representative Michelle Wiegand, ret.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources entered into a long term agreement to manage a 1000 acre city park named Belle Isle which is situated in the Detroit River just off shore from the City of Detroit. In decades past, the island served as a focal point for the city and was a showcase urban park complete with museums, aquariums, aviaries, a zoo, athletic fields, beaches and fishing piers. Disrepair and lack of funding lead to abandonment and increased criminal activity on the island. The Michigan DNR Parks Division has begun to manage the island as our newest state park with massive renovations and rehabilitation of the islands facilities and infrastructure.

Michigan Conservation Officers have become the primary police agency for the island park with seasonal assistance from the Michigan State Police. Officers have stepped up in many ways to provide scheduled 365 / 24 hour coverage to the island for daily patrols and additional officers are brought in to support special events such as car

and boat races or athletic events. Within the first year, a dramatic turnaround has been noted at the island with many feeling it may be the safest place in the city. Popularity and family use has increased dramatically

The Law Division was shocked by the sudden loss Of Lieutenant Arthur Green III on August 9, 2015. Green was piloting a private aircraft in route to a law division in-service training when his plane crashed in darkness as he approached the runway

Michigan Conservation Officers have enjoyed unprecedented growth in their ranks during the past few years, adding 85 additional officers since 2014.

The equipment news remains positive here in Michigan. All academy graduates leave training with a brand new, Chevrolet 1500 equipped with radios, gun rack, tool boxes and winches, all ready for patrol. The year 2015 saw a transition to the Colt M-4, 223cal. patrol rifles, from the previously issued Springfield M1-A Scout 308s. A two-year period of replacement of larger assets such as boats, snowmobiles and ORVs has resulted in 1.4 million dollars in expenditures by the division to assure officers have reliable and safe vehicles to conduct patrol activities.

We are currently running a class with 24 recruits that started on January 3, 2016.

The officers receiving awards were as follows;

Michigan Shikar Safari's Wildlife Officer of the Year is Joel Lundberg

Life Saving Awards – Sgt. Todd Szyska, Sgt. Michael Feagan, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly, CO Michael Drexler, and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth

Waterfowl Officer – CO Robert Hobkirk

NWTF officer – Assistant Chief Dean Molnar

US National Wildlife Refuge Officer's Association

Jurisdictional Representative Federal Wildlife Officer(FWO) Amanda Hardaswick

Lost Refuge Visitor

On 12/1/15, FWO Raul Sanchez received a call about a lost and disoriented bird watcher on the salt flats near a lagoon at the Vieques National

Wildlife Refuge(NWR). FWO Sanchez located the lost bird watcher and escorted her back to her vehicle. FWO Sanchez used a combination of tracking techniques, night vision monocular, and a thermal imaging monocular to locate the lost bird watcher.

Forgot To Put the Plug In

On 12/4/15, FWO Lance Smith received a call from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) dispatch about a boat that had sunk somewhere between the Felsenthal Lock and Dam and the Louisiana state line. FWO Smith and AGFC Officer Logan Brown responded to the area with a boat. The subject was located a couple miles into Louisiana on Upper Ouachita NWR. The subject was cold and wet, but unharmed when officers arrived on scene. The boat was completely submerged in the water.

Illegally taken Black Bear

On 11/16/2015, Officer Richard Gray received information of a dead bear located near the boundary line of the South Unit at the Dale Bumpers White River NWR. FWO Gray, FWO Roesner, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) Officer Randy Rhodes found the dead bear and located a ground blind on private property adjacent to the refuge boundary. After speaking with the land owner, a possible suspect was identified. The result of the interview was a written confession of the events leading up to and including the illegal take of the bear. The suspect was issued a state citation for the illegal take of the bear.

PROUD BROTHERS

On 11/3/15, FWO Brad Poen graduated from Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Acting Deputy Chief, DRLE, and Kathy Korte along with Brad's brother Zone Officer Gary Poen attended the graduation. Brad will be stationed at White River NWR in Arkansas.

National Marine Fisheries Service

Jurisdictional Representative Agent Scott Adams

James Landon was appointed head of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) last August; with Landon succeeding Bruce Buckson who served as OLE Director from 2010 to 2014. Additionally, OLE has recently completed their acquisition of new patrol vehicles for their uniformed officers, and distribution of the vehicles nationwide has begun.

2015 Officer Exchange

David Youngquist, Conservation Warden

MY YUKON DIARY

To say that I was surprised and in shock when my name was called at the officers luncheon on Tuesday July 29, 2015 in Columbia, SC is a serious understatement. My head immediately began to spin with all of the possibilities, things to get in order and how to get approval from my supervisor (wife) and my boss at the WIDNRDNR. However, the real possibilities that were making my head spin was; "Where in Canada to go? There were a lot of people at the SC conference with good ideas of where to go and where they would go. I have always had an extreme fondness for Canada and the "north" of North America. I've done a ton of reading about the arctic and stories of survival in the north. My wife, Rose and I have also gotten to know many Canadians through NAWEOA and have always been blown away by how incredibly friendly and welcoming they have always been to us on our trips to Canada; from New Foundland/Labrador all the way west to BC. Here's a chronology of my amazing trip to the Yukon Territory

Late August to September 9, 2015: This has been a huge logistical undertaking. The lady at the airport at the United counter in Madison was so helpful in suggesting that instead of pay the \$135 fee for the overweight bag, I go and buy a \$20 duffel bag for the 23# of cheese I brought.

Gord picked me up at the Whitehorse airport at 9:30 pm and we got my bags and he showed me the display that he set up of illegally transported wildlife items as an educational display at the airport. We

marveled at all of the hunters and how huge it is economically to the province. There are 35,000 people in the Yukon and about 28,000 live in Whitehorse. Most of the land is Crown land. We went back to Gord's house and I met his wife Cheryl. I found out that Gordon was a provincial officer in Manitoba before he took the federal position with Canadian Wildlife 3 ½ years ago. Tomorrow we go up to Dawson which has a lot of gold miners and hippies. The town is as it was years ago due to it being a historic town and protected from development.



09-11-15, Got up to Dawson City today. We took the Yukon ferry across at Dawson and drove up the "Top of the World highway" and the views were amazing. We stayed at Kirby Meister's house in Dawson City. Kirby was out on a hunting trip and let us stay at his house while he was gone. We met Shawn, the northern Yukon field CO at his office and his wife

Lolita who works for provincial parks for the Yukon. We went out to eat at Klondike Kate's. Really good food. We then went to the Sourdough saloon and had beers and had the Sourdough Toe shot. A human toe is put into your shot glass of at least 80 proof whiskey and you drink the shot and the blackened human toe has to touch your lips. If you swallow the toe, you have to pay \$2,500.

09-12-15, We met up with Shawn at his house just south of Dawson City. Shawn has a really nice house on five acres and a great garden that my wife would be jealous of. I met their 6 year old, a daughter Maya. I gave cheese, shirts, patches and a shirt to Maya along with some WCWA pins. We started up the Dempster Highway. This country is so vast that it blows your mind. We got to the Tombstone provincial park interpretive center (Shawn's wife Lolita

manages the park) and we saw some sheep on the hillside. The park is in the Ogilvie mountains which are really rugged, steep and snow covered. I cannot describe the beauty or the vastness here. We stopped and spoke to an outfitter who let a hunter shoot a dall sheep that was only 7 years old. The guide thought it was 8 years old based on the ridges on the horns (each one marks a year). In this case it was an understandable mistake. The rams also must have a full curl as measured by a straight line from the nostril to the bottom part of the eye. Shawn gave him a warning. They had a large moose rack that their hunter of Oklahoma City had shot this week. We then left and kept going up the Dempster and stopped and spoke to Blackstone Outfitters, owned by James Fink and his wife. They bought the business in 1999 and have three planes, Jim has been a pilot for 35 years. Shawn had to stop and give him export permits for the meat and antlers of the animals that his hunters got that week. One of his guides and his girlfriend was there and told the story of how they were out guiding a hunter and a mama grizzly came at him despite him shouting at it and firing two warning shots. His gun jammed as the bear was charging him and his hunter was able to shoot it and kill it as it was within 6 yards of him. There was a 74" moose rack in camp that probably weighed 60 pounds (the moose on the hoof weighed 1,600 pounds). Each sheep shot by a non-First nation hunter must be checked and marked with an aluminum plug by a CO. A hunter and his guides came back to camp while we were there and they had rafted down the Blackstone river for 10 days and got a moose last night that probably weighed 1,400 pounds. The New Jersey hunter was pretty happy. He was there for 30 days and had permits for sheep, moose, caribou and grizzly and probably paid \$50,000 for the hunt and his time there. Gordon gave him a "North American Game Warden" Museum hat with the hopes that maybe he would donate a hunt to a NAWEOA conference. Jim's outfitters concession is 10,000 square miles and we drove for two hours up the Dempster highway and we were still in his hunting area. This means that no other outfitters can guide in his area. These concessions can be worth millions of dollars. We continued on and met up with two first nation hunters and an RCMP officer who is stationed in Dawson City. These FN hunters had two rams that were not of legal size for non FN hunters, but were fine for them to harvest. We stopped at a place for Shawn to get satellite reception on his phone to order us dinner at eagle Plains, which is as a truck stop 1.5 hours from the border with the NWT (Northwest Territories). There is a hotel and restaurant and that is about it. 09-13-15, Sunday. Shawn has to go to Daw-

son City today to get ready for a week long moose hunt that he is taking a friend on. They are going to come back up the Dempster highway and float down in canoes. I found out that a resident can get one "special guide" license once each three years to take a non-resident of another province and take them out to hunt for moose or caribou, but not for sheep or grizzly. A US citizen would have to hire an outfitter for that. Shawn's wife has a 688 square mile trapping concession and cabin that she bought in 2008. It is hers to trap and she can have up to 6 cabins on the concession for the purposes of trapping. Yukoners can get them for mining claims too. Gordon and I are going to the border of NWT today, then back to Dawson City. Shawn spoke to the Inuit hunters who it seemed were not aware that they could not shoot a moose in the area where we saw them yesterday because they were not from the correct FN tribe for that area. Gordon and I went up the Dempster highway to the Arctic Circle marker (66 degrees' latitude) and got the same Inuit hunters to take out photo at the sign. We then went on to the border with the Northwest Territories, it was really cold windy and damp and was probably about 10 below zero with the wind chill. Gordon spotted a bear in a huge valley about 1,000 yards away. It turned out to be about a 1,200-pound male grizzly eating berries in the valley. We continued down the valley back to Dawson and after 6 hours of driving we arrived. Kirby and his brother and other hunting partners got back to Kirby's house in Dawson City and they got a large moose, a caribou and Kirby shot a nice sheep. It was great to hear their stories and I was able to get some good photos of their animals.

Monday 09-14-15; Had coffee with Kirby and I asked him many questions about a number of different things regarding the outfitting here and the agency. There are 16 officers for the entire province and two regional wardens and one EE warden. We went to the Bistro again in Dawson for breakfast and saw Dave Moore who is the RCMP officer that we saw with the two FN hunters. We hit the road at about 9:30 am and had a four-hour drive to Carmacks to meet up with Dean at his house. Unloaded my gear, sort of and I met his wife Jessica and his 18-month old son, Dennis. I then realized that I left my camouflage clothes bag in Gord's truck. So, Dean and I raced down towards Whitehorse to try to catch up with Gord, but he was gone. We turned around and he spoke to Pete Gibson, the CO in Ross River who had an injured eagle and a cooper's hawk in his truck for us to give to Larry Bill, a FN deputy warden who drive my bag up from the Whitehorse office. Dean got approval from Kirby to use a chopper tomorrow to

fly up to a moose area to check on a hunter who Dean suspects of hunting in a closed area. It will be about a four-hour flight. We then went to a ranch that had a horse attacked by a bear or mountain lion. We walked the 60 acres and I had the shotgun (you never go into the bush here without a shotgun) looking for sign of a bear or lion. Toffee, Deans dog came along to try and scent something. She had a few "hits" on things, but nothing concrete. The gash in the horse's front left shoulder is pretty deep and weeping. We then got a hold of Pete Gibson, the Faro CO and he found a dead moose in a swamp that appeared to have been shot off of the road. It took us an hour and a half to get there on the east end of Salmon lake. The moose was shot in the head three times and was submerged. The antlers had been cut off and some meat had been taken, but not enough and about 100 pounds was left. This is a major violation and strictly enforced. After dragging the severed decomposing large moose head out of the swamp we dug out two bullets and lead fragments and determined that it was not a large caliber. We found foot prints and some sting from tagging it and a fresh beer can and some new orange flagging. We also found truck tracks with some other foot prints. Pete may be able to make a case based on a reported kill in the area and an interview and the waste of the meat. All evidence was documented and we finally got back to Dean's house at 10 pm with the cooper's hawk with the broken leg and the bald eagle with the broken right wing. Jessica had dinner ready for us and we ate and I went to bed very tired. Tomorrow we fly to the camp to check on the potential illegal moose hunting. Pete did find that someone reported that they shot a moose in this area and got a conviction for waste of game.

09-15-15, Tuesday. We slept in until late, 8 am. Had breakfast and got up to go up in the chopper. I found out that Yukon CO's are not allowed to hunt in an area that they have flown over for a year if they were doing a big game survey. From May to end of August it stays light from 5 am until 11 pm, but in the middle of the summer it gets like dusk around 2 am for an hour or two. We got to the airport around 10:15 am and met Glenn our New Zealand pilot. He used to fly in Cambodia and Papua New Guinea and is now in Carmacks. Our intention was to check a guy who is married to a FN woman and he is not FN and he is taking advantage of her FN status. We saw three bull moose, one really big one bedded down and I got cell phone video of a huge grizzly bear. He ran away from us and into the alders. It probably weighed 1,000 pounds. Flying in the chopper was awesome, this was an amazing way to check hunters. We checked four different groups of hunters. When we did the flyover

and landed they were pretty surprised when we walked up and checked them. We also landed and checked two other younger FN hunters who had their quads and were legal. The one younger FN guy was not allowed to hunt because it was not his traditional territory. They headed out with two guns and we suspected that he would shoot one. There was nothing illegal about him and he is allowed to carry a gun for bear protection. We landed in a spot and picked up a set of shed moose antlers. We saw a lot of sheds this day in the valley. It is amazing to see the amount of ground you can cover with the chopper. We went to Dean's office and I met Doris in the Yukon environment office, she works for Dean and manages his office for him. Too bad we all couldn't have a Doris, wow would that be helpful. We got back to Dean's house and went for a walk to the Nordenskold river, which is in Dean's backyard. He really has a beautiful piece of property; 20 acres next to the river and Crown land, two horses, chickens and goats.

09-16-15, Wednesday. To go meet up with Pete Gibson in Faro and we are going to patrol up the north Canol river and do some flying today I think. We met Kevin Johnstone at the airport in Ross River at the Trans North building. Our pilot today was Nick, another New Zealander. We covered a lot of ground and checked several camps and checked two separate groups of American hunters. We saw probably four large bull moose in the 40-50" range and one or two that were in the 60" plus range. I saw a number of cow moose and one black bear. The first outfitter we checked had a hunter from Wyoming. This is the second time he has been here hunting for a white or stone sheep at \$20,000 each and he was on his last day of his hunt and was pretty disappointed with not seeing much and with the rainy weather during his hunt. The other camp we checked (Yukon Big Game Outfitters), had a hunter from West Virginia. He had not yet shot anything and his buddy had shot a 500-pound grizzly. I found out that there are about 5,000 big game licenses sold in the Yukon and 2,000 of those are resident licenses and the remaining are non-resident or FN licenses. Hunters have to be 1 km from a residence to shoot a big game animal.

09-17-15, Thursday. Pete Gibson of the Faro district and I started at about 9:30 am and went to Faro and got some hardware for a sign he has to post at the NWT border and some groceries for our stay at the remote outpost cabin. Faro is much like you would expect Chernobyl to be like. It is a dying town now that mining has left the area. There are a lot of boarded up apartment buildings and houses with weeds and trees growing up through the concrete. It is a sad situation at how the death of mining in the area has left

Faro and other parts of the YT. We crossed the Pelly river on the ferry at Ross River and headed up the North Canol River road and checked a number of hunters including a first nation hunter, "Keifer" who had shot a bull moose. We then came around a corner and found a chopper that landed on the road and it was the RCMP who were looking for a hunter who had gotten lost the night before, it was a hunter from Whitehorse. It was pouring rain and we left and found Todd who works for the Ministry of the Environment and he was fine but tired from spending a night in the bush with his large 62" dead moose. We finally found the Yukon CO patrol cabin 158 km from Ross River. What a great experience; middle of the YT with a fellow CO, talking about the similarities of the job in Wisconsin and the YT. Pete is a great guy and no doubt a life-long friend.

09-18-15, Friday. Slept great and got up at about 8 am. No big rush this morning. Pete is cooking eggs with the left over potatoes and sausage from last night. It was a beautiful morning with the sun shining off of the mountains and Boulder Creek running below the cabin. We left the fish and game patrol cabin and we checked a camp that I spotted fresh ATV tracks going to. The group had gotten one moose. We chatted with them for a while and continued down the road to a hunter from

the same group. We talked to him for 45 minutes and the others from before came up and we all chatted. They were good guys and all from Whitehorse as everyone up here seems to be. We continued up the road and found more hunters to check including some from Yellowknife NWT who were hunting in the NWT and had moose, caribou and a large grizzly. Pete checked their export permit to be able to come through the Yukon on their way back to Yellowknife and they were good to go. They have a 30-hour drive home because there is no road from Yellowknife to this area of the NWT. We came upon two hunters, one from Whitehorse and one from BC who had full magazines and one in the chamber as well. One citation was issued to one of the hunters and a warning was given to the other hunter who said that he cannot get into the US because of his past record. Hmmm? We then got up near the



border of NWT and the rain started in earnest and we encountered a hunter coming out who we spoke to on the CB radio. He too was from Yellowknife and had a very large custom made semi-truck made in Atlanta that was four-wheel drive and had a 12,000-pound winch in the front and the back of the truck. His wife was along for the hunt and passed on a grizzly and when she got out of the truck Pete and I thought we would pass out from all of her perfume she had on; gotta get over the fumes from a week of being in the hunting camp somehow I guess. She said she was

very happy that the NWT officer at the check station let her use his shower. After talking to them for a while and checking their export permits, we continued onto the NWT wildlife check station. It was a 45-minute drive at 10 mph and the road was simply horrible. We finally got there at 6:30 pm and met Ron who is the NWT officer who is an Inuit and manning the station, I found out that the NWT officers are not armed at all. He knows who is coming and going because of how remote it is. We were within 1 km of the end of the drivable road. The country is amazing and there are no trees whatsoever. The border marks the end of the trees. The country up here is incredibly vast and amazing. There is a lot of green moss growing on the ground, making this ideal habitat for caribou. A hunter showed up with two moose tongues to show to Ron so that he knew what they had shot. He said that he leaves on Monday and had been there about three weeks and two other officers come in to staff it until the end of Sep-

tember at which time it shuts down due to the snow and cold up there. He also said that they are in the process of creating a park up there which will shut down most of the hunting in the area. There did seem to be a lot of game coming out of the area. We finally left after he gave me some good NWT information. We left and the rain turned to snow and it got dark fast. We finally got back to the cabin at 10:20 pm and cooked steak, onions and potatoes.

9-19-15; Saturday We got up at about 8 am. We cleaned up the patrol cabin and there were a few inches of snow on the ground. We headed out at about 10 am. It was a long drive back down the North Canol Road and we checked a few hunters including a federal prosecutor out of Whitehorse who was headed up to Dragon Lake to hunt with his son and a friend. I really enjoy Pete, he is a really good and a good solid of-

ficer and he is good with people. Pete and I got to his house in Faro at about 2:45 pm and Anna insisted that we stay until her pizza was done. Then to the Faro boat landing to meet Dean McLean and Dave Basica at the boat. I got all my stuff in the covered jet boat and said good-bye to Pete. We were going to take the jet boat on the Pelly River and patrol for hunters. The Pelly River connects to the Yukon River. There were a few hunters at the landing with at least one dead moose in a trailer. We started downriver at about 4 pm and were going about 25 mph in the jet boat with Dave driving. They have an aeronautics head set in the boat and the 200 HP motor is really loud and without these you couldn't talk to the person next to you. We got to our camping spot at about 6:30 pm and set up camp. We got the tarp set up first and then our tents. We then cooked moose steak that was back strap. It was amazingly good. WOW! We had potatoes and veggies. We stayed up and talked around the campfire and just before we went to bed at about midnight the northern lights became really visible and were dancing. They were a bright green.

09-20-15, Sunday. We got up at about 7:30 and it was pretty frosty. It was incredible that Daave and Dean had equipment for me; a tent, thermarest and another sleeping bag (I borrowed one from Pete), but it was cold and I am really glad I had two bags last night. They also had a tent for me, a two man MSR. All of this camping equipment is paid for by their department. We finally got out of there at about 11:30 am due to the heavy fog. At this stage of the trip I am figuring out how tired I am and that being "on" for 10 days in a row, can be exhausting. Down the Pelly River we continued. We stopped at one First nation log cabin and they were not there. There was no one on the river today and we went 320 km on the Pelly. I jumped in with Dave for the ride to Whitehorse. We stopped in Carmacks at Dean's house to get my moose shed antlers and I thanked Jessica for her hospitality and we headed onto Whitehorse. Dave and I stopped at a territorial park to eat "smoky's" made of caribou meat and pork, then continued onto Whitehorse. It was decided I would get a motel room. I couldn't wait for a bed and a shower.

09-21-15, Monday. TJ picked me up a little after 8 am and told me that we were headed to the central office to interview an outfitter about a grizzly incident in which he had a hunter out and the hunter had to shoot a mama grizzly with two cubs because she charged him and his hunter. It seemed like his story was honest. The US hunter had a grizzly tag and he could have gotten a special tag from a conservation officer for this one for about \$1,000, but the outfitter did not tell the hunter that and they went out a few days later

from their camp and got another bear, which cost the hunter \$15,000 or so. At the Whitehorse office I met Larry Bill who brought my bag up to Carmacks for me when I left it accidentally in Gordon's truck. He is the First Nation Liaison Conservation Officer and he gave me a YT First Nation Liaison patch. I met the Director of the Co service or the Chief, Chris Gustaffson. I gave him some of the last of the cheese I've been hauling around the territory as well as a new Wisconsin patch. He wants to start using the new officers to train then older ones on social media and vice versa on the older enforcement techniques so that they are not lost when the old one retire. He still responds in the field to bear issues and other various calls that come into the central office, this is pretty amazing. I met Megan, who is one of their biologists and I helped her remove the neck meat of a large bull elk that she was removing the obex for CWD testing. I had a fifteen-minute conversation with her about our experience with CWD and its impact in Wisconsin. I also met Randy, who is their training director. He too was in the field all weekend working the Whitehorse area. We left and followed up on a bear carcass that appears to have been shot that is wired to a tree on a dirt two track between Whitehorse and Haines Junction. It is being used as bait by a hunter to lure in another bear to shoot. There is a moose hide at the site that appears to have been used as the original bait to shoot the first bear. TJ and I decided that he should put up a trail camera. We then looked for some introduced wood bison that are just outside of the open hunting area in this meadow area to see if anyone was illegally hunting them, no hunters and no bison found. These are bison that were captured from Wood Buffalo National Park in NWT 10 years ago and now the YT has a huntable population of about 1,500 and growing. We then went to a hill above the small historical FN town of Champagne/Ashiak and there is a graveyard on the hill with "spirit houses" that people have built to honor the dead as memorials. We met up with Birch Howard, a parks Canada Warden. I met Sarah Chisholm, she is one of their resource protection people and biologists and she does rescues in the park and deals with visitor animal issues. While Birch is totally LE. This is a switch in Canada parks that occurred about 7 years ago. They went from 420 officers to 100 who are just LE now and there were a number of forced retirements at this time as well. Sarah showed me video of a rescue at 20,000 feet last June of two mountaineers that were trapped on Mt. Logan by a storm for 10 days. They were fine but ran out of food. We then drove up a really rough road to Mush Lake, got in the small fishing boat and loaded out gear and boated to the patrol cabin. Snowcapped mountains all

around, it was amazing. It was a 30-minute boat ride to the cabin and we had to try to fix the chimney of the patrol cabin, to no avail. We got the chimney put back on and got a fire going. Birch cooked pasta with pesto, which was very good and he had brought salad too. We stayed up until 11:30 and talked about all manner of things, then to bed. Birch set some mouse traps and at 3:16 am we caught one and it woke us up. I thought it was a bear on the deck of the cabin.

09-22-15, Tuesday. Up at 8 am or so, got a fire going and there are clouds but sun too. What an amazing place that parks Canada has protected. We got the cabin cleaned up and took a walk to Bates lake and looked at the portage. I split a bunch of firewood for Sarah and her crew to use when they get to the cabin for their biology patrol. We found grizzly tracks in the sand in front of the cabin and I got some good photos with my knife and phone next to the track for scale. Birch is incredibly hospitable and a great host. We got the boat loaded up and headed out across the lake. The two hour drive out is slow, arduous and really rough, but we made it. We talked at length about the Chilkoot trail and how in 1898 prospectors took it to get to Dawson to find their riches in gold and were required by the Royal Mounted Patrol (now the RCMP) to have at least 1,000 pounds of provisions or they would not let them into Canada along the trail. The Chilkoot pass trail starts in Dyea or Skagway and goes into Canada. The gold seekers brought everything from home including their grand pianos. A lot of these items were left behind by them as they could not carry everything. It is the largest open air museum in the world. The RCMP had a Gatling gun and would not allow anyone in without enough provisions, so the US sent the Army up there and there was almost war, but we did back down and let the border between our countries be where the RCMP said they wanted it. I think President McKinley must have let it go and decided not to make an issue of it. Birch is a wealth of information on the history of the area. After we ate, Birch called the pilot and he said that they are still taking tourists out despite the dicey conditions. So we stopped at Canada parks office for a bit then went to the airport and met Alex, our pilot. I helped them push a plane onto the runway with a disabled woman in it who was taking a sight-seeing flight with her husband, they were farmers from BC. We took a flight from Haines Junction to the north along the Kluane park border to look for any illegal mining activity coming into the park and to look for any hunters illegally hunting in the park. It was a beautiful flight and I got good video of the mountains and of the valley. We saw the Alsak river and the Jarvis river coming out of the icefields. This park is where the highest

mountain is in Canada, Mt. Logan. It was about a 45-minute flight and cloudy and snowy in parts but sunny and beautiful in others. We saw a lot of sheep on Sheep Mountain. We also saw a large bull moose in the brush that stood up as we flew over him. Birch then took me over to TJ's house and I got my stuff out of his truck and met his three kids. They've got a great place they are renting with about 14 acres and three horses. We had good conversation and good lasagna that his wife, Heather made. We stayed up talking shop with his Deputy CO Shane who is an avid trapper and a great asset to TJ.

09-23-15, Wednesday; Got up at about 5 am, it's been an amazing trip. TJ made a great breakfast and he made the kids lunch for their day too. Birch got to the house a little after 8 am and I thanked TJ and Heather and off we went once everything was loaded. I met Birch's daughter "Sage", who is 2 and super cute with blond curls. I read some books to her on the 1.5-hour drive and she wanted me to keep reading for the entire drive; whew I forgot that there really is no reasoning with a two-year-old. We got to Whitehorse and Birch dropped me off at Gordon's office. I spent over an hour in the Yukon museum and it was fascinating to cap off my trip with this history of the pre-historic people to the exploration of western Canada by Dawson and Robert Campbell and then to the gold rush and the Chilkoot pass and how important the rivers were to travel here before roads. I learned many things but one was that the name "Whitehorse" comes from those that first got here saw the waterfalls in town and to them it looked like the mane of a white horse flowing in the wind. The internet went down in all of the Yukon and N.W.T. because someone accidentally cut a line by Watson Lake. There is no cell service today either in Whitehorse. We stopped back at the office and I got an export permit from Dave for the shed antlers. I got caught up on my diary and am worn out!

09-24-15, Thursday. Up at 4 am and Gordon and I headed to airport. I got checked in and thanks to a really helpful woman at the airport I was able to take the moose shed antlers home with me. I could not wrap and check them, they had to be in a cardboard box. She found me an old box and with tape I was able to wrap them up and check them. There was a \$150 antler fee; ouch! Oh well. All of my flights went well and no problems. I got home to Madison at about 8:45 pm and it was really great to see my wife and kids. I really did miss them. Gordon, Kirby, Dean, Pete, Shawn, TJ and the rest of the Yukon officers were really great and incredibly accommodating. What an amazing trip; Thank you NAWEOA!!

NAWEOA Awards

By Rob Brandenburg

N.A.W.E.O.A. believes deeply in recognizing the commitment of the wildlife law enforcement professional. The awards recognize people and agencies that have performed outstanding work, exemplary service to the public, or have contributed to wildlife law enforcement in other ways. Look at the award categories below and consider nominating your fellow officers for accomplishments. Submitting an award is easy. Go to NAWEOA.org and sign in to the webpage. If you do not have an account register for one.

In the main menu under “**Awards**”, is “**Award Application**”. Click that link after you are signed in and you will be taken to the online Award Application.

N.A.W.E.O.A. OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

1. Must be a fully certified conservation officer in the state, province, territory, or country in which employed.
2. Must be a full time field officer, up to and including first line supervisors from the field in the last calendar year.
3. Both nominee and person submitting nomination must be a member of NAWEOA.
4. An officer whose character is beyond reproach.
5. An officer who is competent, knowledgeable and capable.
6. An officer who promotes wildlife law enforcement.
7. An officer who demonstrates professionalism in every facet of life.
8. The person submitting the nomination shall provide background material when submitting the nomination. Background material shall be in written narrative format, not exceeding 5 pages. Other supportive articles, certificates, awards, media coverage, etc. may be included with the nomination.
9. All nominations must be received by the Vice President of NAWEOA not later than April 15th each year. The successful officer will be notified by May 1st..

NAWEOA TORCH AWARD

- Presented annually to an officer from each region, to encourage the professional development of recently appointed officers. The selection criteria are as follows:
- Both nominating and nominated officers must be regular NAWEOA members.
- Nominated officer must not have worked as a wildlife enforcement officer more than five years.
- Must have demonstrated a genuine desire to protect the resource and develop professionally.
- Must demonstrate exceptional ability and initiative in the performance of his or her duties, including public education.
- Must be respected by his/her peers and the general public.
- Nominations must be received by April 15th each year. Winners will be notified by May 1st.
- Awards will be presented at annual conference; attendance encouraged but not mandatory.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Anyone who is eligible for regular or deputy membership may be nominated for this award. It is given for outstanding achievement or service in the field of Wildlife Law Enforcement, to NAWEOA executive or outgoing NAWEOA Directors. (Amended Winter 2003, West Palm Beach)

CERTIFICATE OF RETIREMENT

Anyone who is eligible for regular or deputy membership may be nominated for this award. It is given to honour years of service to the profession. This award is distributed on behalf of NAWEOA by regional reps and is not subject to executive review.

AWARD OF VALOUR

Anyone who is eligible for regular or deputy membership may be nominated for this award. It is given to the officer who performs a heroic act, or risks or receives serious injury, in the line of duty in an attempt to protect him\herself or a member of the public from a dangerous situation or circumstance. It infers bravery in the face of adversity.

LIFESAVING AWARD

Anyone who is eligible to be a regular or deputy member of the association or anyone who is a member of the association may be nominated for this award. It is given for any act at any time which saves the life of another person. (Amended Winter 2003, West Palm Beach)

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Anyone who in any way is helpful to the association and/or it's members may be nominated for this award. This includes, but is not limited to speakers, conference or workshop hosts, fundraisers, committee or special project members, citizens or politicians.

HONOURARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Anyone who has performed an extraordinary service to the association over a number of years may be nominated for this award. It is one of our most prestigious awards and may only be given in rare circumstances. Anyone who is eligible for regular membership in the association who receives this award shall maintain their voting privileges within the association.



16TH ANNUAL TORCH RUN

The 16th Annual NAWEOA 5K Torch Run/Walk will take place in Burlington, Vermont. The event will be held on Monday July 11, 2016 as part of the Annual NAWEOA Conference. All proceeds will benefit the North American Game Warden Museum. Once again, we are asking for your support. Your generous donation will help ensure the future of the museum and help us continue to honor those that have fallen in the line of duty. If your association (or any individual) is interested in making a donation, please make your check or money order made payable to the North American Game Warden Museum and mail your donation to: Thomas Caifa, P. O. Box 26, Altamont, NY 12009 before May 15, 2016. With your support, we can continue to carry out the mission of the museum; Educating, Honoring & Celebrating Natural Resource Protection.

For more information, go to <http://naweo.org/Conf/torch-run/>

Thank you for your continued support honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.



Field Notes

SPRING 2015

GAME WARDEN MUSEUM VISITING OFFICER PROGRAM

The North American Game Warden Museum invites all conservation officers from across North America to participate in the museum's Visiting Officer Program.

Visiting officers stay 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 and to share information or stories with visitors to the Museum. Officers are encouraged to bring any displays, power points, handouts or any promotional DVDs they may have. Presentations can be as simple as the standard "who we are and what we do" or can be more elaborate. Every officer has interesting stories and since every state is different, the material is always fresh.

The museum has had visiting officers from Idaho, Arizona, New York, Utah, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Montana, Manitoba, North Dakota, Washington and USF&W. Typically, officers stay for two to three days over a weekend.

We go by many different names: Game warden, conservation officer, fish & wildlife agent, natural resources officer, wildlife officer, environmental police and the list goes on. Whatever your badge says, we are all part of the same brotherhood. That brotherhood is celebrated by the North American Game Warden Museum.

If you or your agency is interested in participating in this program please contact Museum Board Director Thomas Caifa at nygameprotector@gmail.com





Field Notes

SPRING 2015

New Museum Board President

The North American Game Warden Museum has selected Manitoba Conservation Officer Blake Patterson to serve as President of the Board of Directors. Blake replaces eighteen year veteran Dave Grant who will continue to serve on the Board.

Jonathan Tofteland, North Dakota Officer was elected to continue as Vice-President while Derek Bobbie, Manitoba and Paul Freeman, North Dakota were re-elected as Treasurers. Completing the Board are Marion Hoffman, New York, Retired, Tom Caifa, New York, Graeme Smith, Manitoba, Eric Schmidt, North Dakota and Terry McClelland, Pennsylvania.

There are openings on the Museum Board for both U.S. and Canadian Director positions. Interested Officers can contact any current Board Member. Go to gamewardenmuseum.org for more information. Board Members must be active or retired Commissioned Resource Officers.

In other actions the Board will be hiring a Museum Manager for the 2016 season. Seven candidates are under consideration. A new exhibit including a full body mount Polar Bear is expected to be com-

plete by the opening date, May 12, 2016. Also an exhibit honoring Don and Pat Hastings and *International Game Warden Magazine* is nearing completion.

A reminder that the Museum hosts "Visiting Officers" each season. If you would like to visit the Museum and make a presentation contact Tom Caifa to schedule. Free housing is available.

For more information, visit the museum website at www.gamewardenmuseum.org and tandr@zoominternet.net.





Win Your Paving Stone

The paving stone program has been a tremendous success!
To date, over 470 paving stones have been purchased
and placed at the museum.

The Museum would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the years
by giving away the 500th paving stone
purchased at the museum.

To commemorate the sale of the 500th stone, we will
reimburse the purchaser the full price!



The winning purchase will be determined
by the date the request to purchase is made.

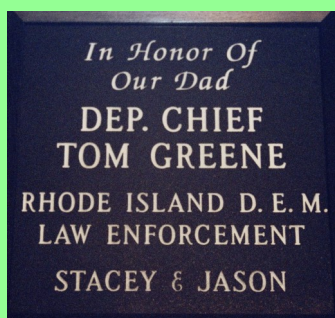
Thank you for supporting the museum
and helping to create our paving stone display.

GOOD LUCK!!!



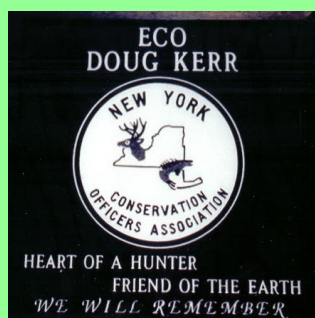
- Paving stones are age, weather and traffic-resistant black polished granite, sized 12" x 12"
- Engraved paving stones provide plenty of room for personal inscription in memory, honor or thanks
- Each sponsored stone will be placed on the museum grounds for public appreciation
- Paving stones can also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

Examples of Engraved Paving Stones



Honor a Family Member

*Demonstrate
Family Support*



Memorialize a Fallen Officer

*Honor
Outstanding Achievement*



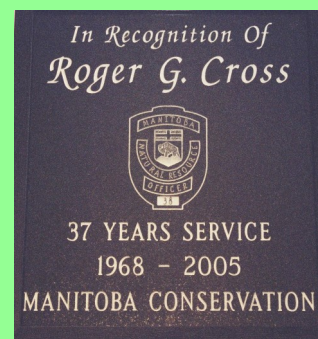
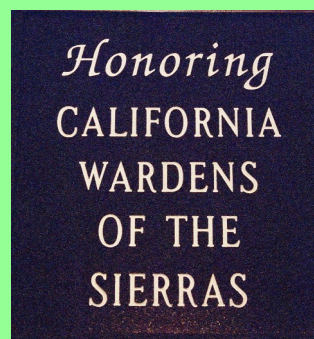
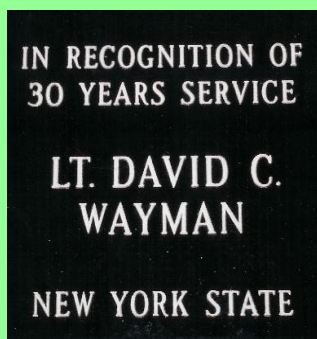
Just Say Thank You

*Demonstrate
Support*



Celebrate Partnerships

*Honor
Officer Retirements*

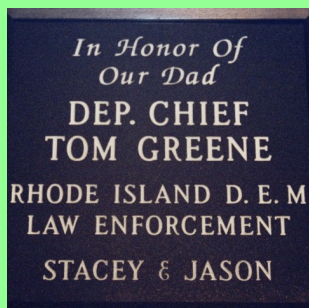


*A thank you card and a photo of your paving stone will be sent to you upon its completion.
A gift acknowledgement is also available upon request.
Museum staff will be available to assist visitors in locating their paving stone
on the museum grounds.*

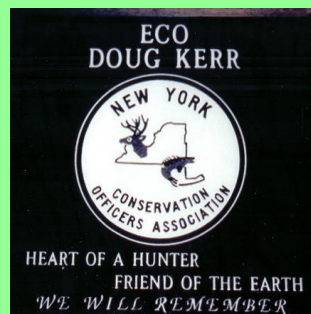


SUPPORT THE GAME WARDEN MUSEUM PURCHASE A PAVING STONE

1. Circle the type of stone your wish to purchase



**Engraved Paving
Stone
\$150**



**Engraved Paving
Stone With Logo
\$150**

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

For logo engraving, attach a clean, original copy and provide contact information for our engraver.
Contact person for logo: _____ Contact number: _____

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

3. Complete the sponsor and payment information

Sponsor Information Payment Options

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

gamewardenmuseum.org

Amount of this sponsorship \$ _____

Phone _____

Check, Money Order payable to: **NAWEMMEC** or
Credit Card (Master Card or Visa)

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Mail to:

10939 Peace Garden Road, Dunseith, ND 58329

Or

P.O Box 1239 Boissevain, MB R0K 0E0



I'd like to become a Museum Member

Individual *Life Member* Installment Plan

Individual Member (Annual) \$25

After renewing this membership two consecutive years, the \$75 you have paid can be transferred toward a Life Membership Plan. You will receive a Museum Decal and 10% off all Museum products.

Payments of \$75 yearly (or any amount over \$75 you may want to add) until reaching \$750.00

With a full paid (\$750) Life Membership, you will receive a Life Member Certificate, a vinyl Membership Card, Life Member Decal, 20% discount on all Museum products, and an embroidered Life Member Jacket.

APPLICATION

☐ ANNUAL

☐ LIFE

Date of Application _____

Name _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

Agency & Position _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Phone No _____

POSTAL CODE _____

☐ \$75.00 for Life Installment Program (\$75 Minimum, however you can pay more than \$75 if you wish.)

\$_____Amount if more than \$75.

JACKET SIZE _____

☐ \$25 for one year Annual Membership (you may renew two more years consecutively and switch to Life membership)

☐ I plan to continue payments and count my payments toward a Life Membership.

CHECK

☐

CASH

☐

CREDIT CARD

☐

PAYMENT BY

VISA

☐

MASTER CARD

☐

**Checks payable to Game Warden Museum or
NAWEMMEC**

Send to;

10939 Peace Garden Road, Dunseith, ND 58329

or

PO Box 1239, Boissevain, MB R0K 0E0

Your payment is considered a tax-deductible contribution as defined by US and Canadian charitable contribution guidelines;
NAWEMMEC Canada, Inc. NAWEMMEC USA, Inc.
149(1)(F) Charitable Org. 501-©3 Non-Profit Org.
Canada # 0999441-50 USA # 45-0436114

Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Code _____

Authorizing signature _____ DATE _____

NAWEOA 2017 Draft Budget

Draft Budget

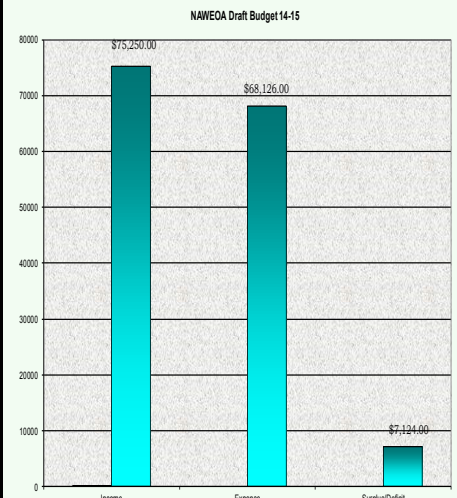
Last updated 2/24/2016

Income	2016-2017	Comments
Conference	\$ 25,000.00	11500 seed plus 1/2 of SC profit
Dues	\$ 35,000.00	Estimate base on recent years dues
IGW Profits Share	\$ 5,000.00	
Interest	\$ 250.00	
BWW Advertising	\$ 10,000.00	Projected AD revenue
Promotional Sales	\$ -	
Travel Reimbursements		
Total Income	\$ 75,250.00	
Expense	2016-2017	
Administrative Costs	\$ 10,101.00	See Administrative Worksheet
Affiliation Dues	\$ 750.00	ANRET, IAFWA and NACLEC dues.
Awards	\$ 3,500.00	See award sheet for detail
Conference Expenses	\$ 12,750.00	See conference expenses sheet for detail
Donations	\$ -	See Donation sheet for detail
Meetings/Travel-Executive	\$ 30,000.00	See Meetings and Travel sheet.
Meetings/Travel-Service	\$ -	See Meetings and Travel sheet.
Membership Services	\$ 4,000.00	See membership services sheet,
Memorial Donations and Expenses	\$ 1,550.00	See Memorial Services worksheet
Newsletter	\$ 1,600.00	See Newsletter Expenses worksheet
Promotional Items Expenses	\$ 2,750.00	Based on Jan & Michel's input
Web Site Expenses	\$ 1,125.00	See Website Expenses worksheet
Total Expense	\$ 68,126.00	

You can view the complete budget online on the at this

Link
<http://naweo.org/pdf/2016/2016-2017Budget-Worksheet.pdf>

Income	\$ 75,250.00
Expense	\$ 68,126.00
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 7,124.00



Fun Things To Do Around Burlington

The ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center

Find out what's underwater at this interactive science museum; there are more than 70 species featured in ever-changing exhibits. It also hosts an adult-friendly cocktail party called ECHO After Dark on the second Thursday of every month.

Church Street Marketplace

While the advent of the indoor shopping mall in the 1970's meant the death of most pedestrian malls, this one—established in 1981—still buzzes with activity.

Mt. Philo State Park

Situated atop the eponymous Mt. Philo, this 168-acre park contains a small, 10-site camping area as well as an enclosed picnic pavilion that can be rented for special events.

Umiak

More than anything, Umiak Outdoor Outfitters wants to get people moving — either paddling on Vermont's rivers and lakes in the summer or gliding through the winter snow on skis, snowshoes, or dog sleds.

Shelburne Museum

For many visitors, this 45-acre museum feels more like a wonderland than a museum, thanks mainly to the village-like layout that incorporates 25 historic buildings relocated here by founder and American folk art collector Electra Havemeyer Webb.

Mad River Glen

Mad River Glen is an obstinate throwback. It is owned cooperatively by shareholders whose vehicles are plastered with red-and-white ski it if you can bumper stickers. Mad River Glen has no snowmaking equipment. Boarding is banned.

Daily Chocolate

Pop in for a cup of hot cocoa, made with organic sugar, milk, vanilla, and a scoop of ganache.

Moss Glen Falls

The 20-foot waterfall offers a stunning panorama of golden hardwoods.

University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm

