

NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"



NAWEOA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

7/10/22 - 7/16/22

Nashville, Tennessee

Conference Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/173505916518726/>

Fall 2021

76th Edition NAWEOA Newsletter

NAWEOA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President Rick Langley Arizona, US	president@naweo.org
Vice President Kurt Henry Manitoba , Canada	vpresident@naweo.org
Past President Shawn Farrell New Brunswick, Canada	ppresident@naweo.org
Secretary/Treasurer Steve Beltran Illinois, US	secretarytreasurer@naweo.org
Director Region 1 Brock Lockhart Saskatchewan, Canada	region1@naweo.org
Director Region 2 Martin Thabault Ontario, Canada	region2@naweo.org
Director Region 3 Josh Thibodeau New Brunswick , Canada	region3@naweo.org
Director Region 4 Jason Sherwood Wyoming, US	region4@naweo.org
Director Region 5 Jesse Gehrt Kansas, US	region5@naweo.org
Director Region 6 Brandon Gavrock Tennessee, US	region6@naweo.org
Director Region 7 Larry Hergenroeder Pennsylvania, US	region7@naweo.org
Webmaster/Newsletter Editor Mike Reeder Pennsylvania, US	webmaster@naweo.org
Conference Liaison Jason Sherwood Wyoming, US	conference@naweo.org

SOUVENIR PATCHES AVAILABLE

2017 is the only current patch 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 Richard Langley



deeply by the happenings of the last 22 months, whether it be by the loss of a family member, friends, or a co-worker. We have lost several brothers and sisters during this time and it breaks my heart. Next July we will come together and we will celebrate their lives and contributions to conservation and mourn their loss. We are moving forward with the planning of the 2022 conference in Nashville, Tennessee and it still promises to be an outstanding event for all.

This last year has been tough in many ways. At times I have struggled to keep my head in the game at work and with NAWEOA. I apologize if we have let you down in any way. In the past, we always had a goal to work towards and that was our annual conference. Without that as an anchor, it can be easy to lose focus and direction. The Board has not met in person in 18 months and that is even more difficult than you can imagine. We try to get the most out of virtual meetings, but it is still not as effective nor efficient as an in-person meeting. We are ensuring that we are taking care of NAWEOA business and ensuring that we will exist into the future. My term as President would have been done in July, but I did decide to stick it out for the next year until we can gather as members and vote for new Board members. I would encourage anyone who has the interest, to consider running for a position on the Board. While this has been a difficult term for me, overall my experience with the rest of the Board and NAWEOA members has been incredible! Saying that, I would also like to thank Dan Fagan from Florida for his 2 years as the Region 6 Director. Dan took another position in Florida and resigned his position. We were able to recruit Brandon Gavrock of Tennessee as the new Region 6 Director. Huge thank you to both of these members for their contribution and dedication to NAWEOA!

Life in Arizona has been a roller coaster. We went from epic drought to a record monsoon. This last

year was one of the driest we had on record and there were significant concerns about how our wildlife would fare. Across most of our pronghorn range, we had the second year in a row with almost no fawn recruitment. That will definitely be reflected in pronghorn permits in years to come. The increased interest in archery deer hunting in AZ over the past couple years also created concerns with more hunters taking more deer, deer being more vulnerable at the limited water sources and resulting decreased opportunity in archery deer seasons going into 2022. Our Wildlife Managers spent thousands of hours hauling water to catchments for deer, elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep. Water trailers fell apart, trucks broke, and everyone's patience wore thin before the rains finally came in July. Many of our officers were able to get on fire security details as we once again had several severe wildfire events. Fire duty is the only opportunity we get to earn overtime here. With our summer monsoon rains, came floods, especially in those areas with burn scars from the past couple years. We almost had to evacuate my house twice after 2 days of severe storms with flooding and a dam breaking.

We have already been hunting for 2 months here in AZ and it's just going to be getting busier. I feel fortunate that I drew a pronghorn tag in New Mexico in August and I will get to sneak away for a whitetail hunt in Idaho in November and a whitetail hunt here in AZ in December. I got to take a Gould's turkey here in the spring. Their reintroduction and recovery is a true conservation success story and I was super excited to participate in that story.

Arizona is continuing to feel the shortage of field officers. We are now running up to 3 hiring classes per year. Retention is a little better than the recent past, but we are seeing a bunch of retirements as our workforce ages and taps out. We did get a surprise bonus in July when the legislature approved a 10% raise to our wildlife series, which includes most of our field personnel. Unfortunately that raise left much of our administrative personnel without, and 16 years without a bump in pay sure leaves a bitter taste for some of them.

Another update from AZ is the new law that will go into effect on January 1, 2022 that prohibits the use of trail cameras for hunting/to aid in the take of wildlife. This has been a super controversial topic with some hunting guides claiming that it will put them out of business and upsetting many other hunters

The President's Report

By Richard Langley (Continued)

who rely on cameras to do most of their scouting. What we are seeing here, in a desert state, where the majority of hunting is on public land, and wildlife may be completely dependent on point-source waters; is that wildlife may not be able to avoid hunters and harvest was increasing, especially during our epic drought conditions. Hunters are limited to one deer per year and we are more concerned about regulating harvest where many of the states to the east of us need to kill more deer. We were also seeing areas where that would be 10-20 cameras at a single water source and conflicts over hunting those waters were escalat-

ing and the disturbance created by checking those cameras can also affect wildlife and livestock use of the water source. AZ had already restricted the use of the cellular or live-action cameras in 2019 and we do not allow baiting. For more information on this topic, you can listen to the podcast we did for Game Warden Connection which is being done by Carlos Gomez and Joe Alexander from OK.

Enough for now. As always, be safe, stay healthy, and remember that we are a family and we are here for you.

The Vice President's Report

By Kurt Henry



Good day to my brothers and sisters in Uniform! Our work now finds many of us in our busiest time of the year. I am writing this as I sit in hiding in a river wash overlooking an alfalfa field. I don't sit alone, but with 10 other officers and a

helicopter above looking for the elusive beam of light to trigger our movement towards a hopeful takedown!!

Our work is often our world and while it has not returned to normal, the "new" normal has been created. Covid has been an ugly time that has placed us all in strange circumstances, each affected us in very different personal ways. Just when we seem to be getting back to normal, we take a step back. Working from home, avoiding the office, zoom meetings are becoming very old and I personally am looking forward to working side by side and sharing time with family and friends. I am sure you are all very tired of this as well.

Through all this, the executives of your Association have kept the day-to-day operations running as smoothly as possible. All the time hoping the next planned convention can come to fruition!! Fingers crossed we can all travel to Nashville in 2022. The

Executives have been in contact with a very dedicated group of officers in Nashville that has kept the energy and enthusiasm necessary to host a world class event. Thank you for keeping that much going towards normal. We are planning an in person winter meeting, most likely in Utah that will help those officers plan for a 2023 convention. All that being said, trust that the NAWEOA is continuing to work forward on issues that our officers are going through across this continent and planning for what most people agree is the highlight of our year, our annual convention. We are not the only group or association struggling to continue operations through these times. Our convention will definitely be one to remember but it will also be a very busy time. We have three years of awards and business to complete. We are working hard to make this happen. Come ready to catch up on stories in the hospitality room but also to attend world class training, acknowledge our peers and their awards and conduct the necessary business duties of our first in person general meeting in three years.

So plan to see Nashville in July 2022. The radio is silent in my truck tonight but it can change in a millisecond. This can also be said about most any part of our job or personal life. So, live for today, hug a family member when you can, be safe in our work, and don't let work be our life. Work to live but live to work another day!! Take care of yourself and each other. Be safe during our jobs and see you in Nashville.

The Past President's Report

By Shawn Farrell



As the leaves turn and cooler weather approaches I look forward to one of the best times of the year to be a Conservation Officer. I thought by now COVID would be on its way out the door. New Brunswick has weathered the first

three waves quite well but the fourth is certainly hitting our province hard. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold a summer conference again due to the pandemic. Hopefully the third attempt will be a charm and we can all meet next July in Nashville. I know a lot of us are well over due to gather again to rekindle friendships with our fellow officers. Again, I would like to thank the Tennessee Wildlife Officers Association for committing again to next year. As well thanks to the host hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House for their understanding and waiving this year's cancellation fees for a second time. The Millennium will host our NAWEOA family next year.

Our summer executive meeting was held online this year and although we accomplished a list of items it does not replace the in-person meetings. The time spent across the table from your executive members as well as time spent outside the executive meetings solving and discussing issues can not be replaced by a computer screen.

As we did last year NAWEOA executive board have realized they were again facing some issues with not having an annual conference. Our constitution and by-laws policy manual direct what is to be done by the executive board. We have discussed items that occur during the summer and we continue to work with dealing with these. One of the big items that occur every summer is elections. Any of our elected positions that were supposed to happen at the summer conference have been extended until next summer. All our executive members agreed to this.

Lastly, I would like to thank the executive board and J-reps for everything you do to keep the wheels rolling. It is a pleasure to work with you all.

For all our membership, take care of yourselves and family, stay safe and I hope you all have a productive fall.

VOTE

INPUT NEEDED!

DEADLINE 12/3/21

While we did not have an in-person business meeting this year, we want to be as productive and transparent as possible.

Visit "<https://forms.gle/TdFTg2EtJs4oaj5H8>" to catch up on **critical NAWEOA business** and cast a quick **votes** on two important items:

Association Marketing and the **Budget**

Voting will close at 11:59 PM (Hawaii time) on 3 December 2021. Only NAWEOA members may vote.

If the Google Form gives you fits, try using a different device or email "region4@naweo.org" for assistance.

***“In Memory of Those Who Paid the Ultimate Price.
We Will Always Remember.”***



Conservation Officer Sarah Grell

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Enforcement Division

On Monday May 24, 2021 Conservation Officer Sarah Grell was killed in a vehicle crash at the intersection of County Road 336 and County Road 57 in Itasca County at about 8:30 am. Officer Grell's department vehicle was struck on the passenger side by a tractor trailer.

Officer Grell had served with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for 16 years. She is survived by her husband and three children. Her uncle, father, and grandfather also served as conservation officers with the agency.

NAWEOA Financial Report

By Steve Beltran

A nice warm welcome from the secretary treasurer's office. I pray this newsletter finds you well. As far as our finances and our membership with the pandemic in full swing we are status quo. We have no real deep expenses in terms of a conference or any executive travel. Likewise we do not have any great deal of income. Our membership fees are keeping our books afloat and not much has changed. I'm excited to say that we would like to get together in the winter of 2022 to get back to normal business life.

conservation law-enforcement and embrace these wonderful work opportunities.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Nashville, God permitting, in July 2022. As always if you have any questions about the finances presented or any membership inquiries please reach out to any of the regional directors, executive staff, or myself at any time. Transparency is important to me and the more you know the better.

I would like to wish everyone a happy healthy and safe fall season. Please continue your passion for

NAWEOA Conference Liaison Report

By Jason Sherwood

Josh Landrum and our Tennessee host committee have been busy making sure the conference hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House, is once again ready for us with the new room block and the details for our July 10 – 16, 2022 annual conference in Nashville. If you haven't made your reservations yet, I would recommend doing so ASAP, as I'm expecting a big turnout for this conference. We are all "chomping at the bit" for some travel and Nashville's reputation for being a fun destination is second only to the Tennessee Wildlife Officers' hospitality. We'll probably hold off on reopening the conference registration until after the holidays (and probably another COVID spike), but it will be coming out before long. Be sure to keep in touch with your J-Reps and watch the NAWEOA Conference Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/173505916518726>) for the registration link and important updates.


The easiest way to reserve your hotel room is by navigating your computer or device to: <https://tinyurl.com/pa8naz6z>, or you can visit www.maxwellhousehotel.com, click on the "Book Now" button and open the "Advanced Search" options and enter Group Code "2107NAWEOA" (read that number carefully, it isn't a typo). If you prefer a phone call, the hotel can be reached toll-free at 800-457-4460, Monday - Friday between 7AM and 7PM (Central Time). I'm sure you'll need to tell them you're with the NAWEOA Conference and have the Group Code ready (2107NAWEOA).

The special rates will not apply to reservations made after June 7, 2022, or after the room block is filled. They have agreed to honor the conference rate for a few days before and after our event, if you want to add on some extra sight-seeing in the area.

I need to make some apologies. We had really hoped to host a live online training event before now, but I haven't made it happen. We have committed to a very interesting class, which is be POST-certifiable and is very specific to the game warden profession. Unfortunately, it is taking some extra time to re-format it for an online format and the instructor and I aren't willing to put it on without it flowing smoothly and making good use of our members' time. I hope we can have it ready to go later this winter. Similarly, we've been putting our efforts into this training event and have not gotten a virtual warden skills competi-

tion put together yet either. I'll surely get this format figured out soon and start moving forward again soon. On a much more positive note, Sean Spencer has also been busy making arrangements for our 2023 annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. We are trying to be patient in getting over the 'Rona concerns and making sure we can finally have our Tennessee meeting, but Sean already has some great lodging options and locations in the works.


As always, if you'd like to explore ideas for future conferences or if you'd like to help out, please holler my direction (conference@naweo.org). I hope to see you in Nashville soon!



CONFERENCE NEWS


NASHVILLE ROOM BLOCK IS OPEN!

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/PA8NAZ6Z](https://tinyurl.com/pa8naz6z)
800-457-4460
GROUP CODE:
2107NAWEOA




\$139/NIGHT

MILLENNIUM MAXWELL HOUSE



MILLENNIUM



2022 Conference Nashville, Tennessee



Tennessee 2022

The TWAOA welcomes NAWEOA to Tennessee for the 2021 annual conference.

7/10/22 - 7/16/22

Opening Ceremonies - Tuesday, July 12th

Banquet Dinner - Friday, July 15th



2022 Conference Nashville, Tennessee



Room Rate: \$139.00 per night +taxes and fees

Free Parking



Maxwell House Hotel
2025 Rosa Parks Blvd. Nashville, TN 37228

www.maxwellhousehotel.com

click on the "Book Now" button and open
the "Advanced Search" options and enter
Group Code "2107NAWEOA"



Information regarding
NAWEOA Jurisdictional Representatives,

- ♦ Names
- ♦ Contact information
- ♦ The jurisdictions they serve
- ♦ Etc.

Can be found elsewhere on the NAWEOA website
naweo.org

Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart



Hello NAWEOA members and on behalf of Region 1 please accept our best wishes in health and happiness as these trying times seem to hang on. Below are three submissions from our region providing some updating news.

Thanks to those who provided write-ups for our newsletter. NAWEOA can't carry on without its memberships contributions.

Saskatchewan

We continue to see a large turnover in Saskatchewan. We currently have 16 recruits being trained up to replace the vacant positions left by retired officer as well as young officers pursuing other careers.

The forecast for 2022 is for the Minsitry to train another 8-10 officers in the spring to replace even more vacancies due to retirement.

Due to covid the training is currently being delivered in house instead of through our multi agency Western Canadian Law Enforcement Academy.

We are really hoping things can get back to normal so our officer association can hold our annual convention which is a great way for our older officers to meet and socialize with our new recruits.

Jaret Engele

SACO President

Fall 2021

Hello NAWEOA! Well that's another summer in the books. Visitation remained very steady with restrictions remaining on group gatherings well into the summer. Park Warden's once again were out and about talking with many first time visitors to our parks and heritage sites. Despite the busyness, there

were no major issues or events of note from Summer 2021.

Updates from the Law Enforcement Branch.

We were very excited to welcome 16 new Park Warden recruits to our team at the beginning of December.

Every two years, the Law Enforcement Branch undertakes a major hiring and training of new Park Wardens at the RCMP Depot in Regina, SK. But what do you do when you need to train new Park Wardens to protect Canada's most special places but there's global pandemic? And when RCMP Depot is closed? You pull together to make it happen!

Park Warden Cadet training was scheduled for 2020, but with the onset of the global pandemic, we were no longer able to use RCMP Depot, for the three-month intensive training program. Parks Canada Management was supportive of the training moving ahead in 2020, but that meant finding a creative solution. In a matter of four weeks, Law Enforcement Branch staff arranged facilities, accommodations, meals, transportation, and special equipment for a new training program in Regina. Finding a way to safely deliver the specialized training off-site was an enormous effort and accomplishment.

The sixteen Park Warden Cadets arrived in Regina, SK and began their training with a 14-day self-isolation in a hotel. The Cadets were allowed outside for a solo run once a day, but otherwise were sequestered to their rooms. The Cadets demonstrated a high level of discipline and maintained a positive attitude throughout their 14-day quarantine. They joked that a knock on their hotel door meant a meal was waiting for them, which triggered a Pavlovian response by the end of the 14 days!

Strict COVID-19 guidelines were developed to ensure the health and safety of the troop which included wearing masks, undergoing daily health screenings, working in pods, and limiting social interactions. The logistical complexity and associated stress did not phase the Cadets. Troop 110 showcased their ability to work and thrive as a team and endured a mentally and physically demanding program.

Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart Continued

A special thank you to Dan Graham, Phil Staniowski, Elaine O'Neill, and Julia Montgomery for their extraordinary efforts to coordinate the most unique Cadet training the Law Enforcement Branch has ever had.

On the topic of Elaine. After 30 years of service to Parks Canada, she hung up her Stetson for the last time at the beginning of January, and entered the life of a retired Warden. Elaine was part of the original team who helped get the Law Enforcement Branch off the ground, back in 2008. She will be missed by many.

The branch also welcomed 4 new park wardens in June through a second round of hiring via our "Experienced Officer program".

The branch also released a challenge coin this summer as part of the work being done by the recognition committee.



Some Enforcement News

Two recent cases that made the news recently

In May 2020, an individual was witnessed by the public using a sling shot to shoot projectiles at a Cougar in Banff National Park. Park Wardens caught up to the offender, and arrested him. The case is still before the courts, but you can read more details here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/banff-lake-louise-slingshot-cougar-disturb-wildlife->

A group of 4 skiers was caught exiting a closed area in Banff National Park in late November. The area had been closed to protect a denning female grizzly bear who was suspected of being pregnant. You can read more about that case here:

<https://www.rmotoday.com/>

RCMP in Newfoundland have also recently partnered with PW in Terra Nova to train them on speeding enforcement. You can read more about via the RCMP here:

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/gazette/rcmp-supports-park-wardens-traffic-enforcement?>

From the association

On the association side of things, we finally have some news! We are back...well we have some temporary folks in place until we can have an AGM. We also released our associations very own challenge coin this year as well. We hope to have more details about the National Park Warden Association to share this coming year.

Greetings from the Society of BCCOS,

Sorry for not getting something out sooner as always too many in the fire literally. We have had a busy fire season with officers conducting fire ban patrols and area restriction orders for most of the summer. Covid and workload has prevented us from having a society AGM and therefore I am still the interim president.

The SBCCOS is sad to inform that in June of 2021 the BCCOS family lost Conservation Officer Tristan MONTJOY who was stationed in Fort St. John BC. Tristan was a bright young enthusiastic officer who had a great career ahead of him and his loss has impacted the COS family greatly. His bright smile and positive attitude coupled with the classic thumbs up always accompanied Tristan. He definitely made a big impact in his short time with us and we are working on several memorial initiatives so his legacy will carry on.

In July 2021 a memorial to commemorate Game Warden Dennis GREENWOOD was held in Canal Flats BC. The event was held 91yrs after he was killed. Attached is photo and write up.

Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart Continued

Recruiting:

The BCCOS is now training a recruit class of 11 Conservation Officers that have accepted positions throughout Province. We were able to facilitate a BC only version of Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA). Officers are in the middle of their field training where they spend September and October in their respective zones working closely with their field trainers. This recruit class is knocking it out of the park and we look forward to having these professional men and women represent the BCCOS in years to come.

Retirements:

The SBCCOS would like to acknowledge the recent retirement of Conservation Officer Gerry LISTER stationed in Powell River. Gerry is going to be sorely missed as our official Historian and you will recognize him for regular contributions to the Western Game warden Magazine.

In addition, Inspector Mark West retired from the BCCOS after a long and varied career with the BCCOS where he ended up as an inspector in Prince George. Mark was a very influential mentor in my career and I spent many days reflecting on our patrols together and I credit him for giving me a lot of the skills and attributes that I have maintained throughout my career.

Fall is upon us now and the best time to be Game Warden. Keep fighting the good fight and keep up the ongoing traditions being a Game Warden.

Be safe and have fun!

Sergeant . James A. ZUCHELLI

Remembering the loss of Game Warden Dennis GREENWOOD:

On July 5th, 2021, current and retired Conservation Officers from the East Kootenays, Columbia Valley Royal Canadian Mounted Police, National Park Warden Service, along with local dignitary's, the Lake

Windermere District and Canal Flats Rod and Gun Club members, and community members attended Portage Park in Canal Flats and the Windermere Cemetery to honour Game Warden Dennis Greenwood.

Warden Greenwood was murdered in Canal Flats 91 years ago on that date. He was shot point blank in front of the Canal Flats Post Office by a man that he had previously charged for poaching deer. Dennis regained consciousness only once after being shot, asking to see his daughters, and would die less than an hour after the fatal gun shot. Dennis Greenwood saw service in World War 1 with the Royal Artillery. After the war, he and his wife, Mary, settled into the village of Canal Flats, where he became a member of the BC Provincial Police force. In 1925, he was one of the few from that force selected for game protection work. Writing of Greenwood's ability as a Provincial Game Warden, a local newspaper article stated:

"Able and diplomatic in the discharge of his duties, courteous and in every way a gentleman, Mr. Greenwood had right from the start won the respect, admiration and affection of all with whom he came in contact."

Two days after the murder, Dennis Greenwood was laid to rest in the military section of the Windermere Cemetery. People came from all over to pay their last respects to a man who had been held in high regard. On the day of the funeral there was a fire in downtown Canal Flats that destroyed 3 businesses: Frenchie's Poolroom, Johnson's Store and Weston's Store. The fire made rapid headway because the bulk of the population of the village was at Greenwood's funeral. Finally, a crew from the CPR sawmill was able to mobilize and fight the fire and save the stock from Johnson's store.

Dennis Greenwood was 37 years old. His memory still resounds within the Village of Canal Flats. Generational residents have had this story passed down to them throughout the years. Most fondly know the prominent mountain that can viewed to the west of the community as "MOUNT GREENWOOD", a tribute to this distinguished man. Forever Rest in Peace Game Warden Dennis Greenwood. Your explementary service to this Province and Country will never be forgotten.

Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart Continued

A commemorative plaque has been installed on a boulder in Portage Park in downtown Canal Flats across the street from the site of the murder. A new head stone to commemorate his life and tell this tragic story has been placed at his grave site in the Windermere Cemetery.

Provincial Member of Legislative Assembly Doug Clovechok, Regional District of East Kootenay Director Susan Clovechok, Canal Flats Mayor Karl Sterzer, District of Invermere Mayor Al Miller, and Dennis Greenwood's grandson, Patrick Duane, all gave presentations honoring Warden Greenwood's life and service in protecting the fish and wildlife for the people of British Columbia.



Region 2 Director Martin Thabault



Earlier this week (on October 12th to be exact) the U.S. authorities finally announced that the land border between our two countries would reopen to non-essential travelers on November 8th. Canada had gradually opened its land border to Americans starting August 9th. Both jurisdictions require mandatory proof of full Covid-19 vaccination to allow entry. It finally looks as though we may be able to meet again in person soon, and I can't wait.

I live 45 minutes from New York State and I usually cross the border several times a year. I have friends and family in the USA. I have missed the NAWEOA meetings and conferences, and the various Field Days usually hosted throughout summer in the neighboring Northeastern States. It is hard to fathom that this border closure lasted almost 20 months. I hope this never happens again.

A lot has been going on here in Canada since the publication of our 2021 Spring Newsletter. Forest fires raged for several weeks in our western provinces. On June 29th a record high temperature of 49.6 C (121.3 F) was recorded in Lytton, British Columbia. The following day a wildfire swept through this community, destroying most structures.

Travel restrictions have resulted in an increased pressure on recreational areas and natural resources. With the Court systems regaining momentum came interesting decisions in some of our enforcement files. There were procurement challenges caused by the new vehicle shortage. Several agencies are now busy running staffing processes to fill vacancies which will result in a spike of training needs.

Finally there were elections in some provincial jurisdictions, along with a federal election this past September. These changes in public administration will bring their usual share of new priorities and the ensuing departmental/agency name changes.

Please read on to get an update from the four active Region 2 Jurisdictions. I am once again grateful to their J-Reps for their respective contributions to this newsletter.

Region 2 Director Martin Thabault

Environment and Climate Change Canada, Wildlife Enforcement Directorate

A few of our files have concluded across the country, including two files on the illegal import of threatened shark fin species. I have included a short summary of those files with one of them combining the hard work of both our Ontario and Pacific and Yukon Region officers.

An Ontario-based trading company and a British Columbia (BC) based company each received fines of \$60,000 for importing CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) listed shark species without a permit contrary to the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPIITA).

For the Ontario-based trading company, the charges stem from events that took place in May 2018, when Environment and Climate change Canada (ECCC) Wildlife Officers inspected an incoming shipment of shark products at the Canada Border Services Agency Container Examination Facility in Burnaby, British Columbia. The shipment was destined for the Ontario-based company S L Dried Seafood Co. Ltd.

During the inspection, Wildlife Officers identified a box of 29 shark fins and 13 bags of assorted shark fin cartilage fragments. Subsequent DNA testing identified a number of different shark species, including fins or fin cartilage from two different CITES-listed shark species: scalloped hammerhead shark (figure 1) and silky shark (figure 2).



Figure 1 Scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*)



Figure 2. Silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*)

For the BC based company, the charge stemmed from an investigation by ECCC Wildlife Officers, which found that, in February 2018, Kiu Yick Trading Co. Ltd. had, as part of a large importation of dried shark fins from Hong Kong, unlawfully imported several thousand silky shark fins, a species protected by CITES. ECCC estimates that the 13 boxes of silky shark fins (figure 3 & 4) detained could represent up to 3185 individual sharks.



Figure 3. The 13 boxes of silky shark fins representing approximately 3185 sharks.



Figure 4. A close-up of one the 13 boxes.

Region 2 Director Martin Thabault Continued

Our Quebec Region Wildlife Officers also concluded a file regarding the destruction of four Cliff swallow nests (a migratory bird) that occurred during demolition activities in June of 2019. Destroying a nest or egg of a migratory bird constitutes an offence under the Migratory Birds Regulations, punishable under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994. The individual pled guilty to one charge under Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 and was ordered to pay \$15,000 per nest, for a total of \$60,000.



Figure 5. Cliff swallow nest at the demolition site.



Figure 6. Destroyed nests on site.

On an interesting note, one file from our Atlantic Region concluded after a sentence was appealed by the Crown. This file was initiated in November 2018, when Wildlife Officers were conducting a boat patrol in the Bay of Exploits area of Newfoundland and Labrador for the purpose of checking for compli-

ance with migratory-game-bird hunting regulations. As part of the patrol, officers conducted an inspection of a boat with three hunters aboard. The hunters were found to be in possession of a long-tailed duck outside of the hunting season, which is a violation of the Migratory Birds Regulations. In addition, the hunters had a semi-automatic 12-gauge shotgun onboard, unplugged and capable of holding more than three shells in the magazine, which is also a violation of the Regulations.

The three individuals were found guilty and initially sentenced in the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, on February 26, 2020. The sentence was appealed, and the matter was heard at the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, on September 2, 2021. On September 2, 2021, the three individuals were sentenced to pay a total of \$32,000 in penalties for having each committed two offences under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994. This is an increase in the initial penalty, and the appeal was related to the mandatory minimum fine found within the MBCA.

Just recently, another MBCA file concluded in Newfoundland and Labrador with two hunters each receiving a \$5,000 fine and a one-year migratory bird hunting prohibition for being in possession of Black-legged kittiwake, which is a migratory non-game bird protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994. The black-legged kittiwake has been identified as a vulnerable species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, which means that it is considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. This file was initiated on December 4, 2020, when Fisheries and Oceans Canada fishery officers conducted an inspection of a vessel on coastal waters near Rencontre East, Newfoundland and Labrador. The file was subsequently turned over to ECCC's Wildlife Officers for investigation.

To read a little more on each of these files I encourage you to visit our ECCC's Enforcement Notifications section <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/notifications.html>.

On another note, we have a lot happening behind the scenes at Wildlife Enforcement, this includes new uniforms and new shoulder flashes. We do not have a timeline on when this new look will be rolled out (maybe we'll be in new colours by summer

Region 2 Director Martin Thabault Continued

2022!), but here is a sneak peak (pictured below) of what the shoulder flash MAY look like.



If you have additional questions on any of the above files or on Wildlife Enforcement in general at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), please do not hesitate to contact me. If I do not have the answer, I will make sure to connect you with one of my colleagues across the country that does.

Julie Horvath
Wildlife Officer, Ottawa

National Capital Commission

Greetings from the NCC (National Capital Commission) Conservation Officers.

It has been a very busy summer season with all parks and sites now open to the public. Officers have seen a large increase in park users and newcomers to various outdoor activities. The stand outs would be the amount of offences detected from new small vessel owners and operators and persons camping illegally on our properties. Hundreds of warnings and charges have been issued for missing safety equipment and failing to have personal flotation devices. The team is also working with local partners like the Ottawa Task Force on Homelessness in order to better address this at a more global level. Illegal fishing has also seen an uptick as more people are going out uninformed and unprepared. Our officers have also been busy with chemical immobilization of large game animals such as Whitetail deer in city settings as well as

nuisance bears in our campgrounds. Several bears have been captured and relocated away from areas they have become habituated.

Our uniform has changed from a black body armour to a green one to better colour match our existing uniform and give the team a more streamlined and less military appearance. We recently enhanced our training in forest fire fighting. This training is provided by the SOPFEU (Société de protection des forêts contre le feu) a Quebec based agency that provides the province and some federal agencies with the best and required up to date training in this field. Our Officers also recently requalified on long guns as mandated by the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) who provides our members with the authority to utilize these tools. We continue to upgrade our equipment, replacing trailers, ATVs and snowmobiles for newer models. Our fleet management is looking into hybrid trucks to replace existing vehicles as fleet vehicles are replaced, this is in line with the NCC's and Federal Governments Green Initiatives moving forward.

We have also been conducting more joint agency operations with Environment Canada focused on protected endangered species, illegal fishing patrols with the MFFP (Quebec Conservation Officers) and Ottawa Police and MRC Des Collines Police (regional police force) for on water small vessel regulations compliance.

Looking forward to being able to travel to Tennessee next year if things stabilize crossing the borders!

Jason Pink
Senior Conservation Officer



Region 2 Director Martin Thabault Continued

Manitoba Department of Agriculture and Resource Development, Conservation Officer Service

The Manitoba Conservation Officer Service (COS) has switched departments from Conservation and Climate to Agriculture and Resource Development. This switch has aligned the COS more closely with Wildlife, Fisheries and Forestry branches, and away from Wildfires and Parks. The COS remains very active and involved with both Wildfires and Parks in Manitoba. With this switch, came a new Chief Conservation Officer and an added Director position. This summer also brought a number of cabinet shuffles and we anticipate some positive changes for the COS as a result.

Spring and summer, we experienced an overwhelming amount of wildfires in Manitoba. This resulted in a significant number of C.O.'s including retired C.O.'s being deployed on fire duty. To add to that, with drought conditions and outfitters not operating, Manitoba saw one of the busiest problem black bear seasons to date. Those not actively participating in wildfire suppression spent a good portion of their time immobilizing, trapping and relocating bears while enforcing the continuous fire and travel bans. In total, 198 wildfire related charges were issued this summer.



In addition to wildfires, Manitoba COS conducted some notable recreational and commercial

fishing investigations. Some of which, resulted in over 200 seized walleye being donated to Siloam Mission (humanitarian organization) in Winnipeg.

I am pleased to announce that the province has hired six new recruits this fall and our second round of in-house training is currently ongoing.

In other news, The Manitoba COS has been without a contract since 2019. The MGEU was successful in court against the Conservative government, and arbitration is subsequently set to start this September.



As we prepare for a busy fall season, focus in Manitoba will be on dangerous hunting offences. The province announced earlier this year an additional \$300k for increased aerial surveillance to assist with our night hunting enforcement efforts.

April Elphinstone
Conservation Officer – Lac du Bonnet/Lake Winnipeg East

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Ontario Conservation Officers Association Update

Ontario is currently undergoing the largest recruitment of Conservation Officers in recent history, perhaps ever with 25 "new" jobs being posted and an additional 16 positions being filled using the same competition. This has been a huge undertaking and we'll be seeing a fair bit of movement within the prov-

Region 2 Director Martin Thabault Continued

ince from existing officers going to new locations creating additional vacancies. Existing officers are just waiting for the completion of the physical abilities and psychological assessments for new hires to find out who's going where across the province. In fact, by the time this update hits the printer, most officers may know who's going where. This is a huge step forward in Ontario for addressing some major officer shortages in portions of the province.

Our training model is switching away from new officers attending Ontario Police College back to "in-house" training with new officers doing a "Level 1" introductory training, spending some time in their work units and then returning a short time later for a "Level 2" training within their first 6 months of being hired. The rationale behind this approach is to offer new CO's more "game warden" knowledge with less emphasis on dealing with domestics, traffic violations and criminal code matters that we don't currently deal

with in Ontario unlike traditional police forces.

Many work units are awaiting the roll out of new trucks impacted by the "computer chip" shortage in the automobile sector. All new trucks have a clean roof design and are equipped with Setina long gun carriers in the front. The standard truck is the Ford F150 or F250 with Canine continuing to run Chev Suburbans.

The Ontario Conservation Officers Association (OCO) just held our AGM and with that we saw Matt McVittie take on the role of President and Derek Hebner take on the Vice-President position. We'll be in good hands with these two officers leading the OCOA. Past-President Sean Cronsberry and Todd Steinberg (VP) decided not to run in the 2021 election. Both of these officers have young families and will appreciate the extra time that they'll have to focus on family life. Sean and Todd did an amazing job and really addressed some big issues for the membership over their terms.

Davis Viehbeck
Sgt-Conservation Officer, Thunder Bay



Region 3 Director Josh Thibodeau



Hello everyone,

As we navigate this 4th wave during this global pandemic here in New Brunswick our lives continue to be affected by different rules and guidelines for everyone's protection. We were again not able to have

our annual summer conference which was a big disappointment for us all. We are very fortunate that the logistics were able to be worked out and Nashville was able to have the conference rebooked for 2022. Thank you to the Tennessee Game Warden Association for making this happen.

I would again like to remind everyone to visit the NAWEOA website and stay connected. Please nominate deserving Officers for awards as there are numerous categories that capture the great work Officers do. NAWEOA is here to help recognize and also connect Officers from all over North America.

I would like to thank all the J Reps for their hard work and dedication being the connection between their jurisdictions and NAWEOA. The work you do is very important and does not go unnoticed. Thank you again!

I have stayed busy this year creating and presenting NAWEOA retirement certificates and I also had the pleasure of presenting some live saving, valour and the torch award to some very deserving officers.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2021 summer Conference in Nashville and I plan on running again for a second term as regional director. I take pride in representing Region 3 and NAWEOA and will continue to do so to the best of my ability.

Take care and stay safe!

NEW BRUNSWICK

Conservation Officers have pulled back on the Covid 19 response since the end of July and have since returned to core mandate work for the time being. Conservation Officers were tasked with manning the Provinces 6 land borders and 6 airports in the fight against Covid-19. New Brunswick has taken a strong stand since the beginning of the pandemic and as a result the Covid positive numbers have been very low. The fourth wave we are currently in has hit us harder than any other wave and as a result we are anticipating possibly going back to do some Covid compliance work. The fall hunting season is fast approaching and there have been some legislation changes in our Fish and Wildlife Act. Some changes include the online registration of big game, calibre restrictions lifted and some amendments to the hunter's orange requirement. We have had a few retirements this year as well. Conservation officers are currently over 3 years into a contract negotiation and the contract is still being negotiated.



*Retirement of Conservation Corporal Todd Merrithew.
Right to Left: Josh Thibodeau, Sgt. Shawn Farrell, Todd Merrithew, Superintendent Rick Nash, Sgt Jason MacIntyre*

Region 3 Director Josh Thibodeau Continued



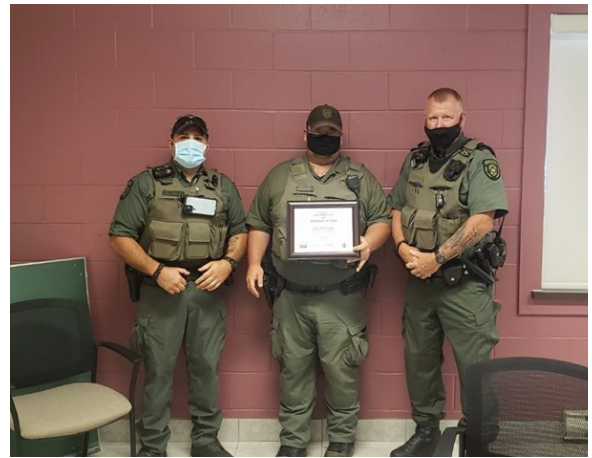
R3 Director Josh Thibodeau presenting Corporal Todd Merrithew Naweoa retirement certificate



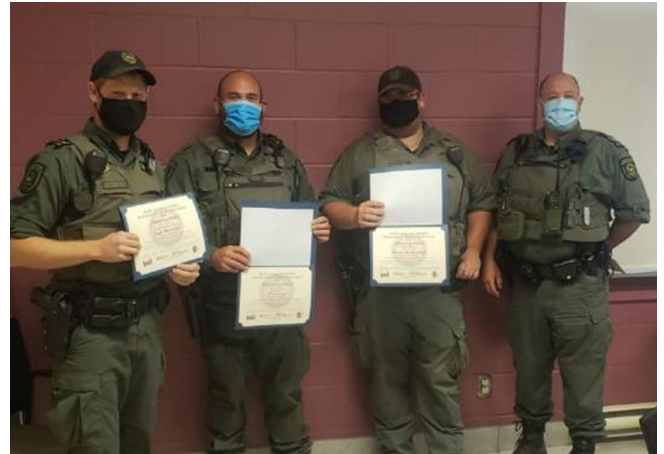
R3 director Josh Thibodeau presenting Conservation Officer Shane Hellyer the Torch Award for region 3



Torch Award recipient Conservation Officer Shane Hellyer



R3 director Josh Thibodeau and Past President Shawn Farrell presenting Conservation Officer Travis MacFarlane certificate of Valor



Life saving award recipients Cpl. Zach Kierstead, Tim Cater, Travis MacFarlane with Sgt. Clint Reicker.

Region 4 Director Jason Sherwood



Hopefully you are all surviving the continuing saga and various new COVID variants as well as can be. I'm optimistic in seeing vaccination rates coming up and at least some government officials actively pushing for more "normal" travel and public gathering rules. We are surely in the home stretch before

we can solidify plans to see each other in Tennessee next July.

I know many of us are quite busy as things open back up, courts try to get caught up, and hunting seasons pick up steam. Here are a few of the highlights from what has been going on with game wardens in Region 4 over the last few months:

Todd Anderson (MT) shared an interesting article highlighting a significant case from Game Warden Lou Royce, resulting in felony charges and significant prison time for a poacher and illegal outfitter from Darby, Montana (see the full article at <https://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/darby-man-to-serve-prison-time-for-illegal-outfitting-poaching/article>).

Todd adds, "After an extremely busy summer with rivers, lakes, and parks packed full of visitors, wardens are ready and excited for the fall hunting seasons. An extremely dry spring and summer was hard

on our wildlife and habitat that reduced some of our quotas but we still expect a busy fall. We had a high number of retirements and promotions recently, which resulted in fifteen vacant warden districts. We are working hard to get these positions filled and luckily we have hired some very good candidates. Wishing all wardens a safe fall season!"

Aaron Kerr (WY) wanted to introduce four new game wardens that started working the Cowboy State on September 7: Conor Curran (Lander), Alex Poncelet (Sheridan), Colten Galambas (Cody) and Garrett Blair (Cheyenne). "While this will help with our staffing shortage in the warden ranks, we still have several vacant positions to fill and are already opening the next game warden exam process (see <https://tinyurl.com/36xycbh2> if you want to join us). Deputy Chief Game Warden Scott Edberg has also announced he will be retiring this coming February, with 31 years of service to the State of Wyoming. His departure will leave some big shoes to fill" (and more shuffling and open positions).

And on a sad note, Jeromy Huntington (CO) just advised us Pueblo Area Wildlife Manager Mike Trujillo just passed away from COVID complications. "Mike was a very kind person who cared deeply for the well-being of others. Mike was a 30+ year employee with Colorado Parks & Wildlife, loving husband, father and proud grandfather. We are greatly impacted by his tragic loss. Please keep the Trujillo family in your prayers and take care of one another."



NAWEOA

Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt



Greetings to all of NAWEOA from Kansas, in Region 5. I hope this message finds all our brothers and sisters safe and in good health. I would like to send out large THANK YOU to all of the Region 5 J-reps for the work that they have done throughout this past year. You are all a great asset to making sure information flows to and from our NAWEOA family. Fall ushers in one of the busiest times of the year for many of our officers. As the year winds down, now is the time to be thinking about recognizing your peers for a job well done by nominating them for our NAWEOA Officer awards. Please consider recognizing your peers for what they have done. The 2021 annual conference in Nashville was postponed yet again and we now look forward to 2022, finally meeting up with you all in person! A new link for the 2022 conference in Nashville was sent out a while back. Please don't hesitate to get that on your books! Let's all work to make this conference one to remember.

It is with heavy heart that I report this year to date Region 5 has lost officers, that I am aware of, from Texas, Arkansas, and Iowa due to COVID-19, and Minnesota tragically lost a veteran officer in a line-of-duty vehicle crash. The NAWEOA E-Board sincerely offers our condolences to the officer's families and their respective agencies. Be safe out there everyone.

Wisconsin

Dave Youngquist has retired and Meghan Jensen has taken over his duties. Meghan has been with Wisconsin DNR since 2015 and is located in the state's west central region.

Like many other states, summer was busy for Wisconsin wardens. The DNR's Conservation Wardens spent much of their time protecting people and resources on the state's many lakes, rivers, trails and state recreational properties. Our investigative wardens and environmental enforcement staff continue to do great work on large-scale resource- and environ-

mental-related cases. Our R3 Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation activities have re-started with COVID-19 precautions in place. Wardens hired as part of the 2020 recruitment class have completed their field training assignments and have recently been stationed across the state. The department is currently in the final phase of hiring our 2021 warden recruit class which will start the law enforcement academy this fall.

Conservation Warden Matt Groppi, Field Training Officer and Instructor, recently had his research paper, Recruit conservation warden field training: A qualitative analysis of the San Jose Police Department Field Training Model applied to natural resource law enforcement, published in the International Journal of Police Science & Management. Warden Groppi's research helped our division transition from the San Jose Field Training Officer model to the Police Training Officer model.

On June 9, Brown County officials officially dedicated the Neil L. LaFave Suamico Boat Launch (previously called the Suamico Boat Launch). Neil was a DNR Special Warden and Wildlife Technician when he was murdered in the line of duty. Current and retired DNR wardens and wildlife staff were in the crowd with Brown County officials. Presentations were made by DNR Chief Warden Casey Krueger, Judge Donald Zuidmulder (who was the District Attorney during this tragedy), Brown County officials as well as the daughter of Neil LaFave.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma has recently been issued cell phone type body cameras. They seem to be working out fine so far. We recently graduated a class of new Wardens from our academy and they are transitioning into the field for FTO training. New Dodge Ram pickups are getting fitted for issue to those with high mileage vehicles. A new law went into effect that prohibits Game Wardens from deploying trail cameras on private land without landowner permission or a warrant. I guess the open field doctrine doesn't apply to Oklahoma. Our annual fall Wildlife Expo was cancelled again due to COVID-19 concerns, and since our agency will be hosting WAFWA in 2022 we will not have the Expo next year either. As fall approaches the calls and cases are picking up. Several illegally taken deer cases were made in August and September and these will increase when our archery season opens on October 1st.

Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt Continued

Minnesota

Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources Conservation Officer Sarah Grell was killed in the line of duty in late May, 2021. She passed away from injuries sustained in a vehicle crash where her patrol vehicle collided with a tractor trailer. CO Grell had been an officer since 2005. She is survived by her husband and three children. Her roots go deep with Minnesota DNR. A memorial fundraiser was organized for CO Grell's family, and to date they have raised over \$76,000. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this effort.

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/25294-conservation-officer-sarah-ann-backer-grell>



Arkansas

Longtime Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Officer Jeff Neel passed away this summer due to complications with COVID-19. He was a 21 year veteran of the commission, serving at the Hope Regional Office for his entire career. Neel was also a United States Army veteran. Please keep his family in your thoughts.

<https://www.ksla.com/2021/08/06/longtime-officer-arkansas-game-fish-commission-dies-covid-19/>

Kansas

Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism underwent a name change yet again. The Governor

moved the Tourism Dept. out of our agency and placed it under the Dept. of Commerce. Effective July 2021 we are now back to KDWP (Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks). This means a plethora of new patches, badges, logos, and all the supporting items that go with that, such as new uniforms. This process will be slow but the Game Wardens welcome the change. The Law Enforcement Division has had a few new changes in its ranks, bringing in new management. This change has brought in fresh ideas, leading to revamping our policies, directives, and procedures. Throughout the year, we have had turnover in the ranks, and this brings in the constant need to hire new blood. Similar to many other state DNR agencies, Kansas struggles to recruit applicants for these positions. One recent change to help combat this, the management team has taken away the 4 year degree requirement that we have long had to be considered for a KS Game Warden.

Kansas is currently navigating a new e-licensing system, which allows hunters to purchase an electronic permit to harvest their big game. So far this seems to be working without many hitches. The e-tagging option, that is available for sportsmen when they harvest their big game, seems to be a welcomed new addition for convenience. It also allows Game Wardens to have somewhat of a "check station" to check up on those that have harvested and tagged wild game. Law Enforcement officers are still hoping for a more effective/efficient Records management system, which we are told is close to being rolled out. Yet again, Game Wardens and State Parks Officials teamed up with some local NGOs and assisted with a cleanup of a stretch of the Kansas River. These officers utilized their airboats and hauled off many loads of trash. This effort is ongoing as the river levels allow. As the weather turns from Summer to Fall, locals are really ramping up for the hunting seasons. Many non-residents have showed up for the KS whitetail deer.

Region 6 Director Vacant

Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder



Greetings NAWEOA members,

As we enter into another busy fall hunting season, it's comes with a restored hope that 2022 gets us back on track with our "normal" NAWEOA practices. The Millennium Maxwell

House Hotel is currently booking reservations for the 2022 NAWEOA Conference at the click of a few buttons and the group code of "2107NAWEOA". Hopeful that there's a high probability we will finally be able to get together next July in Nashville, Tennessee for some much-needed comradery and training is a refreshing thought. I want to thank all the Region 7 JReps for their continued diligence in keeping the communication lines open by doing their part to nominate some of NAWEOA's best for the many awards bestowed on the membership. Keeping a running tab on their Officer's Association members, updating contact information, forwarding emails and submitting content for the Spring and Fall NAWEOA Newsletters can be a daunting task, yet critical for keeping the membership informed of the many delays and cancellations that were unfortunately out of our control over the past two years.

As we were met with the disappointment that came from a second postponement of the summer conference, there comes a silver lining. The unexpected opportunity to represent the membership beyond the normal two, two-year terms as your Region 7 Director, has been my silver lining created by this pandemic. Sitting in a holding pattern with only virtual meetings to conduct business, your NAWEOA Executive Board has continued to make the best out of a difficult situation. NAWEOA President Rick Langley exercised his authority to appoint those eligible and willing to serve on the NAWEOA Executive Board beyond their normal term limits. The 2022 conference will be important to those seeking Executive Board

positions as many positions will be open for nominations. The NAWEOA Executive Board is comprised of elected positions that are voted on by the membership during the Summer Conference. The President, Vice-President, and all seven Region Director positions are determined by the election. The Past President position is assumed by the outgoing President after fulfilling the term limit. The Secretary/Treasurer position is a voting Executive Board position that is appointed by the President. Two other appointed positions that are non-voting Executive Board support positions are the Conference Liaison and the Webmaster/Newsletter Editor positions. The Secretary/Treasurer and the Webmaster/Newsletter Editor positions do not have term limits however, the Conference Liaison does. NAWEOA has been in the good hands for several years by the efforts of Secretary/Treasure Steve Beltran and Webmaster/Newsletter Editor Mike Reeder. These two game wardens have carried a heavy load with all that keeps NAWEOA modern and relevant along with keeping all the membership numbers and financials in order. I want to recognize their efforts as well as the Conference Liaison Jason Sherwood. Sherwood is our link to making sure we have the best accommodations and amenities for our membership each and every year assisting with the organization and hosting duties of those associations that bid to host the Annual Summer Conference.

As most of you know, our NAWEOA Fall Newsletter is usually comprised of editorials showcasing the events and notables from the Summer Conference. In the second consecutive year, void of a conference, our JReps have comprised material from their respective States and Associations to share with our membership. Read on for the latest out of the Northeastern region of the United States that makes up NAWEOA's Region 7. I have already started counting the days until July 12, 2022 and I can't wait to see old friends and the new faces that make up NAWEOA. See you in Nashville!

Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder Continued

Ohio



On July 6th, 2021 at the Ohio Wildlife Council Meeting, Wildlife Officer Matt Roberts, Wildlife Officer Jason Keller, and Wildlife Officer Supervisor Eric Lamb were presented with the NAWEOA Life Saving Award for their actions taken on December 20th, 2020 after Wildlife Investigator Kevin Behr was shot in the line of duty. Also pictured are Wildlife Council Chairman Dr. Paul P. Mechling II, Division of Wildlife Chief Kendra Wecker, Wildlife Officer Josh Zientek (NAWEOA Jurisdictional Rep from Ohio) and Law Enforcement Administrator Ken Fitz.



Three Ohio Wildlife Officers were honored by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Mary Mertz for their lifesaving actions after Ohio Wildlife Investigator Kevin Behr was shot while

on assignment in December 2020. Officers Jason Keller, Eric Lamb, and Matt Roberts were each presented with the Director's Award of Valor at a special ceremony on June 28 to recognize their heroic actions.

"Officers Keller, Lamb, and Roberts acted quickly, decisively, and with bravery in the moments that mattered most," said Director Mertz. "Their actions undoubtedly saved the life of Investigator Kevin Behr, and we owe a special debt of gratitude to these officers for their heroism."

On Dec. 20, 2020, the officers were working on a law enforcement project in Clinton County after receiving reports of illegal white-tailed deer hunting activities. Investigator Behr was performing surveillance in the area when a suspect shot him. The other three officers quickly assisted Investigator Behr and are credited with saving his life.

"These three men stand as representatives of the training, dedication, and commitment to their peers, the public, and Ohio's wildlife displayed routinely by the Division of Wildlife staff," said Kendra Wecker, chief of the ODNR Division of Wildlife. "Their work contributes to great hunting and fishing, and I applaud their dedication to public service and safety."

Wildlife Officers Roberts, Keller, and Lamb were honored for the following actions taken on Dec. 20, 2020:

- Wildlife Officer Matt Roberts

Arriving first on the scene, Officer Roberts immediately rendered first aid to Investigator Behr, including applying direct pressure to stop bleeding and using his emergency trauma supplies. Officer Roberts then assisted paramedics with stabilizing Investigator Behr for transport to a waiting ambulance.

- Wildlife Officer Jason Keller

Officer Keller quickly responded to Investigator Behr's calls for help. Officer Keller rendered first aid to the injured officer using his emergency trauma supplies. Officer Keller then assisted paramedics with stabilizing Investigator Behr for transport, bringing the injured officer out of a brushy area to a waiting ambulance.

- Wildlife Officer Supervisor Eric Lamb

Officer Lamb had recently returned to his residence when he was notified of the emergency, and he responded to Investigator Behr's call for help. Officer Lamb immediately rendered first aid to Investigator

**Region 7 Director
Larry Hergenroeder
Continued**

Behr. He then cleared a path through a brushy area and assisted paramedics with stabilizing Investigator Behr for transport, bringing the injured officer out to a waiting ambulance

These three Officers were also given the NAWEOA Life Saving Award at the July 6th Wildlife Council Meeting for their actions. Congrats to them on a job well done!

As the result of a complaint from the public the Ohio Division of Wildlife investigated a Kelly Blore from Dayton Ohio for selling wild captured turtles on Facebook. During this investigation several Facebook search warrants were executed, resulting in numerous violations. Violations discovered included, buying, selling, and offering for sale a wild animal, fishing without a license, taking undersized turtles, taking turtles out of season, possessing turtles without a permit, and failing to keep records. Our investigation determined Blore had sold or offered for sale 246 wild caught turtles dating back to 2016. Most of the turtles were collected without permission from several different public and private ponds in the Dayton area. Six different species of turtles were sold, including snapping turtles, soft-shelled turtles, red-eared sliders, map turtles, musk turtles and painted turtles.

Blore was found guilty in Montgomery County Common Pleas Court of felony level wildlife sales, fishing without a license and taking undersized turtles from the wild. She was ordered to pay a total of \$5,462 in restitution and ordered to forfeit two turtles found in her possession during a search warrant. She also received a six-year fishing license suspension and 5 years of probation.

Also charged during this investigation was a Steven Rasnic, from Dayton. Our investigation discovered Rasnic had purchased over 46 wild captured turtles from Blore since 2016. Rasnic, plead guilty in Dayton Municipal Court on one count of unlawfully buying a wild animal. He paid a total of \$145.00 in fines and court costs and was ordered to forfeit 24 turtles held as evidence. Two charges were dismissed as part of a plea agreement.

A total of 26 wild turtles were seized during

this investigation, all were forfeited to our agency, and placed into several different educational facilities throughout Ohio.

Fishing for Lake Erie walleye has never been more exciting thanks to several exceptional years of fish production in the western basin. This summer, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife trawl surveys found that there will be another walleye hatch that is well above average. Fisheries biologists reported the 2021 walleye hatch was the fifth largest recorded over the past 35 years.

The 2021 walleye hatch index was 90 fish per hectare (a standard measure of area), well above the rapidly increasing prior 20-year average of 34 fish per hectare. The young walleye averaged just over 4 inches long and were caught at every site sampled

Lake Erie is managed cooperatively by the five states and provinces that border it: New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario, Canada. Each August, Ohio's fisheries biologists contribute to lake-wide efforts to survey hatch success in Lake Erie's western basin. Ohio's results are combined with surveys from the other bordering states to estimate the total walleye population in the lake. This estimate is then used to establish fishing regulations and daily limits.

Combined survey results over the last several years show that the Lake Erie walleye population is on the rise. Angler catch rates are near one fish per hour, proving now is a great time to get out and pursue this fan favorite fish.

With several retirements in the last year, ODNR Division of Wildlife is in the beginning stages of planning to hire 20 new Wildlife Officer Cadets in 2022. If you know anyone that may be interested in this opportunity, please refer them to www.wildohio.gov for additional information.

Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder Continued

Delaware



Delaware DNREC Division of Wildlife officially swore in two new officers on August 5, 2021, they are Officer Kyle Wharton and Officer Tel Clayton.

From left to right in photo, Division of Fish and Wildlife Director, Dave Saveikis, Kyle Wharton, Tel Clayton, Chief Drew Aydelotte, and DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin.

Maine

Wildlife Conflict Agents

Report Provided by: Program Supervisor Corporal John MacDonald

Program Goals:

In a cooperative effort between MDIFW's Wildlife Division and the Maine Warden Service, five Wildlife Conflict Agents (WCA's) were hired and began April 26, 2021. The five agents were hired and trained under the direction of Corporal John MacDonald. The team was trained to perform the function of managing calls, previously given to game wardens and biologists, that pertain to sick, injured and nuisance birds/wildlife in Southern Maine (Division A).

The goals of the WCA program are to better manage the thousands of calls received from the public regarding sick, injured, and human/wildlife conflicts. Considerable work with Public Safety Dispatch in Augusta has taken place and remains a priority as

we continue to develop this program and fine tune dispatching as it relates to this program. In doing so, our hope is that game wardens and biologists will experience more time in their daily schedules to better manage mission critical tasks. In the three months since the program's inception, feedback from both game wardens and biologists strongly indicate these goals are being realized.

Staffing & Training:

A week-long training school was held where WCA's learned computer programs, euthanasia best practices, policies, MDIFW web-based tools, equipment training, vehicle use and many other program specific topics. WCA's spent time training with Center for Wildlife Staff in Cape Neddick (left) to learn capture and euthanization methods as well as best practices for handling a variety of wildlife and bird incidents.

Air-powered .22 caliber rifles with scopes were purchased for each WCA. A need developed for a lethal means to dispatch sick and injured small animals and birds. Without these tools, game wardens would have responded to dozens of calls for the sole purposes of dispatching animals. It is recommended that we continue to evaluate the air-rifles and consider other lethal tools for this program to include .22 caliber firearms.

A WCA handbook was developed as a field guide to help agents manage calls and locate important contacts pertaining to ADC agents, rehabilitators, rabies hotlines, the CDC lab and other program relevant mission partners. The handbook will be a useful tool in the future should the program expand and bring on additional WCA agents.

Workload:

The WCA program continues to receive fine-tuning as it integrates into the culture of MDIFW. As summer progresses, WCA's have seen their work emphasis shift significantly. In May and June, many of the calls could be handled over the phone as an educational opportunity, those calls often involved baby or orphaned animals. We are starting to see call volumes decrease as of the beginning of August. However, the time needed to manage current calls has increased.

Calls received in the last several weeks have shifted more toward injured and diseased animals, requiring more WCA time. These incidents often need to be handled in person and involve travel time. Incidents involving raccoons and red fox remain our most

Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder Continued

common calls for service. As of August 5th, WCA's have managed nearly 1,400 calls here in Division A.

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE RETIREMENTS

The Maine Warden Service would like to congratulate most recent retirements.

Sgt. Durwood Humphrey

GAME WARDEN Doug Kulis

GAME WARDEN Patrick Egan

New Jersey

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Law Enforcement promoted two officers since the spring issue of this newsletter. Brian Scott earned a promotion to Captain of the Marine Region. Ryan Harp promoted from Detective of the Marine Region to District 8 Lieutenant.

J. Sean Cianciulli retired after an eventful 30-year career with the Bureau. He started as a volunteer deputy and weekend dispatcher and retired as Chief of the Bureau. Also retiring from service is Brett Nicklow, who most recently served as our offshore patrol vessel operator. Enjoy retirement, you've earned it!

After postponement since March 2020, our Bureau finally hosted the IHEA's Hunting Related Incident Investigation Academy at Camp Johnsonburg in rural north-western New Jersey. Twenty-five Conservation Officers and Game Wardens from Vermont to Florida joined ten of our CPO's for the five-day training session. The IHEA instructors opened the course on Monday with the prediction that by the end the participants would declare it the best training they've ever had. By Friday, that sentiment was confirmed by several students. As the host agency we were happy to also overhear that "many New Jersey stereotypes were broken this week." This was the first time our Bureau has attempted to organize a project this big. With the help of the IHEA instructors, the staff of Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center, and some support from the NJCOA, we're happy to declare it was a resounding success.



IHEA HRII Academy "Team 1" gets to work investigating their first field exercise.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Game Commission's 33rd Cadet Class begin their ten-week field training segment on October 1st. Twenty-six cadets will accompany veteran FTO's during three separate assignments to hone their skills working in Conservation Law Enforcement. The class is slated to graduate in early February of 2022.

Applicants for the 34th Cadet Class are entering the final stages for consideration for appointment with training beginning in March of 2022.

The archery season for white-tailed deer opens statewide on October 2nd running through November 19th. Several special seasons for various sporting arms and species such as black bear also commence in mid-October.

The PGC Overt Special Investigators / K-9 handlers attended the first annual Conservation Canine Officers Association training conference in French Lick, Indiana. Training included Fundamentals of Learning and Detection Dog Training by Don Blair of Canine Intelligence Academy. Canine Tactical Casualty Care by John Mras of Veterinary Tactical Group and Tracking Fundamentals and K9 Selection by Jay Crafter of Invictus K9.

Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder Continued

Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association have received confirmation from the NAWEOA Executive Board President Rick Langley to host the 2025 Summer Conference in Erie, PA.

COPA will host the 2nd annual Dave Grove Sporting Clays Memorial Shoot fundraiser for Jr. Warden Camp, November 11th. Donations for raffles / auctions will be accepted to help raise money. This will be held at Orvis Hill Country and will again be a clay

shoot along with other raffles, etc.

Applications for testing for the 35th cadet class will be open early in 2022.

Central dispatch is well underway servicing 3 regions of the state as well as filling in for the NE region as they are short staffed with only 2 full time dispatchers right now.

Some new appointments:

Mike Beahm has been appointed to the South Central Region as their new Region Director.

Kevin Anderson has been appointed to the training division.

Dave Mitchell has been appointed as Deputy Executive Director.



NAWEOA is an 8000 member organization of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement officers from across North America. The association began at a meeting of 16 Wildlife Officers from the U.S. and Canada in Great Falls, Montana in 1980. Other associations for wildlife officers existed, but this was the first to actively solicit membership from all officers in North America.

What can NAWEOA do for you? NAWEOA as a group of dedicated wildlife law enforcement professionals is committed to wildlife protection and to the public we serve. NAWEOA supports the activities of many major conservation organizations through membership and active participation. If you are a Fish and Wildlife Officer, you can be part of the NAWEOA team today by becoming a member. Let us share the benefits of membership with you! If you are a Natural Resource Program Administrator, you can improve your program by sending your officers to NAWEOA conferences and training programs, or let us help you in hosting one yourself.

NAWEOA Awards

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

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 1st each year. The successful officer will be notified by April 15th..

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 1st each year. Winners will be notified by April 15th.
- 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 honor 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

en 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.

K-9 AND HANDLER “LOYAL PARTNER 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 regular member of NAWEOA.
4. Three years minimum experience and active as a K-9 handler at time of nomination.
5. All nominations must be received by the Vice President of NAWEOA not later than April 1st each year. The successful officer will be notified by April 15th.
6. Both K-9 and handler must demonstrate exceptional ability and initiative in the performance of his or her duties.
7. Award will be presented at annual conference; attendance encouraged but not mandatory.



NAWEOA