

# NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



*"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"*



**2022 NAWEOA CONFERENCE**  
**NASHVILLE, TN**  
**7/10-7/16 2022**

# NAWEOA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President Rick Langley</b> Arizona, US	president@naweo.org
<b>Vice President Kurt Henry</b> Manitoba , Canada	vpresident@naweo.org
<b>Past President Shawn Farrell</b> New Brunswick, Canada	ppresident@naweo.org
<b>Secretary/Treasurer Steve Beltran</b> Illinois, US	secretarytreasurer@naweo.org
<b>Director Region 1 Brock Lockhart</b> Saskatchewan, Canada	region1@naweo.org
<b>Director Region 2 Martin Thabault</b> Ontario, Canada	region2@naweo.org
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<b>Webmaster/Newsletter Editor Mike Reeder</b> Pennsylvania, US	webmaster@naweo.org
<b>Conference Liaison Jason Sherwood</b> 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



Welcome to the windy season in Eastern Arizona, also called Spring! I hope that this newsletter finds you all in good health and spirits as we move forward, away from the Pandemic. Of course the economy is floundering, gas is \$5.00/gallon, and we are bordering on WW3

in Europe, but this is meant to be positive, not dwelling on the uncertainties of the world around us. The important thing is that we are surrounded by a huge family of Conservation Officers, Game Wardens, Environmental Police, Wildlife Managers (The Thin Green Line) who share a common goal and celebrate our WINS and share the pain of our losses.

I struggle as I sit down to write this as many of the items I feel like I need to update the membership on, are already written up in the Winter Meeting Report, which you should have all seen. As you can tell, we were able to hold an in-person meeting, but most of our Canadian contingent attended virtually. We accomplished a lot in the name of NAWEOA and furthered our Mission. Here are my highlights:

NASHVILLE 2022 is happening! Please register and get your hotel reservations soon! This is going to be a fantastic conference and a wonderful reunion for old friends and a great place to make a bunch of new ones.

We will be honoring our Officers who passed in the line of duty over the past 3 years.

We will be recognizing all of those Officers who received awards in the past 3 years.

TWOA is bringing together a great training program. Tennessee wardens now how to have a good time, so the social agenda will be unforgettable.

Utah 2023 is moving forward! We should have a lot more details for you in Nashville.

The Board has signed a contract with COPA (Pennsylvania) to host the 2025 Conference.

We will be holding regular elections in Nashville. Up for election will be a Canadian President, US Vice President, and Canadian Regional Directors. Please consider a nomination for one of these positions. Participation is critical to YOUR Association!

I'm going to keep this short and leave room for the rest of the Board. I can't wait to see many of you in Nashville. Be safe and watch out for each other.

Sincerely,  
Rick Langley



# NAWEOA

## The Vice President's Report

By Kurt Henry



Hello from sunny central Canada. Well spring and winter are still in a battle as I write this. This past weekend we had about 5 inches of rain that turned to snow, causing some over-land flooding just as our rivers were be-

coming ice free. But they say spring is still coming! I will wait for the much anticipated open water fishing season.

COVID has released some of the grip it had on travel and the Executive were able to hold an in person meeting in March in Salt Lake City, Utah, our host city for Convention 2023! Sean, our host was great and there was lots of discussion about Utah as a host city. Our attendance was not 100% but those that were unable to attend, joined us via Skype for the important topics. It was nice to see everyone and our meeting was very productive. Utah has a great jump on planning and has management fully on board. It will be a great event, I'm sure. Plan for 2023.

The 2022 Nashville Conference is happening!!! Make sure you have booked your hotel and tour events as they are filling up fast.

The Executives have been busy making sure the business of NAWEOA is moving forward. One of our biggest challenges is to make sure we acknowledge the various award recipients for the 2020, 2021 and the 2022 years. This will make a full agenda and some important topics for our business meetings. The other topic that took up much of time at the meeting was how the elections will be handled with the COVID delays. The consensus was that it is an even numbered year and we will continue with the elections that happen on even numbered years for the Canadian directors and the Vice President and President. All Executives that are able to run for their second elected terms will be eligible. In essence the time on executive during the COVID delays does not count towards the allowable two elected terms.

The Association is working with future host agencies and has some very interesting prospects for future dates, so come to Nashville and hear all the news for our continued conferences.

See ya in Nashville

Kurt



# The Past President's Report

By Shawn Farrell



Hello everyone, spring is certainly in the air here in New Brunswick. Fingers crossed that our flood season will be minimal. As I sit and type this message, it is hard to believe that this will be my final report as NAWEOA Past

President. I am unsure where the years have gone but I am very thankful for the time I have served on the NAWEOA board. The time has been very rewarding. I would like to thank the NAWEOA executive board for all of their hard work and dedication. I am very grateful and proud to have worked with dedicated past and present members. Over the past few years we were faced with a world wide pandemic that certainly changed the way we go about business but as the summer conference approaches I would like to think we are moving ahead and the pandemic will turn into an endemic. This year's conference will be in Nashville, Tennessee. I would like to thank Josh Landrum and the Tennessee Wildlife Officers Association for holding on for the past two years and agreeing to host this summer. As well thanks to the host hotel, the Millenium Maxwell House for their understanding and waiving cancellation fees for the last two years. I encourage all members to attend and to bring a new officer so they can be part of and experience what this great organization has to offer.

Over the past few years there have been no elections for the NAWEOA executive board. Elections will be back in place this summer. These elections give the membership a vote to who they would like to see lead the organization. This years elected positions will consist of the Canadian regional directors which consist of regions 1, 2 and 3. I would like to say "Thank You" to our Region 1 director Brock Lockhart (Saskatchewan) for his tireless work he has done as regional director. Brock has exhausted his 2-term eligibility and will not be able to run again as regional director. Just a note that Brock did agree to stay on the board during COVID due to absence of elections and the executive appreciated this. Our region 2 director Martin Thabault and region 3 director Josh Thibodeau and eligible to run for a second term. The

other positions that are up for election are Vice President and President. Kurt Henry (Manitoba) is currently our Vice President and I will be nominating him for the President position. Rick Langley (Arizona) will move into a much-deserved position as Past President. Rick served an extended role as President during COVID. It was a pleasure working with Rick and we will miss him in the president's role as he did an excellent job. The Vice President position is open and must be filled by a member from the US. The role must be filled by somebody who has spent time on the executive board.

In order for a member to be nominated a written nomination must be turned into any member on the executive board. The nomination must include the name of the nominated individual, the position nominated for, the nominators signature and somebody seconding the nomination. More information will be supplied at the conference this July. These executive positions are crucial for the success of NAWEOA. If anybody knows of somebody that would be a good asset to our organization, please encourage them to run for a position.

In closing, I truly consider myself fortunate to have been part of this organization on so many different levels. It has truly been an honor to represent the membership. As I move on, I would like to thank my family for their support without that my tenure would have been hard. I also would like to thank the executive board (past and present) for their hard work and tenacity in promoting NAWEOA. They have all done an amazing job in their positions and are like family. I truly feel the membership is in great hands moving forward. Thank you all I am very grateful. Friendships and memories I have made will last forever. I hope everybody has a safe and productive spring. See you in Tennessee. Take Care and Stay Safe.

Sincerely,

Shawn Farrell  
NAWEOA Past President  
NAWEOA Fallen Officer Fund Administrator

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



**Conservation Officer  
Stephen Lawrence Raymond  
New York State Environmental Conservation Police,  
New York**

On Monday April 17, 2017 Conservation Officer Stephen Raymond died as the result of cancer that he developed following his assignment to the search and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center site following the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks in 2001.

Officer Raymond was a United States Navy veteran and had served with the New York State Environmental Conservation Police for 32 years. He is survived by his wife and son.

**The 9/11 Terrorist Attacks**

On the morning of September 11th, 2001, seventy-two officers from a total of eight local, state, and federal agencies were killed when terrorist hijackers working for the al Qaeda terrorist network, headed by Osama bin Laden, crashed four hijacked planes into the World Trade Center towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Seventy-one law enforcement officers, 343 members of the New York City Fire Department, and over 2,800 civilians were killed at the World Trade Center site on 9/11. On September 9th, 2005, all of the public safety officers killed on September 11th, 2001, were posthumously awarded the 9/11 Heroes Medal of Valor by President George W. Bush. The contamination in the air at the World Trade Center site caused many rescue personnel to become extremely ill and eventually led to the death of several rescue workers.



# NAWEOA Financial Report

By Steve Beltran

Wishing you the very best from the secretary treasurer's office. This last year has been a bit slower due to the pandemic. We have had to rely on virtual meetings, emails, and phone calls to conduct all necessary business.

I'm happy to report our winter meeting was somewhat a success. Although we did not have all of our executive board present, due to travel restrictions, we were

able to conduct business and complete many necessary tasks.

Our budget expenditures and perspectives for 2023 was presented and approved by the executive board. Our membership is strong as we have just over 9000 members. I look forward to seeing everyone in Nashville this year. I think you for your support and as always if you have any questions you could reach me anytime.

## Draft Budget

Last updated 3/11/2022

Income	2021-2022	Comments
Conference	\$ -	
Dues	\$ 35,000.00	Estimate base on recent years dues
IGW Profits Share	\$ -	
Interest	\$ 250.00	
Promotional Sales	\$ -	
Travel Reimbursements		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 35,250.00</b>	
Expense	2021-2022	
Administrative Costs	\$ 11,896.00	See Administrative Worksheet
Affiliation Dues	\$ 750.00	ANRET, IAFWA and NACLEC dues.
Awards	\$ 250.00	See award sheet for detail
Conference Expenses	\$ 6,000.00	See conference expenses sheet for detail
Donations	\$ -	See Donation sheet for detail
Meetings/Travel-Executive	\$ 15,000.00	See Meetings and Travel sheet.
Meetings/Travel-Service	\$ -	See Meetings and Travel sheet.
Membership Services	\$ -	See membership services sheet,
Memorial Donations and Expenses	\$ 1,550.00	See Memorial Services worksheet
Newsletter	\$ 1,250.00	See Newsletter Expenses worksheet
Promotional Items Expenses	\$ 4,750.00	Patches and pins
Web Site Expenses	\$ 500.00	See Website Expenses worksheet
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 41,946.00</b>	

Income	\$ 35,250.00
Expense	\$ 41,946.00
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (6,696.00)

# NAWEOA Conference Liaison Report

By Jason Sherwood

It is an exciting time for making plans for the NAWEOA Annual Conference! Tennessee plans are coming along well, with registration open and many people starting to make travel arrangements; Covid restrictions are being relaxed or removed completely in many areas; the board committed resources to try using a conference app to help attendees make the most of the conference experiences; and much of the board recently met with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Department of Natural Resources administrators as well as representatives from the Utah Conservation Officers Association (UCOA), all who are committed to NAWEOA and planning a great 2023 conference.

If you haven't registered and booked your rooms for our July 10 – 16, 2022 annual conference in Nashville yet, please do soon. Many of the tours are starting to fill up and I expect we will be expanding into the overflow hotel soon. The NAWEOA website (NAWEOA.org) has links for the registration site and current hotel reservation options, and the NAWEOA Conference Facebook group is also a great way to find the current links and ask the host committee or I any questions (you can join at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/173505916518726>).

In this issue of the newsletter, you should find the current draft schedule for the 2022 Conference. There are still a few final adjustments in the works, but I'm sure we can count on lots of fun, plenty of time for networking, and up to thirteen hours of certifiable training. It is my understanding the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is not under Tennessee POST's umbrella, so we will provide instructor bios, training outlines, and certificates to those participating in each training session, so you can get credit for the hours in your home state.

Along that line, I'm very excited to report we recently approved funding to develop a NAWEOA Conference app. This should be a great tool to help the conference hosts communicate information quickly and efficiently to attendees, will further improve networking capabilities for game wardens, and will expand our abilities to gather feedback quickly—while readily providing documentation for training sessions attended. This should also reduce printing costs and create more “sizzle” for future vendors and sponsors.

Finally, after getting much of the NAWEOA board together in Salt Lake City Utah last month, we are already expecting great things for the 2023 conference. We were able to look at a couple of potential conference hotels and sample a few of the area's sights. We



## CONFERENCE NEWS

NASHVILLE, TN

JULY 10-16, 2022

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE: MAY 10

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

[HTTPS://WWW.NAWEOA.ORG/2022-CONFERENCE/](https://www.naweo.org/2022-conference/)

STAY INFORMED!

### CONFERENCE FACEBOOK GROUP

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/173505916518726](https://www.facebook.com/groups/173505916518726)

SUPPORT OUR HOSTS

### DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS

IF YOU CAN BRING A DONATION TO THE CONFERENCE OR

HAVE A POTENTIAL SPONSORSHIP LEAD TO SHARE,

PLEASE LET THE HOST CREW KNOW!

[NAWEOA2022@TNWILDLIFEOFFICERS.COM](mailto:NAWEOA2022@TNWILDLIFEOFFICERS.COM)

\$139/NIGHT

### MILLENNIUM MAXWELL HOUSE

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/PA8NAZ6Z](https://tinyurl.com/pa8naz6z)



## NAWEOA Conference Liaison Report

By Jason Sherwood

were impressed with the beautiful area, the available amenities, and especially with the level of commitment from agency administrators as well as the Utah Conservation Officers Association (UCOA).

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](mailto:conference@naweo.org)).

I hope to see you in Nashville soon!

### CONFERENCE TRAVEL TIPS

#### Travel tips to save money in spite of fuel prices

- Buy airline tickets early: "Tuesday afternoon, six weeks before your travel date" used to be a good bet for the cheapest tickets, but now "buy as early as possible" is a better rule of thumb
- You can use web tools such as [kayak.com](http://kayak.com) to "save" prices (for a small fee) to see if prices go down, without risk of them climbing
- Use apps such as GasBuddy to find cheaper fuel stops along your route
- Bring friends and split the fuel costs!



# NAWEOA



**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.

## 2022 Conference Nashville, Tennessee



### Tennessee 2022

The TWAOA welcomes NAWEOA to Tennessee for the 2022 annual conference.

**7/10/22 - 7/16/22**

**Opening Ceremonies - Tuesday, July 13th**

**Banquet Dinner - Friday, July 16th**



## 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



Information regarding  
**NAWEOA Jurisdictional Representatives,**

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

Can be found elsewhere on the NAWEOA website

**[naweo.org](http://naweo.org)**

## Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart



Hello and welcome from Region 1!

First and foremost,...I am incredibly excited and eager to see the NAWEOA membership/executive (friends) this summer in Nashville. What a fantastic time to look forward to and what a great host city to

finally all meet back up in. Sadly, this will be my last round as Region 1 Rep. and I want to thank the Region for putting me into the position to represent them for the past number of years. I also want to say a special thanks to the current and previous executive members who have welcomed and supported me throughout my time on the board. I have made some lifelong friends with you and am so appreciative of the opportunity!

This submission only has two write ups from Region 1 and they are as follows.

### **Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers:**

Saskatchewan Conservation Officers have always been in the Compliance & Field Services branch under the Ministry of Environment umbrella. As of April 1, 2022 we will be working in a brand new branch of government called the Provincial Protective Services branch, which falls under the Ministry of Corrections, Policing & Public Safety. In the short term, we have been told that our roles will not change, but as we progress forward it will only be a matter of time. During this change we continue to see a high number of new recruits being sent to WCLEA. 15 candidates were chosen to attend WCLEA in 2022 bringing the number to 31 new officers hired in the last 2 years. We continue to see turn over within our ranks as well as change within our job duties.

### **British Columbia:**

The COVID haze is finally lifting and after two years we seem to have light at the end of the tunnel! In BC

we have been catching up on mandatory training/meetings and getting back to the meaningful grass roots game warden work that we all know and love.

Recently the BCCOS has embarked on a reservist pilot project where retired conservation officers can seasonally return to work in remote locations and cover off high use times and mentor staff in those locations. We had two recent retirees take advantage of this and they spent the fall of 2021 in the Dease Lake area of Northern BC. The pilot was a success with some great patrols and great contacts. We are hoping to continue this project and allow for the corporate knowledge to be passed on as much as possible.

Our Aquatic Invasive Species inspection and monitoring program (AIS) is gearing up to protect BC waters against the Invasive muscels and other aquatic invasives with up to 8 watercraft inspection stations strategically placed throughout the Province on the US and Alberta borders. This seasonal program also has a K9 unit with two detection dogs trained at locating invasive species as well as other evidence related to Natural Resource Law Enforcement. Tremendous work goes into this program to get up and running every year and so far BC remains invasive muscle free.

Our staffing, training and development section (SDTR) has been busy with recruiting with 10 new recruits scheduled to be attending our Western Canadian Law Enforcement Academy in the Spring of 2022. Troop 21 graduated successfully in December 2021 and are now filtering out to their respective zones. Of interest is the ratio of female officers that are joining the ranks of the BCCOS with 6 of the 11 officers hired being female! The SDTR section of the BCCOS has done a great job selecting these recruits and congratulations to them for all of their hard work and determination to finally make the graduation from WCLEA and to starting their careers with the BCCOS.( See attached)

On the retiring front we have Inspector Joe CARAVETTA for the Kootenay region who is retiring after 35 years of dedicated service with the Government of BC. Joe will be sorely missed for his wisdom, humor and leadership in the BCCOS. Joe was instrumental in starting the BCCOS on the road to

## Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart Continued

excellence in the field of Investigating Wildlife Human Attacks by hosting the first Wildlife Human Attack Response Training (WHART) conferences in Fernie, BC in 2005. The WHART legacy has continued throughout the years and the BCCOS is now recognized as leaders in training Natural resource agencies in the field of investigating human wildlife attacks in North America and abroad. I was fortunate to be part of the BCCOS WHART instructor team with



Chief Conservation Officer- Doug FORSDICK presenting a shadow box to retired Inspector for the Kootenay Region - Joe CARAVETTA

Joe Caravetta that attended WHART in 2018 in Nevada, and in Alaska in 2019. Joe's vision and dedication to this legacy cannot be understated. Good Luck Joe!

Bears are waking up in the Province, ice is starting to come off the lakes, and roads are drying up to make our back country accessible again after months of winter. It is with great enthusiasm and optimism that we look forward to another productive year of Protecting the Natural Resources and the citizens of BC.

The Society of British Columbia Conservation Officers is set to have our AGM in June of 2022 to hopefully take care of much needed Society business. We have a contingent of officers that are now registered to attend NAWEOA in Nashville and are most excited to be part of that again. I am still on the fence and hopefully I get pushed over and will attend as well! I really look forward to meeting and connecting in future years and NAWEOA Conventions.

Be safe and continue the traditions of being Game Warden,



Troop 21 Graduating class, British Columbia - Conservation Officer Service

### Spring 2022

Hello NAWEOA! Well, another winter has come but not yet gone at the time of writing (at least out west). I will add that it's hard not to envy our colleagues in much warmer climates during those -30C days.

One correction from the last newsletter. While the Law Branch has a brand new challenge coin, the picture that was used was in fact our coin from the association. The proper picture is below



### Update from the Law Enforcement Branch

Congratulations to Mike Henderson for winning Blue Line Magazine's Lifetime Law Enforcement Achievement Award 2022! The Lifetime in Law Enforcement Achievement Award seeks to recognize a leader in law enforcement who has made a difference in their communities through exceptional dedication and compassion. Mike Henderson has been a mentor, colleague, and friend to so many wardens. It is wonderful

## Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart Continued

that Mike's accomplishments and contributions are being recognized by the greater law enforcement community. Hendo, you do the Warden Service proud!

A special thanks goes to the LEB Recognition Committee for preparing the nomination.

The branch will be running another intake of Experienced officers in the spring to fill some vacancies across the country.

### Some Enforcement updates

Two Youtube survivalists are facing charges for using Banff National Park for part of a survival challenge. This was a lengthy investigation and you can read a summary here:

<https://www.rmotoday.com/banff/two-wilderness-survivalists-facing-charges-over-banff-national-park-survival-challenge-5013731?fbclid=IwAR2qH-xuYjkbXqNPpaj6ICbN0ltrecgIoBU6lHLiq4-qguZopx3Q4ZpE84c>

A group of 6 were fined for travelling on the west coast trail while it was closed due to COVID restrictions. More details about the case can be found here:

<https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/six-friends-fined-thousands-of-dollars-for-illegally-camping-on-west-coast-trail?fbclid=IwAR2ZCFmRfPedGsTs9Pe2VMFEbXleIoT704oIPWfqKk-1rIBDRaDk6SMqtdg>

A driver who ran over a bear cub in Jasper last summer, was fined \$2000 for distracted driving. More details can be read below:

[https://www.fitzhugh.ca/ezadmin/death-of-bear-cub-last-year-prompts-warning-against-careless-driving/?fbclid=IwAR3KuzgPBiGg7vGZUS2OE1NC41TrEJ4L-Ns4FpNXsDfhW6cZmhw\\_Jj7R3o0](https://www.fitzhugh.ca/ezadmin/death-of-bear-cub-last-year-prompts-warning-against-careless-driving/?fbclid=IwAR3KuzgPBiGg7vGZUS2OE1NC41TrEJ4L-Ns4FpNXsDfhW6cZmhw_Jj7R3o0)

### News from the association:

Not much new to share from the National Park Warden Association.

We held a Movember challenge with 6 fuzzy-faced Wardens last year and raised \$1,500;

The National Park Warden Association Facebook page continues to be our primary tool to reach out to Park Wardens and the general public;

As a follow-up from the successful challenge coins that were produced in 2020, the Association will be producing belt buckles in 2022;

The Association is still actively involved with the International Ranger Federation and of course NAWEOA.

The Union representing Park Wardens has been finalizing their demands, and will be meeting with Parks Canada to begin collective bargaining, later in April.

Contact us if you would like more information: [npwa.agpn@gmail.com](mailto:npwa.agpn@gmail.com)



James A. ZUCHELLI  
Interim President- Society of British Columbia  
Conservation Officers.

## Region 2 Director Martin Thabault



Hello NAWEOA membership,

The last two years have been challenging. We all had to learn how to adapt and overcome, both in our personal and professional lives. Many of us were pulled away from our

main role of protecting wildlife and ecosystems in order to fulfil a public safety mandate. It wasn't easy; this is not what we signed up to do. Several Canadian jurisdictions seem to be in a continual state of staffing and training. Staff retention has become a recurring challenge. This puts a toll on our organizations. First level managers and front line officers have to compensate for shortages and are still expected to fulfil their organization's mandate. You will see in the following pages that despite these challenges, Region 2 jurisdictions have accomplished great things in the last 6 months.

A special thank you to all of you who thought of nominating fellow colleagues for one of our NAWEOA awards. It is important to celebrate all of our successes, especially the dedication of our next generation of Wildlife officers. If you believe a new officer deserves to be recognized (and if you haven't done so already) please submit their name(s) for our Torch Award next year.

It finally looks as though we will have a long overdue summer conference in Nashville this July. I am truly looking forward to seeing you all and I hope we are never faced again with a situation preventing us from getting together for so long. I have missed you! If you plan on attending, I hope I can count on your vote for reelection as the Region 2 Director. My first term has been a rewarding experience. It feels good to be able to give something back to our organization and I am looking forward to the opportunity to continue to serve NAWEOA and all of its members.

Finally thank you to all Region 2 J-Reps for your ongoing dedication. I am grateful for the quality content you always provide to our biannual newsletter. You make our publication interesting for the entire membership and I truly appreciate what you do.

Martin Thabault

Region 2 Director

[region2@naweo.org](mailto:region2@naweo.org)

### Ontario

Ontario is just wrapping up one of the largest hiring efforts in the history of Conservation Officers in Ontario. Roughly 40 new officers have been hired and are currently being trained or have been deployed to their work locations in the last year. This has been a huge feat given the challenges of interviews, testing, etc. that go along with a recruitment process of this scale. To put things in perspective, Ontario has roughly 170 boots on the ground officers, so the Province just hired roughly 30% of its entire field staff in the last year! This is positive news in terms of addressing coverage issues and general staffing shortages across the Province. As a result of the large volume of hiring, training has reverted from new officers attending the Ontario Police College to being trained internally with training specialists and seasoned officers offering instruction on a wide variety of subject matters. All these new hires will attend a "Level II" training course in Thunder Bay this coming August for more advanced training on decoy techniques, in-depth legislation training, etc. Amazingly, we still have vacancies in our agency, so please keep your eyes on the Ontario job board for future competitions!

Our agency has also confirmed that we'll be transitioning from our Remington 870 shotgun to a Daniel Defense .308 carbine over the next several months. The entire province should be transitioned to this firearm by the fall.

There have been a number of amazing multi-agency, international investigations stemming from violations related to moose hunts in Northwestern Ontario

## Region 2 Director Martin Thabault Continued

over the last two years. These cases are still on the go, so no specific details can be shared broadly yet, but on behalf of CO's in Ontario, I'd like to thank the numerous officers from South of the border including officers with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and various State Game Wardens that have played a huge part in these cases.



Ontario conservation officers Graham Dunville (left) and Sgt. Davis Viehbeck (right) with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Derek Fox (centre) pose for a quick photo during a moose meat donation event. The Thunder Bay Enforcement Unit donated three butchered moose to NAN to distribute to members in the community.

Sgt. Davis Viehbeck

Thunder Bay Enforcement Unit

Ontario NAWEOA Rep

2022 Ontario Conservation Officer of the Year

April 12, 2022

Kenora, Ontario – The Ontario Conservation Officers Association (OCA) is pleased to announce that Jeff

Milloy has been selected as the 2022 Conservation Officer of the Year. Jeff is a part of the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR) Kenora Enforcement Unit working out of the Kenora office.



Jeff started his career with the Ministry in 1995 and has held many positions including Resource Planner, Wildlife Technician, Fisheries Technician, Fire Ranger, Resource Technician, Biologist and finally a Port Observer before becoming a Conservation Officer in Chatham in 2001. After becoming a Conservation Officer, Jeff has worked in Chatham, Pembroke and Kenora Enforcement Units. Jeff has demonstrated he is an exceptional leader and is dedicated to Ontario's natural resources. Jeff is a professional who is well

## Region 2 Director Martin Thabault Continued

respected within the community and by other enforcement agencies and policing partners.

“Jeff approaches every investigation with an unbiased opinion and thoroughly looks into every aspect of a case before forming his conclusions. Jeff’s tenacity of following every lead and reviewing every piece of information collected, leads him to investigating large cases and providing a high level of protection of Ontario’s natural resources.” said OCOA President Matthew McVittie, “Jeff is a natural leader who assists other officers with investigations and is often called upon by officers throughout the province to provide his perspective of their case. Jeff is not the type of



person who requires public recognition or acknowledgement of the work he does, Jeff takes pride in the work that he does as a Conservation Officer and finds personal satisfaction in completing his duties with his best effort. It is an honor and privilege to recognize Jeff with this award.”

Jeff is an accomplished investigator who has demonstrated his commitment to leadership, protecting the public and Ontario’s natural resources. Some of the recent work that Jeff has completed includes:

Completing joint investigations between a number of States in the United States of America and Ontario to protect Ontario’s moose population;

Acting as an Operations Section Chief to assist with public safety during an elevated forest fire season in North Western Ontario in 2021;



Overcoming obstacles of investigations during a world-wide pandemic and ensuring that every case was investigated thoroughly;

Being a provincial firearms instructor, coach officer, and mentoring many new officers to help them become successful Conservation Officers

Jeff was nominated for the 2022 Officer of the Year award by his peers and was selected to receive the award by a provincial committee comprised of natural resources law enforcement staff including representatives of the Ontario Conservation Officers Association. The Officer of the Year Award acknowledges officers like Jeff, that have demonstrated the highest level of dedication and professionalism amongst our ranks and pays tribute to the high quality of Conservation Officers within Ontario.

## Region 2 Director Martin Thabault Continued

Jeff was also awarded the NDMNRF Conservation Officer of the Year Award and he will be receiving the Shikar-Safari Club International Ontario Wildlife Officer of the Year Award, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) Conservation Officer of the Year Award, and he has been nominated for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Officer of the Year Award.

Jeff will be presented with his awards in person this summer by representatives of the Ontario Conservation Officers Association and Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.

Jeff Milroy, Ontario Conservation Officer of the Year 2022

### Manitoba

The New Year brought yet another department name change for the Manitoba Conservation Officer Service. Following the introduction of a new Premier and a subsequent cabinet shuffle, the Manitoba Conservation Officer Service was transferred to the newly created Department of Natural Resources and Northern Development. This new ministry now includes the Manitoba Wildfire Service, which will once again be working closely with Conservation Officers over the wildfire season.

As always, fall hunting seasons had Officers busy across the province. Numerous charges were laid for night hunting, dangerous hunting, hunting in closed areas, and many other infractions under The Wildlife Act. Conservation Officers capitalized on the use of aircrafts for night patrols, which lead to the apprehension of offenders and seizure of many vehicles. Officers also executed several search warrants in relation to the illegal possession of wildlife. A newly developed Special Investigations Unit has become a huge asset for the department.

On November 1, 2021, the government announced the first confirmed case of Chronic Wasting Disease in

Manitoba. In response to this discovery, Provincial Wildlife Staff implemented a local community deer hunt in conjunction with control measures to depopulate deer in the area. Conservation Officers were tasked with ensuring the safety of the public and staff members over the course of this project. Unfortunately, additional cases of CWD have been confirmed in other parts of the province and Conservation Officers continue to assist with control efforts.

In September the appointed interest arbitration board conducted it's hearings. Lawyers for both the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union and the government filed their submissions and presented their arguments. The board has considered the submissions of both parties and are writing their decision. We look forward to hearing the results of that decision this Spring.

We are happy to announce that our six new Conservation Officers have completed their training and will be starting their full time positions in April. The current Conservation Officer job competition is wrapping up and we are excited to see how many more officers will be joining our ranks. This new group of CO's will be attending WCLEA in Candle Lake, SK this spring, along with a group of instructors from Manitoba.



New Recruits @ EVOC Fall 2021

## Region 2 Director Martin Thabault Continued



Whiteshell Compliance Area Patrol



Northern Caribou Patrol

### April Elphinstone

Conservation Officer – Lac du Bonnet/Lake Winnipeg East

J-Rep, Manitoba Conservation Officer Service

**Environment and Climate change Canada, Wildlife Enforcement Directorate**

Spring is here, and the Snows are flying!

We have some great news to share with you from the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED), Enforcement Branch at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

### WED's Director General

Our current Chief Enforcement Officer has just announced on April 1st, 2022 the appointment of WED's Director General, Martin Lemay. He has been acting since February 2021, and initially joined WED in April 2020 as the Executive Director.

Before joining ECCC, Martin served as a military officer for 26 years in the Canadian Armed Forces and as a Deputy Director for the Strategic Intelligence at the Department of National Defence. Martin has been an active supporter of our Canadian Federal Wildlife Officers Association (CFWOA), and has encouraged open communication and comradery. Congratulations Martin!

### New Recruits

Our new recruits will be graduating in July 2022. Twenty-two (22) new officers will be joining WED as fully designated officers. We are all looking forward to seeing these recruits in action, as I'm sure they are equally looking forward to finishing training and getting into the field.

### Recent files

As of October 2021, we have a couple of Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (MBCA, 1994) and a couple of Wild Animal and Plant Protection Regulation of Interprovincial and International Trade Act (WAPPRIITA) convictions across the country. These files total about \$193 500 in fines.

The MBCA files range from two individuals' illegal possession of a migratory non-game bird (Black-legged Kittiwake) in Newfoundland and Labrador, to a company in Alberta being convicted of disturbing migratory bird nests (Tree Swallows) without a permit.

The WAPPRIITA files are always interesting, and this time around, one of them deals with a company in British Columbia and the illegal import of shark fins

**Region 2 Director  
Martin Thabault  
Continued**

from two CITES-listed sharks: Oceanic Whitetip and the Silky Shark. In addition, the second file dealt with the illegal export of Yukon wildlife (Dall's sheep) to Alaska without a permit from the Yukon government.

To read more about these (and other files) please look at ECCC's enforcement notifications page: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/notifications.html>

Hoping to see y'all in Nashville!

Julie Horvath

Wildlife Officer – -Ottawa

J-Rep, ECCC Wildlife Enforcement Directorate

**National Capital Commission:**

NCC Conservation Officers have had a busy late winter. The NCC being a major land owner in the city of Ottawa, Officers worked in conjunction with the Ottawa police and RCMP during the month long trucker convoy occupation. Officers were directly involved with monitoring, surveillance and negotiations with the movement that took over the city for 4 weeks. Once the Federal government announced the Emergency Act measures, NCC officers assisted in reclaiming lands that were occupied.

Several changes have been announced in our department. The Director is being replaced due to retirement and several junior officer positions have opened up and have been filled for the summer months.

The NCC anticipates that at least 1 officer will attend the conference on Tennessee, perhaps more.

Jason Pink

Senior Conservation Officer

J-Rep, National Capital Commission



## Region 3 Director Josh Thibodeau



Hello everyone,  
We are just recently finishing the pandemic mandates and are returning to a somewhat sense of normal. Officers have worked hard here in my home jurisdiction of New Brunswick enforcing pandemic rules and are excited mandates have been lifted and we

can get back to our mandated work. We are all looking forward to a great year ahead. I was able to attend some of the winter executive meeting virtual as current cross border rules kept me here in New Brunswick as a precaution. I want to thank those NAWEOA board members who attended in person and tended to the matters on the ground that needed to be accomplished.

Our summer conference in Nashville, Tennessee is fast approaching and to say I am eager and excited to go is an understatement. I am looking forward to seeing many friends I haven't seen in a couple years and moving ahead with Association business. A big thank you to Josh Landrum and the Tennessee Game Warden Association along with Conference Liaison Jason Sherwood for all your hard work on this upcoming Conference.

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 would like to congratulate all those retirees who have been recognized here in Region 3 and I would also like to send a congratulations to Cpl. Zachary Kierstead who was the recipient of the Shikar Safari Wildlife Officer of the year award here in New

Brunswick. Job well done Cpl. Kierstead!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2022 summer Conference in Nashville and I plan on running again for an elected 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!



Cpl. Josh Thibodeau waiting for night fall near by a Moose stand



New Brunswick Conservation Officers on Canoe Patrol

**Region 3 Director**  
**Josh Thibodeau**  
**Continued**



Conservation Officers doing a duck patrol on the Oro-mocto River near the Capital City of Fredericton, New Brunswick



Snare line located by New Brunswick Conservation Officer Andrew Cooke



Box trap set found by New Brunswick Conservation Officer Andrew Cooke

**NEW BRUNSWICK**

Hi to all from New Brunswick, Canada. Like all of you, we are glad that all mandatory orders are lifted and we can now have an almost normal life. It is not quite gone but we are getting there. Only a few weeks ago we were informed that Conservation officers ( Peace Officers ) were no longer needed to enforce the mandatory order. We are now able to concentrate on our core mandate, for what is left of it. Being a peace officer is sure different then being a

## **Region 3 Director**

**Josh Thibodeau**  
**Continued**

conservation officer. Our bread and butter is Natural Resources related enforcement, but our core mandate has now expanded. We have a mandate for Public Safety now, we are Peace Officers. Some of the new officers who were hired in the last couple of years have not experienced the work of a Game warden and don't see any changes, but for the senior officers it is a very big change. Succession planning for the future is very important for our branch. In the last year we had a few senior officers who retired and there was not much time to pass the flag to junior officers who had potential. In the next two years there will be lots of officers gone.

The province has approximately 15 vacancies at the end of March and the employer is looking to fill most of those vacancies by the end of the spring. Some districts have a few more officers than others, but our branch is looking to have at least 6 officers in each district. Being an official bilingual province, it makes it harder to find the bilingual officers in the area where they are needed. Most of the French spoken officers can get by in the Anglophone area. I believe that we are one of the few provinces who needs to go out of your own province to take a course, to get a job in our province.

The courses that are being given at the Atlantic Police Academy in Prince Edward Island are only offered in English. The province will not recognize any other training.

This year the officers will be getting their annual mandatory training, with the pandemic this was not possible for all mandatory training. Training is offered in both official language and the province has a good pool of instructors.

It sure feels good to go on regular patrol after all this time spent policing the mandatory order. The North of the province still has lots of snow and the conditions are great for doing winter sport, the Southern part of it, will soon be running investigating fires. They will probably be dealing with floods if the weather warms up too fast.

Our association was not able to have any meetings for the last two years. Positions for the entire Board of directors are up for nomination. We have younger officers who are interested in taking the lead in our association and this is a great thing. We are looking to have election this spring, done virtually and skip another year without any face to face meeting. Our Director and past president had their NAWEOA Board winter meeting done virtually this year, it makes it much more difficult to have certain meetings.

Submitted by New Brunswick J-Rep Roger Selesse



## Region 4 Director Jason Sherwood



Having recently attended our IN-PERSON (mostly) NAWEOA Winter Board Meeting, I'm certainly optimistic about the state of things right now. It was really great to visit with much of the board face-to-face and get back to really getting the association running on all eight cylinders again. It was also really nice to see

the headway Sean Spencer and the Utah Conservation Officers Association are making as they gear up to bring all of NAWEOA back to Region 4 for the 2023 Conference.

As for news updates from around this region, we're seeing a lot of the same woes of having quite a few officers retire, creating tons of movement and leaving many openings unfilled. Luckily, many NAWEOA-supportive game wardens are climbing into supervisor and administrator roles and several agencies in this region are realizing it is high time to push for better pay and benefits to help recruit fresh, new officers into the ranks. With an extra \$700,000 to help Utah's wardens better align with their state trooper pay scale, some officers there are hoping for an extra \$8 an hour by July. Wyoming's chief game warden is also trying to improve recruitment, retention, and training by creating a new work unit from unfilled warden positions. This new unit will have much more flexibility in where they live within the state, will have the ability to help address workloads in busy districts, and take the lead in providing better and more consistent training for new hires as they (often rapidly) transition into senior warden districts.

Montana's warden association shared news that the Dearborn Scholarship, for incoming freshmen children of Montana game wardens and highway patrol troopers, has been increased from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 per year. This generous scholarship is provided by Tom Siebel, a philanthropist and billionaire with various ties between Silicon Valley and Montana, who also founded the Montana Meth Project.

Only the J-Rep from New Mexico mentioned it, but I imagine many jurisdictions are also starting to face some serious challenges in keeping their vehicle fleet going. Missing computer chips and other part shortages, the lack of workers, transportation delays, and, of course, prohibitively-expensive fuel prices for existing vehicles is taking its toll. It sounds like New Mexico innovatively resorted to purchasing somewhat of a menagerie of vehicles from available stock on various dealer lots in the state to replace some of their fleet.

Notably, Utah's state wildlife board recently passed a ban on using trail cameras to take big game from Aug 1 - Dec 31 each year. This also included a ban on using night vision and thermal imaging to locate big game, and just last year, they also banned the baiting of big game. With Arizona and Nevada making similar changes over the past couple of years, the West may see some significant changes to the way people hunt (and outfit hunters).

Montana also reports they have revamped their automated license system, which now includes an option for an "E tag" carcass tagging option. Hunters can still opt for a paper tag, and I'm sure game wardens there are gearing up for a whole new set of options for tagging violations.

Montana also either has a stash of 9mm ammunition on hand, or is optimistic about the supply increasing, as they recently transitioned from .40 caliber Sig Sauer handguns to a similar 9mm, with a red dot sight. One other agency recently made a similar change, but it seems ammunition availability kept them shelved for a while.

Several jurisdictions are reporting closure of some large scale cases, with some very successful prosecutions and significant penalties. There is a lot to be said for careful casework and good documentation, having a good network of wardens to gather evidence beyond singular jurisdictional boundaries, and taking time to build good relationships with prosecutors.

I look forward to seeing everyone this July in Nashville!

Jason

## Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt



Greetings from Kansas, in NAWEOA's Region 5. I hope this message finds all our NAWEOA brothers and sisters safe and in good health. The wind continues to blow here as Spring is approaching. Our temps are on the rise, and soon tornado season will be

here. But, you can't rule out a thunder/hail/snow storm that tends to pop up out of nowhere. Wait 5 minutes and the weather changes here. I would like to thank all of the Region 5 J-reps for the work that they have done throughout this past year thus far. I am working on keeping up communications with all of the states in Region 5. You are a great asset to making sure info flows to and from our NAWEOA family. Thank you to the J-Reps and individual officers/members who have submitted nominees for our yearly NAWEOA awards. There are still some that you may submit with no deadline, such as a lifesaving award. Please recognize your peers for a job well done. The NAWEOA executive board was finally able to get together for our winter meeting, but unfortunately some of our Canada delegation was still not able to travel due to the lasting effects of COVID. It was really great to get together with those that were able to attend, and others via a remote platform. It was a very productive few days together, and we were able to check begin plans for the 2023 conference! 2022 is finally here, and that means we can finally have our annual summer conference in Nashville!! We all have been patiently awaiting this conference, and I look forward to meeting you all in July. Reminder, if you have not done so, please make your Nashville Hotel reservations, and register for the conference. The crew with TWRA have been working hard over the past few years to make this conference a great one.

### Missouri

MDC as an agency has undergone a complete "reorganization," and have had many employees reclassified or retitled into different positions and a different supervisory structure. Our Protection Branch was relatively unphased. Staff have been receiving

some much needed salary adjustments, due to the results of a salary study over the last few years as well as the MO Governor raising the minimum wage for state employees to \$15 per hour. This resulted in raises across the board. Our Protection Branch still struggles with recruitment and retention, much like other states, but we currently have a class of 20 going through our Agent training academy. They will graduate in October. Our Missouri Conservation Agents Association is preparing for a much needed trip to the NAWEOA conference in Nashville this summer to rekindle those connections that have grown apart the last couple of years. Our association is striving to recruit new members and advertise the benefits of having memberships in state and national FOP lodges and the benefit of having an FOP attorney available should we need one for anything.

### Nebraska:

Nebraska conservation officers are in a current mode of hiring new officers. The application process currently does not have an end date. They currently have 3 officers in the FTO process; Travis Schultz from a Sheriff's Dept. in Nebraska, Hunter Pearson, who comes from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries where he was an agent with the law enforcement division, and Mathews Costello, who was police officer in Nebraska. Nebraska game and Parks Commission has recently started the process to make 10 permanent sergeant positions and then hopefully backfill those positions with conservation officers. The law enforcement division just completed a week-long in-service training. Taylor Dixon recently was presented with the Shikar Safari Officer of the year. Taylor is currently stationed in the Southwest District and is active as a field-training officer.

The Nebraska legislature has recently imposed required annual continuing education requirements. This included training on arrest, search and seizure, racial bias and officer wellness. With the requirements for training only a certain amount of hours can be virtual, these in-service training will be more frequent. The number of continuing education hours required under this subsection shall be 20 hours through Jan. 1st 2022. Beginning January 1, 2022, and until January 1, 2023, 28 hours; and beginning January 1, 2023, 32 hours. The annual continuing education required by this section shall include refresher courses on de-escalation, mental health, and substance abuse issues. A minimum of 2 hours of anti-bias and implicit bias training; Firearms, Officer Wellness, legal updates, including, but not limited to,

## Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt Continued

legislative changes and First Amendment and Fourth Amendment issues.

### Wisconsin:

Wisconsin is currently accepting applications for the 2023 class of Conservation Wardens through March 6, 2022. The department will hire approximately 12 full-time wardens for the upcoming class who will begin training in October 2022. We have also created a Community Service Officer position. This will be a non-sworn position. Responsibilities include helping provide support services to public safety and natural resource protection, primarily through education and outreach efforts. We anticipate hiring up to 15 Community Service Officers who will be stationed around the state. The Community Service Officers will be hired as limited-term employees and will primarily work during the summer months. We are excited for this new position to serve the public better.

This past fall, we trained 16 wardens to be field training officers. Additionally, three current field training officers were trained to become training instructors for future training using the Police Training Officer field training model. Field training continues to be a vital part of our newly hired warden training program. We are thankful to have such dedicated and talented staff to take on the critical role of field training officers.

During the past few months, wardens have had the opportunity to be a part of “non-traditional” warden work. Wardens assisted other law enforcement agencies during the Ryder Cup, a popular professional golf tournament held at Whistling Straits near Kohler this past fall. One DNR warden also had an opportunity to go back in time when transporting quite the find from the Wisconsin State Historical Society. The society found and recovered a canoe from a lake in the Madison area dating back to 800 A.D.

### Minnesota:

Minnesota is somewhat between seasons with ice fishing continuing in the North half of the state and ice-out occurring in the Southern part. Snowmobiling continues after a fairly good snow season in the

Northern part this past winter season. It has been a long winter and everyone is eager for spring to come. With the ice-out, our boating season will begin soon, and Turkey season is just a few weeks away and that will have our officers busy. Our Dept. will start an academy session for new Conservation Officers in May, and has already begun the hiring process for next year’s academy.

### Oklahoma

Our officers are still reeling from the Supreme Court McGirt decision which ruled the 5 civilized tribe reservations were never de-ratified by Congress so therefore most of eastern Oklahoma is still a reservation. What that means for us is we have to determine if our suspect is a tribal member or not. If they are, we have to look at the tribal wildlife code to see what the infraction is. All Oklahoma Game Wardens have been cross-deputized by the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Creek Nations so we can make arrests and write citations. We do have to determine the proper code to write them from and determine what jurisdiction the charges have to be filed in. Also, any tribal member hunting or fishing within their nation is exempt from having to have a license. This will mean a loss in revenue in the tens of millions of dollars for our agency. Something we will be adjusting to for some time. The procedures are still fluid.

New laptops have been issued and they seem to be more user friendly. There is still talk about transitioning from our Glock 40s to 9mm pistols. The new trucks that will be ordered this year will be Fords.

Back in March, Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation changed its agency logo design. The old logo was created in 1965. The orange & tan logo below is the general agency one, and the Game Wardens will most likely have a black and white one, with a GAME WARDEN rocker below.



## Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt Continued

### North Dakota

North Dakota has gone through some changes. We have a new Chief, Scott Winkelmann, since Oct. 2020. Under this new leadership, we have implemented "Behind the Badge" which each warden has been tasked with sharing stories from the field. It has been a huge success in getting a message out about what we do and the things we run into along the way. These articles are shared on our department website and department Facebook page. There has also been a greater emphasis on community outreach. Wardens are encouraged and regularly attend sport shows and community functions such as safety days, and trunk or treat events. The North Dakota Wardens Association is also under new leadership as of May 2021. Please visit our Association Facebook page for updates. We are working through a logo and vendor change.

### Indiana

Indiana has 26 new officers that will be finishing up their training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) here sometime in April. They started their initial 6-week core value training process, with a brief field training during firearms deer season, the 15 weeks of training at ILEA. In April they enter into their final field training phase, with the hopes of being turned loose into the field on their own sometime this summer. We have been given permission to hold a 2022 hiring process, with hopes of hiring an additional 10-15 officers. This process should help bolster our overall numbers and help with some impending retirements.

### Kansas:

Kansas is beginning the process of navigating a new licensing vendor, which will still allow sportsmen the ability to purchase licenses and permits from the comfort of their home, and even electronic versions for their smart phone from the phone app. We are all hopeful that this system will be up and running without many hitches. Law Enforcement officers are still hoping for a more effective/efficient Records management system, which is being worked. KS is also ex-

ploring a potential uniform color change, time will tell.

Like most states I assume, KS has had a higher than normal turnover rate. Some people leaving for other agencies, retiring, and some even for a new profession all together outside of LE. We currently have many open positions, so coverage is an important topic as we dive into our Spring Turkey season and with the summer boating season fast approaching. Last year KS dropped the mandatory degree requirement to be considered for employment as a Game Warden, although it is still recommended it's just not required. This has allowed the applicant pool to expand, and we are getting more candidates to consider. There have been multiple personnel changes in management in the past year as well. We are currently in the process of hiring a Captain of Training and Hiring. KS currently has two newly promoted K9 officers that are in the middle of their training academy in Indiana.

In 2021, KS implemented a new thermal/night vision/night hunting coyote season in, by special permit only. We have recently wrapped up our second year with that season without much opposition or violations. In 2021, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism underwent a name change. The Governor moved the Tourism Dept. out of our agency and placed it under the Dept. of Commerce. Effective July 2021 we are back to KDWP (Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks).

### Texas

Wildlife: Texas Game Wardens have been busy this past year. One example is those assigned to the Freestone Co. area responded to reports of a hunter who had shot and killed several deer from his neighbor's high fence game ranch. During the investigation, it was discovered that there were four white-tail deer



## Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt Continued

bucks taken illegally. The bucks ranged from 145" – 170" on the B&C scale. The deer were confiscated, and the meat was processed and donated to a local church. The suspects were identified, and the case is still pending. Another case is where wardens assigned to the Coleman Co. area conducted an inspection of a deer camp where several hunters were found to be hunting without a license and had harvested several deer. Upon further investigation, it was determined that two individuals were felons and not per-



mitted to hunt with rifles. It was also revealed that the two unlicensed hunters had killed an Axis buck and a 200" white-tailed deer buck. The white-tail was tagged with another's license.

Fisheries: Texas Game Wardens along the entire coast, in collaboration with TPWD Coastal Fisheries Biologist, National Park Service Agents, National Oceanic U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, TX General Land Office and many non-government organizations such as CCA, Sea Tow, and Sea Turtle Inc. assigned to the coastal bend area inspected 166 commercial oyster boats during the first week of the



FY22 Oyster Season alone; resulting in 8 undersize oyster citations with percentages ranging from 14% to 18%. A total of 25 sacks of oysters, or approximately

2,750lbs of oysters, were returned to the bay during the first week of the season because of the undersize findings.

Since the opening of the FY22 Oyster season, Texas Game Wardens working the coastal bend area have: Encountered 6 commercial oyster boats operating in the coastal bend area out of compliance; the crews were found to be in possession of undersized oysters. Arrested multiple Oyster Boat Captains for enhancement charges related to the possession of undersized oysters.

Arrested multiple oyster boat Cpts. for oystering in restricted waters.

Responded to reports of a commercial oyster boat offloading cargo at night on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Further investigation resulted in charges filed against the boat captain for exceeding the daily oyster bag limit. Additionally, a second subject who was attempting to transport the offloaded oysters was charged with failure to display a wholesale dealer license.

Texas Game Wardens along the entire coast, in collaboration with TPWD Coastal Fisheries Biologist, National Park Service Agents, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, TX General Land Office and many non-government organizations such as CCA, Sea Tow, and Sea Turtle Inc., patrolled the frigid waters of the State's Bay systems rescuing stunned sea turtles during the February 2022 arctic northern that swept across the state. According to preliminary data



received from the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network, the group's effort resulted in the rescue and relocation of 281 sea turtles.

Water Safety: On July 25th, Texas Game Wardens and Oklahoma Highway Patrol Marine Enforcement worked a joint saturation patrol on Lake Texoma over the weekend to address water safety issues and Boating under the influence violations.

## **Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt Continued**

Border: Last year Texas Game Wardens patrolling the Gulf of Mexico interdicted 2 vessels that were found to be from Mexico and fishing illegally over US federal waters. Crew members and equipment were turned over to USCG and USBP. The fishing vessels,

aka lanchas, had a combined weight of over 1000lbs of illegally caught shark. Back in February, Texas Game Wardens patrolling the Gulf of Mexico encountered a fishing vessel illegally fishing within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Three fishermen were on board and found to be in possession of approximately 500lbs of illegally caught Red Snapper. The vessel, illegal fishing gear, and crew were turned over to U.S. Coast Guard Station South Padre Island for federal prosecution.

## **Region 6 Director Brandon Gavrock No Report**



## Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder



Peaceful greetings NAWEOA members! As I gaze out the window at another Pennsylvania Spring transitioning from Winter, I am reminded how the countdown to July has already begun with a Sharpie marker checking off the days on

my office calendar. I began this annual ritual on New Year's Day in 2011 after attending my first NAWEOA Conference in 2010 that was hosted by the Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association in Cranberry Township, PA. Looking back at January 2020, I never imagined how many of those check marks I would have to make leading up to the next NAWEOA Summer Conference. As we sit here poised to finally make the trek to Nashville, Tennessee in 2022, I find it hard to contain my excitement and anticipation finally getting to see my colleagues and friends that share this beloved profession.

NAWEOA has become something bigger in my life than just a training conference. Most of my closest friends have been a direct result of the relationships fostered at the many conferences my wife Missy and I have attended. For me, developing professional contacts for working that out of state case and having "that go to game warden" willing to go the extra mile assisting with an investigation is priceless. Being able to reciprocate their requests is equally rewarding as well (although I am still waiting for that subpoena to testify in Alaska!). All kidding aside, NAWEOA and all it represents is something that I hope to be part of well into my retirement. Opportunities are at their highest for those that desire to represent NAWEOA on the Executive Board. Nominations and elections are going to be a priority after seeing most of the Executive Board positions being held well after the normal two-year term limit due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Thank you to all the current Executive Board members who have kept NAWEOA relevant and moving forward. A special "Thank You" goes out to former NAWEOA President Rich Cramer who has been an amazing asset to NAWEOA for over of a decade as he completed his final term as the Conference Liaison, now in the trusted hands of Jason Sherwood.

Region 7 is continually represented by a team of Jurisdictional Representatives that are doing an outstanding job providing information to their respective associations from the NAWEOA Executive. The daunting task of keeping accurate membership numbers, NAWEOA Award nominations and added requests for submissions for the bi-annual NAWEOA Newsletter is greatly appreciated. A good barometer for the quality of work being completed by Jurisdictional Representatives is validated by the recipients of the new "Muddy Boots Award" where the annual recipient has been from Region 7 since its inaugural presentation in 2019. Region 7 has been very fortunate to have vacated JRep positions backfilled by motivated wardens, eager to fulfill the mission of the position. I am honored to serve with each and every one of them. Please join me in welcoming Randy Hazard from Vermont, Sheila Paquette from Rhode Island and Casey Zolper from Delaware as Region 7's newest JReps.

As the leafless trees of winter transitions into greener spring mornings, make sure you have secured your reservation with the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel for July 11th-16th (Group Code "2107NAWEOA") to join your colleagues in exciting Nashville, Tennessee. A host of great trainings and events followed by evenings filled with much needed comradery is on the menu for those in attendance. Hope to see my old friends and the many new smiling faces this July!

### New York

JRep Rob Johnson reports the following:

After nearly 30 years of service, on August 19, 2021, Bernard Rivers retired as Director of the Division of Law Enforcement. During his career within the Division of Law Enforcement Bernard served as Environmental Conservation Officer, Investigator, Lieutenant, and Captain before reaching the rank of Director. Prior to joining the Division of Law Enforcement Bernard served with New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for 10 years, working in medium, maximum, and super-maximum correctional facilities. He also worked as part-time police officer with the Town of Mount Hope, Town of Wallkill, Town of Chester, and Village of Montgomery Police Departments. Bernard is a former jurisdictional representative for NY, active member of NAWEOA, and has attended many past conferences. The Division of Law Enforcement thanks Bernard for

## **Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder Continued**

his service to the State of New York and wishes him well in retirement.

On November 24, 2021, DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos announced Karen Przyklek as Acting Director for the Division of Law Enforcement. According to Commissioner Seggos, "Acting Director Przyklek is a 26-year veteran of DLE. She began her career as an Environmental Conservation Police Officer (ECO) patrolling New York City in 1996, before becoming an Investigator with the Division's Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation (BECI). In 2014, Przyklek was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and then to Captain in 2019. Most recently, she served as Captain of the Division's Special Operations Group, which includes the statewide K9 Unit, Homeland Security/Radiation Unit, Wildlife Response Team, and Haz Mat Training Unit." She "assisted in the recovery and clean-up efforts following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Prior to joining DEC, she served as a Deputy with Monroe County Sheriff's Office in Rochester. She will be the first woman to serve in this critical law enforcement role." Karen Przyklek was officially sworn in as Director on January 14, 2022, and the Division of Law Enforcement is excited to have Karen as Director.

The Division of Law Enforcement is looking forward to adding Environmental Conservation Police Officers to the force and the 23rd Basic School for Uniformed Officers is tentatively scheduled to commence on May 22, 2022. Historically, academy sessions include joint training for Environmental Conservation Police Officers and Forest Rangers. In this instance Environmental Conservation Police Officer training will be held at the Pulaski Academy, which has served as the home for these trainings for the last several academies. For the first time, the Forest Ranger training will be held at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) campus in the hamlet of Wanakena. The six-month training academy will prepare recruits for careers protecting New York's natural resources. A glimpse of life at the DEC training academy in Pulaski, NY may be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJG66CoOLwc> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmubBWtIUBM>.

Delaware JRep Brooke Mitchell reports:

Promotions/Retirements:

Officer Shea Lindale was promoted to the rank of Lt. Officer Troy Trimmer retired with over 30 years of dedicated service.

JRep Brooke Mitchell has retired and the JRep position is now held by Lt. Casey Zolper.

### **Pennsylvania (Game)**

JRep Rick Finnegan reports:

COPA

24 cadets from the 33rd cadet class at the PGC's Ross Leffler School of Conservation recently graduated and are in their assigned Districts.

The 34th cadet class starts at the end of March 2022, and testing is taking place for the 35th class.

Three new operators have been chosen for the PGC's Woodland Tracing Team after the interview process. Their first team training will take place in April, and 10 team members will have completed their full training status / requirements and will become tabbed members of the team.

Congratulations to the following Pennsylvania State Game Wardens:

Overt Special Investigator Lawrence Hergenroeder received the Commendation Award from RLSC for his 10 years of contributions to the PGC EVOC program.

Warden Andrew Hueser, of Erie, PA. He received the NWTf Officer of the year award for PA Game Wardens in Nashville, TN, this past February.

Warden Brandon Bonin - Shakir Safari officer of the year award

Wardens Dan Carl / Cody Jones / Andrew Hueser / Jason Amory / Randy Crago / Jeff McVane / Jonathan Bowman / Jake Klinger / OSI Tyler Kreider & Deputy John Williams all received life saving awards.

Warden Mark Gritzer received the NECLECA Award

### **Pennsylvania (Fish)**

JRep Chad Lauer Reports:

2022 is off to an excellent start for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Currently, the 24th class of Waterways Conservation Officers are training at

## Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder Continued

the H.R. Stackhouse School of Fisheries Conservation and Watercraft Safety and scheduled to start their initial field training assignment in April. Applicants for the 25th class of Waterways Conservation Officers are currently being selected, and the Bureau is hoping to recruit a full class.

In addition to the recruiting of full time WCOs, the Bureau has recruited 13 individuals to become Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers, and a training class is scheduled to begin in April 2022, with an anticipated graduation sometime in June 2022.

The Bureau of Law Enforcement recently recognized the following officers for honors for their field performances in 2021: Sean Lake (Southcentral Region) - Top Gun Award, Rachael Thurner-Diaz (Southcentral Region) - Greiner Award, Chad Doyle (Northwest Region) NECLECA Officer of The Year.

Justin Boatwright, who is responsible for coverage of the Clinton/Western Lycoming County District, in February 2022 while patrolling Pine Creek heard a disturbing cry for help coming from a steep snow- and ice-covered mountain side. WCO Boatwright through echolocation, determined the location of the cry, and located a hiker who had fallen from a steep cliff, causing the hiker to become immobilized and stranded at a high elevation in freezing temperatures. WCO Boatwright climbed the steep, icy mountain side after activating a rescue team, and laid with the hiker, who was hypothermic and had suspected broken legs, for hours rendering thermal and limb stabilizing aid until a rescue team could scale the icy mountain side to assist.

### Maine

JRep Kris MacCabe reports:

The Maine Warden Service continues its open hiring enrollment and hired sixteen new Game Wardens in the past year. This is the largest group hiring since the mid 90's. Currently the Maine Warden Service has seven cadets in the Maine Criminal Justice Academy attending the 18-week school.

The Maine Warden Service is currently also running an Advanced Warden School with nine Game Wardens currently attending the 14 Week School. Re-

cently the class climbed Mount Katahdin in Baxter State Park.

Warden Joe McBrine was recently selected the 2021 Maine Game Warden of the Year. Warden of the Year is a peer nominated award to a game warden who consistently has conducted themselves in such a manner



as to display an exceptional expertise in the areas of conservation law enforcement, management, community and public relations and all aspects of a Game Warden's duties.

Warden Joe McBrine has served as a game warden for 27 years. He was assigned his first district in western Maine, where he spent a short period of time before transferring to section 8 in Washington County where he has patrolled ever since. Warden of the Year is a peer nominated award to a game warden who has consistently conducted themselves in such a manner as to display an exceptional expertise in the areas of conservation law enforcement, management, community and public relations and all aspects of a Game Warden's duties.

Warden McBrine is well integrated with the Washington County community. He does several public speaking events throughout the course of the year. Some of these events include safety and education courses sponsored by our department, local sportsmen's shows, the Eastern Maine Sportsmen's Show in Orono, and various children's events in the region. Warden McBrine has played a significant role in organizing a fishing event for the Maine Veterans home in Machias. This event has undoubtedly made an extremely positive impact on these veterans, many of which thought they would never have the opportunity to fish again.

Warden McBrine worked with the community and

## **Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder Continued**

took time out of his busy fall to organize a fallen warden ceremony at a cemetery in Whiting for Lyman Hill and Charles Niles, two wardens who were murdered along the Machias River in 1886. Warden McBrine worked many hours with our partners in Washington County as well as the family of Lyman Hill to plan, organize, and execute an honorable ceremony at their burial site. On the day of the event there was an outstanding turnout of attendees including active law enforcement, retired law enforcement, two separate honor guard teams, members of the church community, members of the public, and members of Lyman Hill's family.

Over the last few years, Warden McBrine has been influential in establishing a conservation law enforcement degree program at the University of Maine at Machias. He sits on meetings and committees at the university to guide faculty in the right direction with this program. He is looked upon as a subject matter expert by professors and faculty at UMM. Warden McBrine has also taught the search and rescue class for the Con-law program on his own time. He has worked with faculty to assist them in establishing a Wildlife Forensics and DNA program, enabling them to analyze wildlife DNA to determine, gender and number of individuals by species. Warden McBrine was presented a Distinguished Alumni Award by UMM at a formal ceremony to recognize him for his service and assistance to the university and the community.

Warden McBrine is a Warden Training Officer (WTO) for the Maine Warden Service. His many years of service have provided him a vast amount of experience to offer new Game Wardens. His level of dedication, thoroughness, and his skillset in conducting search and rescue missions, resolving complaints from landowners, and apprehending intentional violators has made him a perfect fit for the WTO team. He has spent many hours assisting with the Advanced Warden Training Academy on their trips to Washington County. He will frequently secure a facility for their week of training. He has even been willing to conduct scenarios for the new wardens at his home, and his family has also been involved in the training from cooking meals to role playing in the scenarios.

He has played an important part of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Guide's Board for a number of years, where he has served as a guide examiner, attended board meetings and license reviews throughout the year.

Warden McBrine is a dedicated Game Warden and truly believes in the mission of Maine Warden Service. He goes to work every day to make a difference in the outdoor community in which he lives and works. His level of experience, performance, and dedication is exceptional. In his 27 years working for DIFW Warden McBrine's determination, professionalism, integrity, work ethic, and drive to apprehend intentional violators, has not waived. He has raised his family to appreciate the outdoors and finds much joy in helping to preserve the outdoor tradition for future generations of citizens and visitors to the great state of Maine.

(Left to right Major Chris Cloutier, Warden Joe McBrine, Colonel Dan Scott)



### **PROMOTIONS WITHIN THE MAINE WARDEN SERVICE**

Game Warden Kyle Hladik was recently promoted to Game Warden Sergeant in Section 2, Division A.

Kyle began his career in warden service in 2014 when he was assigned to the Chamberlain District, and later transferred to the Strong District. Kyle graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in the spring of 2014, where he was the class valedictorian and elected class president. He received awards for his professionalism, Combined Practical Skills, and MARC. During his time here, Kyle has been involved in numerous specialties and disciplines: WTO Program, Color

**Region 7 Director**  
**Larry Hergenroeder**  
**Continued**

Guard, Dive Team, WS Hiring Process, Incident Management Team and WS Association. He is currently serving as Lead Cadre for our 2022 Advanced Warden School Academy. Prior to his career in warden service, Kyle served his country as a Sergeant in the Marine Corps and completed deployments to Iraq and Djibouti. He currently serves as a Staff Sergeant in the Maine Air National Guard responsible for logistics planning.

Game Warden Adrian Marquis was recently promoted to Game Warden Sergeant in Section 14, Division E.

Warden Marquis began his career in law enforcement in 1999 as a dispatcher for the Department of Public Safety, until he was hired as a Game Warden in December of 2006. Upon graduating from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Warden Marquis was assigned to the Madawaska District where he still patrols today. Adrian is an MCJA certified firearms instructor on the Warden Service Use of Force Team, and lead instructor for the Advanced Warden School canoeing program.

Warden Marquis's calm demeanor, communication skills, extensive knowledge of Division E, and his team building mindset will make a great addition to our supervisory team. Adrian will begin his new role on October 17th.

Game Warden Josh Beal was recently promoted to Game Warden Sergeant in Section 8, Division C.

Warden Beal started his career with us in 2013 as a Boating Deputy on Sebago Lake and was hired on as a fulltime Game Warden later the same year and was assigned to the Houlton District. In 2014, Josh transferred to the St. Albans District, and in early 2021 transferred to the Union District where he and his family currently reside. Josh has served in many leadership roles during his time here, such as Cadre for Advanced Warden School, and serving as a BLETP Mentor just to name a couple. Josh is a Certified Drug Recognition Expert, Intoxilyzer Instructor, SFST Instructor and oversees our mobile Intoxilyzer program. In addition, Josh serves as our Operation Game Thief Liaison.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING  
MEMBERS OF THE MAINE WARDEN SERVICE  
ON THEIR RECENT RETIREMENTS**

SGT. TERRY HUGHES

SGT. RON DUNHAM

GAME WARDEN CORPORAL DAVE CHABOT

GAME WARDEN PAUL FARRINGTON

GAME WARDEN MARK MERRIFIELD

**New Jersey**

JRep Anne Quirk Reports:

The New Jersey Conservation Officers Association congratulates Bob Driscoll for receiving New Jersey Fish and Wildlife's Conservation Police Officer of the Year Award for 2021. The Bureau of Law Enforcement's Chief Frank T. Panico announced the award with the following summary of Officer Driscoll's service to the state, its people, and natural resources.

CPO Driscoll demonstrates the self-motivation and perseverance that are instrumental to Conservation Police Officers. This past year Bob spearheaded patrols of the Hudson River and Newark Bay Complex to combat the taking of undersize and over the limit striped bass during the spring and fall runs. These waterways are vital to striped bass production and essential to the sustainability of the resource. His efforts resulted in the issuance of nearly 300 summonses for striped bass offenses. He managed this task while still addressing his inland patrol and enforcement responsibilities.

CPO Driscoll also serves as a Field Training Officer (F.T.O.) whenever necessary and has always taken on the challenge and the responsibility of teaching new officers the job. More recently, Bob has transferred to the Training Unit and has begun to play a vital role in training by cultivating professional standards and exhibiting a positive image of the Conservation Police. He was routinely called upon to assist with instructing classes on both the in house and statewide level. He has helped with our agency's quarterly firearms training and qualifications and has recently implemented and scheduled qualifications for CPOs that were issued .22 caliber rifles. CPO Driscoll has taught classes on Integrated Communication Assessment and Tactics (ICAT), Black Bear Incident Response for Law Enforcement, and Law Enforcement Interactions with Wildlife, and given presentations for students of Criminal Justice classes at Rutgers University.

In other association news, this summer's Annual Meeting will be the last presided over by Dan Faith as NJCOA President. For the last four years Dan has

## Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder Continued

brought great energy and ideas to the position, with a focus on fostering fellowship among our members. Covid precautions in place for two of those years meant adapting to outdoor association functions. We've had two fantastic summer meetings on the Nicklow family's deck overlooking the Mullica River. Our annual Executive Board meeting in March was preceded by a pheasant hunt for the third year in a row, with growing numbers of active and retired officers, family members, and hunting dogs in attendance. Thanks, Dan, for your contributions past, current, and future, as we strive to keep our Association's momentum going.



Photo caption: NJCOA Annual E-Board Meeting and Pheasant Hunt, with NJCOA President Dan Faith, fourth from left.

### Rhode Island

JRep Sheila Paquette Reports:

Rhode Island continued to see a major increase in boating activity, primarily from new recreational boaters. This influx of new boaters led to a surge in boating safety card testing and classes for the RI Boating Safety Card. The use of state parks and beaches was also greatly amplified this last year, as events began to return to the State Parks and Beaches, including our Newport Folk and Jazz Festivals, Campground usage, and special events from the RI Film Industry. Our department revised and updated our Use of Force Policy to model the statewide policy as well as created an

Officer Complaint form for the public as well as an Officer Compliment Form. Much of 2021 was spent completing mandatory and In-service trainings including Mental Health and First Aid Awareness for Officers, Taser, Firearm annual qualifications and low light shooting, Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault- complemented by inclusionary transgender training. We continue to execute the Joint Enforcement Agreement with NOAA and our vessel fleet benefitted from the purchase of a 28' Metal Craft patrol boat through the US Coast Guard Boating Safety Grant.

Officers attended the NASBLA sponsored Comprehensive Boat Accident Course as well as the International Hunter Education course. Our supervisory staff attended leadership schools through both the Roger Williams University School of Justice Studies and the NACLEC Introduction to Conservation Leadership experience. Officers also attended Drone Operator School and rescue swimmer training. A statewide early retirement program prompted the exit of three sworn officers at various ranks and offered promotions to staff. Our newest graduate from the police academy finished his Field Training requirements at the writing of this newsletter. The Department is anxiously awaiting two more candidates to complete the academy and is in the recruitment process for three more positions.

Cases to note within the past year include: Two indi-



viduals hunting illegally were caught by Environmental Police Officers (EPOs) after one hunter shot the other with a shotgun. Both men were charged with hunting out of season, hunting without landowner permission, hunting with illegal shot, and florescent or-

## Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder Continued

ange required. The injured hunter is alive and recovering. In September, EPOs were called to a complaint of poaching for blue crabs and bluefish. Upon arrival,



the Officers seized 14 undersized blue crabs and over 30 bluefish. The out of state subjects were issued summons' for exceeding the daily limit of bluefish, possession of undersized blue crabs, and non-resident in possession of blue crabs. A boat incident case that prompted a further investigation included one vessel wedging itself onto the rocks along our Jetty on the southern shore of the State. The operator was charged with violations to Rules of the Road. All four occupants survived.

2020 Officers who received awards include Richard Browning-Shikar Safari International Award, Lt. Christopher Duguid, Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's Association Award, and Lt. Frances Ethier (ret.), National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Award.

Vermont JRep Randy Hazard Reports:

### Vermont

I write this update on behalf of the Vermont Game Wardens' Association as we celebrate Daylight Savings Time. Although I spent the day on my snow-

mobile on a cold, windy Sunday, it was pleasant to not see it get dark until nearly 7 P.M!

### Association News

We have experienced some changes here in Vermont since the last time an update was given. For our Association, Warden Robert Currier finished his term as President and Warden Randy Hazard was voted in to replace him. We all appreciate all the hard work and would like to thank Bob for his efforts! Time Carey wrapped up his time as treasurer/secretary and welcomed Will Seegers in replacing him in that role. Cody Jackman stepped up to replace Randy Hazard as the Northeast Rep. Dustin Snyder saw his term expire and made way for Ethan Coffey to represent the Northwest. Asa Sargent completed his time representing the south and Kyle Isherwood filled his shoes in that role.

### Retirements

We saw Warden Specialist Russ Shopland hang up his uniform after nearly three decades of service to Vermont and the Warden Service. Spc. Shopland served as our chief firearms instructor for a large chunk of his time and kept the Division trained and well-equipped. Spc. Shopland patrolled the Hardwick district his whole career where he raised his children and continues to reside with his wife Amy. Congrats Russ and thank you for all you've done!

Lieutenant Keith Gallant also retired. Lt. Gallant covered the Bethel District as a field Warden and was known to hunters, poachers, and other Wardens as a scholar in Fish and Wildlife law as well as an expert outdoorsman. Keith served as the Sergeant in the Central supervisory district until he was promoted to Lieutenant responsible for supervising Wardens in the Southern supervisory district. Never one to sit idle, Keith kicked his retirement off properly with a successful self-guided Colorado elk hunt where he harvested a nice bull on public land with his son by his side. Congrats to Keith and continue enjoying retirement!

Sgt. Jenna Reed recently retired her beloved K-9 Moose where he will enjoy his retirement home with his family. Moose was known to Wardens as a helpful asset and was always a welcome sight at the many public speaking engagements Sgt. Reed attended with him. Congrats to Jenna and Moose!

### Promotions

The last few months have seen numerous Wardens further in their respective careers as well as new opportunities arise.

## **Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder Continued**

Warden Jason Gravelle has moved out of the field upon his promotion to Lieutenant of the Southern Supervisory district. Lt. Gravelle had patrolled the Windsor district his entire career.

Sergeant Trevor Szymanowski was promoted to Lieutenant of the Central Supervisory District. Lt. Szymanowski had previously patrolled the Lunenburg District in the northeast part of the state. Lt. Szymanowski will be busy learning how to drive a desk as well as learning a new geographical part of the state.

Sergeant Travis Buttle changed course and was promoted to Firearms Specialist upon the retirement of Spc. Shopland. Spc. Buttle will assume the duties and responsibilities of Chief Firearms Instructor in addition to continue to patrol the Shaftsbury District in the far southwest corner of the state.

Warden Jenna Reed has been promoted to Sergeant in the newly created Recreational Boating Enforcement and Education position. Sgt. Reed has jumped into the new position and has been navigating the complexities of the RBS grant. Recently, Sgt. Reed spearheaded a training opportunity held in Maine for the NASBLA Level 1 Boating Comprehensive Boating Accident Investigation course. This training will prepare Wardens to better investigate boating incidents.

Warden Robert Currier was promoted to the other newly created position of Detective Sergeant. Sgt. Currier was a tenacious investigator as a field Warden and quickly made contacts with partner federal law enforcement agencies. These relationships have seen repeat offenders held responsible on not just the state level, but also the federal level. Det. Sgt. Currier developed a knack for search warrants regrading social media and cell phones so well he conducted a lengthy presentation to the rest of the Warden Service at our annual in-service training. Det. Sgt. Currier has launched into his new position by assisting field Wardens in two complex cases involving interstate fish and wildlife crimes. We have no doubt Det. Sgt. Currier will shine in this new position and his efforts will make a huge difference in the protection of our natural resources.

Warden Dana Joyal was recently promoted to Ser-

geant of the Northwest Supervisory district. Sgt. Joyal will be assisting Lt. Wedin while continuing to patrol the Charlotte District along the shores of Lake Champlain.

Warden Tim Carey was promoted to Sergeant upon Spc. Buttle's promotion. Sgt. Carey will work with Lt. Gravelle while continuing to patrol the Wallingford District.

Warden Jeff Whipple was promoted to Sergeant of the Central Supervisory district. Sgt. Whipple will assist Lt. Szymanowski while continuing to patrol the Chelsea District along the Connecticut River.

Warden Randy Hazard was promoted to Sergeant of the Northeast Supervisory district upon Lt. Szymanowski's promotion. Sgt. Hazard will assist Lt. Fowler while continuing to patrol the Canaan District in the far northeastern corner of Vermont.

Congratulations to all our recently promoted Wardens and good luck in your new roles!

### **New Hires**

The Warden Service recently saw three new Trainees come on board and they are just beginning their training with the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council at the Vermont Police Academy. Our three new Trainees are Louis Daversa, Noelle Kline and John Troung. They have about a full year of training ahead of them between the police academy, Warden School, and field training. The Warden Service also hired Foster Rich, an already certified law enforcement officer who comes to us from a municipal police department. Trainee Rich will begin his Warden field training soon.

Good luck to all the new hires!

### **Final Notes**

Mark your calendars for the Vermont Game Wardens' Association annual meeting from June 1-June 3 with the meeting/party and raffle being held on June 2. The meeting will be held at 636 Point of Pines Road in Castleton, VT. There will be a pig roast, food, raffle, games, comradery, and plenty of networking. For more info, email Randy Hazard at [randy.hazard@vermont.gov](mailto:randy.hazard@vermont.gov).

Vermont will also be hosting the annual International Wildlife Crimestoppers conference at Burke Mountain from 6/26-6/29. June is a great time to visit Vermont and we're fortunate to have these two events happening here in that month. For more info regarding the IWC conference, contact Jeff Whipple at [jef-frey.whipple@vermont.gov](mailto:jef-frey.whipple@vermont.gov).

## 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](http://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**