

NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"



Officer of the Year 2022

Michael Neal

Conservation Warden

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Conference Facebook Page

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

Fall 2022

78th Edition NAWEOA Newsletter

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Webmaster/Newsletter Editor Mike Reeder Pennsylvania, US	webmaster@naweo.org
Conference Liaison Jason Sherwood Wyoming, US	conference@naweo.org

SOUVENIR PATCHES AVAILABLE

2017 is the only current patch available.

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAWEOA

Mail to: George A. Wilcox

P.O. Box 480

Millville, PA 17846

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



The President's Report

By Kurt Henry



Good day to all. The 2022 Conference was great success for all those that attended and for NAWEOA as an organization, kudos to the Officers of Tennessee for hosting a long overdue event. Nashville lived up to the

definitely miss the patrols of the back woods and waters with amazing officers and the 99% of the user groups we encounter on a daily basis. The 1% paints an ugly picture for those that live to enjoy any activity on our great lands we are blessed to patrol. Don't let them be the image we remember when we return to our friends and families but share the one of the newest angler you encountered or the person celebrating their first harvest of a game species. As I reflect on my very recent departure from a uniform, the 35 years in the field are all good memories!

hype it was describe to be and more. The COVID delay was a painful one for me as for many others. The lack of personal contact and networking two of the big benefits of our conferences was absent for too long. I thoroughly enjoyed every bit of the conference and saw it through a different set of eyes as I was there as a newly retired Manitoba Conservation Officer and with a girlfriend!! Hope she returns after her introduction at the banquet supper. LOL

Tennessee was a special conference for me as you have entrusted me to hold the position of President. I am grateful and humbled for that. The newly elected board is anxious to move forward into the operations of NAWEOA to follow up on items that may have slipped through the cracks during the COVID recess and new business. As the President I am thankful for their energy and like I said at my Vice President speech it is not an "I" position but more importantly a "we" position with the board and yourself as one of the almost 9000 officers that make up NAWEOA. That being said please, if you have questions or concerns reach out to myself or any other board member you feel a connection to and let us know how we are doing, what could be better, and all your ideas bouncing around in your head during the countless hours we spend in our patrol units on various operations.

The fall is quickly approaching, sunrises are happening later and later each day which always seems to have an effect on my excitement to go into the field and discover what newest excuses the violators with come up with to defend their actions. I will

The planning is well underway for our 2023 convention in Salt Lake City. Look for the registration soon on our website and do some google searches of the endless possibilities Utah has to offer. Plan to come early or stay late as there is lots to see and do. The organizers, officers, and management of Utah will no doubt host a top notch conference. Looking forward to see old and making new contacts in July 2023.

Remember it is our families and friends that await our safe return at the end of each shift! Make sure that is your priority as you prepare for the events that await us in each contact we make in the field. Your agencies employ you but it's your families that cherish you!

Be safe out there!

Kurt Henry

NAWEOA President



The Vice President's Report

By Larry Hergenroeder



Greeting NA-
WEOA members,

I am grateful for the opportunity to represent you all as your NAWEOA Vice-President. Even though the V-P position was uncontested, I am still humbled

by those informing me of their intended support before the first vote had been cast. As you all know, the postponements of the 2020 and 2021 conference made for a void in the voting process of the executive board but gained was additional appointment time to continue serving as the Region 7 Director. Serving in that capacity for five years, afforded the opportunity to further my knowledge with the intricate workings of NAWEOA. I hope to continue implementing new facets that will keep NAWEOA moving forward. One of the most important roles as your NAWEOA Vice-President is the processing of the many annual NAWEOA awards presented at each summer conference. It's never too early to start penning nominations for those who perform at the highest level in our profession. What better platform to be honored in than the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association's international stage? I cannot think of a better venue where peers from US and Canada are present to share in the memberships success. From those that have served for decades to those experiencing their first year in this profession, success is contagious and fosters enhanced performance at all levels.

I would like to thank all of those NAWEOA members that attended the 2022 NAWEOA Summer Conference in Nashville, Tennessee and give a standing ovation to Josh Landrum and his conference staff team from the Tennessee Wildlife Officers Association (TWOA) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. These men and women endured two postponements and yet were able to work with the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel renegotiating annually in order to present the NAWEOA membership with a fantastic experience in Nashville, TN. A lot of work goes into the planning and execution of the annual summer conference and my hat is off to all that had a part in making this long-awaited return a success. New this year was the Conference App. for your

smartphones. Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt and Region 4 Director/Conference Liaison Jason Sherwood and Webmaster Mike Reeder brought this idea to life at this year's conference with a lot of positive feedback. Officer messaging and training surveys were at the touch of a button as well as savings for the host in unnecessary printing costs. This Conference App is now part of the NAWEOA hosting contract moving forward. Only expect better things to come as the App evolves each year.

As I look ahead to 2023, the NAWEOA membership is in good hands with Conference Chairman Sean Spencer and his conference committee from Utah. They are well into the planning process for Provo, Utah with opening ceremonies on Monday July 11th-14th. The link for booking your hotel room will be available soon so visit the NAWEOA website for details in the next few weeks. As we search for a host for 2024, I encourage any jurisdiction interested to contact Conference Liaison Jason Sherwood for guidance on how to make your aspirations a reality. The contract for 2025 has been signed and Erie, PA will be your host location brought to you by the Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association.

Lastly, I would like to recognize Shawn Farrell of New Brunswick, Canada. Shawn has served the NAWEOA membership for over a decade. As parting Past President, Shawn has graciously requested to continue volunteering as the Fallen Officer Liaison for NAWEOA where he will continue to be the link between the families of fallen officers and NAWEOA assuring their sacrifice will be honored at the annual summer conference.

Thank you again for this opportunity and I am excited to serve the NAWEOA membership in this role.

The Past President's Report

By Rick Langley



tious and it was so good to see old friends and make a few more new friends. While we all felt a little rusty with the elements of the conference, in the end it all came together and now we are heading rapidly towards 2023 and Utah.

I get to hand over the NAWEOA reins to your new President, Kurt Henry from Manitoba and your new Vice President, Larry Hergenroeder from Pennsylvania. I have a lot of faith in these two and trust that they will take NAWEOA to good places. That being said, I would like to thank Past President Shawn Farrell for his dedication and leadership during his 10 years on the Executive board. Ten years is a lot of time! I have to say that it has been a long 3 years as President and I am ready to slide into the background as the Past President. It is time to move forward with new blood and new priorities.

Election Results

We were finally able to hold elections now that we had the membership together at a conference. Vice President Kurt Henry ran unopposed for the Presidency. Region 7 Director, Larry Hergenroeder ran unopposed for the Vice President seat. Both Martin Thabault (Region 2 Director) and Josh Thibodeau (Region 2 Director) ran unopposed for their second terms. Region 1 Director, Brock Lockhart of Saskatchewan fulfilled his 2 terms and we had 2 nominations for that seat. Shawn Brinsky of British Columbia and Chris Maier of Saskatchewan were both nominated, but we can only have 1 winner. The membership voted in Chris Maier as the new Region 1 Director. Congratulations Chris! With Director Hergenroeder taking the Vice President seat, it created a mid-term vacancy in the Region 7 Director position, and the by-laws allow for the appointment of an interim Director. Kris MacCabe of Maine was appointed by the President to serve out the last year of Hergenroeder's term. All of the U.S. Regional Directors will finish out their terms and these seats will be up for election when we gather in Utah in 2023. I would also like to thank Brock Lockhart for his extended terms as the Region 1 Director. Brock was not able to attend the conference due to ongoing health issues, but we wish him well and pray for a full recovery!



2022 NAWEOA Conference Nashville, Tennessee

NAWEOA Financial Report

By Steve Beltran

A full comprehensive report was given to the accountant Paul Link is going to prepare our taxes general membership. It was approved after a question again this year. and answer period. Our 2022 budget was also presented and voted on. Any member having any question or concern can contact me at secretary@naweo.org and or any member of the executive board. Our 2022 fiscal year ended June 31st and our

I am proud to serve you and welcome any and all comments.

Draft Budget

Last updated 3/15/2022

Income	2022-2023	Comments
Conference	\$ 44,500.00	
Dues	\$ 35,000.00	Estimate base on recent years dues
IGW Profits Share	\$ 20,000.00	
Interest	\$ 250.00	
Promotional Sales		
Travel Reimbursements		
Total Income	\$ 99,750.00	
Expense	2022-2023	
Administrative Costs	\$ 11,906.00	See Administrative Worksheet
Affiliation Dues	\$ 750.00	ANRET, IAFWA and NACLEC dues.
Awards	\$ 2,250.00	See award sheet for detail
Conference Expenses	\$ 21,000.00	See conference expenses sheet for detail
Donations	\$ -	See Donation sheet for detail
Meetings/Travel-Executive	\$ 30,000.00	See Meetings and Travel sheet.
Meetings/Travel-Service	\$ -	See Meetings and Travel sheet.
Membership Services	\$ 5,500.00	See membership services sheet,
Memorial Donations and Expenses	\$ 2,550.00	See Memorial Services worksheet
Newsletter	\$ 1,250.00	See Newsletter Expenses worksheet
Promotional Items Expenses	\$ 2,950.00	Patches and pins
Web Site Expenses	\$ 500.00	See Website Expenses worksheet
Total Expense	\$ 78,656.00	

Income	\$ 99,750.00
Expense	\$ 78,656.00
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 21,094.00

NAWEOA Conference Liaison Report

By Jason Sherwood

For those who attended the 2022 conference, I hope you're still smiling from the experience! For those who missed it, I'll tell you that you really missed out on a quite the experience! Our Tennessee hosts put on an amazing event, unsurprisingly with top-notch entertainment at every turn. While it wasn't a big money-maker for NAWEOA, this conference was the perfect event to get us back together and freshen up game warden camaraderie. The Tennessee Wildlife Officers Association can't be thanked enough for their generous hospitality!

Last week, I was able to virtually attend a planning meeting for the 2023 Conference in Provo Utah. It appears they have a great team of conservation officers working diligently to put on another great event next summer. Provo is going to be another unique spot, with tons of amenities available, and also some great options for unique natural resources. This will be a great opportunity to bring the family and knock several national parks off your bucket list with some relatively easy drives.

Please note, we have adjusted the dates for the 2022 conference by a day! In order to facilitate use of public transportation (likely free for officers and certainly much cheaper than renting a car to park at the conference hotel for the week), it was necessary to move the dates to July 10 – 15, 2023. Opening ceremonies will be on Tuesday, July 11, with closing ceremonies and the banquet on Friday July 14. The conference hotel has offered to shift existing reservations to the new dates, but, as always, I'd recommend giving them a call this winter to verify everything is in order.

Whether you're making new, or just checking up your existing reservations, the Provo Marriott can be reached at 801-377-4700. They have not gotten us a group "code" yet, so I'd recommend using the link, <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1656023130888&key=GRP&app=resvlink> to ensure you get the conference rate. The conference rate will not be honored for reservations made after June 10, 2023.

Utah DNR works closely with their Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and is planning a schedule chock-full of certified training. If you have



CONFERENCE NEWS

PROVO, UTAH

JULY 10-15, 2023

\$139/NIGHT

PROVO MARRIOTT

SEE THE 2022 CONFERENCE APP FOR THE LINK!

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!

GAMEWARDENSCONFERENCE22@GMAIL.COM

STAY INFORMED!

CONFERENCE FACEBOOK GROUP

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

BASIC SCHEDULE:

JULY 11 - OPENING CEREMONIES
JULY 14 - CLOSING/BANQUET



NAWEOA Conference Liaison Report

By Jason Sherwood

an idea for a class you'd like to see offered (especially if you can present it), please shoot a quick email with the class outline and a brief instructor bio to GameWardensConference22@gmail.com before December 1, 2022. We're still working out registration details, but I know there will be some hefty discounts available to volunteer instructors (and it is a great way to help justify your trip to your agency administrators). We are mostly looking for engaging courses that can be POST-certified, provide skills most game wardens can use regularly, and especially types of training that might not be offered readily by home agencies. We plan to have the training schedule set in early January, when registration opens.

We had a great meeting with a potential host agency in August to start discussions for the 2024 conference. They are north of the border and would provide a very popular location, but are taking a little more time to check a few details and ensure their officer association is equally prepared for the hosting gig before we announce anything officially... Of course, Pennsylvania is ahead of schedule in their 2025 plans, and another association is already getting the ball rolling for a bid to host the 2026 conference (which will also coincide with a big anniversary for their local wildlife commission). If you or your local association would be interested in hosting, or even helping with an event at another conference, please reach out to me at conference@naweo.org!

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Want to present training at the 2023 conference?

Send an email with your course outline and instructor bio to GameWardensConference22@gmail.com

DEADLINE: DEC 1, 2022

Information regarding **NAWEOA Jurisdictional Representatives,**

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

Can be found elsewhere on the NAWEOA website

naweo.org

**2023 Conference
Provo, Utah**



**EXPERIENCE
PROVO**



**Utah 2023
7/10/22 - 7/15/22**



**Opening Ceremonies - July 11th
Banquet Dinner - July 14th**



Region 1 Director Chris Maier



Greetings from Region 1!

My name is Chris Maier, I was recently elected as Region 1 director at the recent NAWEOA convention in Nashville. Unfortunately I could not attend this year due to some important

dates for my family (sister got married, Parents 50th wedding anniversary and dad's 75th). I helped plan my parents anniversary party and I'm sure it was almost (sarcasm) as lively as the Jason Aldean bar experience at Nashville. I've heard from quite a few attendees that I missed out on an excellent convention with possibly the best entertainment that could be offered.

A bit of an intro about myself. I have worked in the province of Saskatchewan, protecting the natural resources for 18 years, in Conservation terms, I'd be close to halfway through my career..... I have worked most of this time in Saskatoon dealing mainly with urban wildlife, captive wildlife, fisheries and hunting work. I am a provincial firearms and chemical immobilization instructor, and recently promoted to Sgt for the Saskatoon Field office.

I have been married for 17 years to my wife Melanie and we have 2 children. My son Dylan is an engineering student at the University of Saskatchewan, and my daughter Amelia is in high school currently trying to have her dad patiently teach her how to drive a car.

When I first started with the government I was invited to become a SACO member (Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers) and shortly after I attended my first convention. I'm pretty sure it was held in Meadow Lake and unbeknownst to me at the time but I was nominated for the Greg Kuny Labour Service seasonal officer of the year. I didn't win the award that night, but the officer that did win was

more than deserving of the award and is still someone I admire as a very knowledgeable, hard working and dedicated officer. Of course at these conventions usually there is usually a bit of camaraderie and socializing and I quickly gained an appreciation for SACO. As soon as there was an opening I put my name forward and was elected on as a regional rep. I stayed on as a rep for 6 years until I was nominated as Vice President and followed onto the role of president. My time with SACO has shown me a great appreciation as well as the importance for organizations such as NAWEOA to promote the profession and recognize the hard work we all do protecting the natural resources.

I would like to thank all of the people that put their trust in me and voted for me at the NAWEOA convention even though I was unable to attend. I am looking forward to NAWEOA in Utah next year as well as meeting a bunch of new NAWEOA members.

I'd also like to wish all of you a safe, productive and happy fall. We are approaching the best time of the year for game warden work. Be safe!

Chris Maier

Region 1 Director

Saskatchewan Association of Conservation

Officers

Hello and warm welcome from Saskatchewan..... and trust me it is warm. Throughout much of our province, we are in the barrel of a heatwave, my local long-range forecast shows temperatures firmly in the mid 30's (roughly 95 for our southern counterparts). So, it's plenty warm enough for us Canadians. Luckily, I had the opportunity to attend my first NAWEOA convention in Nashville, Tennessee back in July, thankfully I got practiced up on how to beat the heat in Tennessee. The convention was excellent, and I want to send another huge thank you out to the Tennessee Officers Association and members for everything that they did to make the convention memorable.

Region 1 Director
Chris Maier
Continued

Thankfully after a long wait the Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers got to host our first in person convention since the pandemic. Saskatoon hosted us in their city in late April. The event was well attended by many of our officers, members and partners throughout the province and the country. It was a fun weekend of socializing, comradery and catching up with folks we may not have seen since in several years. Notably, we also had the chance to honor some of our award recipients for 2021. A special congratulations needs to go out to our Officer of the Year winners Conservation Officer Ted Glass and Detective Sergeant Zolton Molnar.

In the fall of 2020, the Saskatchewan Women in Policing (SWIP) was established. SWIP represents all women in policing and help to promote mentorship and advocate for advancement of leadership in the policing field. In 2022, SWIP held their first convention and award ceremony. We are proud to say that Conservation Officer Caitlyn Lee was awarded the Officer of the Year award, we are very proud of Caitlyn and her efforts in being the first SWIP Officer of the Year recipient.

Moving through the summer of 2022, we currently have 15 new recruits working through their field training portion of their academy training. Our recruits have already completed 11 out of the 16 weeks of their formal academy training. They have now been distributed throughout the province to complete two months of on-the-job field training where they will be mentored by experience conservation officers. At the end of August, they will return to the academy to complete their formal academy training, we wish them all the best in their future careers with our service. In addition to these 15 new officers, we are also proud to announce that our two new K-9 partners have been certified and our finishing up their training and should be field and patrol ready for the beginning of September. We are anxiously awaiting what our furry friends "Bruce" and "Cage" the Belgian Malinois's (and of course their handlers) will be able to add to our service.

It is a time of great growth for our service with the addition of the new staff mentioned above. In April of

this year, we also formally made the move away from the Ministry of Environment and are now in our new home with the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety and the Provincial Protective Services Branch. This new branch formally brings together all Provincial law enforcement services under one roof. To say that we have seen some change over the past 6 months would be an understatement. Our formal duties and job mandates have not changed up to this point and we are still focused on the protection of the environment and our natural resources. As of 2019, we have taken on a new focus on public safety and formal policing duties, but for the most part this has been a realistic evolution for our service.

The farmers are beginning their harvest and the crops are starting to come off which is the first sign that summer is coming to an end. Fall is right around the corner and the call volume will no doubt start to skyrocket across the province. Happy hunting to all our partners in conservation law enforcement, stay safe and go make those files.

Jared Yeo

President

Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers

Alberta Game Wardens Association (AGWA)

Good day to you all, and I hope you're doing well! Greetings from the Alberta Game Warden Association!

As President, I wish I had a lot more events, announcements, and initiatives to entertain you with, however as I'm sure you can relate, the last few years have not been easy for our Members and Association.

Regardless, there have been some positives I would like to highlight, and upcoming events we're getting excited about in AGWA.

2022 Officer of the Year

It is with great pleasure that I announce that District Fish and Wildlife Officer John Elias, was selected as the 2022 Officer of the Year! Mr. Elias has been a dedicated Game Warden for many years, currently serving out of the Evansburg District. In addition to

Region 1 Director Chris Maier Continued

the daily above and beyond level of service he provides, Mr. Elias is the Chief Firearms Instructor, and played a key role successfully implementing the carbine rifle program for us Officers. This had been a difficult task as it involved logistics to acquire over 120 rifles when supply and demand were at its worst, and developing and delivering multiple week long training courses when faced with many challenges. Regardless of all of this, the carbine program was successfully implemented ensuring our front line Officers now have the best firearm equipment to aid them in their law enforcement and human wildlife conflict duties. Congratulations on your award Sir, well deserved!



AGWA Campout

As I'm sure for many of you, event planning has not been easy the last while, however in spite of this, we are excited to say that August 26-28, 2022 we are bringing back our annual campout! As I write this, I am packing my gear for the event this weekend, and weather looks great! Special thanks to our Social Chair; Dana Kopp for sticking out the numerous cancellations over the last few years, and persevering through to bring us our event this year!

Pope Visit

In July, Alberta was honoured by a visit by the Pope who toured the Edmonton and Ponoka area for several days. Several of our Members stepped up to provide traffic control, site security, and even a boat out-

ing on Lac St. Anne. We now feel that since the Pope has blessed one of our fleet vessels, we now have a special tool which will help us catch those fish poachers!



Joint Patrol with Transport Canada

Earlier this spring, I was sent to a boat safety seminar for law enforcement delivered by Transport Canada in Red Deer. The presenter, Jason Rosadiuk (whose cousin is a serving Fish and Wildlife Officer by chance,) delivered a significant amount of useful information to aid all agencies performing boat safety enforcement. As an added bonus, Mr. Rosadiuk joined me on several boat patrols on Sylvan and Pine Lake in August, in which we conducted numerous vessel inspections, addressed deficiencies, and provided education to the public (and found some fisheries infractions as well!)

For those in Alberta, Mr. Rosadiuk has made it abundantly clear, he is willing to travel throughout to provide this same opportunity to other Districts and agencies, as a Boat Safety Officer. For those in other jurisdictions, I would encourage you to reach out to your regional Transport Canada office, as these individuals exist throughout Canada and would likely be willing to offer the same.

I can't over emphasize how much I, and the public benefited from this experience, so I encourage you to take the initiative to have the same opportunity!

I just want to close by thanking our Members and particularly those on my Executive Team for all that they do. Until I found myself on the AGWA Executive, I didn't realize how much time and effort was

Region 1 Director Chris Maier Continued

required of the position. It's important to recognize those that step up to these important leadership roles, so I am extremely grateful to my team for the support they provide, as this truly is a team effort!

As we transition into our "busy season" (even though it seems we're always busy,) I wish you a safe and successful hunting season, and thank-you for the important service you provide to the public!

Sam Pidwerbeski

President

Alberta Game Warden Association

British Columbia

Every summer it seems we can't escape the fact the wildfire and smoke are dictating our spare time in the late summer and 2022 is no different. We are experiencing significant warm temps in the low to mid thirties for extended periods of time throughout the southern half of the Province. Fire ban patrols, area restriction patrols add to the day to day pressures of ever increasing workloads and decreasing resources in which to address them. However we persevere because we have the best jobs on the planet!

Some very sad news hit close to home here in the Penticton Office in April of 2022 when Conservation Officer Clayton DEBRUIN took his own life amidst a myriad of problems plaguing his mental health. This is the second suicide within the COS in the last year and the only ones that I can remember within the last 22 years. I hope this is just a coincidence and not an indicator of things to come. As anyone that has been affected by suicide can attest the questions keep haunting as to why, and what could have been done. The bottom line is that we have to keep our mental health in check and in balance the same way we keep our physical health in check and in balance. If anything good can come this loss was that it gave all of us the time to stop and reflect on our own lives and take account of what is important with our close families as well as our extended law enforcement family. Take care of yourselves and be safe!



From the Society of British Columbia Conservation Officers we finally had our Annual General Meeting in June and voted in a new executive. So I James ZUCHELLI am now officially the President, backed by Denny Chretien as our VP and former treasurer. We were very excited to have a contingent of BCCOS representation in Nashville at NAWEOA and we are hoping to continue in Utah next year and into the future. The stories and relationships and cross pollination that occurs at these conferences are invaluable and the SBCCOS is seriously looking at the potential to host a NAWEOA Conference in the not too distant future. This is in the very preliminary stages and nothing concrete has been decided but we are excited at the potential to host another conference.

I would like to recognize the retirement of Detective Sergeant Steve JACOBI who spent 27 years with the BCCOS working in the Lower Mainland for his entire career. Steve was integral as an instructor in our defensive tactics program. Steve was an inspiration for many young officers that cut their teeth learning the job in the busy Lower Mainland districts in

British Columbia. Steve always had a calm reassuring demeanor and an air of confidence that was magnetic to those that worked with him. He positively influenced a lot of officers in the Province and his wisdom and experience will be sorely missed. We wish him all the best in his retirement from the BCCOS.

The BCCOS is continuing with a pilot project where retired officers can return to the field as auxiliaries and work the remote northern posts during the peak times. The retired officers last year got to experience some amazing patrols in some very remote places and got to tick off some bucket list items.

Our Aquatic Invasive Species initiative to combat invasive mussels getting into BC waters had another successful field season inspecting and decontaminating thousands of water craft coming into the Province at several border and highway inspection

stations. This is a very important initiative as those of you with these mussels in your water courses can attest to. The motto is "Clean, Drain, Dry" and "don't move a mussel". Hats off to these folks for doing their best to keep the Province of BC free from invasive mussels.

Now that we have mostly have Covid in the rearview mirror we are super excited to get back to the traditional game warden work that we all got into the line of work to do. Hunting season is right around the corner and soon enough we will knee deep in investigations, blood guts and the regular game warden turmoil. Enjoy the traditions, work hard, play hard and have a safe fall.

James A. ZUCHELLI,

President of the Society of BC Conservation Officers.

Region 2 Director Martin Thabault



For many of us this is the busiest time of year. As a full time training officer, I am not currently involved in field operations. I hit the road the week after we returned from the summer conference in Nashville and come New Year I will

have spent 15 weeks away from home traveling across the country. I do miss the fall days spent outdoors protecting our natural resources but I also truly enjoy meeting and exchanging with colleagues during annual recertifications and training.

We finally managed to have a summer conference after a 3-year hiatus. Many thanks to the Tennessee Wildlife Officers Association for their perseverance through these trying times. This year we had an election for all the Canadian Director positions and I had the privilege to be reelected for a second and final term. I promise to do my best to serve our organization and to represent all of region 2's jurisdictions. Speaking of Region 2, three of our four J-Reps attended in Nashville. Thank you April (Manitoba),

Jason (National Capital Commission) and Julie (Environment Canada, Wildlife Enforcement) for your dedication to NAWEOA! April was also the lucky Canadian winner of the Officer Exchange and plans to visit New Mexico. The US winner is my friend Jerry Czech from the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Jerry is currently making plans to visit British Columbia.

On a final note, please consider making nominations for our NAWEOA awards. Nominations for some of our awards must be received prior to April 1, so there is still time. Also don't forget that your NAWEOA Board of Directors can print certificates for retiring Officers.

Until next time!

Region 3 Director Josh Thibodeau



Hello everyone,

I now am on my second elected term as region 3 Director and I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to continue to represent the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, Canada. I really enjoy my role as region 3

director and staying very involved in this great Association.

The 2022 summer conference in Nashville Tennessee did not disappoint, I would like to thank the Tennessee Game Wardens Association, conference Liaison/Region 4 Director Jason Sherwood and all involved in putting this conference together. It was a great week of comradery, training and business. It was great to see new faces and old friends after a long break because of Covid-19. Hats off to Tennessee!

During the summer conference there was some changes to the NAWEOA executive board as certain positions were up for election. I would like to thank former past president Shawn Farrell and former region 1 director Brock Lockhart for all their dedication and commitment to NAWEOA. You will be missed around the executive table. I would like to congratulate newly elected President Kurt Henry, Vice President Larry Hergenroeder and Region 1 Director Chris Maier. I would also like to congratulate Region 2 Director Martin Thabault on his re-election. In addition, I would like to welcome newly appointed Region 7 Director Kris MacCabe and last but not least Former President Rick Langley will move into the Past President role. Thank you Rick for your great leadership over the last few years in your role as President. I look forward to working with everyone!

On August 24th I had the pleasure of presenting the 2022 region 3 Torch Award to New Brunswick Conservation Officer Simon Comeau. Congratulations Simon on a much-deserved award.

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! Take care and stay safe!

Bravery Act by Quebec Wildlife Protection Officers

On Tuesday June 7th 2022 Sergeant Maxime Charron and Wildlife Protection Officer Jean-François Guy from the Baie-Comeau office were patrolling in the area of Lake Rossiter near the town of Baie-Trinité (Québec). They noticed a couple of elderly people fishing from a small Jon boat. They proceeded with a routine license check and no violations are observed. Before leaving, the Officers advised the elderly couple to be very careful as the weather forecast called for bad boating conditions later in the day which could be a concern given their smaller craft.

Approximately an hour later, Sgt. Charron having a bad hunch, the officers decide to go back to Lake Rossiter. They immediately notice an overturned Jon boat and one person floating unconsciously on the water's surface. The other boater is struggling to stay afloat in the icy water. Protection Officer Guy promptly calls 911 while Sgt. Charron tries to throw a rope at the distressed angler who is too panicked to grab it. Sgt. Charron decides the best course of action is to swim to the rescue of the man. Having successfully brought the conscious fisherman back to shore, Sgt. Charron swims back to rescue the unconscious wife. He manages to bring her back to the shore but the woman has no vital signs. Sgt. Charron and Officer Guy provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation for 45 minutes before emergency responders finally arrive on the scene.

Both victims are taken to the Sept-Îles hospital where the husband stays in intensive care for 3 days. Unfortunately, his wife could not be resuscitated and was later pronounced dead.

What seemed like a routine patrol quickly turned into a critical rescue mission for these two dedicated individuals. Their actions make us all proud to be "Agents de protection de la faune" (Wildlife Protection Officers).

Region 4 Director Jason Sherwood



After once again enjoying the personal company of game wardens from around the region—and the rest of the continent at this summer's conference, most of Region 4's warden force is now digging back into hunting seasons and preparing for Labor Day holiday shenanigans. As is the "norm" these days,

most agencies are very short-staffed, actively recruiting, and working extra hard to meet demands while the world around us throws extra curve-balls and supply-chain shortages to keep everyone on their toes.

Below are a couple of highlights showcasing the positive work some of our region's officers and agencies are accomplishing:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Area Wildlife Manager Mark Lamb was recently recognized with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (WAFWA) Pogue-Elms Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

On July 13, 2022 Mark Lamb, a 36-year veteran wildlife officer for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, was presented with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Pogue-Elms Law Enforcement Officer of the year at WAFWA's Summer Meeting. During his acceptance speech, Lamb was thankful to WAFWA, CPW, his family, and all the game wardens out there "who every day go to work to protect our resources." CPW Acting Director Heather Dugan said that Lamb's legacy with the agency and nomination for the Pogue-Elms Award is about mentorship and generational impact with his community, peers and employees. "Mark's reputation as a wildlife officer in the area is one of fairness and even-handedness," Dugan said.

Lamb has been a bright mentor for the agency. He has the power of positivity, rubbing off and influencing anyone around that will listen. He has built

his life, career and family around the principle that you can have a say in your outlook on life, simply by remaining positive. He has trained every single wildlife officer for the State of Colorado over the last 25 plus years as the agency's primary defensive tactics instructor and has played a role in several other significant steps throughout their year of training, personally impacting every officer. However, it's the small moments he takes to invest in his co-workers and employee's lives that are endless and forever impactful. In one instance, Lamb shared a canoe with a fellow officer on the Yampa River who was working through the recent loss of his son - the time he spent listening, providing gentle words of encouragement and the effort to steer the young father back to a positive view on life and relationships helped redirect a painful wound. Lamb's emphasis on his officers' families and their marriages has provided a buoy for his team as they have worked through weddings and divorces, new babies and life's tragedies. As a testament to the importance of his own family in his life he was joined at the ceremony by his wife of 36 years, Sheila; his son, Jared, who is also a CPW wildlife officer, and his fiancée; and his daughter Samantha and her boyfriend, Seth Schwolert, another CPW wildlife officer.



WAFWA President Jennifer Psyllakis (left) presenting Colorado Parks and Wildlife Area Wildlife Manager Mark Lamb (right) with the 2022 Pogue-Elms Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Photo by Don P Brown of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC).

Region 4 Director Jason Sherwood

Man receives up to two years prison time for bighorn sheep poaching

Wyoming (WNE) — A man already in prison for multiple poaching violations pleaded guilty and was sentenced recently in Park County District Court to between 20 and 24 months in a state penitentiary to be served following his term in Sheridan County, also on a felony poaching conviction.

He was also assessed \$15,000 in restitution and more than \$10,000 in fines for harvesting a bighorn sheep without a license in 2012.

Russell Vick, 56, of Alabama, also pleaded guilty to two misdemeanors for assisting another man's illegal harvest of a bighorn sheep.

Vick illegally hunted sheep in the South Fork Drainage of Wyoming in 2012 along with Oklahoma resident, Robert Underwood, who was charged with crimes related to poaching.

Robert Underwood and his son, David Underwood, along with Vick, went on a hunting trip in Park County in late October of 2012. Robert Underwood, who also claimed Wyoming residency from an address in Gillette, was the only one found possessing a bighorn hunting license for Hunt Area 3 at the time.

He also claimed at a Sheridan Game and Fish check station that he had harvested the group's only sheep on Oct. 28.

Robert Underwood turned his legally harvested sheep into the check station on Oct. 29 and claimed he had shot it on the 28th, even though photos proved he did on the 27th.

But using photographic analysis, investigators found substantial evidence pointing to at least one sheep hunted by the group near Legg Creek in the South Fork, also in Hunt Area 3.

Vick is accused of killing a sheep on the 28th. Separate pictures were found of both Vick and Robert Underwood posing with this carcass.

Two Wyoming Men Convicted on Multiple Wildlife Violations

GREEN RIVER - Two Wyoming men were recently convicted on multiple wildlife violations in Sweetwater County. What started with concerns about wasted game birds led Wyoming Game and Fish Department game wardens — in coordination with Green River probation and parole officers — to uncover numerous wildlife violations committed in 2019 and 2020 by Justin Chewning and Steven Macy, resulting in close to \$15,000 in fines and loss of hunting and fishing privileges for both men.

During the course of a wasted game bird investigation, Game and Fish wardens learned between Oct. 1 - Oct. 6, 2019 both Chewning and Macy illegally killed mature bull elk within Elk Hunt Area 100 during the closed season, which they tagged with general elk licenses.

Wardens were able to determine the locations where the elk were killed. They also found the carcass from the bull elk illegally killed by Chewning on Oct. 1, 2019. DNA analysis conducted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Forensics Laboratory confirmed the carcass at the kill site was a match to the skull and antlers Chewning had in his possession. The lab verified there was a 1 in 5 billion chance that another elk had the same DNA.

On Oct. 4, 2020 Chewning and Macy were hunting deer in Sublette county when Macy illegally killed a buck mule deer and Chewning illegally tagged it. Later that same day, while returning from the Pinedale area to Rock Springs, the two men hunted elk in Elk Hunt Area 100 with general elk licenses. Elk Area 100 is limited quota and didn't open until Oct. 8, 2020 for properly licensed hunters. Macy shot and killed two mature bull elk, and Chewning tagged one of the two illegally killed bull elk with his general elk license.

Chewning was charged with ten violations which included five counts of intentionally taking antlered big game without a license or during a closed season; two counts of transferring a license; two counts of intentionally wasting edible portions of game bird and big game back straps; and five counts of transporting game without a Wyoming Interstate Game Tag, related to five skulls with antlers attached that Chewning had illegally collected. Chewning

Region 4 Director Jason Sherwood

pleaded guilty to three counts of intentionally taking antlered bull elk without a proper license, one count of taking a buck mule deer without a license, and one count of transferring a license. Chewning's hunting and fishing privileges were suspended for fifteen years and was ordered to pay fines of \$1,585 and restitution of \$7,000. All wildlife seized was forfeited to the State of Wyoming. All other charges were dismissed.

Macy was charged with five counts of intentionally taking antlered big game without a license or during a closed season and two counts of transferring a license. Macy pleaded no contest to one count of taking a buck mule deer without a license and two counts of intentionally taking a bull elk without the proper license. Macy's hunting and fishing privileges were suspended for two years and was ordered to pay \$5,640 in fines, restitution of \$1,500 and to forfeit the

Browning .338 rifle used in the commission of these crimes to the State of Wyoming. All other charges were dismissed.

Game Warden Kelli Pauling said: "This investigation would not have been successful without the skilled assistance provided by Green River Probation and Parole Office, the Sweetwater County Sheriff's Department, the Sweetwater County Attorney's Office and the Sublette County Attorney's Office."



Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt



throughout this past year. You are all a great asset to making sure information flows to and from our NAWEOA family.

Well, it finally happened, the 2022 NAWEOA annual conference in Nashville, TN! After two years of postponement many thought it was doomed. Everyone was ready to get out and attend, and it showed. For those who could not make it, we had a great turnout. Many thanks go out to Josh Landrum (former TWA President), and the MANY TN officers for a great conference. This took countless hours of planning,

and it went off with a success. They had great trainings, outings, and an awesome Warden Skills Competition. I personally spoke with multiple first time attendees at the conference who say they are now hooked and promise to return to many more! I encourage any of you officers that have never attended, or have in the past but have not in recent years, please consider coming to the conferences. Your NAWEOA Board is diligently seeking out new ways to improve and to attract new attendees. The networking each of you will gain is invaluable. Officers also gain some valuable training, as well as potential new technology and ideas to bring back to your respective agencies. We are all looking forward to our next conference in 2023. Your Utah officers have been hard at work and are ready to show the NAWEOA membership a great time.

Most recently at the conference in Nashville, some elections were held. I would like to formally welcome Kurt Henry as our new President, and Larry Hergenroeder as our new VP. Thank you Kurt for your service for the past few years as VP, and Larry for your service as the Region 7 Director. Also, please welcome Chris Maier as the new Region 1 Director from Saskatchewan, and Chris MacCabe, from Maine, as your new director from Region 7. I look forward to working with you all, and what the future

Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt

holds for NAWEOA!

As the summer boating season winds down, this brings in one of the busiest times of the year for many of our officers.....Hunting seasons. Even with a few months still left in 2022, now is the time to be thinking about recognizing your peers for a job well done this year, by nominating them for our NAWEOA Officer awards. Please consider recognizing your peers for their efforts thus far. Your NAWEOA board looks forward to recognizing you all at the annual conference.

Everyone be safe, and I look forward to hopefully seeing you in Utah 2023!

North Dakota

One new thing for Game Wardens in ND is the implementation of NDGF "Behind the Badge." This is a new segment where Wardens are sharing their field stories of their choosing. These provide readers insight into the daily lives of wildlife enforcement officers in North Dakota. Many of these narratives are humorous, while some are educational. The stories are posted on the NDGF Dept. webpage, <https://gf.nd.gov/enforcement/behind-the-badge>, and their Facebook page.

Earlier this summer, two wardens were presented with NDPOA Lifesaving Awards. Back in Sept. 2021, Wardens Jerad Bluem and Jeff Sieger responded to an emergency call on the Missouri River. An individual had slipped and fallen on a pontoon boat, which caused a severe laceration in his thigh, severing his femoral artery. The two officers responded, used their medical training and equipment, including a tourniquet and hand pressure, to control the heavy bleeding. The wardens transferred the subject to their patrol boat and transported him to the nearest boat ramp and into an ambulance. Without the quick, professional response, the outcome of the patient would have most likely been drastically different. Thank you Wardens Bluem and Sieger for your dedicated service.

Kansas:

Similar to many other state DNR agencies, Kansas still struggles to recruit applicants for open/vacated positions. Kansas is currently navigating a new e-licensing system, which allows hunters to purchase an electronic permit to harvest their big game. So far this seems to be working without many hitches.

The e-tagging option, that is available for sportsmen when they harvest their big game, seems to be a welcomed new addition for convenience. It also allows Game Wardens to have somewhat of a "check station" to check up on those that have harvested and tagged wild game. In effort to stay up on on the times, Wardens tested out a new Body Worn Camera system earlier this year. The rollout began, but was then temporarily halted due to programming issues. They will be up and running within a couple of weeks. This new system provides real time locations of officers for emergency responses. Another piece of technology is the future rollout of a records management system. This is in the works and should be coming in the next few months as well.

As the weather turns from Summer to Fall, locals are really ramping up for the hunting seasons. Many non-residents have showed up for the KS whitetail deer. Once again, there were a record number of applicants for a very limited number of big game deer permits.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin's DNR Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection staff have stayed busy through the spring and summer months. As the weather warmed up, staff saw an increase in users on the water, ATV/UTV trails and on state recreation properties.

Along with day-to-day patrol activities, wardens have been involved with search/rescue/recovery missions, investigating fatal recreational vehicle incidents, participated in public relations/community outreach events, along with many other activities to protect our natural resources and the people who enjoy them. Our investigators and environmental enforcement specialists continue to work on large-scale resource commercialization and environmental pollution cases, bringing large fines and required restitution/cleanup activities. Staff in our recreational safety and outdoor skills section and our community safety officers continue to play a critical role in doing outreach and education and have done a phenomenal job at getting out and promoting safety and outdoor activities to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Our division is in the final stages of hiring our conservation warden recruit class for 2023 which will consist of 10 wardens. While we are excited to bring them on board, we will already start the hiring recruitment for the 2024 class with 9 field positions still vacant.

Region 5 Director Jesse Gehrt

Unique Opportunities

Members of the Specialized Boat Operations Team and other local wardens assisted the U.S. Coast Guard and other local agencies establishing and patrolling a safety zone in the Milwaukee Harbor for the Redbull Flugtag event and the Milwaukee Air and Water show in Milwaukee this summer.

Members of the Statewide Joint Tactical Team provided security at several dignitary protection events, including POTUS visits in addition to serving numerous high-risk search/arrest warrants where several pounds of narcotics were recovered, along with numerous illegal firearms and thousands of dollars in illegal profits from illegal gun and narcotics sales.

Various staff from the DNR Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection headed to the Wisconsin State Fair this summer. While there, the Fishmobile was a big hit and there was a variety of entertainment and interaction with Guess the Number of Bobbers in the Jar, The Lure of Fishing (Plinko), Give Fishing a Spin (fish identification), Tie a Knot and, of course, Wear It Wisconsin Corn Hole Toss. On opening day, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers stopped by and played them ALL! Our wardens also had a lot of visitors at the LE booth display.

Concerns of Police Survivors Award goes to Wisconsin Conservation Warden

Wisconsin Conservation Warden Tim Price was honored by COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors) for his years of distinguished service. The presentation was at Washington, D.C. during the Law Enforcement United (LEU) Memorial Ride and again at COPS Kids Camp, held at Wisconsin. Their award detailed how important Warden Price is to COPS Kids Camp, the surviving families and, most importantly, the kids

who are trying to heal from the loss of a law enforcement parent. Tim also donates a week of his time riding his bicycle to Washington D.C. in honor of a fallen officer. Congratulations, Tim!

Women's Trap Camp – Taught by Women, For Women

Two female conservation wardens had the unique opportunity to assist Wisconsin DNR Wildlife staff and individuals from the Wisconsin Trapper Association/Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program to host a women's trap camp, for women and taught by women.

Thirty-one women from five states participated in the three-day trap camp, and 28 received their Wisconsin trapper education certification during the camp. Students were taught by 10 instructors on a variety of trapping components, including trap familiarization and setting, best management practices, releasing incidental catches, fur handling/putting up, laws/regulations and enjoyed a wild game dinner.

One lucky woman at the camp received a lifetime Wisconsin Trapper Association (WTA) membership donated by a WTA member. The National Wild Turkey Federation donated, and will continue to in the future, with the idea that trapping is a part of predator/prey management. There were more than 15 different entities that donated more than \$3,000 in order to put on this camp so students could attend at 1/3 of the price of the actual cost. The camp is already being planned for next year and there are already 33 women on the waiting list (we cap at 40).

Region 6 Director Brandon Gavrock

No Report

Region 7 Director Kris MacCabe



Kris MacCabe began his Warden Service career in 2007 and has served the people of Maine as a District Warden past 14 years and recently promoted to Corporal. Currently Kris works as one of two Landowner Relations Program Corporal where he works

to continue the Maine Traditions of open access to land for outdoor recreational opportunities.

Kris has been a active member of NAWEOA serving as a J-Rep for Maine Warden Service since 2017 and continues to build partnerships with other

agencies.

Kris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife ecology from the University of Maine Orono. He worked as a biological technician for the USDA and a conservation aid for the Department of Marine Resources prior to working for Warden Service. As a Warden, Kris has served in numerous leadership roles in local, State, and National capacities. Kris has worked as a cadre for the Advanced Warden School, field training officer, K9 handler, president of the Maine Warden Service Association, Maine Special Olympics executive council member, and grant coordinator for law enforcement systems. Kris was selected as the Maine Game Warden of the Year and Shikar Safari International Warden of the Year in 2016. He was the recipient of two exemplary service awards and the K9 evidence detection award.



NAWEOA Training Sessions

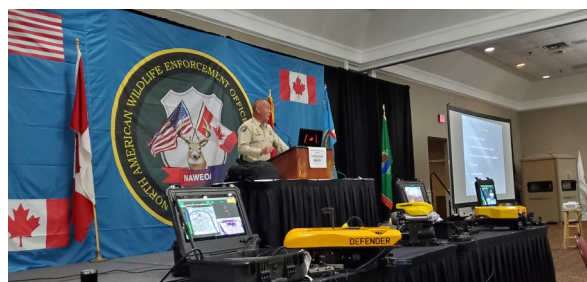
Using ROVs to Recover Vessels and Bodies – Cpt. Matt Majors, TWRA Boating Investigator By Jesse Gehrt

Statewide boating accident investigator for TWRA since 2010, presented a course overview discussing the use of ROVs (Remote Operated Vehicle) in Conservation Law Enforcement. Many Conservation Officers daily patrol lakes and rivers. These waterways can hold a wealth of items of evidence, from stolen vehicles, missing boats, to discarded weapon and firearms. Unfortunately they also tend to lead to victims of boating accident and even missing persons. These underwater tools are most commonly used to assist officers in the location and recovery of these individuals. The use of ROVs over the past 10-15 years has greatly increased the officer's ability to locate these items, and at the same time saving time and efforts by local dive teams assisting.

Cpt. Major's training session highlighted how these ROVs are being used by different agencies by looking at the numerous incidents where they were

instrumental in locating evidence. This included looking at underwater videos from actual cases and the many ways that this type of equipment can benefit your department and the public in general. It also covered discussions on funding options for agencies to look at when considering the purchase of these ROVs. Thank you Cpt. Majors for a quick look at the ROV and how it has helped TWRA over the years. Here is a link to an article recently put out highlighting TWRA's use of the ROV.

https://www.wkrn.com/news/local-news/nashville/twras-robotic-technology-cuts-down-on-recovery-times/?fbclid=IwAR00aioUIdTA115TT6UfoyJZA-DQmiWLx_XJZ470oQOPa3yA-e93FoH6154



3D Scanning Technology for Wildlife and Boating Investigators – Cpt. George Birdwell, TWRA Boating Investigator By Jesse Gehrt

3D Scanning Technology for Wildlife and Boating Investigators – Cpt. George Birdwell, TWRA Boating Investigator

Cpt. George Birdwell, statewide boating accident investigator with TWRA, presented an overview of the use of 3D scanning technology in the world of boating. Cpt. Birdwell is a seasoned veteran investigator, with many hours of experience looking into boating related accidents. The use of 3D scanning technology in recent year has greatly improved the officer's ability to "tell the whole story" of what may have happened. This is done by mapping the whole area around the accident scene, the officer then im-

ports the data to their computer, and then converted into a video format, presented to others in a full 3D walk through format, such as prosecutors, to fully assist in telling the whole story of what happened by allowing those to see all of the evidence present. This technology has been used by multiple DNR state agencies for these types of incidents, as well as other states for other investigations such as traffic accidents. Cpt. Birdwell is very knowledgeable about this technology, and provided a great, down to Earth presentation about it.



NAWEOA Training Sessions

Officer Survival: Open Water Officer-Involved Shooting instructed by David Brady By Jason Sherwood

Many of us who attended this year's NAWEOA Conference, had the honor and privilege of getting to chat with David Brady, a Senior Officer with more than 17 years of experience with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. He is a member of the SOG and Dive teams for his agency and specializes in marine patrol operations in the Northwest Region of Florida, often patrolling dozens of miles off-shore, but also assisting with land-based law enforcement efforts whenever needed.

On the last day of the conference, he spoke more seriously, detailing the training, equipment, circumstances, and mindset allowing him to survive a critical life-or-death struggle several years earlier.

David Brady contacted two men on a sailboat in Saint Andrew Bay, near Panama City on August 7, 2015. After his day's plans altered course, as they often do in our line of work, he found himself in the perfect position to contact the men to warn them of a trespass complaint that had been called in against them earlier in the day. (Having their employment terminated from a nearby marina that morning, they hadn't left as quietly as the marina owner had hoped.) While approaching the boat, Brady observed a simple registration violation as well.

Due to weather conditions, Brady asked the occupants to drop anchor before coming alongside them.

After introducing himself to the boat occupants, he asked for their identification and to see the boat registration. Moments after one of the men stepped into the cabin to retrieve the registration, Brady looked back to see the man pointing a handgun at him. Officer Brady was shot twice and ended up in the water as he attempted to get out of the line of fire. After an intense gun battle, the men stole the patrol boat and Brady was left alone in the water, with only

the anchor line from the sailboat to hold onto.

A Coast Guard vessel responded to the area when Officer Brady did not respond to requests from his dispatch, however, finding "a man with a gun" in the water next to the sailboat disappointingly slowed their progress in helping get Brady the help he desperately needed.

Eventually he was transported to a hospital and was able to recover and return to work. The aggressor recovered from a gunshot wound to his hand and has been sentenced to spend his "natural life, then 45 years in prison" for the incident. (If the life sentence is overturned the suspect would then begin the 45 year sentence, with no credit for time served.)

Much of his presentation was focused on the small details that helped him survive, as well as the changes he has made in his life and work following the incident. He was grateful for having experienced a lot of water training prior to the event and advocated for everyone to wear their ballistic vest every day. He also provided advice for consistently training with the purpose that you will be the hardest person someone would ever attempt to kill. Brady also spoke candidly of the value of family—and encouraged everyone to spend quality time with their loved ones, as you may regret putting that off until later.

For more about the case and suspect's sentencing, you can visit <https://www.newsherald.com/story/news/courts/2018/03/27/update-reager-gets-life-in-prison-in-fwc-officer-shooting/12893455007/>, but I would recommend hearing the details and perspectives from FWC Officer David Brady if you ever have the opportunity. We thank him for bringing this training to the NAWEOA Conference.

NAWEOA Training Sessions

Operation Green Gold By Brandon Gavrock

Operation Green Gold was a long running undercover operation spearheaded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The main objective of the operation was to identify and prosecute individuals that were in the business of buying and reselling illegally harvested American Wild Ginseng to the international market.

American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), is a slow-growing perennial species of plant found throughout the Northeast, Midwest, and Appalachian regions of the United States. Wild American Ginseng has substantial commercial value because there is a national and international market for its use as an ingredient in food, drinks, and traditional medicines. American Ginseng is protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora of 1973 (CITES) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In Tennessee, the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation (TDEC) has responsibilities, under CITES, the ESA, and state law, to regulate and monitor the commercial harvest of wild American Ginseng and to ensure that populations are not imperiled. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has the statutory authority to regulate and enforce ginseng harvest on Agency lands. Accordingly, American Ginseng dealers are required to routinely submit paperwork to TDEC to document their ginseng purchases.

ThroughOut the USFWS investigation it was learned that many of the ginseng buyers were knowingly purchasing, and “laundering” illegally harvested wild ginseng. The case led agents to do most of their work in the Appalachian region of Eastern Tennessee and Eastern Kentucky.

One of the main defendants in Operation Green Gold was a Tennessee resident by the name of Randall Henry. Henry operated a ginseng buying business known as Tennessee Herb. Henry pled guilty to a felony violation of the Lacey Act, was fined \$2,667.50, forfeited 66.13lbs of wild ginseng valued at \$46,291.00, 6 months house arrest (avoided prison due to covid), as well as 100 hours of community service. Robert Billy Taylor of Middlesboro Kentucky was also sentenced in federal court as a result of Green Gold. Taylor and his son owned a business named Taylor’s Fresh Ginseng. The investigation by the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife revealed that over a period of years, Taylor had falsified the required Kentucky Ginseng Purchase Forms for multiple purchases of wild ginseng, including failing to include the correct weight of purchases, not keeping records of all his purchases, and purchasing ginseng that he knew was harvested from another state, but not properly certified before entering Kentucky. Taylor also acknowledged that he had stored 54 pounds of dry ginseng, despite telling law enforcement that he had not stored any, and possessing ginseng that had been harvested improperly, out of season.

Taylor pled guilty to a felony violation of the Lacey Act, forfeited a 2015 GMC truck valued at \$20,000.00 to the USFWS, three years probation to include no commercial involvement in the ginseng trade during that time, as well as 30 days house arrest (also due to covid and pre-existing health conditions). Taylor’s son, Billy Taylor also pled guilty to felony violation of the Lacey Act. The son was also sentenced to three years probation with the same stipulations as his father as well as 10 hours of community service.

Robert Billy Taylor had probation revoked for a violation of the terms and was brought back into court in 2021. Taylor pled guilty to yet another felony for a violation of the Lacey Act. Taylor was fined \$75,000.00 this time, forfeited 54lbs of ginseng valued at \$37,800.00, and one additional year of probation.

NAWEOA Outings

Jack Daniel's Distillery Tour By Jeromy Huntington, Colorado J-Rep

Game Wardens may have more in common with Jack Daniels Tennessee Whisky than one would expect.

Jack Daniels Distillery has a rich history that was established in 1864 and formalized in 1866. The founder, Jasper (Jack) Daniels learned the trade from those before him. Daniels was taken in by a moonshine distiller, Dan Call, as a young boy and learned the process of making whiskey from Dan Call and Nathan "Nearest" Green, an African-American man once enslaved by Call. Fairness and integrity were values of Daniels. Out of a desire to convey those values, Daniels chose to start bottling his whiskey in a square-shaped bottle in 1897.

Daniels left his distillery in the hands of nephew Lem Motlow. In 1910, Tennessee passed a statewide prohibition law, making it illegal to distill alcohol within the state. Motlow challenged the law in court, making its way to the Tennessee Supreme Court, where it was upheld as constitutional. Since that ruling, changes in laws, politics, and persistence over time, Jack Daniels distillery has established its licensing to produce whisky, and despite still being in a dry county, now has the ability for limited tasting and purchasing of the well known Tennessee Whisky. Our tour shared the rich history, some fun stories, all while detailing the complete process involved to produce Jack Daniels. The tour began by seeing the natural spring the water comes from, on site charcoal production for filtration, and ended by tasting 2 ounces (limited by law) of the final product. One story told during the tour was about Jack's frustration in opening his safe. As the story has it, Jack kicked his safe in anger, leading to injuring his big toe, which eventually became infected, leading to sepsis and a likely factor of his death in 1911.

Taking advantage of the opportunity to join tours and events at NAWEOA is more than seeing some sights offered by the hosting state. The opportunity to network, make new friends, or catch up with those from previous conferences provides an added

benefit beyond just attending the conference. Thanks to NAWEOA and everyone involved from Tennessee, the efforts from each person involved setting up the conference and creating optional activities created lasting memories.



NAWEOA Training Sessions

Grand Ole Opry Tour By Lori Backen former Alberta Fish & Wildlife

One more box checked off my list! The Grand Ole Opry is a weekly American country music stage concert in Nashville, Tennessee, founded on November 28, 1925, by George D. Hay as a one-hour radio "barn dance" on WSM. It is the longest-running radio broadcast in US history. Dedicated to honoring country music and its history, the Opry showcases a mix of famous singers and contemporary chart-toppers performing country, bluegrass, Americana, folk, and gospel music as well as comedic performances and skits. It attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world and millions of radio and internet listeners.

The Opry show on July 12th did not disappoint. The show was a good mix of old and new. It started off with some Texas Swing music preformed

by Jeannie Seely who became an Opry member in 1967. The next performer was Dylan Scott, followed by another Opry member; Bill Anderson. Next up was the Del McCoury Band, a bluegrass band. After a short intermission was Jimmy Allen and Henry Cho; a comedian. The evening performances were capped off by Dustin Lynch.

I believe a good time was had by all!



Jason Aldean's Rooftop Bar Social Night By Rick Langley

Jason Aldean's Rooftop Bar Social Night
What's the point of being in Nashville without a night out in downtown Nashville? The TWOA crew set up some super entertainment for us all at Jason Aldean's Rooftop Bar one evening. We had some free libations, dinner of loaded mac and cheese, chicken and waffles, and sliders. When we were done eating, the TWOA Board took the stage for a rousing rendition of "Rocky Top". Some of those guys can actually sing! Once amateur hour was over, Billy Lord took the stage for some first rate country music. What a great show, but It didn't stop there. After Billy's set, country music star Daryl Worley took the stage for an extended set, followed up with an encore. We ate, danced, sang, talked, and made new friends all while surrounded with Nashville hospitality and great music. This was just an incredible opportunity to network and get to

know each other outside of the hotel atmosphere. I know I made a few new friends and might have embarrassed myself a little while I got to decompress from conference stress!



NAWEOA Conference

Opening Ceremonies By Steve Beltran

What a thoughtful and heartfelt event to witness the fine men and women of the Tennessee color guard bring in and honor our country's flag. The opening ceremonies were well attended as officers came to welcome each other and share in celebration for this year's 2020 to Nashville conference. There were lots of families, spouses, and significant others in the crowd mixed in with our many uniforms from North America.

Slow steps and methodical marching reminded us of the dedication we have for our profession as the color guard placed the flags on stage. We had a warm welcome and opening statements following the national anthems of both the United States and Canada. Tennessee rolled out the red carpet and provided a light hearted southern welcome to Nashville and promised plenty of fellowship and a little bit of honky-tonk.

Eyes filled up with tears and many heads bowed as we recognized our fallen officers. It's been two long years since we have met and due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have been unable to recognize those officers that paid the ultimate sacrifice. The display was somber and heavy as the group

continued outside hearing the heartbreaking details of their loss. President Rick Langley and other board members grieved as they echoed the circumstances of the last moments for the fallen. Shortly thereafter the punch of 7 guns firing in the air 3 consecutive times. The 21 gun salute was followed by the solo officer playing taps, bringing the group to tears. Saying goodbye was not easy. It was an honored and heartfelt opening ceremony. One of many attendees will never forget.



J-rep Lunch By Larry Hergenroeder

NAWEOA's Jurisdictional Representatives gathered Thursday in the Crown Ballroom on the 10th floor of the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel for the annual JRep Luncheon. This luncheon lends as a small token of appreciation for the Jurisdictional Representatives that are the lifeline disseminating NAWEOA business information between the Executive Board and the Officers Associations that make up the NAWEOA membership. The Millennium Hotel staff presented those in attendance a delicious meal of chicken tacos, sides and desserts. During the hour-long event, JRep's were reminded of their important role linking the 7 Region Directors and their respective association

and/or agency. Much of the necessary administrative processing for annual membership dues and group membership updates are completed without much of the memberships knowledge of these important tasks. Maintaining excel spread sheets and in recent years due to Covid 19, JReps provided content and pertinent information for the NAWEOA Fall Newsletter. JReps going above and beyond is much appreciated by the NAWEOA Executive Board and vital to NAWEOA's success. After comments by the Executive Board, each JRep introduced themselves and gave a short bio regarding their jurisdiction and the amount of time they have served as their jurisdictions representative. The NAWEOA Executive Board would like to extend their appreciation to all JReps that serve for the NAWEOA membership and hope to see more in attendance next year in Provo, Utah.

NAWEOA Conference

Game Warden Skills By Mike Reeder

It was perfect weather for the 2022 Game Warden Skills. 21 teams competed in skills only a game warden would understand. Everything from animal ID and antler scoring to testing the physical prowess of the teams.

Team 19 took first, team 15 took second and team 8 took third. After the games everyone enjoyed Hattie B's chicken in the shade of the big top, as the temps started to climb.



Torch Run By Mike Reeder

The early morning torch run was again a success. In the morning, a sea of orange shirts gathered along the Cumberland river. The 5K has become a staple of the NAWEOA conference experience.

No matter if you were in it to win it, or enjoyed the morning stroll along the river, the end goal was remembering and honoring our fallen officers.



NAWEOA Conference

Fallen Officer Memorial By Larry Hergenroeder

Over 400 uniformed officers and guests gathered under the sunny morning sky on July 12, 2022, for the NAWEOA Fallen Officers Memorial that is traditionally part of the opening ceremonies each year. Unfortunately, and due to the postponement of the 2020 and 2021 NAWEOA summer conference, there were seven fallen officers honored at the 2022 conference. Seven empty chairs draped with the state flag from each of the fallen officers jurisdictions, sat in a line with a backdrop of the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agencies (TWRA) Honor Guard. Standing at parade rest, the honor guard was called to attention as taps played prior to the rendering of a 21-gun report in the fallen's honor. Representatives from Minnesota, New York, and Georgia assisted the TWRA Honor Guard by carrying a memorial plaque to their respective draped flag during the reading of each fallen officers name and circumstances surrounding their line of duty sacrifice. Emotions run deep as the narrative being read by the NAWEOA Executive Board representatives was interrupted with pauses and collection of those emotions for fellow officers most in attendance had never met.

Those honored included:

Shannon Barron, E.O.W. July 7, 2019, Minnesota, Red Lake Nation Conservation Department.

On Sunday July 7, 2019, Conservation Officer Opie Barron suffered a fatal heart attack while investigating an illegal harvesting call off Highway 89 north of Red Lake. He was nearing the end of his shift when the call came out and being the officer he was, it was not a question if he would go, it was where was the call and he was on his way.

He and other officers had just cleared from the call when he radioed dispatch requesting EMS for himself. The other officers returned and immediately began performing life-saving measures. He was transported to Red Lake Indian Health Service Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Julian Keen Jr., E.O.W. June 14, 2020, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.

On Sunday, June 14, 2020, Wildlife Officer Julian Keen was shot and killed in Labelle when he attempted to stop a hit-and-run suspect while off duty.

Hendry County deputies located Officer Keen's body after responding to reports of a shooting near the intersection of Nobles Road and Apache Circle. Three subjects were taken into custody.

Officer Keen had served with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for six years.

Stanley C. Elrod, E.O.W. September 3, 2020, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

On Thursday September 3, 2020, Captain Stanley Curtis Elrod was struck and killed by a drunk driver while jogging while on duty as part of his department's wellness program.

He was jogging along Hunt Road, between Booger Hill Road to Moons Grove Road in Madison County, when a vehicle crossed over the center line and struck him. The driver of the vehicle was arrested and charged with first-degree vehicular homicide, drunk driving, failing to maintain a lane, reckless driving, possession of a controlled substance, and having a firearm during a criminal offense.

Captain Elrod had served with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for 27 years. He had been recognized as the Game Warden of the Year in 1999. Stan was a wonderful husband, father, and friend to all that knew him. Captain Elrod is survived by his wife Julie and sons Levi and Luke.

Charlie Cortez, E.O.W. November 17, 2020, Washington, Tulalip Tribal Police Department.

On November 17, 2020, Officer Cortez and a non-commissioned fish and wildlife officer/boat operator were responding to a vessel in distress call between Everett Washington and Tulalip Bay. After clearing the call at approximately 2030 hours, the officers were on their way back to their port when they encountered heavy seas which eventually caused their patrol vessel to capsize. Cortez's partner was later found alive in the water by a search party and has since made a re-

NAWEOA Conference

Fallen Officer Memorial By Larry Hergenroeder

covery, but Cortez has still not been found.

Cortez was employed by the department for 2 years 8 months as a fish and wildlife officer the entire time and was also an enrolled Tulalip tribal member. Cortez is a father to a son named Dominic who is 8 years old, and a daughter named Peyton who is 5 years old. The children's mother is Tawnya Stout.

Steven Reighard, E.O.W. January 8, 2021, Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

On Friday January 08, 2021, Conservation Officer Steve Reighard died from complications as the result of contracting COVID-19 during a presumed exposure while on duty.

Officer Reighard had served with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for 16 years and was assigned to Dickinson County. He is survived by his wife and son.

Sarah Grell, E.O.W. May 24, 2021, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Enforcement Division.

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

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

Stephen Raymond, E.O.W. April 17, 2017, New York State Environmental Conservation Police.

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 follow-

ing 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.

Recently, lost in the line of duty in 2022 is Kyle Patterson, E.O.W. June 9, 2022, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Senior Investigator Kyle Patterson will be honored at the NAWEOA Summer Conference in 2023 in Provo, Utah.

These fine officers gave the ultimate sacrifice while performing the sworn duties that all donning the game warden moniker make an oath to do. May their memory be forever remembered by those that served prior, during and after their end of watch. May you all rest in peace.



NAWEOA Conference

Summer Business Meeting By Josh Thibodeau

The NAWEOA Executive Board met at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel located at 2025 Rosa Parks Boulevard in Nashville, Tennessee. This was the host hotel for the 2022 NAWEOA summer conference. The hotel is full of history and provided great meeting/training areas that accommodated the conference need to not only conduct NAWEOA business but places for training and vendors. Executive Board members along with other NAWEOA members started arriving throughout the weekend on July 9th and 10th in preparation for the Conference. Executive Board members were scheduled to have their first board meeting Monday morning on July 11th. Excused was Region 1 director Brock Lockhart as he could not make the trip as he is dealing with some health issues.

Board members and other NAWEOA members were very excited to see each other as it has been years for some since the last time friends have been seen in person. In addition, this year for the first time an App was put in place for the conference which allowed attendees to communicate before, during and after the conference. This was an excellent addition and allowed for real time updates, schedule changes and communications. It was an excellent addition to the conference.

Business day one (Monday)- The Summer Business Meeting was called to order by President Rick Langley at 0830 hours in the Polk meeting room. Rick was glad everyone was there after a long couple years with Covid restrictions. Host agency past president and Conference Chair Josh Landrum made an appearance at the meeting to update the executive board on how things were going and any outstanding tasks that may need to be done. The Tennessee officers were on the ball and working hard doing a great job getting ready. A review of the 2022 winter meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted. Individual board member reports were given, some highlights included that numerous jurisdictions although working short-handed have received raises. Current Conference Liaison Jason Sherwood agreed to a 3-year term which is great news for NAWEOA.

Business day two (Tuesday) The executive board held a business meeting for the membership in the grand ballroom in the afternoon of day 2. This was a very productive meeting. Officer of the year awards for 2020 and 2021 were presented along with Muddy Boots and Loyal Partner awards for 2020, 2021 and 2022. There was a call for nominations for the opening executive board positions which included all Canadian directors, Vice President and President. Secretary/Treasurer Steve Beltran presented the budget/financial report to the membership. The executive board presented the marketing plan for a shortened name and updated logo to be voted on by the membership.

There were no business meetings on Wednesday

Business day three (Thursday) At 1000 am a business meeting was held in the Grand ballroom with the Executive Board and NAWEOA membership. At this meeting a by-law change covering virtual meetings was done to allow the board to do so along with the announcement of the logo vote on the App. Board nomination speeches were conducted and the announcement for the voting was made. Sean Spencer from Utah also promoted next years 2023 NAWEOA conference which will be held in Utah. Life saving and outstanding service awards were presented to present award winners.

Business day four (Friday) Closing ceremonies were conducted and the voting for board nominees were closed in the afternoon followed by the banquet a short time later. At the banquet, Valor Awards and Certificates of Appreciation were presented, and the voting results were announced. The new executive members are as follows. I would like to welcome from Region 1 Chris Maier, Region 2 Martin Thabault, Region 3 Josh Thibodeau, Vice-President Larry Hergenroeder and President Kurt Henry. I would also like to welcome Kris MacCabe who was appointed to region 7 Director for a one-year term. I would like to thank out going board members Region 1 Brock Lockhart and Past President Shawn Farrell for their dedication and commitment to NAWEOA.

Business day five (Saturday) The closing business meeting was held in the Polk Room at the host hotel at 9:00 am. NAWEOA executive board assisted

NAWEOA Conference

Summer Business Meeting (Cont.) By Josh Thibodeau

the Tennessee officers with tear down and conference wrap up. An overall discussion about the conference was had to identify any issues or concerns to better future conferences. The biggest news is the logo vote has passed. The new logo will be used for future events.

The meetings covered several items under old business and new business that will be detailed in the meeting minutes. The following are a few highlights from the meeting.

Budget

Steve Beltran, Secretary-Treasurer was able to provide the updated budget report. Financial reports can be found on the NAWEOA website:

<http://www.naweo.org/protected/financial/FinancialReportsIndex.htm>

Fallen Officer Fund Report:

An update on the Fallen Officer Fund revealed that the fund could use some additional support. The following link will connect you to the FOF. http://www.naweo.org/protected/fallen_officer_fund/fallen_officer_fund_index.html

Just as a reminder on how the fund works. Participation is not limited to associations only, as we have several individual members who contribute to the fund. The Fallen Officer Fund is a separate account from NAWEOA and is only administered by the association. Participants in the fund contribute \$50.00 (or whatever amount you would like to donate) to "The Fallen Officer Fund" each time there is a Fallen Officer. Steve Beltran forwards a check for \$2500.00 from The Fallen Officer Fund to the Fallen Officer's family on behalf of the fund participants. A \$100.00 donation is forwarded to families for non-in the line of duty deaths but that is from the NAWEOA General Account.

If you or your association is a contributor to the fund, please make sure your payments are current.

For those jurisdictions (or individuals) that do not contribute to the fund at this time please considering doing so. Information on how the fund is managed and how you can contribute can be found at the following link, http://www.naweo.org/protected/fallen_officer_fund/fallen_officer_fund_index.html.

Group Membership and Roster Status

Steve Beltran reports that various group membership dues have been received for 2022 with others still outstanding. Please check with your individual association to ensure your dues are paid. If there are any questions, please contact me.

Please continue to remain current with your roster updates. Submit an updated roster, in its entirety, twice each year prior to the deadline for the newsletter (Oct 1st and April 1st) to your Region Director.

NAWEOA Membership:

The total NAWEOA membership currently stands at just over 8900 members.

Conference Liaison Position

Jason Sherwood, Conference Liaison/Region 4 director reported that Utah is well on its way and have everything under control for a hosting a fantastic conference for 2023. Jason is currently seeking a host for 2024 and is exploring a couple of options. British Columbia, Wisconsin and a cruise were discussed. Larry Hergenroeder is already doing the work for 2025 in securing Pennsylvania to host. If there are any jurisdictions considering hosting a NAWEOA Conference, please contact him at conference@naweo.org There is a great deal of useful information on hosting a Conference at the following link, <http://www.naweo.org/protected/conference/Conference%20Index.htm> Any inquiries are appreciated and Jason will be happy to answer your questions. Jason just committed to a 3-year term as Conference Liaison. Thank you, Jason!

Game Warden Museum Report

Tom Caifa was present at the final business meeting to provide the Game Warden Museum Report.

Museum attendance has been down, but the museum

NAWEOA Conference

Summer Business Meeting (Cont.) By Josh Thibodeau

has been able to keep the same manager for the last 3 years which has been very helpful. Covid was a struggle for the museum, but they have sustained and are doing fine at the moment.

The North American Game Warden Museum can be found at the following link <http://www.gamewardenmuseum.org/>

IGW

IGW Business Manager Marion Hoffman was able to join us on our first business meeting day and provided the following report.

IGW is doing fine but needs Ads

Letter from printer, operating at 2018 cost levels. Quotes were sent for new pricing.

Cost will go up to around \$4.00 per issue, Profit will be .25 cents per issue.

Looking at a \$2.00 increase across the board

A motion by Steve Beltran was made to increase the annual subscription of IGW from \$18.00 up to \$20.00 for Association membership and a \$2.00 increase per individual. Seconded by Jesse Gehrt. Motion passed.

Information on the magazine can be found at the following link <http://www.igwmagazine.com/>. A reminder to all members that there is a 10% commission for securing advertisements for IGW. Contact your Regional Director or Carlos Gomez at advertising@igwmagazine.com

Webmaster Report / Newsletter Report

Mike Reeder reported having some computer issues earlier in the year which has since been rectified and he is back up and operational. The new App used for the conference is up and running and working great with a lot of positive feedback. Newsletters are to be submitted to Mike through your Region Director by April 1st and October 1st to ensure timely dissemination to our members.

Awards

Region Directors have been asking J-REPS to encourage someone from their agencies to take the time to submit applications for deserving officers from their jurisdiction. The criteria for awards can be found on the NAWEOA website. April 15th is the deadline for awards.

Misc.

A number of other minor items of discussion occurred. Once the minutes from the Winter Meeting have been finalized they will be posted on the private site at the following link, <http://www.naweo.org/protected/minutes/index-minutes.htm>

Reminders

Please check out the NAWEOA website. Create an account to use the features of the website including making award nominations and viewing important documents.

April 1st is the deadline for NAWEOA Awards. Nominations can be placed on the NAWEOA website after you login to your personalized account

I would like to again thank all the J-reps for the work they do. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Josh Thibodeau
Region 3 Director

NAWEOA Awards

N.A.W.E.O.A. believes deeply in recognizing the commitment of the wildlife law enforcement professional. The awards recognize people and agencies that have performed outstanding work, exemplary service to the public, or have contributed to wildlife law enforcement in other ways. Look at the award categories below and consider nominating your fellow officers for accomplishments. Submitting an award is easy. Go to NAWEOA.org and in the main menu under “**Awards**”, is “**Award Application**”. Click that link and you will be taken to the online Award Applications.

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

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

NAWEOA TORCH AWARD

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

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

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

CERTIFICATE OF RETIREMENT

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

AWARD OF VALOUR

Anyone who is eligible for regular or deputy membership may be nominated for this award. It is given

en to the officer who performs a heroic act, or risks or receives serious injury, in the line of duty in an attempt to protect him\herself or a member of the public from a dangerous situation or circumstance. It infers bravery in the face of adversity.

LIFESAVING AWARD

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

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

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

HONOURARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

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

K-9 AND HANDLER "LOYAL PARTNER AWARD"

1. Must be a fully certified conservation officer in the state, province, territory, or country in which employed.
2. Must be a full-time field officer, up to and including first line supervisors from the field in the last calendar year.
3. Both nominee and person submitting nomination must be a regular member of NAWEOA.
4. Three years minimum experience and active as a K-9 handler at time of nomination.
5. All nominations must be received by the Vice President of NAWEOA not later than April 1st each year. The successful officer will be notified by April 15th.
6. Both K-9 and handler must demonstrate exceptional ability and initiative in the performance of his or her duties.
7. Award will be presented at annual conference; attendance encouraged but not mandatory.

