



NORTH AMERICAN  
WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION

*"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"*



# ***34th Annual Conference***

***July 28th—July 30th***



**Spring 2015**  
**63st Edition NAWEOA Newsletter**

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**Visit NAWEOA's website:**

**<http://www.naweo.org>**

**for loads of information**

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

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



## SOUVENIR PATCHES AVAILABLE

← 2014 NAWEOA conference patches are **NOT** available for purchase.  
The cost per patch (including shipping and handling) for all patches from 2010 through 2013 is \$7.00 USD.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAWEOA**

**Mail to:** WCO George A. Wilcox

P.O. Box 480

Millville, PA 17846

[1996 through 2009 patches are only available over-the-counter at the Game Warden Museum ( [www.gamewardenmuseum.org](http://www.gamewardenmuseum.org) ) ]



# Fallen Officer Memorial



Rhode Island Division  
of Law Enforcement

Environmental Police Officer

**Seth Gillis**

October 3, 1970- December 22, 2014

Officer Seth Gillis passed away unexpectedly on December 22, 2014, after complications from surgery from an injury he suffered while on duty.

Officer Gillis was an 11 year veteran of the Rhode Island division of Law Enforcement. Officer Gillis started his law enforcement career with the Jamestown Police Department in Jamestown, RI in 1999, where he worked as a patrolman for 4 years. His dream, however, was always to become a game warden. He grew up hunting and fishing with an incredible love for the outdoors. He was able to realize his dream on November 16, 2003, when he became an Environmental Police Officer.

Officer Gillis was a husband and father, and he is survived by his wife Jennifer and three young children.

## **Welcome to the NAWEOA Online Store. Welcome, Guest!**

Here you can shop for NAWEOA logo items, renew or order your N.A.W.E.O.A. membership, and purchase IGW Magazine subscriptions. Take a moment to open an account and enter your information. It costs nothing to open an account, and your information will not be shared with anyone else.

**VISIT: [NAWEOA.ORG](http://NAWEOA.ORG) TO BUY NAWEOA HATS, BUCKLES, AND  
MUCH MORE**



# NAWEOA 2015 Columbia South Carolina



## How would you imagine a Southern City?

Is it Historic? Gracious? Sultry? Columbia, South Carolina encompasses each of these and much more! Columbia tantalizes all of your senses with a relaxing; comfortable pace; an abundance of playgrounds including Lake Murray, rivers, parks, gardens and the Riverbanks Zoo - one of the best in the country; the University of South Carolina and Fort Jackson. Civil War history abounds and is celebrated in museums, historic homes and even in repurposed buildings with a new start as shops and restaurants.

As the Palmetto State's capital and a college town, Columbia's fiery vibe cultivates a colorful arts scene while an indie spirit envelops several energized entertainment districts overflowing with locally owned boutique shops, eateries, spas and salons, and night spots. University of South Carolina is home to a beautiful campus and features some amazing historical buildings.

For those with an adventurous spirit, the rivers, trails or the Congaree National Park will provide endless fun. Food-lovers have over 450 restaurants to choose from and can pick a new feast for every day and night of the week. The variety is abundant and all with an easy reach. Once you've experienced Columbia, you'll be delighted that you stopped to explore. Columbia has been named one of "10 Great Cities to Live

In", as well as one of 30 communities named "America's Most Livable Communities".

## Things to do in South Carolina

### Riverbanks Zoo & Gardens



[The Riverbanks Zoo and Garden](#) is home to more than 2,000 magnificent and fascinating animals and one of the nation's

most beautiful and inspiring botanical gardens. The lush 170-acre site features dynamic natural habitat exhibits, scenic river views, spectacular valley overlooks and significant historic landmarks. SAVE more than 15% by purchasing tickets online! For the best admission rates and quicker access to the Zoo and Garden, we recommend you purchase your tickets in advance online. Print-at-home tickets will be emailed directly to you, and you will avoid standing in lines by going straight to the turnstile.

### Edventure Children's Museum



Experience the joy of learning and discovery at [EdVenture Children's Museum!](#) A hands-on experience, EdVenture provides children, families, and teachers with the opportunity to immerse themselves in dynamic, diverse exhibits, programs,

events and more. Before you visit, be sure to check out important information that will help you plan for your visit:

## The South Carolina State Museum



[The South Carolina State Museum](#) is a state-of-the-art facility featuring four floors of permanent and changing exhibits, a digital dome planetarium, 4D interactive theater and an observatory. The State Museum, the largest and most comprehensive museum in the state, is located along the banks of the Congaree River in downtown Columbia, South Carolina. What to see and do at the State



## SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum's



[The South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum](#) serves as the State's military history museum by collecting, preserving, and exhibiting South Carolina's military material culture from the colonial era to the present, and by providing superior educational experiences and programming. Founded in 1896, the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum is the third oldest museum in the state. The museum focuses on South Carolina's military history from the Revolutionary War to the present.

## Columbia Museum of Art



[The Columbia Museum of Art](#) celebrates outstanding artistic

creativity through its collection, exhibitions and programs, interacting in ways that engage the mind and enrich the spirit. South Carolina's premier international art museum houses a world class collection of European and American fine and decorative art that spans centuries. The Museum's collection of Asian art and Antiquities has grown through generous gifts to the collection. Founded in 1950, the museum opened its new building on Main Street in 1998 by transforming an urban department store into a sleek and airy, light-filled space with 25 galleries. The collections include masterpieces of the Italian Renaissance and Baroque from the Samuel H. Kress Collection, works by significant furniture and silver makers, as well as modern and contemporary art from the present time. Of particular interest are Sandro Botticelli's *Nativity*, Claude Monet's *The Seine at Giverny* and art glass by Louis Comfort Tiffany. The Museum also offers changing exhibitions from renowned museums and educational programs that include group and public tours, lectures, films and concert series.

## South Carolina Military Museum



The [South Carolina Military Museum](#) is one of the largest National Guard museums in the country, where our mission is to honor and chronicle the South Carolina citizen soldier and this State's martial tradition from its colonial founding in 1670 to present-day operations worldwide. Featuring an impressive collection of artifacts, displays and exhibits, the Museum tells the story of the South Carolina militia, its evolution into the National Guard, and its important role today as a force multiplier for the United States Army and Air Force. The South Carolina Military Museum possesses a vast array of authentic firearms, edged weapons, uniforms, artillery pieces, and armored fighting vehicles that literally bring history to life. The Museum also possesses a dedicated staff and numerous volunteers who truly care about sharing the State's military history. When you walk into our doors, you'll be greeted by smiling fac-

es and persons eager to answer your questions.

## Congaree National Forest



[Congaree National Park](#) offers hiking, primitive camping, bird watching, picnicking, canoeing, kayaking, and nature study. Rangers and volunteers conduct interpretive walks and talks throughout the year. The 26,000 acre National Park protects the largest intact tract of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest remaining in the United States. The park contains some of the tallest trees in Eastern North America with one of the highest canopies in the world, broad biodiversity, and old-growth forest. The park is recognized as International Biosphere Reserve, federally designated Wilderness Area, and Globally Important Bird Area. Visitors are encouraged to explore Congaree at any time, as the park's trails remain open 24 hours, 7 days per week.

## South Carolina State House



Strategically centered within downtown Columbia, the current [South Carolina State House](#) is the result of construction which lasted half a century-spanning from 1855 to 1907. Built primarily out of blue granite, South Carolina's official state stone, the State House is completely fireproof allowing it to safely store many important state documents and house two of our three branches of state government. Both the executive and legislative branches meet in the lower and upper State House lobbies, respectively. The building contains several unique architectural features that can be observed from both the exterior and interior, including a false dome centered within the main lobby and an outer dome made of copper centered to the outside of the



building. Between the years of 1995 and 1998 an extensive renovation took place and it was during this time that the State House became reinforced with seismic isolators to protect the historic building from earthquakes. Many other functional and cosmetic changes took place during this time as well, in order for the State House to match as closely as possible the original architectural plans. We invite you to walk the 100 year-old floors of this building where you will be captivated by the stories of the past and will be able to witness history in the making for years to come.

Free guided and self-guided tours of the State House are available Monday – Friday. Visitors may enter the State House through the public entrance which is on the Sumter Street side of the building.

## Saluda Shoals Park



**Saluda Shoals Park** is a premier, natural, environmentally sensitive riverfront park that invites visitors to experience the treasures of the Saluda River through exceptional educational, recreational and cultural oppor-

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tunities. Located along the banks of the beautiful Saluda River, this 400 acre regional park offers the following amenities—

- 11,000-square-foot Environmental Education Center and Exhibit Hall
- Paved/unpaved trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding
- River Observation Deck
- Boat Ramp/Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Picnic Shelters
- Saluda Splash – Open daily from 9am-8pm. \$3 per person and \$5 parking fee
- Playground
- And more...

## Tours

**Houses** – Historic Columbia manages four museums located in Columbia’s historic district, and our tour guides provide a compelling peek into the past. Tour Our Museums



**Gardens** – Historic Columbia’s properties are celebrated for their beautiful gardens. Take a stroll in any of our gardens, or join us on one of our monthly guided tours.

## Neighborhood Tours – Walk.

Along a footpath. Down a road. Beside a railway track. See your city then – and now – through their eyes and yours. Historic Columbia invites you to retrace our shared past through our series of online tours, self-guided walking tours and wayside exhibits.

## Two Gals and A Fork Food

**Tour** – If you are seeking a cultural and culinary experience, then you’ve come to the right place. We want to share famously hot Columbia with you, one step and bite at a time. Our menu of options is endless. From tasting tours, pub crawls, art walks, progressive dinners, cooking demonstrations, beer schools, bartending classes, and everything in between, if it involves food or drink, we’ve got something that will provide a unique, entertaining and educational way to introduce famously hot Columbia.

[http://](http://www.twogalsfoodtours.com)

[www.twogalsfoodtours.com](http://www.twogalsfoodtours.com)

## The Columbia Brew Bus – Co-

lumbia Brew Bus aims to tap into the city’s growing craft beer community by offering patrons a chance to visit, taste the products of, and learn about each of the area’s breweries in a guided tour experience.

## Hotel Information



### Columbia Marriott

1200 Hampton Street, Columbia SC 29201

- Free High Speed Internet
- Fitness Center
- Pool

Visit the Columbia Marriott hotel, located in the vibrant downtown Columbia area near the University of South Carolina. This hotel offers some of the

finest accommodations in Columbia, SC. To meet their guests' needs, the Columbia Marriott hotel has remodeled guest rooms, the lobby, meeting space, and the restaurant and bar. Guests enjoy generous amenities such as pillow-top mattresses, 42" flat panel televisions and wireless Internet access for plenty of entertainment. The 28,000 square feet of space will be the location of the NAWEOA 2015 Conference in Columbia, SC. Just minutes from popular destinations, including Columbia Museum of Art, Riverbanks Zoo, the state capitol, Colonial Life Arena and Williams Brice Stadium, this downtown hotel is close to popular attractions.

Last day to book by: 7/5/15  
Marriott hotel(s) offering

your special group rate:  
Columbia Marriott for 99  
USD per night (+ taxes)

[Book your group rate:](#)  
[Wildlife Enforcement](#)  
[Officers >>](#)

- Self parking: \$6.00 / per day; Valet \$22.00 / per day
  - Hotel direction: 8 miles NE
    - o Columbia Metropolitan Airport - CAE
    - ✦ Airport shuttle service, on request, complimentary Shuttle Phone: 1 803 771 7000 Ext N/A
    - ✦ Courtesy phone available
    - ✦ Alternate transportation: Blue Ribbon Cab Service; fee: 20 USD (one way) ;on request
    - ✦ Bus service, fee: 10 USD (one way)
- Estimated taxi fare:  
20 USD (one way)



[Book Your Room NOW](#)  
[your group rate:](#)  
[Wildlife Enforcement](#)  
[Officers](#)

## NAWEOA 2015 Election Call by Rich Cramer

At the conference this summer the end of their second and final term. If you are interested and have a lot of energy and dedication, please send your nominations to Past-President Rich Cramer at [ppresident@naweo.org](mailto:ppresident@naweo.org) or make them at the conference in Columbia. Each nomination must be made by a member in good standing and seconded by the same. God bless you all. I'll see you all in Columbia.

in Columbia elections will be held for several positions on the NAWEOA board of directors. Elections take place for all four US director positions (regions 4, 5, 6 and 7) as well as the positions of President and Vice-President. Current directors Gabe Paz (region 4) and Carlos Gomez (region 5) are eligible for re-election. Region 6 (Jeff White) and Region 7 (Mark Allegro) will be open as both of the current directors have reached

The position of President must be filled by a regular member (and former or current NAWEOA board member) from the US this cycle and the position of Vice-President must be filled by a regular member (and former or current NAWEOA board member) from Canada. A description of the duties for all of these positions can be found at <http://www.naweo.org/protected/ByLaws/NAWEOA%20Policy%20Manual%20Feb2007.htm>



## President's Report by Dave Webster



Well this is my last Newsletter report as President and I am happy to say we all made it back safely from this year's winter meeting near Columbia South Carolina. The executive board stayed at Dreher Island State Park along the shores of Lake Murray which was a 45 minute drive outside of Columbia. The locals said the snow and constant freezing rain were out of character but

it helped most of us feel more at home! We had very productive meetings and managed to work through an extensive agenda. One of the primary topics was the upcoming conference in Columbia this summer. We hope the membership will look at the world class training agenda and take advantage of it in great numbers. The conference has a little different feel this year with the reduced number of days and no warden skills event. What it won't be missing is the opportunity to attend excellent training and network with fellow game wardens from around the continent in a vibrant university town, rich in culture and history. We have a very special group with this

annual opportunity to get together and share ideas and make connections that last a lifetime. I encourage all of you that know the benefits of NAWEOA to speak with fellow officers and your associations to promote this worthwhile event. I urge all of you to attend Columbia this summer to experience some true southern hospitality and what I know will be a "famously hot" conference.

Be safe everyone and I will see you in Columbia!

Dave Webster

President

NAWEOA



The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual NAWEOA 5K Torch Run/Walk is in Columbia, South Carolina. The event will be held on Tuesday July 28, 2015 as part of the Annual NAWEOA Conference with all proceeds benefiting the North American Game Warden Museum. With your personal or Officer associations generous donation the future of the North American Game Warden Museum is bright while continuing to honor those that have fallen in the line of duty.

More information at <http://naweo.org/2015/torch-run/>

Cheques or money orders can be made payable to: North American Game Warden Museum, c/o Lawrence R. Hergenroeder, 714 South Center Street, Grove City, PA 16127.

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

## Past President's Final Report by Rich Cramer

This is my last report as a member of the NAWEOA board. To say that the time I have spent serving my fellow officers from across North America has been a blessing is an understatement. I have met hundreds of officers from across the US and Canada and have made lasting friendships with many of them. I could go on for days writing about the people and experiences that have become a part of my life as a result of my time with NAWEOA but suffice to say they will be cherished always. I would like to think that the vast majority of those who have attended a summer conference share similar thoughts and feelings. Spending a week with active and retired officers from areas different and yet the same as your own provides an experience that can be gained nowhere else in the world. It is one of the fundamental benefits of this great association.

I will share with you the words of Past-President Tom Bivins as he wrote them in the very first edition of the NAWEOA newsletter in 1984.

*"I have been associated with the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association for less than four years, but they have been the most rewarding of my career, which is no accident. I have had an*



*opportunity to work with and socialize with wildlife enforcement officers from six other states and six Canadian Provinces. I was amazed to find that we all share very common problems. Most of the answers to our frustrations can be found in the positive professional relationships created through NAWEOA. We can all, at times, become negative and complacent, but the key to our successful future is in our own hands. This Association has created a positive professional bond for all of us to better ourselves and our professional standing. Before my association with the North American, I only personally knew a few officers in two other states and none in Canada. I now have well over 100 personal and supportive friendships with wildlife officers throughout North America. Like hundreds of other officers, I have spent money I didn't have to make meetings and phone other officers, but the rewards and fulfillments I have realized have no price*

*tag. Get involved with the North American---you won't be sorry!"*

Mr. Bivins says it quite well. Attending a conference and getting involved with the association has rewards unobtainable in any other format or venue. Today, unlike in 1984, we have any number of avenues through social media to commiserate with others. I can't even begin to name the many and varied ways to communicate we have at our fingertips in today's world. Even with all that nothing can replicate the atmosphere of a NAWEOA conference.

There are many hundreds if not thousands of officers working across North America who were not even born in 1984. How can NAWEOA best serve the new generation of wildlife enforcement officer? What role should NAWEOA serve as we move into the future? Who better to answer these question than those same young officers? I continue to encourage each of you to get involved as much as you are able.

Stay safe out there and may God Bless you all. I'll see you all in Columbia.

Past President

Rich Cramer

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Lew Huddleston



Well, another winter meeting is in the rear view mirror, and now on to continuing the planning for the 2015 summer conference in Columbia South Carolina.

The winter meeting setting was a beautiful spot, Dreher State Park, Prosperity South Carolina. Having the winter meeting in South Carolina allowed us to do two things: one was to have an onsite visit with the host hotel, to make sure the setting will work for the summer conference. The second is it allowed for the board to spend quality time together outside of the meetings. And since it was off season the rates were very good. We were kind of stranded quite a ways from any town so it allowed us to relax and enjoy some camaraderie with our fellow board members. It was quite different from the casino

setting in Reno.

It never ceases to amaze me just how much work we get done at the winter meeting. The meetings are long days, 0800-1800 is the norm, with a tremendous amount of discussion. Reports are given from each region, from the secretary/treasurer, from IGW, (International Game Warden magazine), webmaster/newsletter editor. We also get reports from the previous year's conference representatives as well as a representative from the current conference hosts. This year the executive board is putting it on with Milligan Events. We had a conference call with their representatives. Having the conference call allowed us to save on the travel costs for the conference planner from Milligan.

A gigantic THANK YOU needs to go out to Scott Haney. Scott came over from his home to cook for the board for the entire week (another cost savings). It was a tremendous load off of the board not having to worry about meals. Scott did a fantastic job. Thanks Again Scott!!! We also didn't have to travel and eat out each meal which

helped with the costs.

The summer conference planning is coming along with a tremendous amount of work being put in by a number of people, especially Rich Cramer. Last summer Rich took on the role of the conference liaison and since there is no one in South Carolina to be the liaison Rich is carrying the brunt of the planning with Milligan. Hang in there Rich! One additional note for the summer conference, since we don't have a host association to collect raffle and auction items for the hospitality night please try to bring something to donate to the cause. The hospitality night is a huge money maker for NAWEOA. Please check with your association and see if they would be interested in sponsoring one of the hospitality nights.

To close with I would like to encourage NAWEOA members out there to think about nominating a fellow officer for any of the many NAWEOA sponsored awards. Please take the time to check out the website [www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org) and check out the awards NAWEOA sponsors.

Hope to see all of you in Columbia!!!



## REGION 1 REPORT by Lori Backen



### **Alberta Natural Resource Officers Association**

ANROA is proud to present its first ever Regimental Ball, being held in Red Deer on April 18<sup>th</sup>. So far attendance numbers are looking good with rsvp's coming in daily. The Ball will follow our AGM that morning. For those looking to attend, they can contact Dan Neath at [Dan.Neath@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Dan.Neath@gov.ab.ca).

Alberta Parks is working hard to fill 145 Park Ranger positions that will be working within our provincially protected areas and public lands. This number is up by 35. Interviews took place across Alberta, but also in Ontario and Vancouver Island, to help increase our success rates with candidates. As well, a competition is currently on to fill 6 Conservation Officer Positions.

Uniform concerns seem to be one of the biggest topics as our Conservation Officers are not being recognized in the field by fellow agencies, mainly city police. This has caused concerns over carrying duty equipment and side arms in public. A uniform review will be taking place to see what can be added to ensure our safety.

### **Alberta Game Warden Association**

This past December, 11 new officers graduated from WCLEA in Hinton, AB. With the recent drop in oil prices, the Alberta economy has taken a hit and as a result, the Alberta Government is currently under a hiring freeze. Before the hiring freeze was announced, there was a competition to hire 12 more Fish and Wildlife Officers. It is not known what the status is

of this competition at this time.

Alberta created a new investigator position within the Major Investigations and Intelligence Unit. Quentin Isley was promoted to Sergeant and will be an investigator with the unit with a specialization in computer forensic and digital analysis.

### **B.C Conservation Officers Association**

BC welcomed 3 new conservation officers and trained 1 Parks officer to assist in the remote area of Bella Coola. The parks position in Bella Coola is a pilot project to assist the Conservation Officers in Cariboo-Chilcotin Zone who respond to complaints in that community which is 6 hours away. The Bella Coola valley has the highest concentration of coastal grizzly bears in the province and there is no end to human-bear conflicts.

The Conservation Officer Service has centralized the Major Investigation Unit to 3 locations in the province, Prince George, Chilliwack and Kamloops.

The society will be holding its annual campout this summer which is being attended by more and more CO's each year. Each year the society attempts to lure more CO's back to activities we all enjoy outside of work.

### **Northwest Territories Renewable Resource Officers Association**

This year hiring continues in Environment and Natural Resources there has been a lot of attrition. Staffing has proven somewhat difficult due to a lack of applicants.

The Officers association has recently completed its second "poachers choice" knife draw fund raising initiative in partnership with Bandit Blades of Whitehorse and set up a Facebook page to keep people in the loop. The Officers association has also adopted a new logo. Please visit us on Facebook: NWT rroa

### **Saskatchewan Association of Con-**

### **servation Officers**

2014 saw our agency welcome another group of new recruits to our ranks in Saskatchewan. Since 2007 we have added 44 new recruits to our ranks. All completed their training at the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy. It is anticipated that Saskatchewan will play host to the program in 2015 and 2016. As an agency we are looking forward to this opportunity.

This year our annual officer's association convention will be hosted by the Duck Mountain district. The officers there have been working tirelessly to organize and prepare for a convention which will truly be one remember. They have an exceptional menu planned for the weekend and many silent auction items lined up which will be sure to provide a great deal of fundraising for our association.

### **Yukon**

We are in the process of finalizing and hiring a new position which will be handling human wildlife conflict complaints in the Whitehorse area and aiding in Districts human/wildlife conflicts. This job description is still being finalized and hope to hire later this spring.

In April 2014 the Yukon hosted a Wildlife-Human Attack Response Training Conference with agency participation from across western Canada and United States. Conservation Officers from Whitehorse and Teslin attended as well as RCMP major crime and forensics unit and the Coroner's Office. As a result of the training held in Whitehorse this investigation although being very difficult to respond to resulted in all agencies working together cooperatively towards a common goal resulting in an effective response and quality investigation into the matter. Lessons learned through this file will be used to better our policies and procedures for future occurrences.

## REGION 2 REPORT by Kurt Henry



Good day from Region 2. The time has flown by since Reno where I was elected as the new director. Thanks go to Justin for his tenure on the board. I am writing this still in the grips of winter. I was ice fishing yesterday thru 30 inches of ice and it was a cold -22C last night. For those of you that are into spring already I am offering ice fishing trips, just call me!!!

Work on the board is constant and rewarding at the same time. I was thrown right into it on the Sunday of the Reno convention with tasks to follow up on. The work continued right up to and including the winter meeting which was just held in Columbia SC.

Work on the 2015 conference is coming together and you can expect a professionally delivered conference as always. I lack a few jurisdictional reports for this newsletter but will beat the doors better for the next report to ensure updates are obtained from all.

**Dan McMann of Manitoba** has experienced some positive news with the formation of the Conservation Act which will amalgamate all officer's powers under one piece of legislation. This will bring a title change from Natural Resource Officers back to Conservation Officers as it was in the early 80's. We are now a full year without a contract. We are still working under the old collective agreement and are told bargaining is proceeding but with no news. I hope the "no news is good news" adage applies to this!! The Officers Association has prepared a special wage adjustment package and is hopeful that it will be heard to address issues of pay disparity with other jurisdictions.

The MNROA will be hosting their annual officer's convention the weekend of March 27 and I'm sure it will be a great success. The Manitoba Canine team has been actively training to combat the spread of zebra mussels and will have one dog ready to go for the spring boating season. This is a retirement of a previous general service dog and that handler now has a new Belgian Malinois puppy named Hunter to content/train with. He has commented already on the increased intensity of the new dog. Good luck goes out to Officer Chad Moir during the next few months while he

trains with The Winnipeg Police Service Canine Unit.

**Brett Cachagee of Ontario** reports that Conservation Officers in Ontario are in a good position compared to 2 or 3 years ago. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has undergone a spending and staffing reduction labelled

"Transformation". Conservation Officers fared well compared to other departments.

The process is now complete for all CO's and the Province is in the process of hiring several positions within the enforcement branch. We have already undergone a few waves of new officers and are in the process of hiring a variety of positions such as CO interns, permanent CO's, Training Specialist, Regional Enforcement Manager, Intelligence and Investigations Specialists and Enforcement Specialist.

All the new hires will be subject to Ontario's new hiring practices which includes psychological and physical standards testing. New hires will also attend Ontario Police College for 14 weeks. It is good to see all the new hires. Having new recruits among our ranks breathes life into the enforcement program.

In Ontario Conservation Officers are not deemed "essential services" like Police Officers. Ontario is in the midst of bar-

## REGION 2 REPORT continued

gaining for a new collective agreement. In short there is the possibility that Conservation Officers in Ontario could go on strike until a collective agreement is reached.

Officers in Ontario are doing well in the equipment department. Patrol vehicles, snow machines, boats and ATV's get replaced on a regular basis.

This year marks the 8<sup>th</sup> year that the Ontario Conservation Officers Association is hosting the "Kids and Wardens Fishing Adventure". Officers act as fishing guide and mentor the kids. This event is always a great success and provides opportunities to underprivileged kids to have an outdoor adventure of a lifetime.

We are in our sixth year of

honouring Conservation Officers with the "Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal" presented by the Governor General's Office. Several officers received medals for exemplary service including retirees who are eligible. This is an opportunity to show our appreciation to our retired officers. Officers with 20 and 30 years of service receive the medals.

Ontario has had a number of successful court decisions as a result of excellent officer lead investigations. To view the news releases visit our website at [ocoa.ca](http://ocoa.ca). We can also be followed on Face Book and Twitter, please check us out!



On the Federal side the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate of Environment Canada announced the retirement of Richard Labossiere. Richard had over 30 years as a wildlife officer, first in Manitoba then onto bigger and better with the feds. This leaves a big hole to fill in their organization. Ross

Stewart who also started in Manitoba has been promoted to fill Richard's shoes. Are you getting a theme that people are using

Manitoba as a training ground?!!

## REGION 3 REPORT by Roger Selesse



**Region 3 Director Roger Selesse**

Hello everyone,

Needless to say, everyone has had a pretty rough winter but this will soon be a memory of the past for years to come.

Last year I was elected Region 3 Director replacing past Director Shawn Farrell, who did an excellent job, and was a great ambassador for the NAWEOA Association. My role as Director will give me the opportunity to meet other officers who share

the same goals. One common goal is to promote networking among officers within different jurisdictions which was one of the principle objectives in the creation of the NAWEOA association.

Sharing information with fellow officers often leads to special investigations. Again this year, several special investigations were successful in Region 3.



## REGION 3 REPORT *continued*

During the past year, most jurisdictions in Region 3 were faced with major changes, from losing field officers to structure and departmental changes. This affects everyone left with an increased workload. As we are well aware, all enforcement agencies were threatened in various manners therefore we need to be vigilant at all times. Thank you to all J reps for your continued support and for sharing information I provide. I wish to take the opportunity to welcome Heather Nowak as the new J rep for Newfoundland and Labrador. Also thank you to all J reps for providing their spring newsletters.

I look forward to meeting you this summer at our 2015 NAWEOA Conference in Columbia, SC.

Be safe. Work safe.

Roger Selesse

Region 3 Director

### **Newfoundland and Labrador, JREP Heather Nowak**

In Newfoundland and Labrador the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Division is responsible for enforcing the legislation related to the fish and wildlife resources in the province. In 2014 the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Division had a 36% increase in charges from the year 2013, totaling almost 1,200. A large number of these were due to help from the public, either through unanimous informant or through the Division's "Stop Poaching" tip line.

Detachment Supervisor Blair Barnes of Grand Falls-Windsor was the recipient of both the 2013 Shikar-Safari Club International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award and the Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

In 2013 the province imple-

mented a five year hunting band on the George River Caribou herd in Labrador. Over the past few years officers have been sent from the Island portion of the province to assist those in Labrador with enforcing this ban. Currently we have a number of officers in Labrador to help protect the Caribou, as all three herds in the province are considered threatened under both the provincial Endangered Species Act and the federal Species at Risk Act.

### **Quebec - JREP, Michel Morin**

2 major operations took place

#### **1<sup>st</sup> LAKE MEMPHREMA- GOG: POACHING NETWORK DISMANTLED**

Wildlife conservation officers succeeded in dismantling a poaching network active mainly on Lake Memphremagog.

In total, 25 persons (including fishermen and buyers) were interviewed by 50 conservation officers taking part in this major operation on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Three residences in the Memphremagog area were searched. The investigators seized, among others, a 20 ft. boat and 60 kilos of fish destined to the black market. The fish was mainly perch, lake trout and freshwater salmon.

About 70 charges should be laid against the poachers which could result in as much as \$50,000 in fines.

This operation is the result of an investigation started in 2011, thanks to many complaints from the public.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> OPERATION CAMÉLÉON (CHAMELEON)**

This operation mobilized nearly 80 Wildlife Protection Officers on October 22, 2014. The officers seized

in Bécancour and Nicolet, Qc 278 kilos of Lake sturgeon caviar 50 ducks, 4 boats, fishing gear, 1 snowmobile and computer.

In total, 18 sports fishermen and 10 commercial fishermen were interviewed. Currently approximately 320 charges were laid liable to fines totalling \$400 000.

The officers were able to gather enough evidence to stop the illegal poaching activities after too years of investigation and over 8000 hours of work.

The Wildlife department estimated 1200 Lake Sturgeon (8.2 tonnes of fish) caught during this illegal fishing activity in the last few years.

The poachers sold the Lake Sturgeon for \$ 40.00 per kilo on the black market. During the operation in the Lake St-Pierre and on the St-Laurence River, the officers released 4 live sturgeon from the poachers nets.

This operation yielded successful result thanks to many complaints received from the public.

### **Art Cronin, J Rep, New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources**

Hello from New Brunswick! Another good year was had here in the north east. Our winter is going well and we are hoping for an early spring but I suspect we are still a month or two out from seeing much in the way of green. This year's snow fall, at this point, has been quite heavy. Hopefully our deer herd will do alright.

We received new uniforms this year complete with new flashes. They have been very well received by our Officers.

## REGION 3 REPORT *continued*

Our simunition training has been going very well as part of our training regiment. It has been well received by the Officers and should be a real benefit for our ongoing training.

Our Shikar Safari Wildlife Officer of the year is Denis Leger. This is a well-deserved honor for Denis, congratulations! Denis is well respected by his fellow officers and exemplifies the kind of officer the award is meant to honor.

Our Enforcement Program has received a new leader in Rick Nash as the Manger of Enforcement for the Province. Rick brings with him years of experience and has worked his way up through our ranks. Rick, without a doubt, has been one of our most respected Conservation Officers. This role will bring challenges for Rick but

we are confident that he will do us all proud and make a very positive impact on our program.

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

A major change may be facing us here in New Brunswick as we may be moving from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Public Safety. At the time of writing this submission

we are expecting to hear one way or the other in a few weeks. This of course will present us with new challenges and opportunities. I for one look forward to the prospect as I along with many see it as a great opportunity for our enforcement program.

Lastly, I would like to thank Shawn Farrell for his representation for us as our past Region 3 NAWEOA Director; Shawn did an outstanding job for us. Our new Director is Roger Selesse also from New Brunswick. We wish Roger the best in the new role and know that he will be a real asset not only to us but the NAWEOA family as a whole.

Be Safe Out There!  
Roger Sellese

## REGION 4 REPORT *by Gabe Paz*



### ARIZONA:

**Gabe Paz** extends greetings from **Arizona** and the hope that everyone's hunting seasons went well. I'm just returning from our Arizona Ranger Training Session where I worked with our cook crew to keep

our six new recruit trainees fed during their four day scenario based training at a Department owned Ranch in Central Arizona. It's hard for me to believe that it's been almost 19 years since I was in their shoes.

Our Association President is Aaron Hartzell and he has done an outstanding job keeping our association afloat even though he has been without a vice president. Recently our Association was extremely active at our State legislative Day that was held at our state capital. Each year our Department and the Arizona Game Rangers Lodge work together to host a wild game meal for our legislators. As usual the Legislators get to enjoy our food and our officers get an opportunity to bend their ears to gain support for our officers when it comes to issues ranging from retirement benefits

and legislation to salary and wildlife management. Last year we elected a new Governor in Arizona so we are all curious about how new leadership and talks of budget cuts and hiring freezes will affect our department. So far our budgets were all passed without to many issues and we still have the ability to hire new officers so we can only remain hopeful.

Recently our agency has lost a few officers to retirements and to officers searching for that "pot of gold" with other agencies. With the current rate of officers leaving we are doing everything we can to try and fill vacancies with new officers but as we all know it's almost impossible to keep every district in the state full. After hiring six last year we will be hiring at least 6 more this year with hopes of those officers hitting the ground summer of 2016.

## REGION 4 REPORT *continued*

On a high note, we are starting to see some positive changes for our Law Enforcement program. Many of our officers have been requesting these changes for some time. The first change is a new truck logo that is specific to law enforce-



**Arizona's new truck logo.**

ment and includes law enforcement decals and a "Game Ranger" badge. The decal still includes our iconic Gambel's Quail in the middle. We also have been issued Tasers with my region getting the last allotment this month. A few years ago we also transitioned from Ruger Mini 14's to Smith and Wesson M&P's and now we are making progress to issue Aim Point reflex optics that we obtained from the Defense Logistics 1033 Program. Currently the southern half of the state (Border Regions) have been issued sights. The northern half of the state will be getting theirs within the next year. Last year some of our local agencies came under the spotlight for missing items in the 1033 Program and eventually the media starting investigating our agency for items that we have requisitioned over the years. After a little bit of criticism and finger pointing we were able to show that the program has saved the Department hundreds of thousands of dollars. The program has

benefited our officers with much needed equipment including reflex sights, thermal imaging devices, sleeping bags and even a few pairs of night vision goggles.

**Nick Buckler** extends greetings from sunny **California!** It is mid-February as I write this and even though I live in the northeast part of CA, where we should be piled in with snow and bundled up during the day, it has been very warm and very dry. The drought continues to be a leading issue for all Californians. As you can imagine, our Warden force is pushed to the limit with all the wildlife, habitat and enforcement issues associated with too many people, not enough water and wildlife caught in the middle.

I traveled to some of my old stomping grounds this past September to assist with the general deer season opener in our "B-zones", which brings tens of thousands of hunters into the field. I patrolled with a close friend and academy mate, and we managed to find a few derelicts in need of attention from two Game Wardens. I was very shocked to see the streams and lakes though! Streams where I had seen trout and salmon piled up in years past disappeared under the river bar and large sections of nothing but river rock, bedrock and sand extended through what had been salmon and steelhead runs. One of the Wardens who worked the deer opener spent a vast majority of his time tucked into the brush on a local creek. He wasn't waiting for spotlights or salmon snaggers though...he was waiting for water thieves! Water theft has become a hot topic in CA, with a large portion of water thieves in the north part of the state stealing water from salmon, trout and steelhead, not to mention

deer, quail, turkeys and bears, only to truck the water back to their marijuana crops. California still has not legalized marijuana, though something tells me that is not too far off. Maybe we're watching you in other states who have already made that change.

In any event, we are completely inundated with unlawful marijuana grows. Many of them are still run by Mexican nationals carrying guns and I do not know what will happen if and when their cash crop is legalized.

Water and marijuana are definitely hot topics here in CA, but there is another issue plaguing California's valuable natural resources and the consumptive resource users whose passion lies in the forests and fields of our country. Many traditional hunting and trapping methods, seasons and ways are being severely changed from within and without the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Fish and Game Commission and a large group of dedicated, well-funded and mobilized non-consumptive resource user groups.

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



## REGION 4 REPORT Continued

keep the trust of hunters and anglers who feel abandoned by the laws and regulations guiding them. I don't want to end this update sounding like a whiner, so please don't mistake it – we still have the best job around! I traveled several hours and several counties away to culminate another illegal bobcat trapping case a couple days ago with the help of Nevada Game Wardens and other CA Game Wardens; my squad-mate has another trapping case we are working, again in conjunction with Nevada Game Wardens; and there is a certain deer poaching felon in the southern part of my district who will soon see my smiling self on his doorstep! This is a great time for Game Wardens---today IS the "good old days", so don't forget to enjoy right now: hunt, fish, hike, take time with family, kids, dogs, horses and don't forget to reach out to Wardens in other states whenever you can. Take care, be safe, have fun, and keep your powder dry!

**Captain Colin Duff of New Mexico** reports that new Director Alexandra Sandoval was hired in May of 2014. Director Sandoval is doing very well for the Department. We are currently in the process of correcting the pay deficiencies among the Officers and the rest of the Department. The beginning steps will bring all new District Officers, once they have completed their first year, to about \$19.50/hr. Next will bring up Of-

ficers into a step raise increase below this, limited to a 10% increase per year, so it may take several years to get caught up. Sergeants and Captains will be adjusted as well.

We just hired 7 new Conservation Officer Trainees. They started mid February. We are hiring again with a closing date of April 9, 2015 for another 7-10 positions. We have 7 recruits almost done with their training and going to a District in late April.

Hunting Season is finally over and there were several worthwhile cases made this past hunting season. Several Large operations were conducted with the limited manpower but the operations were successful overall.

The 90 day Legislature session has been busy this year. The Department had several bills introduced, some are dead already with others still pending like increasing our Penalty Assessment violations. I am in the process of turning in an old unit for new one. This year we will be getting Chevys (1/2 tons).

We are also in the process of transitioning to all high band radios, working with State Police as our dispatch. So far it is working out well in the pilot areas. We will not move it to most of the state. In the future we should have the CAD systems in every Officer's unit, hopefully by next fiscal year.

**Washington** reports that Officer Cal Treser, a 35 year veteran from Winthrop, was named the 2014

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Employee of the year. Officer Treser is stationed in the largest county in the state and home to the largest herd of mule deer, Okanogan County. In 2014, one of the worst forest fires in state history, the Carlton Complex fire, burned 256,000 acres. Cal chose to respond to his community rather than stay home to protect his own property and greatly assisted the Okanogan Sheriff's Dept. in patrolling the fire ravaged county. Officer Treser is the agency's solo Master Firearms Instructor and is charged with supervising all firearms training in the agency. In addition to his enforcement duties, Officer Treser responded or investigated a whopping 42 cougar depredations in 2014 alone.

Animal Planet finished filming its last episode of "Rugged Justice" and began showing episodes in January on regular programming. Feedback has been generally positive.

WDFW hired a new director, Dr. Jim Unsworth, who hails as from Idaho Fish and Game where he was Deputy Director. The agency is looking forward to his leadership and perspective in dealing with many issues including wolves which are a source of contention with many.

Be safe and hope to see you in Columbia, South Carolina, Gabriel Paz

### L PRESLEY REEVES

South Carolina's first game wardens  
ventured afield in 1905



## NAWEOA Officer Exchange Program Canadian Officer to Mississippi By Kurt Henry, Manitoba



Kurt Henry hard at work in Mississippi

The Reno conference will be one that will stick in my memory for some time. Not only was I elected as the NAWEOA Region 2 Director but I was also chosen as the Canadian Officer Exchange delegate. What a great feeling! The idea of where to go had been running thru my mind for some time. What if I were selected? Where would I go? As in the past the SOUTH always came out on top. It is an area I have never travelled and the mystique was too much to miss out on. I chose Mississippi as the state I wanted to visit.

Contact was made thru Dean Hudson and John McFerrin, two Mississippi officers present in Reno, and they directed me to Colonel Steve Adcock. Travel arrangements and

contact was made with Major Chris Harris who arranged my first few days in Mississippi.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> I traveled from Winnipeg, Manitoba to Jackson, Mississippi and was met at the airport by Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) Officer Ben McCurdy at 1400 hrs. My first days would be spent working from Roosevelt State Park. As we were traveling from Jackson Ben took a call regarding a night hunting complaint in his patrol area. "I came to work and see the sites" plans were made to be picked up and join his family at church and a Thanksgiving meal and then proceed to the area of the call. Wow right into the action! After meeting his family which seemed to be half the church and the first of several Thanksgiving meals of my tour we were off in his patrol truck to look for night lighters. We set up in a field and waited. Work similarities and differences was the topic of conversation with some vast but none more than the weather! When I left Thompson, Manitoba it was -25 C. When I arrived in Mississippi it was 10C which was cold for them. After about one hour of sitting a UTV came up the road past our location, shone a light into the creek, turned around and shined a light on the field were sitting in. BINGO, we activated our lights and headed to the road were we met the UTV and occupant. It turned out to be the land owner with a firearm. He said he was checking his land for coyotes and the creek for beaver. In my work world this would still have been enough for a night lighting case but rules are different in Mississippi. We sat and chatted for the next couple hours without any further action. We patrolled back

to the state park and I was dropped off with direction that Maj. Chris Harris would pick me up at 0700 hrs.

November 24, 0700 hrs. I was picked up by Officer Harris arriving back in Jackson and MDWFP headquarters by 0830 hrs. While there I had the honor of meeting the Exec Director, Dr. Sam Polles. Sam is an avid waterfowl hunter and had hunted in Delta Marsh Manitoba which was where I had my first taste of work in the wildlife field as a summer student in high school. More evidence that it is a small world.

I was told to come back for lunch as the office staff was having a Thanksgiving meal, number 2 for me! I then traveled over to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and was given the total tour by Corey Wright. From the first introduction you could tell this was his passion. The Museum is a site not to be missed if you are in the Jackson area. Greeting us at headquarters for lunch were two tables, each 40 ft. long and full of mouth watering treats ranging from turkey, ham, squirrel stew, baked yams, rice, many salads and sweat tea to desserts without end. I made every effort to try everything. Thank you to all the staff that brought the food and allowed me to join them in their celebration. Leaving headquarters fat and happy as they say, I traveled to meet with the newest hires of MDWFP cadet class 2015-1 at the Turcotte range. Here I met 20 young officers going thru some of their first time on range with the AR. As a BFI myself all I wanted to do was go burn some powder but survived just smelling it in the air! I was very impressed with the professionalism demonstrated by this group of

young officers. I was reminded of my basic training and how far along departments have gone towards officer safety and equipment provided.

November 25, 0730 I was picked up by Brent Madden to experience deer hunting with dogs, which is very foreign to me. We checked over 25 outfits of deer hunters both with and without dogs. Seems like the dog hunters get their fair share of enforcement attention! We patrolled wildlife management areas and private hunt club areas.

November 26, 0700 Lt Bobby Wilder picked me up to start my third day. We traveled back to Turcott where he was desk bound for his one day a week rotation. I then jumped in with Officer Chris Bobo where we followed up on a dumping of deer carcasses near a business and set up a trail cam in case of further activity. From there we took a call about a deer with its head caught in a wrought iron fence. The joys of urban wildlife! This call was handled prior to our arrival and we headed to our destination of historical Vicksburg for some site seeing. My first view of the mighty Mississippi river was from the same vantage point that Gen. John C. Pemberton saw Gen. U.S. Grant and his battleships steaming northward up the river.

November 27, 0500 Thanksgiving Day and the opening day of duck season, one of 5 mandatory work days for all uniformed staff right up to and including the Colonel. Officer Brent Madden picked me up and we went to the Pearl River area to check for hunters. We met up with Officer Gilbert Barham; everyone addressed him as coach!! We put in at the boat ramp just at day break to patrol in a 20ft War craft boat. Nice boat!!! We checked a number of hunter groups. One family unit consisting of husband, wife and two daughters with the youngest, aged 7, enjoying her

first opening day of duck season. It was great to see the youth out taking part. We did find a few hunters that were not quite following all the laws and issued violations for an unplugged shotgun. Coach and I then headed up to his sister's house to spend Thanksgiving afternoon with his family and I was treated to another example of southern hospitality. Thanksgiving meal number 3 if you're counting.

November 28, 0700 was my transfer day. I was moving to Paul B. Johnson State Park. I was met by Officer Jody Matheny. Our discussion came to the question of the biggest difference I have seen so far from work in Mississippi to work at home. It is the right of access. In Manitoba it is very uncommon to have to pay to join a hunt club to access hunting grounds. So much of Manitoba is open public land and the population base is so much smaller, only 1 million in all of Manitoba. We are fortunate to be able to find public lands or private land with permission without having to open our wallets. We met up with Officer Jyntre Williamson and located my new accommodations, a cabin on Geiger Lake. From there we followed up on a baiting investigation he was looking into and sat on a food plot for several hours.

November 29, 0700 Officer Williamson picked me up and we toured around the Hattiesburg area for deer hunters. Most hunters were either found on Camp Shelby or in state management areas. We assisted a US Forestry K9 Officer with a felony arrest when a hunter was found to be prohibited from firearms. Once more I was treated to southern hospitality at a wildlife management area check station with a meal of turkey, coleslaw and lima beans. Thanks to the cook LeDon Cooley.

November 30, 0700 -2200 I was teamed up with Officer Keith Bond and yes he lives up to his name!

Keith wanted to show me everything in his patrol area and he did. We wrote some tickets too!!!

December 1 0830 pickup plan to work in and around Camp Shelby then set up two decoy bucks. It was a beautiful set up into the evening but there were no takers.

December 2, 0900 I moved to the west part of the state and bunked in with Officer Terry Miles. We had some fresh oysters for lunch and went to chase bad guys at night. One vehicle did drive by our location ever so slow and we heard a shot a short time later but were unable to locate the vehicle.

December 3 Officer Miles, Officer Michael Pounds and I went by boat on the Mississippi River and observed staff from fisheries doing research on sturgeon. I looked for but didn't see any alligators. I did some more historical touring and went to Port Gibson and Windsor Ruins. I was treated to a catfish fry and went to work till 0100 along Natchez Chase with no activity. With a total of 11 days patrolling Mississippi I got to see a lot of the country side. I was amazed at how much forested land I encountered. It was not the flat fields I thought I might have seen. All officers went above and beyond to show me the sites of their patrol area. I owe a huge thank you to all the staff of MDWEP for hosting me, Manitoba Conservation for allowing me to go and to NAWEOA for having such a great program allowing officers to see the work of fellow officers.





## REGION 5 REPORT By Carlos Gomez



Region 5 Director Carlos Gomez

### Paul Kay - IOWA

As with most states, budgets are dictating what we are able to do as far as training, programs and activities. This also translates to filling positions from retirements. With hunter education and mentoring funds and as a state that is also in charge of marine navigation enforcement, we are encouraging proper hour reporting to maximize the number of dollars we receive from those funds. This made a significant impact to our budget last year.

We are continuing to monitor CWD in the state now that has had two positive samples reported in our wild whitetail deer in NW Iowa and we have developed a comprehensive plan for management of them.

Shooting sports have become outrageously popular in Iowa. Iowa has more high school trap shooting teams than any other state in the nation. The Law Enforcement Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has been the driving force behind this success. Retention and recruitment activities have also been at the forefront of our bureau.

We had the first ever teal only season in Iowa this year in September. There were definitely some growing pains associated with this new season and it will continue to be an enforcement priority. Many great cases have been made this year on monster white tail deer, waterfowl and outfitters.

### Greg Salisbury – Kansas

Big Hello from Toto and all his game warden buddies!!! Not a lot of changes from the Sunflower state. Kansas Game Wardens have not received a step increase since 2001 and the next couple of budget years look very grim. Legislators increased state employee's contributions to the state retirement system so we actually earn less this year than last. In my 28 years of service I have never seen such an exodus of young officers. We hire and train them only to see them transfer to other states or other agencies within Kansas. In the next month we will find out the plan on new structure within the Law Enforcement Division. We recently learned our public lands managers will no longer be law enforcement certified and the L.E. division will restructure from two to three statewide regions. On a positive note Kansas Wardens continue to make excellent cases and have had a dramatic increase in positive public perception. I would ask that everyone check out the Kansas Game Warden Facebook page and "Like" us. This page depicts an accurate portrayal of Kansas Wardens and their everyday activities. The page is updated daily and all wardens con-

tribute pictures and info. Drought in the western part of the state is still effecting the wildlife out west. Wish for rain but keep your powder dry!!!

### Carlos Gomez – Oklahoma

Oklahoma is safely moving forward with no pending earthshaking issues. Pay, issues continue to concern wardens while administration eyes a second raise in three years, however, a positive morale seems to be balancing that out. And, while our division needs to fill only three positions, we're finding numerous applicants are coming in from neighboring warden agencies.

On equipment, an updated vehicle fleet (63 of 117 vehicles so far), comprised of Chevy trucks powered by CNG alternate-burning engines, equipped with roof-mounted light bars and 800 MHz radios are helping image and effectiveness. Regional operations budgets that carried over a fiscal funding surplus, have been authorized to use the funds for special equipment such as 16 units of G3 night vision.

Our governor recently appointed our first-ever female wildlife commissioner who seems to be doing a great job, enjoying her supportive, leadership role, and is well-liked by all concerned.

Legislatively, to combat an ever-growing feral hog issue in our state, a new felony law was initiated prohibiting the transport of LIVE hogs with two separate offenders getting collared so far. One man was attempting to smuggle in over 120 hogs from

## REGION 5 REPORT By Carlos Gomez

Texas for release into his favorite hunt area.

Our annual, 'fishy deer season' (paddlefish) continues to challenge officers of our NE areas. Because of a diminishing reproduction, creel limits have been forced to drop from 3 fish/day (a few short years ago) to 2 fish/YEAR. Stricter rules including a special permit, registration of each fish caught/kept, and online registration of each fish on an internet site have all led to wardens setting new ticket-writing records for the region!

### **Mark Ohm – South Dakota**

2014 was an active year for South Dakota officers. Our officers made several large cases and assisted with many federal investigations as well. In addition to the normal day to day work of a WCO we are still going through the growing pains associated with a structural reorganization. While this reorganization has provided more opportunities for career advancement it has also effectively decreased our everyday presence in the field by taking 4 field officers and promoting them to a District Conservation Officer Supervisor level. While these supervisors still have field duties, they also have many more office duties than in the past. The field positions that they held were also not filled, we gained no employee positions through this reorganization. As with any change there are definite benefits and some drawbacks, but overall it seems to be working quite well. South Dakota is also taking a huge leap into the technological present and providing each of-

ficer with a smart phone that has access to our licensing database. The associated program will also query our violation database and inform the officer if the subject has had previous violations (either citations or warnings) as soon as their name is displayed. Again, there are plenty of questions and hiccups along the way, but this seems like a good tool for our officers. Finally, SDCOA once again hosted an annual prairie dog hunt for disabled and paralyzed veterans. This program has been a big hit for the last 6 years and planning for the 2015 hunt is already well under way.

### **Scott Haney – Texas**

Hope all of you had a safe and productive hunting season. I chose a couple of the operations going on in Texas among the numerous Texas Game Wardens are facing.

TPWD-LE has provided officer water survival (OWS) training to game wardens in advance of the spring and summer water safety season. This training is part of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Boat Operations and

Training (BOAT) Program catalog of nationally credentialed courses. Twenty game wardens went through this two-day course, which includes skills in surviving a water entry in uniform, disengaging from an assailant while in the water, water extraction techniques, and other lifesaving water skills.

Border operations continue to be an enforcement effort game wardens are involved with along the Texas/Mexico border and in the Gulf of Mexico. TPWD-LE game wardens fill a vital niche with their expertise of navigating the waterways and back country of rural Texas. Some of the most challenging areas for game wardens to patrol are the remote mountains and canyons in the Big Bend region of west Texas. While maintaining these patrols game wardens are constantly in search of illegal drug and human smuggling activity in addition to their enforcement efforts of the Texas Parks and Wildlife and Penal Code. These operations serve a dual purpose by allowing game wardens to practice conservation law enforcement while serving as a force multiplier providing security along the border.

## **NAWEOA TRIVIA**

### **Information from Art Redden regarding the wood in the NAWEOA Gavel and Striking Board**

The original gavel and striking board were made by Art Redden, Nova Scotia, Past President of NAWEOA. The gavel and striking board were made in 1993-1994. Art was President from 1993-1995.

Wood was provided from each region:

Region 1: Kerry Wrisshko sent white birch

Region 2: Gary Martin sent red oak

Region 3: Richard Kingston sent birdseye maple from a seized log

Region 4: Rick Pallister sent walnut

Region 5: Del Tibke sent walnut



*Field Notes*

*Spring 2015*

# Win Your Paving Stone

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

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

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



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

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

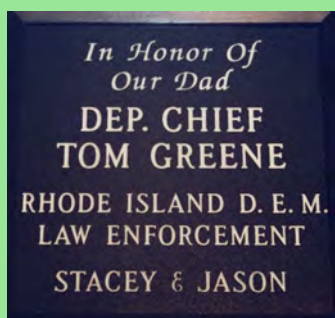
**GOOD LUCK!!!**





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

## Examples of Engraved Paving Stones



*Honor a Family Member*

*Demonstrate  
Family Support*



*Memorialize a Fallen Officer*

*Honor  
Outstanding Achievement*



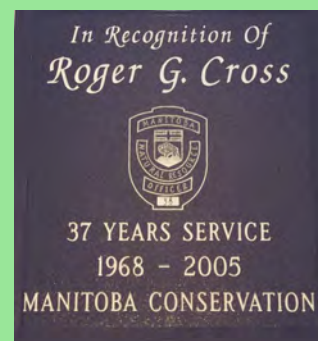
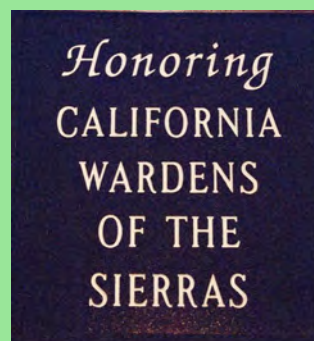
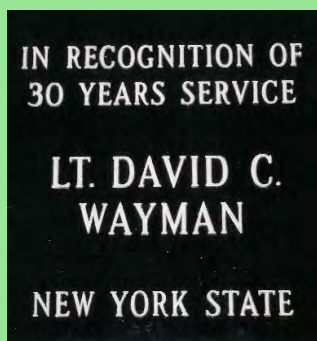
*Just Say Thank You*

*Demonstrate  
Support*



*Celebrate Partnerships*

*Honor  
Officer Retirements*

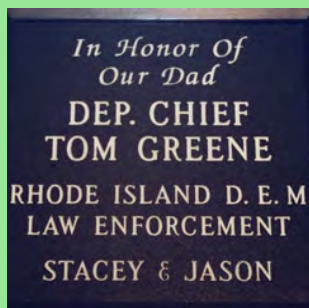


*A thank you card and a photo of your paving stone will be sent to you upon its completion.  
A gift acknowledgement is also available upon request.  
Museum staff will be available to assist visitors in locating their paving stone  
on the museum grounds.*



# SUPPORT THE GAME WARDEN MUSEUM PURCHASE A PAVING STONE

## 1. Circle the type of stone your wish to purchase



Engraved Paving  
Stone  
\$150



Engraved Paving  
Stone With Logo  
\$150

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

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

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

## 3. Complete the sponsor and payment information

### Sponsor Information Payment Options

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

[gamewardenmuseum.org](http://gamewardenmuseum.org)

Amount of this sponsorship \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

10939 Peace Garden Road, Dunseith, ND 58329

Or

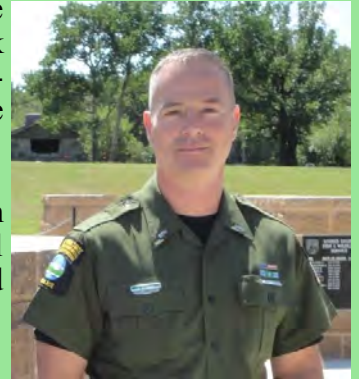
P.O Box 1239 Boissevain, MB R0K 0E0



## *Meet Thomas Caifa, US Board Member North American Game Warden Museum*

Greetings All,

Just a quick introduction: My name is Tom Caifa and I have just joined the NAGW Museum Board this year. I am a conservation officer in New York State. Specifically, I am the captain in charge of training. I have been a conservation officer for just over 15 years now and I currently live just outside the state capital of Albany.



I first became involved with the museum as part of the Visiting Officer Program in 2012. I had such a great time that I came back in 2013 and 2014. Several months ago, Dave Grant asked me if I would like to join the board and I said yes. I attended my first meeting in March.

One of my first responsibilities as a board member is to keep the Visiting Officer Program alive. I am doing my best to ensure that the program continues for 2015 and beyond. Right now, scheduling is the biggest issue. I am currently making contact with all of the officers that have expressed an interest in coming to the museum this summer.

That brings me to my next point, which is actually a request. If you know of any game warden (active or retired) that you think might like to participate in the program, please feel free to pass along my information to them. I have done the Visiting Officer Program three times now and I really enjoy it. It's not just the program itself, but the whole experience of staying at the Peace Garden and seeing the museum, a place that celebrates the game warden profession. Presentations can be as simple as the standard "who we are and what we do" or can be more elaborate. Every game warden has interesting stories and since every state is different, the material is always fresh. Feel free to spread the word!

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

Stay Safe,  
Tom



The 2015 annual fundraising golf tournament in Manitoba will be held on August 12, 2015 at the Kingswood Golf and Country Club near Winnipeg. Prairie Helicopters came on board last year as the new tournament sponsor.

We are always looking for prizes and cash donations for the tournament. All monies raised go directly back into the North American Game Warden Museum.



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





## ***Meet Graeme Smith, Canadian Board Member North American Game Warden Museum***

I believe that one of the greatest obstacles to the success of our agencies is strengthening public awareness. I became interested in the NAGWM as it assists in educating the public about the challenges resource law enforcement agencies face and the pressures on North America's natural environments.

I have been a Natural Resource Officer for approximately four years and currently operate out of Selkirk, Manitoba – known for trophy Walleye and Channel catfish.

After a year of acting as an assistant director with the Canadian side of the board, I have taken over one of the vacant director positions where I will continue promoting the museum and what it stands for.



Graeme Smith



## ***Visiting Officer Program North American Game Warden Museum***

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

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

ficers from Utah, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Montana, Manitoba, North Dakota, and Washington. Typically, officers stay for two to three days over a weekend. If you or your agency is interested in participating in this program please contact Museum Board Director Tom Caifa at [nygameprotector@gmail.com](mailto:nygameprotector@gmail.com) who is currently overseeing this program.





## I'd like to become a Museum Member

### Individual *Life Member* Installment Plan

#### Individual Member (Annual) \$25

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

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

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

### APPLICATION

☐ ANNUAL

☐ LIFE

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Agency & Position \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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

\$\_\_\_\_\_Amount if more than \$75.

JACKET SIZE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

CHECK

☐

CASH

☐

CREDIT CARD

☐

PAYMENT BY

VISA

☐

MASTER CARD

☐

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

Send to;

**10939 Peace Garden Road, Dunseith, ND 58329**

or

**PO Box 1239, Boissevain, MB R0K 0E0**

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

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Code \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing signature \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# Colombia 2015

Est-elle historique? Gracieuse? Sensuelle? La ville de Columbia en Caroline du Sud incarne tout cela et bien plus! Elle vous charmera par son rythme relaxant et douillet; une abondance de sites récréatifs dont le lac Murray;

des rivières; des parcs; des jardins, ainsi que le zoo de Riverbanks, l'un des plus beaux du pays; l'Université de la Caroline du Sud et fort Jackson figurent également au nombre des attraits de la ville. La guerre civile est abondamment commémorée dans des musées, des maisons historiques et dans des bâtiments réaménagés en cafés et en boutiques. À titre de capitale et de ville universitaire du « Palmetto State » surnommé ainsi en l'honneur de l'arbre emblématique de l'état de la Caroline du Sud, la ville de Columbia vibre au rythme d'une scène artistique colorée, tandis qu'un esprit de liberté englobe les quar-

tiers de divertissement jonchés de boutiques locales, de restaurants de spas, de salons et de boîtes de nuit. Le magnifique campus de l'université de Columbia abrite plusieurs bâtiments historiques.

Les plus aventureux, pourront découvrir les rivières et les sentiers du *Congaree National Park*. Les épicuriens pourront choisir parmi plus de 450 restaurants, et choisir un nouveau festin à chaque repas. Tous sont facilement accessibles. Lorsque vous aurez fait l'expérience de la ville de Columbia, vous serez ravis de vous y être arrêté. Columbia figure parmi les 10 meilleures grandes villes où habiter et parmi les 30 communautés américaines où il fait bon vivre.

## Rapport du président Dave Webster



Voici mon dernier article à titre de président et je suis heureux de dire que tous sont revenus sains et saufs de la rencontre de cet hiver qui se tenait à proximité de Columbia en Caroline du Sud. Le conseil d'administration logeait au *Dreher Island State Park*, le long des berges du lac Murray, à 45 minutes de la capitale. Les résidents nous ont affirmé que la neige et la pluie verglassante étaient inhabituelles, mais elles ont permis à

la majorité d'entre nous de se sentir comme à la maison! Nous avons eu une rencontre productive qui nous a permis d'aborder un agenda bien rempli. La conférence de 2015 à Columbia en Caroline du Sud figurait parmi les sujets d'intérêt. Nous espérons que les membres profiteront des formations de classe mondiales qui y seront offertes et qu'ils y participeront en grand nombre. La conférence prendra une tournure quelque peu différente cette année, alors qu'elle sera réduite en durée et que le contenu de cours d'habiletés entre agents n'aura pas lieu. Ce qui n'est pas mis de côté, est l'opportunité de participer à d'excellentes formations et de réseauter avec des agents de la faune de tout le continent, dans une ville universitaire vibrante, riche en culture et en histoire. Cet événement annuel

nous offre une excellente opportunité de nous rencontrer et d'échanger des idées, en plus de créer des liens qui dureront toute une vie. J'encourage tous ceux d'entre vous qui connaissez les bénéfices de la NAWEOA, à parler de cet événement à vos collègues de vos associations, afin de promouvoir cette rencontre. J'exhorte tous ceux d'entre vous, à assister à l'expérience de cet été à Columbia et ainsi profiter de l'hospitalité du sud et d'une conférence qui sera des plus chaudes.

Soyez prudents et au plaisir de vous voir à Columbia!

Dave Webster  
Président



## Rapport du vice-président Lew Huddleston



Une autre réunion hivernale est derrière nous et la planification de la rencontre estivale de 2015 à Columbia en Caroline du Sud peut se poursuivre. La réunion hivernale s'est déroulée au magnifique site du *Dreher State Park*, situé à Prosperity en Caroline du Sud. La tenue de cette réunion hivernale a permis deux choses : Dans un premier temps, nous avons été en mesure de visiter l'hôtel qui accueillera les invités, afin de s'assurer que le site conviendra à la tenue de la conférence de cet été. Par ailleurs, nous en avons profité pour passer de bons moments ensemble, en dehors du contexte habituel des réunions. En plus, nous étions en basse saison, ce qui nous a permis de profiter de tarifs avantageux. Nous nous étions échoués à une certaine distance de toute civilisation, ce qui nous a permis de relaxer et de profiter de la franche camaraderie des membres du conseil. Le tout était différent de

l'ambiance des casinos de Reno au Nevada.

Je suis toujours étonné de la quantité de travail que nous effectuons pendant la saison hivernale. Les journées sont longues, typiquement de 08h00 à 18h00, alors que nombre de discussions s'y déroulent. Les rapports de chaque région, des secrétaires/trésoriers, de la revue *International Game Warden* et de l'éditeur du bulletin et du site web nous sont acheminés à cette occasion. Nous traitons également les rapports des représentants des conférences des années antérieures et rencontrons un représentant de la prochaine conférence hôte.

Cette année, puisque le conseil d'administration fait appel à la firme *Milligans* pour l'organisation de la conférence, nous avons tenu une conférence téléphonique avec leurs représentants. Cette conférence téléphonique nous a permis de limiter les frais de dépenses et de voyage des chargés d'affaires de la compagnie.

Un énorme MERCI à Scott Haney. Scott est venu de son domicile, afin de cuisiner toute la semaine pour les membres du conseil (une autre économie). Un énorme fardeau en moins pour les membres du conseil qui n'ont pas eu à se soucier des repas. Scott a fait un travail remarquable. Merci encore Scott!!! Nous n'avons pas eu à nous déplacer à chaque repas, ce qui nous a également aidé à limiter les dé-

penses.

La planification de la conférence de cet été implique une énorme quantité de travail et ce, pour de nombreuses personnes, en particulier Rich Kramer qui a accepté l'été dernier, le rôle d'agent de liaison de la conférence. Puisque personne en Caroline du Sud n'était en mesure d'assumer cette corvée, Rich en paie le prix et subviens à la tâche de planification avec la firme Milligans. Lâche pas Rich!

Aussi, puisque nous ne bénéficions pas des services d'une association afin d'amasser les items destinés aux divers tirages et à la soirée de ventes aux enchères lors de la soirée bénéfice, essayez d'amener quelque chose que vous remettrez à la cause. La soirée bénéfice représente une importante source de financement pour la NAWEOA. Prière de vérifier auprès de votre association locale, afin de connaître leur intérêt à financer l'une des soirées de financement.

En terminant, j'encourage les membres de la NAWEOA à penser à la nomination d'un collègue pour l'obtention d'une distinction parrainée par la NAWEOA dans de nombreuses catégories. À cet effet, prenez le temps de visiter le site Web à l'adresse [www.naweo.org](http://www.naweo.org) où vous verrez les prix commandités par la NAWEOA.

En espérant vous voir tous à Columbia!!!

## Directeur Région 3 Roger Selesse



Pas besoin de mentionner, tous ont eu un hiver assez dure, mais dans peu de temps cela ne sera que souvenir pour les années à venir.

L'an dernier j'ai été élu comme Directeur de la région 3 remplaçant le directeur sortant Shawn Farrell, qui a fait de l'excellent travail toute en étant un bon am-

bassadeur pour l'association NAWEOA. Mon rôle de directeur vas me donner l'opportunité de rencontrer d'autres officiers qui partagent les mêmes intérêts que moi. Un des objectifs communs est de promouvoir la formation de réseau entre les officiers de différentes juridictions, qui était un des principaux objectifs de la formation de l'association.

## Directeur Région 3 Roger Selesse

NAWEOA.

Partager l'information avec nos confrères aboutie souvent à des enquêtes spéciales. Plusieurs enquête ont eu des résultat positif cette année dans la Région 3

au cours de la dernière année , la plupart des juridiction de la Région 3 ont dû faire face à des changement majeur. La restructuration changement de département et même la mise à pieds de certain officiers. Cela ne fait qu'augmenter le fardeau de travail sur le reste des officier.

Comme vous le savez toute les agences qui font l'application des lois, sont constamment menacer, il faut rester vigilant en tout temps.

Merci à tous les représentant des différentes juridiction pour votre support et de faire le dissipation de l'information de je vous envoie .

Je profite de l'occasion pour souhaiter la bienvenu a Heather Nowak comme nouvelle représentante de Terre Neuve & Labrador. Aussi merci à tous les représentants qui on fait parvenir leurs rapports.

J'anticipe de vous rencontrer cette été a la convention NAWEOA 2015 qui se tiendra à Columbia en Caroline du Sud.

Soyer Prudent

Roger Selesse  
Directeur Région 3

**Heather Nowark JRep Terre Neuve & Labrador**

A Terre Neuve & Labrador, les lois sur le poisson et la faune , sont applique par la division d'enforcement chasse et pêche de la province.

En 2014 la division a eu une augmentation de 36% d'infraction relative aux loi sur la chasse et la pêche, par rapport à 2013.pour un total de presque 1,200. Un grand nombre sont le résultat de l'aide du public. Ne sois pas des informations anonymes ou de la division Info braconnage en line.

Le superviseur du détachement de Grand Fall-Windsor, Blair Barnes a été récipiendaire pour le Mérite D'officier de l'année du Shikar-Safari International et l'Agent de Conservation de la Faune de l'année de Terre Neuve & Labrador.

En 2013 la province à instaurer une interdiction de chasse pour les troupeaux de caribou de la rivière George au Labrador, pour une période de 5 ans. Au cours des dernières années, des officiers de l'île sont envoyer afin d'aider les agents du Labrador, afin de faire appliquer ce moratoire sur la chasse au caribou. Présentement un nombre d'officiers sont au Labrador afin de protéger les trois troupeaux de caribou qui sont tous considérer comme une espèce en danger au niveau provincial et a risque sous le niveau fédéral.

**Art Croning, J Rep, Nouveau Brunswick Département des Ressources Naturelles**

Du Nouveau Brunswick je vous dis bonjour. Une autre bonne année dans le Nord Est. L'hiver tire à sa fin, j'espérais avoir un printemps tôt , mais je soupçonne que nous aurons à attendre encore un mois ou deux avant de voir la verdure. Cet année nous avons eu beaucoup de neige, j'espère que notre cheptels de chevreuils s'en tira bien.

La formation par simulation , qui fait maintenant parti de notre gamme d'entraînement se passe bien. Cette formation a été bien reçu par les officiers et devrais être un bénéfice pour notre programme de formation.

Denis Légère est le récipiendaire du prix Officier de la Faune Shifar Safari. Denis a grandement mérite ce prix d'honneur, Denis est très respecté par ces confrères et il amplifie le model d'officier a qui sont décerner ces prix, Bravo Denis.

Notre programme d'application des lois est maintenant diriger par Rick Nash. Il est devenu notre nouveau directeur provincial. Rick apporte avec lui plusieurs années d'expérience, il a su monter les échelons pour y parvenir. Il est sans aucun doute l'un de nos agents le plus respecté. Ceci est un défi pour Rick, mais nous somme confiant qu'il sera apporté un impact positif dans notre programme

Michel Morin J Rep Québec

### **1<sup>er</sup> LAC MEMPHRÉMAGOG : RÉSEAU DE BRACONNAGE DÉMANTELÉ**

Agents de conservation de la faune a réussi à démanteler un réseau de braconnage actif principalement sur le lac Memphrémagog.

Au total, 25 personnes (y compris les pêcheurs et les acheteurs) ont été interviewés par 50 agents de conservation, prenant part à cette opération majeure le 23 juillet.

Trois résidences dans la région de Memphrémagog ont été perquisitionnées. Les enquêteurs ont saisi, entre autres, un bateau de 20 pieds et 60 kilos de poissons destinés au marché noir. Le poisson était principalement la perchaude, le touladi et le saumon d'eau douce.

Environ 70 accusations de-

vraient être portées contre les braconniers qui pourraient causer autant que \$ 50 000 d'amende.

Cette opération est le résultat d'une enquête qui a débuté en 2011, grâce à nombreuses plaintes du public.

### **2<sup>ième</sup> OPÉRATION CAMÉ- LÉON (CHAMELEON)**

Cette opération a mobilisé près de 80 agents Protection la faune le 22 octobre, 2014. Les Agents ont saisis, à Bécancour et Nicolet, Qc, 278 kilos de caviar d'esturgeon de lac 50 canards, 4 bateaux, engins de pêche, 1 motoneige et ordinateur.

Au total, 18 pêcheurs sportifs et 10 pêcheurs commerciaux ont été interviewés. Actuellement environ 320 des accusations passibles d'une amende d'un montant total de \$400 000.

Les agents ont pu recueillir suffisamment de preuves pour arrêter les activités de braconnage illégales après deux années d'enquête, pour un total de 8,000 heures.

Le ministère de la faune a estimé que 1200 esturgeon de lac (8,2 tonnes de poissons) ont été capturés par pêche illégale dans les dernières années. Les braconniers ont vendu l'esturgeon pour 40,00 \$ par kilo sur le marché noir. Au cours de l'opération dans le lac St-Pierre et sur le fleuve St-Laurent, les Agents ont sorti 4 esturgeons vivant des filets des braconniers.

Cette opération a donné ce résultat grâce à nombreuses plaintes reçu du public.



**IGW is a growing trade magazine dedicated to serving the professionals in natural resource and wildlife law enforcement. In its early years, primarily serving US and Canadian conservation officers.**

**To learn more about the magazine or subscribe, visit: [www.igwmagazine.com](http://www.igwmagazine.com)**





# REGION 6 REPORT



**Region 6 Director Jeff White**

## FLORIDA

With the retirement of Colonel Calvin Adams, Curtis Brown was selected to be the Director of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Law Enforcement. Colonel Brown served our nation in the United States Air Force and then began a 23 year career as an FWC Officer, serving in various roles from the field to our headquarters. He has a sincere passion for our conservation mission and has much experience working successfully with FWC teams and stakeholders to solve complex conservation challenges.

Additionally, Mark Warren was selected to be our Deputy Director of Law Enforcement Programs with a specific emphasis on conservation initiatives. Lieutenant Colonel Warren started in 1983 as an officer in Marion County and has worked in many different capacities throughout his time with the Commission. He has worked collaboratively with other divisions and agencies on many projects over the years, including contributing to the Imperiled Species Management Plan and serving as chairman of the Region XV training council.

Also recently promoted to the rank of Major are Captains Craig Duval, Jay Russel, Brian Smith, and Roger Young.

## GEORGIA

The Law Enforcement Division is now one of only ten organizations in the nation to be accredited for meeting the standards set forth by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in their Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) program. The Division received the accreditation for implementing key training elements to prepare Rangers to perform maritime law enforcement and to respond to emergencies to a national standard of operations.

On July 1, 2014, the "Turn In Poachers" program became the "Ranger Hotline" program. The purpose of the program is to encourage sportsmen to report poachers and violators of the state's game laws, but it is expanded to include a broader range of rewards to support all of DNR. The program is operated by the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation with DNR Commissioner Mark Williams serving as Chairman of an advisory committee that includes GNRFB Board Members and other organizations.

## VIRGINIA

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is currently conducting a recruitment effort to hire up to 36 conservation police officers to be assigned to various duty stations across the Commonwealth. Virginia Conservation Police officers (CPOs) have full police authority with statewide jurisdiction. CPOs primarily enforce the fish, wildlife and boating laws while patrolling their areas of assignment using 4x4 police vehicles, boats of all sizes, mountain bikes,

and ATVs.

Applicants for the position of Conservation Police Officer must possess a high-school diploma or GED equivalent and be at least 21 years of age by the date of hire. Experience that provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities is essential. Additionally, applicants must have a safe driving history and possess or be eligible for a valid Virginia driver's license. Applicants that have a strong interest in hunting, fishing and boating are encouraged to apply. For more information on the qualifications needed to become a CPO, please visit: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/law-enforcement/recruiting/>

It is the mission of the DGIF to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation and to work diligently to safeguard the rights of the people to hunt, fish and harvest game as provided for in the Constitution of Virginia; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing; to provide educational outreach programs and materials that foster an awareness of and appreciation for Virginia's fish and wildlife resources, their habitats, and hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.

## TENNESSEE

Our 240 commissioned officers attended in service training in February at a new location which allowed for the TWOA to put on a social each evening for officers to fellowship. We are pleased that 90% of commissioned officers signed up as TWOA and NAWEOA members. During the training, each officer

## REGION 6 REPORT

was trained in Self Aid/Buddy Aid and issued a Combat Application Tourniquet. TN hired 5 Wildlife Officers in June they completed 6 weeks of Wildlife and Boating Law Enforcement specialized training followed by 10 weeks of Basic Police School. They are currently under the supervision of a FTO. We are continuing to get replacement 4 door Ford F-150 trucks with half cages and Seaborne center console patrol boats. The members of the Tennessee Wildlife Officers Association and the Board of Directors have been meeting quarterly and continue to work with the administration on issues that affect its members. The TOWOA publishes 2 magazines a year that raises funds that are used in outreach programs. Last year, the TOWOA gave finan-

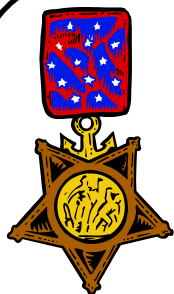
cial assistance to 34 hunting and fishing events that reached over 5000 participants. The Agency relaxed the residency requirement for the Wildlife Officers in 2014. Officers are now allowed to live in their assigned county or an adjoining county within their assigned district. We plan on sending officers to the NAWEOA conference in South Carolina

### MARYLAND

Maryland has had a very busy year and is planning for next year. There were no fatalities or serious injuries on duty. We have 27 positions open at this time with an academy planned for April 1. We are getting 20 new vehicles and are converting to a 200 mh radio system. This should give us better

coverage, communication with other departments and reliability. We are bringing on 6 cadets to fill positions for those moving onto the academy. Finally we are adding 22 new positions. This is the first we have added positions in many years.

We are fighting several laws in the legislature this year. There is a bill to make the sale of deer meat legal when shot on crop damage. Strict liability for bait placed to attract wildlife. Due to the recent negative publicity regarding police arrests in Baltimore city several bills have been entered into legislature to strip the Policeman's Bill of Rights in the whole State.



## NAWEOA Awards

**NAWEOA OFFICER OF THE YEAR — NAWEOA TORCH AWARD — OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD — CERTIFICATE OF RETIREMENT \*\* — AWARD OF VALOUR — LIFESAVING AWARD — CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION — HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP**



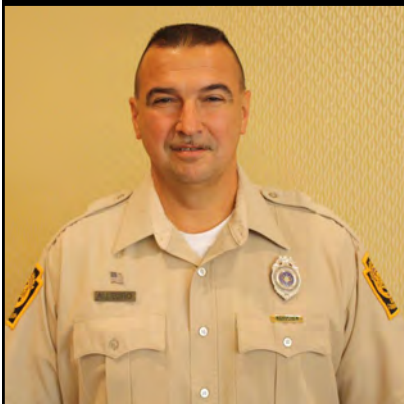
These prestigious awards are awarded by NAWEOA to deserving officers who have been nominated by their peers or agency administrators. Criteria and nomination details may be found on the NAWEOA website. **NOTE: The above awards shall be submitted to the NAWEOA executive for review not later than MAY 1st in any year to allow for presentation at the annual conference for that year.** With the exception of Officer of the Year nominations, other award nominations will be accepted up to the time of the conference and, if time allows, will be considered and awarded at the conference.

Consideration is not guaranteed if nomination is not received by the general May 1st deadline.

**Award nominations should be made online and electronically submitted at:**  
**<http://www.naweo.org>**

**\*\*\* Certificates of Retirement should be requested through the appropriate Jurisdictional Representative\*\*\***

## REGION 7 REPORT By Mark Allegro



Region 7 Director Mark Allegro

Officer Scott Adams from the **National Marine Fisheries Service** reports that NOAA continues to forge ahead in its collaborative effort to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU). At the State Department's Our Ocean conference in June 2014, the White House announced a Presidential Task Force on IUU fishing, co-chaired by the Departments of State and Commerce and made up of a broad range of other federal agencies. Additionally, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) added the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to the Commercial Targeting and Analysis Center (CTAC) in Washington, D.C. NMFS, FDA, and FWS are partnering with CBP, and seven other participating federal agencies, to enhance targeting efforts on commercial imports posing a threat to the health and safety of the American public and other border management goals such as conservation of species. For feature stories and enforcement actions associated with protecting our nations living marine resources, go to [http://](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/index.html#)

[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/index.html#](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/index.html#).

Mike Massey from **New Jersey** reports that the Division graduated two new Officers who are currently working in the field with FTO's. Unfortunately, two officers left the LE section, thus a continued decline in the number of experienced field officers. Financial issues continue to face the agency and officers are being required to purchase equipment out of their own pockets. Vehicle computer updates have benefited Officer productivity, however, the requirement of daily reports has increased. This unfortunately requires officers to often stop their patrols and do reports on the computer in areas of internet access.

Kevin Clayton from **Massachusetts** reports that Colonel James McGinn is their new Chief. McGinn was a practicing attorney and retired Sergeant from the State Police. A few of his first initiatives include a Twitter feed and Facebook page. A handful of recruits have completed their field training, one recruit graduated the Reading Police Academy in February, 2015, and a new class of 15 recruits begin their basic police academy in mid-March, 2015. Officer numbers are up approx. 30% in past 5 years. SGT David Loos was recognized with the James Michael Craven Award for his role in the passage of the Massachusetts Injured on Duty (IOD) Bill. The IOD Law provides full compensation to officers injured on duty as compared to 60-70% under

workers compensation.

Greg Eckhardt from **Vermont** reports that Fish and Wildlife Commission Pat Berry retired and was replaced by Louis Porter. Chief Warden Colonel Davis LeCours retired after 32 years, and was replaced by Lt. Jason Batchelder. Senior Warden David Gregory was promoted to Supervisory District Lieutenant. Four districts were filled with new wardens. Several legislative proposals are being considered which will effect the fall hunting seasons to include allowing the use of crossbows without a permit during the traditional archery season,

Mike Johnson from the **PA Fish & Boat Commission** reports that the Agency has developed a Swift Water Emergency Rescue Team made up of 15 officers of the Commission and led by Lawrence Furlong. The SWERT is also part of the Pennsylvania Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (HART), a cooperation between the PA Army National Guard and other state and local rescue agencies. The HART uses helicopters to deploy its specially trained Water Rescue Technicians both within and outside the Commonwealth. The PFBC trained and equipped its officers with the Windham Weaponry MPC patrol rifle. In addition, the PFBC has implemented advanced training in recognizing and apprehending persons operating watercrafts under the influence. A total of 92 BUI arrests were made in 2014, the most in any year in the agency's history.



## REGION 7 REPORT *Continued*

Steve Thomson from **Ohio** reports that the 28<sup>th</sup> Ohio Wildlife Officer Training Academy concluded after 6 months of training, and, that the 16 graduates have completed their field training program and have been assigned throughout the state. A joint committee of law enforcement management and field staff finalized changes to the officer physical fitness testing standards program. The new testing will include additional exercise options for both voluntary and mandatory testing on a trial basis in 2015. The first case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was discovered in Ohio in a captive deer herd. The authority to regulate captive white tailed deer was recently transferred from the Ohio Division of Wildlife to the Dept. of Agriculture. So far, CWD has not been detected to any wild deer.

Dave Walsh from **New Hampshire** reports that they are now a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator's Compact. Currently, New Hampshire Fish & Game are utilizing 3 Conservation Canines that both dogs and handlers have been certified through the United States Police Canine Association.

Their certifications include tracking, evidence detection, agility and obedience, and fish and wildlife detection. The K-9's are used to assist LE Officers in their investigations, apprehension of violators and search and rescue missions. The handlers and respective K-9's are: CO Mark Hensel and Sig, CO Bill Boudreau and Ruby, CO Bob Mancini and Ruger. 2015 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NH Fish & Game and throughout the year, a commemorative badge is being worn by all Conservation Officers. Currently, New Hampshire has only 43 Conservation Officers for 1.3 million residents, not to mention the seasonal influx of hunters, fishers and other outdoor enthusiasts from surrounding states.

Gary Toward, **PA Game Commission**, reports that in Feb, 2015, after 50 weeks of training, 25 new WCO's graduated and were assigned to their new districts. For the first time in many years, all vacant districts were filled. The ability to complete citations electronically was added to the computers utilized by officers. In the future, officers will be able to print and issue citations from their vehicles once printers are installed. In

the Fall, WCO's were issued and trained in the use of new .308 patrol rifles. Field officers were issued external body armor carriers providing the officers options in the wearing of their vests. The use of body cameras has been re-authorized by recent legislation.

Keith Williams from **Connecticut** reports that in addition to welcoming the Spring snow melt, their officers are looking forward to six new officers joining the ranks. While still understaffed, the agency is focused on increasing the staff level to 64 over the next few years. But as it always seems, the state budget is in a deficit, there's a hiring freeze, and program cuts are forthcoming. The arrival and deployment of new 2014 Chevy Silverado pick-up trucks outfitted with new high band radios and laptop computers have positively increased officer safety and has been well received.

Michelle Wiegand from **Michigan** reports that 38 recruits are currently enrolled in their training program. Upon completion of their school, the recruits will fill Conservation Officer vacancies in counties throughout the State.



**Register for the NAWEOA**  
**34th Annual Conference**  
**July 28th—July 30th**  
**Columbia, South Carolina**

# Wildlife Officer Recognition

OOY = Officer of the Year

## REGION 1

## REGION 2

## REGION 3

### NEW BRUNSWICK

Shikar-Safari OOO, Denis Leger

### Newfoundland and Labrador

2013 Shikar-Safari Club International Wildlife OOO, and Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Enforcement OOO Award, Detachment Supervisor Blair

## REGION 4

### Arizona

Wildlife Manager of the Year, 2014 Jake Fousek  
Cliff Sorrels OOO 2014, Brian Anthony

### Idaho

Conservation Enforcement Employee of the Year  
Tim Ferguson, and Mark Sands,  
Customer Service Employee of the Year,  
Jeff Day  
Management / Leadership Coordination  
Employee of the Year, Tricia Hosch-Hebdon,  
Shikar Safari OOO, Malcolm Clemenham

### Nevada

Game Warden of the Year, Cameron Waithman

## REGION 5

### South Dakota

OOO, Keith Mutschler  
Patton Torch Award, Nate Stukel  
Life Saving Award, Todd Crownover  
Pinch of the Year, Adam Geigle  
Petry Lifetime Achievement Award – (Retired)  
Mark Smedsruud, (Retired) Arden Petersen ,  
(Retired) Blair Waite

### Oklahoma

OOO, Gary Emmons

### Texas

SEAFWA OOO, Derek Spitzer

NWTF OOO, Chris Swift

Shikar Safari OOO, Craig Hernandez

Midwest OOO, Eddie Hood

Boating OOO (State and National), John Thorne

## REGION 6

### Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Florida OOO, George Raynaud

NASBLA Florida Boating OOO, Chris Mattson

Reserve OOO, Michael Sommer

Duty OOO, Faith Barnes

Investigator of the Year, Kevin McKinney

### Georgia DNR/Wildlife Resources Division: Law Enforcement

Ranger of the Year, Greg Wade

NWTF OOO, Lynn Stanford

NASBLA Georgia Boating OOO, Jeremy Bolen

James R Darnell recipient, Jeremy Bolen

Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl OOO, Brian Adams

Investigative OOO, David Webb

Supervisor of the Year, Eddie Henderson

Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year,

Travis Sweat

### Maryland- Maryland Natural Resources Police (MNR)

OOO, Andrew Wilson

Conservation OOO, Troy Brimer

NASBLA South Carolina Boating OOO,

Brad Bunting

### Mississippi

OOO, Marc McCleskey

Mississippi Wildlife Federation OOO,

Marc McCleskey

Shikar-Safari OOO, Marc McCleskey

### North Carolina

SEAFWA, NC Wildlife Federation Master,

Robert Newsome

Shikar Safari OOO, Robert Newsome

NC Bowhunters Assoc. Enforcement OOO,

Seth Reinhart

### **North Carolina Continued**

NWTF OOOY, Brandon Lyon  
NASBLA Boating OOOY, Reggie Barker

### **South Carolina-Department of Natural Resources**

SC Wildlife OOOY, Brian M. Welch  
OFY for Enforcement Investigations & Education  
Pat Rivers  
NASBLA Boating OOOY, Jason Plemmons

### **Tennessee- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)**

TWOA OOOY, Dale Grandstaff  
Outstanding Service Award, Wayne Rich

### **Virginia – Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

NWTF OOOY, Karl Martin

## **REGION 7**

### **NOAA, Office of Law Enforcement, National Marine Fisheries Service.**

North East Conservation Law Enforcement  
Chiefs Association's OOOY, Todd Smith.  
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's  
Annual Award of Excellence for Law Enforcement  
Sara Block.  
Department of Commerce Gold Medal,  
Ron Messa  
Department of Commerce Silver Medals,  
Albert Samuel, Richard Chesler III,  
Todd Nickerson, Stuart Cory, Jesse Leslie  
Department of Commerce Bronze Medal,  
Lynn Rios

### **Massachusetts Environmental Police Officer's Association**

NECLECA OOOY, Matt McClintock  
2014 Shikar-Safari Club OOOY, Bill Ramsey  
2014 James Michael Craven Award, David Loos

### **Vermont**

Warden of the Year, Dale Whitlock

Commissioner's Award, Kelly Price  
Commissioner's Award, Robert Carrier  
Commissioner's Award, Jenna Reed  
Musket Awards Gold, Dale Whitlock  
Musket Awards Gold, Justin Stedman  
Musket Awards Silver, Jenna Reed  
Musket Awards Bronze, Mike Scott  
NAWEOA Torch Award, Jenna Reed

### **PA Fish & Boat Commission**

OOOY, Anthony J. Quarracino  
Top Gun Award (for BUI arrests),  
Mark Sweppenhiser

### **Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife:**

Shikar Safari Club International OOOY,  
Roby Williams  
National Wild Turkey Federation OOOY,  
Nick Turner  
Midwest Assn. of Fish & Game Law Enforcement  
OOOY Inves. Rick Louttit  
Mississippi Flyway Council OOOY, Reid Van Cleve  
Ohio Bow Hunters Assoc. OOOY, Ted Witham

### **New Hampshire:**

Shikar Safari Club International OOOY,  
Delaune Brown  
Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs  
Assoc. OOOY, Glen Lucas

### **PA Game Commission:**

National Wild Turkey Federation OOOY,  
Jason Farabaugh  
NECLECA, OOOY, Scott Frederick

### **Connecticut:**

OOOY, William Vroman  
Boating OOOY, Laura Pettus

### **Michigan:**

Shikar-Safari OOOY, Kenneth Kovach  
NWTF OOOY, Mike Mshar  
NASBA OOOY, Steve Converse



**NAWEOA Award nominations**  
should be made online and electronically submitted at:  
<http://www.naweo.org>



**SAVE  
THE DATE**

# NAWEOA 2015 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA July 27-30, 2015



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- Or call the hotel at: **1-803-771-7000**
- Use the code: Wildlife Enforcement Officers



## SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2015

8:00 am - 5:00 pm **Business Activities** **NAWEOA EXECUTIVE MEETING**

## MONDAY, JULY 27, 2015

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm **Registration**

## TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015

8:00 am - 5:00 pm **Registration**

7:30 am - 8:30 am	<b>Business Activities</b>	<b>Group Photo - Uniform Day</b>
8:30 am - 10:30 am		<b>Opening Ceremony &amp; Tribute to Fallen Officers</b>
10:30 am - 11:45 am		<b>Keynote Speaker - Scott Vance, NWTF</b>
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm		<b>Officer Luncheon - NAWEOA Awards</b>
1:45 pm - 3:15 pm	<b>Business Activities</b>	<b>Training - Richard Johnston, Deputy Chief, Division of Refuge Law Enforcement USFWS</b>
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm		<b>Training - Dr. Jack Mayer, Savannah River National Laboratory: Wild Pigs</b>
1:00 pm - 7:00 pm		<b>Exhibitors</b>

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015

8:00 am - 6:00 pm	<b>Registration</b>
7:00 am - 8:00 am	<b>Business Activities</b>
7:00 am - 8:00 am	<b>Retired Officers Breakfast</b>
8:00 am - 9:45 am	<b>Female Officers Breakfast</b>
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Training - Todd Radabaugh, NC WRC: SFST Alternative Method</b>
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>NAWEOA Business Meeting &amp; Officer Exchange Presentations</b>
1:30 pm - 5:30 pm	<b>Lunch on your own</b>
8:00 am - 6:00 pm	<b>Training - Brian Willis, Winning Mind Institute: Personal Excellence Seminar (Spouses and Guests are welcome) Sponsored by ANRET</b>
	<b>Exhibitors</b>

## THURSDAY JULY 30, 2015

8:00 am - 4:00 pm	<b>Registration</b>
7:00 am - 8:00 am	<b>Business Activities</b>
8:00 am - 10:00 am	<b>Jurisdictional Representative Breakfast (by invitation only)</b>
10:15 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Training - Michael Neal, Sheriff Monroe Co., AR: Cover &amp; Concealment</b>
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>NAWEOA Business Meeting &amp; Candidate Speeches</b>
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	<b>Lunch on your own</b>
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	<b>Training - Keith Byers, Hunting and Shooting Related Consultants</b>
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Training - Scott Frederick &amp; Jason DeCoskey, PA Game: PA Tracking Team</b>
4:45 pm - 5:15 pm	<b>Exhibitors</b>
	<b>Closing Ceremonies</b>

## FRIDAY JULY 31, 2015

9:00 am - 5:00 pm **Business Activities** **NAWEOA Executive Board Meeting**

## NAWEOA 2015

- **BOOK your Hotel Reservations:** <http://naweo.org/2015/conference-hotel/>
- **Conference Information and updates can be found:** <http://naweo.org/>
- **Contact:** [conference@naweo.org](mailto:conference@naweo.org)





## NAWEOA Officer Exchange Program Nevada Officer to Ontario By Ian Knight, Nevada

It was July 23 at my first NAWEOA conference that I was selected to represent my state in an officer exchange program. Just before the drawing happened I leaned over to one of our captains and asked how the exchange worked, he smartly replied "they'll explain it when they draw your name." First name drawn for a state's officer was for a Tennessee officer, but to my luck he was not there. The next name was Ian Knight; I looked around the table at fellow Nevada Wardens in shock. Was that my name? I raised my hand and Justin Punchard came over with the paperwork.

A minute or two went by and Charlie Todesco came over and introduced himself, telling me that Ontario would be happy to have me come there for the exchange. The following day I sat with the Ontario guys at lunch and got a better feel for what there was to see in Ontario.

The trip started Oct 6 at 6am PST when I woke up to finish getting ready to leave for Ontario that evening. My flight left Reno, NV at 5:55pm and arrived in Los Angeles, CA around 7:30pm. After trying to find my way around the LAX I got to the International terminal ready to have a beverage! There was 1 place to get a drink and there was a line out the door. I never thought that a \$10 drink could be so refreshing. I boarded the plane to Toronto, ON at 10pm. This was the first red eye I have ever taken. Just for those who haven't taken a red eye flight before, don't do that to yourself, just don't.

I landed in Toronto and proceeded to customs before getting my bags. I picked the wrong customs agent that morning and got the tenth degree with questions.



*Ian with Polar Bear Hide*

It finally came down to if I was being paid by someone in Ontario to be there. When I told them no they let me go through.

Sean Insley was waiting outside of baggage claim for me. We loaded my bags in his truck and headed to Windsor to work Lake Erie. During the drive we stopped and got Tim Horton's; much better coffee



*Ian with large brown trout*

than Starbucks! We worked the tugs with Kevin Sprague as they came in off the lake due to the rough water. I also got to tour Presteve Foods Limited.

The next day I was paired with Sean Armstrong and Mike Campese. Armstrong picked me up and we headed to the NAFA fur house in Toronto. There we saw everything from mink and beaver to life size polar bears. One real treat there was getting to see a Nevada bobcat hanging in the cold room waiting to be shipped. After the fur house we went over to a fishway where a few biologists were collecting data and moving fish up or down river depending on the species. It was here I got to hold and weigh the largest brown trout I have ever seen. The big brightly colored male weighed in at around 7.5 kilos!

From Toronto Armstrong took me to stay with Brett Cachagee and his family. After settling in at Brett's we enjoyed a few laughs and shared stories before calling it a night or morning whichever it was. On the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> Brett's wife had set up a tour of the OPP headquarters. We toured the huge building including the OPP museum, crime lab, armory and the garage. It was quite the set up for a police headquarters!

After the tour Cachagee and I made a few contacts of fisherman at the lake and headed back to his house. The next morning we drove to me up with a few guys for breakfast. After breakfast Justin Punchard and I drove to New Liskeard to meet up with Pet Gilboe.

Once we got to Gilboe's house we packed up the truck and boat and headed to Lady Evelyn Lake where we stayed in a patrol cabin. After learning that no moose hunters had gone over the dam we decided to try to catch a few walleye for dinner on the way to the cabin.



*Moose kill investigation*

This was my first time fishing for walleye so when I finally hooked one of course it was only about 8 inches long, but we managed to catch our limits and had them for dinner. Staying in the cabin was a really great experience since we don't have anything like that to use in Nevada. Since the lake had no hunters and the weather was crummy, we choose to go patrol by truck and look for moose hunters that way. After checking a few hunters we headed back into town to meet with Lindsey Couillard to get dinner. At dinner I got to order poutine and it was delicious!

I stayed at Couillard's that night and then worked with Kyle Morrison in the Timmins District. Morrison and I rode ATV's into the bush to look at a potential shot and left Bull Moose that was reported by a hunter. After spending time digging through the stinky mess we started to pull the hair from the hide to look for any holes. We found a perfect broad head cut in the hide. The placement of the shot led Morrison to believe the bull was a wounding loss from an archery hunt. Once we got back out of the bush we headed back to The Couillard's for Thanksgiving dinner, which is about a month earlier than I'm used to, but I had no complaints.

The next morning Couillard drove me to Chapleau where I was transferred to Ryan DesRochers who took me onto the Chapleau road check. Once the road check finished up Yves Fortin, or Little Yves as some called him drove me into Wawa. While in Wawa I stayed at Charlie Todesco's home. Paul Manuel met us at the district office the next morning. Manuel and I then left to go on boat patrol. We almost didn't even get to run the boat on White Lake because the battery was dead on the boat. Luckily Manuel had jumper cables just long enough and we got the boat going. The patrol was more of a tour since we only found one moose hunter. As it always seems to go we got back into Wawa when Manuel got a call about some people in hunter orange on the banks of a Provincial Park, that we had just driven past earlier, so we turned around and found two fishermen in the general area that were wearing hunter orange. After locating the "hunters", two fishermen with orange on we went back to their camp to cite the one for not having his license. On the way into the camp we camp across a young lady leaving that had 3 uncased rifles in her truck, so we took the detour to cite her and then continued onto the fishermen's camp. After the long day we returned to Wawa.

On the final day of my trip before heading home I was picked up by Mike Binkley and taken into Sault Ste. Marie. Along the way we tried our luck at some fishing, but with all the rain storms the water was too high and moving very fast. In the Sault I toured the Water Bomber Plane hangar and the communications center. Once I got to Binkley's we had some moose and grouse for dinner and called it a night.

My last morning in Ontario Oct 16<sup>th</sup> was bitter sweet, I couldn't believe the 10 day trip was over but I was ready to sleep in my own bed again. I want to thank everyone that accommodated me on this amazing trip. It was definitely once in a life time experience!

