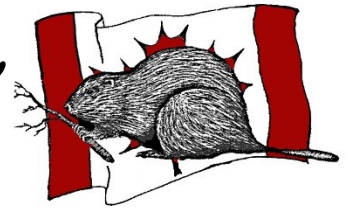


NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"



**2017 Annual Conference Sault Saint Marie, Ontario, Canada
The Quattro Hotel and Conference Center**

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

SPRING 2017
67th Edition NAWEOA Newsletter

NAWEOA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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SOUVENIR PATCHES AVAILABLE

2014, 2015 and 2016 NAWEOA conference patches are **Sold Out**.

2012, Arizona and 2013 Idaho Are available.

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAWEOA

Mail to: George A. Wilcox

P.O. Box 480

Millville, PA 17846

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

The President's Report

By Lew Huddelston



Well the winter executive board meeting is in the rear view mirror. Now, on to the summer meeting in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. I do want to take a few minutes and send a heartfelt "Thank You" to every single member of the executive

board. Everyone comes on to the executive board wanting to do the very best they can for NAWEOA and the associations they represent. This board has shown they can come together spend a number of days and late into the nights together, away from home, having very in depth discussions. Some conversations can be a little intense. We come to agree on most things and every so often we agree to disagree. But with every single vote and discussion the prevailing thought is what is best for our members and NAWEOA.

I also want to send out a very special "Thank You" to William "Billy" Frey and Scott Haney. Billy is the care taker for the lodge that has hosted the winter meetings that past two years. He, Mickey, Mr. Mags and his friends, all do everything they can to make us all feel more then wel-

come. It really takes a lot of the edge off when we come together to the lodge, and its 2,000 plus acres. Also, a Special "Thank You" to Scott Haney. Scott takes time out of his very busy retired life (golf schedule), and comes down, brings his cooker/smoker and cooks for us. It not only saves us (NAWEOA) money, but we don't have to take time away from the meeting to leave to a restaurant or have one of the board members go cook their meal.

Now sights are set for Sault Ste Marie. I know Scott, and several officers from Ontario are working very hard to put on the best conference possible for NAWEOA. I hope as many of you that can, will join us in Ontario. That's one of the awesome things about attending the NAWEOA summer conference. The opportunity to see a wide variety of areas of North America. I've been able to see parts of North America I would have never seen if I hadn't attended a conference, from St Johns Newfoundland to Tucson, Arizona, From Penticton British Columbia to Columbia, South Carolina, and a number of places in between.

Hope to see you all in Sault Ste Marie.
Lew Huddelston

The Vice President's Report

By Shawn Farrell



It's hard to believe two years have passed and I am submitting my last report as NAWEOA Vice President. First of all I would like to again thank the NAWEOA executive board for all of their hard work and dedication. I am very grateful and proud to have worked with dedicated past and

present members. Over the past few years we as an executive have been continually challenged to ensure the Association has a yearly training conference. This year is no different.

Looking ahead it seems as though we may get back to some traditional conference hosts which will certainly take a huge amount of work off the executive committee. One of my key roles as VP is to organize the winter executive meeting. The 2017 winter meeting was held at Black Creek Farms located just outside Lexington, Mississippi. This is the second winter meeting Black Creek Farms has hosted. Region 6 Director and Mississippi Officer Jason Blaylock arranged most of the logistics again, thank you Jason. Generally an association will come forward and inform the executive they would be interested in hosting a winter meeting. There have been challenges in securing conference hosts over the past couple of years but moving forward over the next few

The Vice President's Report (Continued)

By Shawn Farrell

years, we have a couple of interested agencies/associations willing to take on the host role. The owners of this property continue to welcome us with open arms and with their generous hospitality. Thank you to Mr. Mag, Billy, Mickey and Black Creek Farms staff. Our Conference Liaison Scott Haney again stepped up to purchase groceries and cook for the executive. Thank you Scott, a job well done as usual. Because of the above mentioned hospitality the cost of the winter meeting has dropped significantly over the last two years. When deciding on a meeting location, we always try to keep NAWEOA's finances in mind. The purpose of the winter meeting is designed for the board to get together in person to discuss issues important to the NAWEOA organization. Reports are also given by each of the Regional directors as well as those in support roles.

I invite the membership to review the minutes on the protected site. The minutes are usually posted not long after the publishing of the spring newsletter.

This summer's conference will return to Canada and will be held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The last conference held north of the border was in 2011 (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan). This year is special to Canada as well for Ontario's Conservation Officers. Canada celebrates its 150th birthday and Ontario's Conservation Officers

have been looking after Ontario's Natural Resources for 125 years. We look forward to celebrating with them. Thank you to Ontario CO Justin Punchard and the Ontario Conservation Officers Association for stepping up and assisting the NAWEOA Executive board in hosting this year's conference.

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

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

If you have any questions regarding NAWEOA or the awards program please email me at vpresident@naweo.org or call me at (506)458-5897. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve you as your NAWEOA Vice President. I hope you all have a safe and productive spring and summer season and I hope to see you in Sault Ste. Marie this summer.

The Past President's Report, Call for Elections

By Dave Webster



I write this submission in my final term as Past President. It has truly been an honor to serve on the executive and I have extremely enjoyed my time on the board. Now the time has come and I am really looking forward to stepping back

as new directors with fresh ideas, guided by the membership, move the association forward.

This year the winter executive meeting was once again held in Mississippi and I think I can speak for the entire board when I say we had excellent meeting facilities with the most gracious of hosts. As per usual there was an extensive agenda and much ground was covered. Another big thank you to Jason Blaylock and Shawn Farrell for organizing this year's meeting location and all the logistics that go with it.

One of my duties as Past President is to help manage elections and this year in Sault St. Marie

The Past President's Report (Continued)

By Dave Webster

we will be conducting elections for President and Vice President as well as all the US Director positions which include Region's 4, 5, 6 and 7. All the current directors in these positions will be eligible to run for their second terms.

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

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

demanding but rewarding job. You must be able to attend the annual summer conference as well as the winter executive meeting. Much of the business of NAWEOA is conducted via e-mail and as such, it is a requirement to have access to a computer and internet service to participate as a member of the board. For a complete list of duties associated with these positions, or if you have questions regarding the nomination or election process, please feel free to contact me at dave.w.webster@gov.bc.ca

I will be accepting nominations from now until they close during the summer conference in Sault St. Marie, looking forward to being back in Canada and hope to see you all there!

Dave Webster

Past President

Being on the Executive Board of NAWEOA is a NAWEOA

Pre-Conference Auction



The 2017 Conference Committee is pleased to offer a one day guided fly fishing trip on the Garden River with local fisherman Klaas Oswald. The Sault area has two of the few rivers in Ontario that are regulated under the OFRs as 'flies only' fishing. One of them, the Garden River, offers very good fly fishing for native Brook Trout and it is generally knee deep with a gravel bottom thus it is easy to wade and fish. We have caught trout there up to 15" long, but typical of natural conditions most of them are only half that size. There are always signs of moose, deer, wolves, and bears in the area. Access to the river is along some old logging roads.

This is a one-day guided fly fishing trip to the Garden River for the winner of the silent auction. See the conference website for more details and to place your bid!

The trip would take place on Saturday July 15th, Sunday July 16th or Monday 17 July, which is a convention day, but the day before the general attendance events take place. It would be the choice of the winning bidder. Mr. Oswald will take emails to answer any questions on the trip at - khoswald@shaw.ca. To be a winning bidder, you must be a registered conference attendee at the close of bidding. The current bid will be updated on this page. Only the amount bid and the bidder's initials will be posted. Bidding ends at 4:00pm EST July 10th 2017. Winner will be notified via email

NAWEOA 2018 Draft Budget

Greetings from the secretary Treasures desk. I am excited spring has arrived as we gear up for our 2017 conference in Sault Saint Marie Ontario. I hope to see everyone there. I'm happy to announce our finances are remaining steady in relationship to our recent conferences. Last year's conference in Vermont was a success and we showed a positive gain. The total income has not been quite as much as years past however we did make money which is promising. A special thanks to the executive board for hosting the conference. Our membership remains strong and we are holding at approximately 8500 members. Our winter meeting was promising as the executive board approved a budget for 2018.

Members needing information regarding rosters and dues should contact their director and or jurisdictional representative. Our website also hosts a great deal of information. Please visit www.naweo.org/protected for more information.

Please carefully review the power point and budget spreadsheet to see how your money is managed by the board. If you have any questions please just ask. Call anytime 815.243.7777 or reach out to anyone on the board.

Last updated 2/24/2017

Income	2017-2018	Comments
Conference	\$ 25,000.00	11500 seed plus 1/2 of profit
Dues	\$ 35,000.00	Estimate base on recent years dues
IGW Profits Share	\$ -	Funding now from BWW
Interest	\$ 250.00	
BWW Advertising	\$ 10,000.00	Projected AD revenue
Promotional Sales	\$ -	
Travel Reimbursements		
Total Income	\$ 70,250.00	
Expense	2017-2018	
Administrative Costs	\$ 16,086.00	See Administrative Worksheet
Affiliation Dues	\$ 750.00	ANRET, IAFWA and NACLEC dues.
Awards	\$ 4,500.00	See award sheet for detail
Conference Expenses	\$ 5,000.00	See conference expenses sheet for detail
Donations	\$ -	See Donation sheet for detail
Meetings/Travel-Executive	\$ 30,000.00	See Meetings and Travel sheet.
Meetings/Travel-Service	\$ -	See Meetings and Travel sheet.
Membership Services	\$ 4,000.00	See membership services sheet,
Memorial Donations and Expenses	\$ 1,550.00	See Memorial Services worksheet
Newsletter	\$ 3,100.00	See Newsletter Expenses worksheet
Promotional Items Expenses	\$ 2,750.00	Based on Jan & Michel's input
Web Site Expenses	\$ 1,130.00	See Website Expenses worksheet
Total Expense	\$ 68,866.00	

Income	\$ 70,250.00
Expense	\$ 68,866.00
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 1,384.00



North American Wildlife Enforcement Officer's Association

Invites you and your family to the:

2017 Annual Conference Sault Saint Marie, Ontario

The Quattro Hotel and Conference Center

July 18th thru July 21st

Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada is the host city for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association (NAWEOA) Annual Conference in 2017. NAWEOA will be taking its 2017 Annual Conference to the Quattro Hotel and Conference Center, July 18th through July 21st, with opening ceremonies on Tuesday, July 18th. The NAWEOA Board, along with the Ontario Conservation Officers Association and the Ministry of Natural Resources, will work together to once again bring an exciting, training oriented, and family friendly conference to its members. The Quattro Hotel staff are assisting with coordination of a productive and enjoyable conference. Officers and their families will be presented excellent training, networking opportunities, and a great time enjoying what Sault Ste Marie has to offer.

The Quattro Hotel

The Quattro Hotel is working hard to make the 2017 conference a great experience for all attendees. The room rates are listed below. When making your reservation, be sure to tell them you are with the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association to receive the conference rates.

The Quattro
229 Great Northern RD
Sault Ste Marie, ON Canada P6B 4Z2
705.942.2500 800.563.7262

Standard King \$109.00 13%HST 3%DMF
Double Queen \$119.00 13%HST 3%DMF
Family Suites \$129.00 13%HST 3%DMF
Rates are honored 3 days prior and 3 days after

All reservations must be made by telephone to ensure a guaranteed booking The overflow hotels are listed below.

Super 8
184 Great Northern Rd, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4Z3, Canada
Phone 1-705-254-6441

Comfort Inn
333 Great Northern Rd, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4Z8, Canada
Phone 1-705-759-8000



Sault Ste. Marie is one of the oldest settlements in North America. For at least 2,000 years, people have lived beside the rapids of the St. Marys River such as Jesuit Missionaries, explorers, voyageurs, artists, soldiers, and traders. The rapids provided an ideal environment for fish gathering and for centuries communities of Ojibwa lived close to the river, their livelihood based on whitefish.

Sault Ste. Marie (also known as the Sault or the Soo) is a city located on the St. Marys River in Ontario, Canada. It is the third largest city in Northern Ontario, with a population of approximately 75,000; residents of the city are called Saultites.



With a mission established by French Jesuits in 1668, claiming of the area by Simon-François Daumont de Saint-Lusson, in the name of Louis XIV of France, and fur trading posts soon after, this was one of the oldest European settlements in Canada.



Sault Ste. Marie is bordered to the east by the Rankin and Garden River First Nation reserves and to the west by Prince Township. To the north, the city is bordered by Heyden, Goulais River, Searchmont, Batchawana Bay, and Pancake Bay. To the south, across the St. Marys River is the United States of America and the city of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Due to having the same name, these border towns are known locally as the twin cities; they are joined by the International Bridge, which connects Interstate 75 on the Michigan side and Huron Street on the Ontario side.

Traffic on the Great Lakes flows through the St Marys Rapids via the American Soo Locks, the world's busiest canal in terms of tonnage that passes through it, while smaller recreational boats use the Canadian Sault Ste. Marie Canal.



Attractions in Sault Saint Marie

Agawa Canyon Tour Train

This one day wilderness train tour takes you 183 kms north of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario over towering trestles and along pristine northern lakes and rivers, to the Agawa Canyon. At the floor of the canyon you'll have two hours to experience the canyon's beauty. Enjoy scenic walks, explore one of the four waterfalls or climb to the stunning lookout platform 250 ft. above the tracks.



Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre

The Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre is located in the historic waterfront hangar that was once home to the Ontario Provincial Air Service. Explore the Centre at your leisure; we boast over 30 aircraft displays, two theatres, flight simulators, and interactive children's activities! Guided group tours are available on request. Our Gift Shop offers unique aviation memorabilia including crested t-shirts, sweatshirts and pants, hats, pins, and books.

Art Gallery of Algoma

The Art Gallery of Algoma is a public gallery dedicated to cultivating and advancing the awareness of visual arts in Sault Ste. Marie and district.



Brewery Museum

The Northern Superior Brewing Company is currently adding to its collection of brewing memorabilia. The Brewery Museum will be displaying memorabilia from days gone by and paying homage to the brewers and breweries of Northern Ontario.

Spruce Haven Nature Park

Spruce Haven Zoo is a family attraction featuring a picturesque wildlife section with animals uncommon to our area. Also a fun-filled and interesting Petting Area exhibiting unusual miniature farm animals.



Attractions in Sault Saint Marie

Entomica

Entomica is a place where you'll discover the fascinating, hidden and often misunderstood world of insects through live interactive exhibits, activities and education.



Eagle Feather Aviation – Helicopter Rides



Eagle Feather Aviation Inc. is a helicopter charter, sight seeing, aerial work and maintenance company located in Sault Ste. Marie. We currently operate a Bell 206B Jet Ranger located at the Sault Ste. Marie Airport. Our Employees have accumulated over 30 years of flight experience as far north as Alert in Canada and St. Lucia in the Caribbean and we are familiar with different operational requirements not only flight and operational equipment but geographical and climatic diversity as well.

Michael Kent Neal, Focus Under Fire, Keynote Speaker



Michael Kent Neal is currently the Sheriff of Monroe County. He was a former Corporal for Arkansas Game & Fish and was assigned to Lee County. Michael began his career in law enforcement in 1998 as a part time officer for the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. As a member of the Brinkley Fire and Rescue team he served as fire Instructor and after ten years of service retired in 2009 in the rank of Captain.

On May 20, 2010 Officer Neal was instrumental in ending a brutal gun battle in West Memphis that resulted in the death of two West Memphis police officers and the wounding of the Crittenden County Sheriff and his chief deputy. Michael became instrumental in ending the gunfire by ramming his game & Fish vehicle into a minivan carrying two shooters. While under direct fire, he engaged them in a fierce gun battle, eliminated their threat and saved many lives. In his presentation of the Medal of Valor to Officer Neal, Governor Mike Beebe stated "His training kicked in and further tragedy was averted and avoided by his trained, heroic, selfless actions."

Officer Neal has received over numerous different awards for his heroic actions which included: 3 Medals of Valor, Citations from The Arkansas House of Representatives, The Arkansas State Senate, The United State Senate, the 2010 Arkansas Game and Fish Wildlife Officer of the Year Award, the Southeast Regional Wildlife Office of the Year and Arkansas Law Enforcement Officer of the Year the 2011 International officer of the year. On February 20, 2012 Officer Neal was awarded the congressional Medal of Valor for Vice President Joe Biden. Due to his excellent training, he is the one of the most decorated Wildlife Officer in the history of Arkansas Game and Fish.

17TH ANNUAL TORCH RUN

By Thomas Caifa

It is my pleasure to announce that the 17th Annual NAWEOA 5K Torch Run/Walk will be held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario as part of the NAWEOA Conference. This event will be held on Tuesday, July 18th 2017 and all proceeds will benefit the North American Game Warden Museum.

The Torch Run/Walk was started by the Federal Wildlife Officers Association, which ran it successfully as a museum fund raiser for many years. Now the NAGW Museum Board of Directors carries on this tradition at the annual NAWEOA Conference. Your contribution will help offset the costs associated with the operation of this event which has raised over \$120,000 for the North American Game Warden Museum over the past 17 events.

As a financial supporter of the Torch Run/Walk, your association's name will appear on the front of the event T-shirt worn by all participants. The name of every Conservation Officer that has fallen in the line of duty since 1980 is memorialized on the back of the event T-shirt. At the conclusion of the event, a meal is provided and medals are presented to five classes of participants along with one overall award given to the participant with the fastest time.

If your association (or any individual) is interested in making a donation, please fill out the donation form on the conference website and return it along with your donation by May 15th, 2017. With your support, I am confident we can continue to carry out the mission of the museum, "Educating, Honoring and Celebrating Natural Resource Protection." We hope to see you at the event! For more information, go to <http://naweo.org/Conf/torch-run/>

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

NAWEOA CONFERENCE LIAISON POSITION

NAWEOA is soliciting candidates for the NAWEOA Conference Liaison position. The person selected for this position will, in years where there exists a traditional jurisdictional host, act as the direct liaison between the NAWEOA Executive and all summer conference organizers. In those years, the liaison will administer the NAWEOA conference hosting agreement, the conference planning guide, chair meetings between past and future conference hosts, assist with the coordination of future conference bid presentations, and review all conference financial statements. The person selected for this position shall, when no traditional conference host exists, actively seek out conference locations and venues, deal directly with any planning organization hired by the Executive as representative of the Executive, act as chairperson of the summer conference and insure all needs of the Association are met at the summer conference. A candidate must be a regular member in good standing of NAWEOA, have excellent computer skills and home access to the internet and have attended at least three NAWEOA conferences.

Having served on a previous conference planning committee is recommended, but not required. The liaison is expected to attend each annual NAWEOA conference and winter Executive Board meetings as required by the NAWEOA president. The liaison is fully reportable to the Executive. The liaison shall be compensated for travel costs at the same rate as members of the NAWEOA Executive. For more detailed information, visit the NAWEOA website at www.naweo.org and access the protected site under "members only", then click to the Constitution and By-laws and look for the link to the Conference Liaison position on the left.

Interested candidates are asked to provide a letter/resume electronically outlining their skills and abilities to NAWEOA President Lew Huddleston at president@naweo.org by May 15, 2017. Any questions may be sent to Lew at the above email address.

2017 NAWEOA Annual Conference Business Agenda

Sunday July 16	1300 – 1900	Registration Open
Monday July 17	0800 – 1800	Registration Open
	0800 – 1700	NAWEOA Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday July 18 UNIFORM DAY	0800 – 1800	Registration Open
	0830 – 1100	Opening Ceremony and Tribute to Fallen Officers
	1100 – 1115	Group Photo --- UNIFORM DAY
	1200 – 1400	Officer Luncheon and Presentation of Awards
	1400 – 1600	Keynote Speaker – Focus Under Fire – Monroe County Sheriff Michael Neal- Former Corporal for Arkansas Game and Fish
	1730 – 2230	Torch Run - Followed by Awards and Dinner Onsite
	1000 - 1700	Exhibitors/Vendors
Wednesday July 19	0800 – 1800	Registration Open
	0800 – 1000	Speakers/Training
	1000 – 1200	NAWEOA Business Meeting and Officer Exchange Presentations
	1130 – 1300	Lunch on your own
	1300 – 1700	Speakers/Training
	0800 - 1800	Exhibitors/Vendors
Thursday July 20	0800 – 1800	Registration Open
	0900 – 1100	Speakers/Training
	1100 – 1130	Lunch on your own
	1130 – 1900	Warden Skills
	0800 - 1200	Exhibitors/Vendors
Friday July 21	0700 – 0800	J-Rep Breakfast (by Invitation Only)
	0800 – 1000	Speakers/Training
	1000 – 1200	NAWEOA Business Meeting
	1200 – 1300	Lunch on your own
	1200 – 1300	Female Officers Lunch
	1200 – 1300	Retired Officers Lunch
	1300 – 1600	Speakers/Training
	1630 – 1700	Closing Ceremony
Saturday July 22	0900 – UTC	NAWEOA Executive Board Meeting
	0900 – UTC	OCOA Annual General Meeting

2017 NAWEOA Annual Conference Social Agenda

Saturday July 15	1900 - 2400	Hospitality Room Open	
Sunday July 16		Agawa Canyon Train Tour – on your own *	
	T-Times - TBD	Golf Tournament – Crimson Ridge **	
	1900 - 2400	Hospitality Room Open	
Monday July 17	0800 - 1815	Lake Superior Coastal Tour **	
	1930 - 2200	Youth Room Open	
	2000 – 2400	Hospitality Room Open	
Tuesday July 18	1200 – 1400	Spouse/Guest Luncheon - w/ silent auction	Hospitality - Hosted by the Canadian Federal Wildlife Officers Association
	1700 – 1730	Busses to Torch Run – At the Water Front Pavilion	
	1730 - UTC	Torch Run - followed by awards and dinner onsite	
	1930 – 2200	Youth Room Open	
	2000 – 2400	Hospitality Room Open	
Wednesday July 19	2000 - 2400	Hospitality - Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre – Youth Welcome	Hosted by Tourism Sault Ste. Marie
Thursday July 20	1300 – 1900	Warden Skills Competition and Barbeque	“Ontario Day” Hosted by OCOA
	1930 – 2200	Youth Room Open	
	2000 – 2400	Hospitality Room Open	
Friday July 21	1200 – 1300	Female Officers Lunch	
	1200 – 1300	Retired Officers Lunch	
	1730 – 1830	Grand Banquet – social hour, view auction items	
	1830 - UTC	Grand Banquet – Meal, Awards, Auction, Dance	
	1800 – 2300	Movie and Pizza Night for Youth	
Saturday July 22	0900 – UTC	OCOA Annual General Meeting	

* This is not an organized tour through NAWEOA and you must register through the train tour website

2017 NAWEOA Winter Meeting Report

Lexington, Mississippi

By Jeff Jones



The NAWEOA board met in February for its annual winter meeting in Lexington, Mississippi. Our wonderful host, Black Creek Lodge, provided top notch accommodations for the second year in a row. The board spent several days discussing important issues facing the organization but in the evening our host spoiled us with some Cajun cooking.

One of the bigger topics of the meeting was the creation of the vision and mission statement of the organization. After several revisions and some deep thought the board finally voted on the following. The vision statement of NAWEOA reads: **"Unified international natural resource enforcement and protection"** and the mission statement reads: **"International collaboration focused upon promoting professionalism and excellence in wildlife conservation law enforcement through training, networking, and professional recognition"**.



Planning for the upcoming conference in Sault Saint Marie was also a major topic. The association is again the host this year and the board members are working hard to make it another great one. At the 2017 summer conference there will be elections for President, Vice-president, and all the US regional directors. Also, Scott Haney, our current Conference Liaison, is at the end of his term and the position needs to be filled. This position is advertised in the newsletter. Anybody interested or has any question contact President Lew Huddleston or Vice-President Shawn Farrell.

The group photo will be on opening day at 1100 hours. On July 16th there will be a pre-conference golf tournament and a trip to Wawa on Monday. Three of the hospitality nights have sponsors. Wednesday's hospitality night is at the Bush Plane Museum with beer and transportation buses provided. If any jurisdiction has any donations for the hospitality night or auctions, let your Regional Director or Scott Haney know. There is an auction for a fly fishing trip prior to the conference. You are able to bid for this trip on the conference web site: <https://naweo.org/Conf/pre-conference-silent-auction/>. This trip is not a "learning" trip but a guided fly fishing trip on the Garden River with local fisherman Klaas Oswald. The trip would take place on Saturday July 15th, Sunday July 16th or Monday 17 of July. Conference registration is now open at <https://naweo.org/Conf/registration/>. Future conferences were also discussed and Wyoming has signed a contract for the 2018 conference. It is looking good with progress on the hotel contract. Oklahoma is online for 2019 and they are beginning to look at host hotels also. British Columbia has expressed interest in 2020.

After the long days of meetings our host was very gracious in providing some entertainment for the evenings. A group of coon hunters were brought in and we also were able to spend a few nights hog hunting with the Hog Patrol's Kristy Ingold.

Réunion Hivernale du CA de la Naweoa

Lexington, Mississippi

Par, Jeff Jones



Le CA de la NAWEOA c'est rencontrer en février dernier à Lexington Mississippi. Notre Hôte, nous a ac-

cueillis pour la deuxième fois au Camp Black Creek en fournissant des services de première qualité. Le CA à travailler sur d'important dossiers concernant notre association a tous les jours et le soirs venu notre hôte nous a gâter avec de succulents repas de saveur Cajun.

Un des sujets chaud était de crée un slogan au sujet de la vision et la mission de notre organisation .Après plusieurs révision le Ca a voter sur le slogan suivant. La vision de la NAWEOA **(Unification International pour la protection des Ressources Naturel et la mission se lit ... La collaboration internationale qui vise à promouvoir le professionnalisme et l'excellence en application des lois par le biais de formation, réseautage et la reconnaissance professionnel.**

La planification pour la prochaine convention qui auras lieux a Salut Saint Marie, Ont. était aussi un des sujets chaud L'association sera encore l'hôte cette année et ne vise qu'à un nouveau susses. A la convention 2017 il y aura des élections pour le Président, Vice-Président et tous les

Directeurs des États Américain. Aussi Scott Haney qui est notre agent de liaison pour les conférences est rendu à la fin de son mandat, cet position dois aussi être combler . Ce poste est affiché dans l'infolettre si vous este intéresser SVP veuillez contacter le Président Lew Huddleston ou le Vice-Président Shawn Farrell . La photo de groupe aura lieux a la journée d'ouverture à 11:00 h. Le Dimanche 16 Juillet il y aura un tournoi de golf et le lundi une excursion a WAWA. Trois des soirées de rencontre sont déjà commanditée Mercredi soir la soirée sera commanditée par le Musée Bush Plane le transport sera fournie. Si vos associations ont des donations pour les soirées de rencontre ou même pour l'encan veuillez informer vos directeurs régional ou Scott Haney. Il y a un encan sur un voyage de pêche avant la conférence vous pouvez miser pour ce voyage en allant sur le site <https://naweoa.org/Conf/pre-conference-silent-auction> . Ce voyage n'est pas un voyage d'initiation a la pêche mais plutôt une journée de pêche avec un guide local Klaas Oswald. Ceci peut avoir lieux l'une des journées suivante le 15,16,ou le 17 juillet. Le site est maintenant ouvert pour les enregistrements de cet conférence 2017. A <https://naweoa.org/Conf/registration/>. Nous avons aussi discuté pour les conférences futures et Wyoming à signer un contrat pour 2018. Tous semble positif pour les contrats avec les hôtels. Oklahoma son sur la bonne voie pour 2019 et sont presentement a chercher l'hôtel qui nous accommodera, La Colombie Britannique a déjà montrer un intérêt pour 2020.

Après de longue journées de travail notre hôte nous a organiser des activités pour les fin de soirées . La chasse au ratons laveur avec des chiens et quelque soirées a chasser le sanglier la nuit, avec Hog Patrol's Kristy Ingold



Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart



Happy spring from Region 1! To begin with I would like to express my appreciation and enthusiasm to be working with the existing NA-WEOA board of directors.

Some of these folks I had met at previous NA-WEOA confer-

ences and some I had not. I was however given the opportunity to meet each of them at our winter meeting in Mississippi. I can tell you that I have made some lifelong friendships with those who represent us on this board.

First off in this report I would like to speak to the ongoing success of the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy. The past delivery which was hosted by Saskatchewan saw the western provinces graduate 22 cadets in total. This was the second year that Saskatchewan had hosted at the Candle Lake location. Beginning in May, Alberta is pleased to play host for the academy. Once again the training will be based out of Hinton Alberta and their group will no doubt put on a great delivery as they have in the past.

Saskatchewan

The province of Saskatchewan is in tough financial times and our government is running deep deficits this year. No one really knows for sure what this means to our agency as far as operational budgets, office closures, and officer numbers goes. All I know for sure is the government is stating that everything is on the table...this includes the proposal of wage reductions and or forced time off without pay. At the end of the day our union will have its work cut out for them during bargaining which is currently underway. However this plays out, I hope our provinces natural resources are not put at increased risk as a result.

We are awaiting a job re-class review for a brand new job description that was submitted in December of 2016. We believe we have management support with this but ultimately it will be the Public Service Commission that makes the decision if we are worthy of a raise at the field level CO position or not. It has only been a 6 year push on this. Hopefully the end result comes quickly and in our favor.

The Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers held its annual convention at Candle Lake this year and the hosting officers from that district put on a terrific show. Although the number of attendees was down slightly, those who did attend speak very highly of the presentations and networking opportunities that took place. We were very pleased to have Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment Minister Scott Moe in attendance. One of his duties was to present the Conservation Officer of the Year award to Cam Lueken from our Melfort office. Congrats to Cam, well deserved. I will mention that next year the SACO convention will be hosted by the Leader district and we look forward to that weekend and the chance to spend time in their corner of the province.

Later in April of this year Saskatchewan will host an interprovincial/interagency hockey tournament in Saskatoon. I understand Alberta, Manitoba, Canadian Border Services and the Saskatoon City Police will send one team each along with SACO's 2 teams to battle for first place in a weekend long tournament. Although I am not a hockey player I attend the weekend every year and encourage others to do so as well. It is always a blast!

Yukon

Last August (COSB) filled two District Conservation Officer one Conservation Officer position vacancies to become fully staffed for the first time in several years. From this hiring Adam Henderson was sent to WACLEA for training and represented our agency extremely well graduating near the top of his troop. This spring we will be sending a new recruit to the academy in Hinton and have confidence in his abilities to do the same again.

COSB has been successful in creating a new

Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart Continued

Wildlife Conflict Officer position on a two year term basis hoping this position will become permanent after this two year period. The goals for this position over this period is to develop educational strategies, improve communications and outreach opportunities in communities, update our procedures in handling all types of wildlife in conflict situations across the Yukon.

Alberta

Election year for AGWA. New director executives are:

President- Charles Best

Vice Pres- Jason Lefrancois

Secretary- Jason Vanderwal

Treasurer- Alex Dayman

Past President- Kenton Yaceyko

Recently held our annual AGM in Camrose along with the hockey tournament. Better turnout then previous year. Over 110 people at the banquet and dinner. Our annual campout will be at Gull Lake AB this year. AGWA has new regalia available. Arlon Barz has put in a huge amount of effort and has received full back hats, mesh hats, t-shirts, long sleeves and hoodies. They are selling well.

AGWA and FWEB have partnered and developed a branch coin for officers to purchase through the association. The coin features a crest on one side and a rams head on the other. There are cases available as well for display. They are going over very well.

British Columbia

BC is just coming out of the long winter that most of us have had to endure this year. As with other jurisdictions we had 8 recruits graduate from WCLEA in 2016 and we are looking at sending 2 to Hinton for 2017. Most of these new CO's received an old fashioned welcoming at a 4 region super shoot in Quesnel in April. The welcoming consisted of a buy-in and many charges for our mock court from there training in Sask.

Our hockey tournament the AJ Cup was held in 100 Mile House also in April. Players from around the regions gathered including bio's and obviously ringers from other sections in the ministries. The COS team was successful in winning the cup. Also in another Natural Resource tournament, put on the by the National Parks Service, the COS team was also triumphant.

The CO Service in 2016 started using the social media and established a twitter account which appears to be quite a success. CO's from around the province send in notable current events and photos from their work.

The COS has developed a partnership with the Alien Invasive Species project initiated in 2015. CO trainers instruct the AIS inspectors in various aspects of Use of Force and assist these inspectors at the borders if necessary. In 2017 the government announced another 36 new AIS inspectors for all the borders putting them to around 70 for the province.

NAWEOA 2016 Burlington, Vermont



Region 2 Director Kurt Henry



Hello from Region 2. As I write this we are getting rain which should help knock down the four feet of snow I am looking at out my office window. The plans for the annual convention are well under way and the host hotel is al-

most booked solid with an over flow hotel named. The on line registration is up and running please register as you are thinking of it. Your executive had their annual winter meeting hosted by Jason Blaylock in Mississippi. It was very productive and the facilities were top notch with very limited cost to the association.

I am excited to see a conference in Canada and encourage all officers to try to attend. See you in Sault Ste. Marie!

Manitoba Conservation Officers' Association

We have had a banner year for conservation officers in Manitoba with our officers' efforts in the media spotlight numerous times (more on spotlights later).

Early in the summer officers and fire program staff were battling large forest fires in eastern Manitoba that threatened cottage country and led to broad evacuations and rescuing stranded hikers.

There was a change of our provincial government to a party that had promised an increased enforcement of night lighting to rural constituents. Night lighting has been a polarizing issue in Manitoba and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation has been helping push the issues of reduced officer numbers and budget shortfalls that had led to decreased enforcement in the past. Noticeably absent in the past were support aircraft during night patrols, which made a highly effective return this year.

A fall enforcement blitz focusing on illegal night hunting practices across Manitoba led to 49 charges and the seizure of 44 long guns and 14 vehicles. This level of night hunting hadn't been seen in decades. As a bit of history; in response to an epidemic of illegal night hunting, legislation was introduced in 1994 to force automatic forfeiture of all vehicles used by night hunters found guilty in court. This led to a ~80% reduction in prosecutions in the leads following the introduction. In 2016 charges were double the previous year.

A number of investigations made the news as well as a frustrating issue with a person's Facebook profile which had them boasting of their poaching activities and disdain for conservation officers. As fate would have it officers ran into this character hunting on private land without permission at night from a vehicle. When officers attempted to stop the vehicle the suspects fled, the chase was terminated but a plane continued to follow the suspect vehicle which slid into the ditch and ground units were able to arrest those involved.

The association has been coordinating an application for a special wage adjustment for our officers seeking fair pay that will also help with our retention issues. Manitoba conservation officers are still without a dispatch centre for their officers, leaving safety checks in the hands of friends and spouses. The association has been working to improve the public's awareness and attitude towards conservation officers having grown our MCOA Facebook page to close to 4,000 followers, starting a MCOA Instagram page as well as having officers representing the association at the largest boat show in the province answering questions and providing a friendly contact point for the public. Our association has held a number of fundraisers for the North American Game Warden Museum and our Fallen Officers Fund including raffles and our ever popular golf and hockey tournaments. We look forward to seeing fellow officers at the NAWEOA conference in Sault Ste. Marie this July.

Chad Moir

President of the Manitoba Conservation Officers Association.

Region 2 Director

Kurt Henry
Continued

National Capital Commission

The spring will see officers change uniform colours and shoulder flashes and badges will be changed as well. We are currently wearing blue-black uniforms and will switch to a light green to re-align with natural resources type colours. The change comes due to the fact that our uniforms are very similar to the Ottawa police and the public often mistakes our officers for police rather than conservation officers. Likewise our fleet will also undergo changes from having light bars on the roofs to all interior LED takedown lights instead.

We currently have only 9 full time officers but have recently hired 4 junior conservation officers in training. Their role will be limited to regular patrol and enforcement, while senior officers will conduct special operations, investigations and search and rescues. These positions were created to backfill when senior officers retire and give more flexibility with having more boots on the ground. Senior officers have been selected to supervise and train the new recruits until they can be on their own, generally after 3 to 6 months of field work and coaching.

NCC CO's will soon be signing an agreement with city of Ottawa to respond to, and when necessary chemically immobilize large mammals such as moose, coyotes, bears and deer (but not necessarily limited to these species). NCC officers are the only ones in the city that have the expertise, training and equipment to deal with human-wildlife conflicts in urban settings. Looks like we will be in for a busy spring-summer!

Stay safe! Jason Pink
Conservation Officer A-78

Nunavut

Hello from the still very cold and white Great White North!

It was another busy year for the Nunavut Wildlife Officers Association. After recognizing a need for more consistent and standardized training for the officers within the territory a couple of years ago, we have continued to develop and improve upon the training delivered to our officers. Our training

is continued to be developed catering specifically to Nunavut, as the unique environmental and cultural landscape requires special considerations in order for training to be relevant and effective. In addition to delivering newly developed training to our officers, we have been continuing to develop in-house training capacity, in order to reduce the need to fly up instructors from southern jurisdictions to deliver quality training.

It has not been a busy year enforcement-wise, but the wildlife deterrence aspect of our program continues to become more important, as the number of dangerous wildlife encounters has remained steady. Many of our communities deal regularly with polar bear deterrence during peak bear season (October-December) often requiring the hiring of local bear monitors to assist our conservation officers in ensuring the security of their communities while minimizing the number of bears needing to be destroyed due to safety concerns. We continue to develop methods of deterrence, including culvert traps, diversionary luring stations and using paint to mark repeat offender bears. Developing new and effective deterrence methods to provide our officers the tools needed to keep their communities safe remains one of our Department's top priorities.

Most of our stations are one-man stations in remote locations, so it is important that our officers are equipped to handle any issues that arise. Unique challenges are faced in Nunavut when it comes to group training, as our 30 officers are spread out among 25 remote fly-in communities. Arranging for all our officers to be in the same place for a couple of weeks for training requires a huge financial and organizational effort to pull off, as all our officers have to be flown to, and lodged in one location for a period of at least two weeks.

Our annual conference was held from January 31st to February 10th, 2017, in the territory's capital of Iqaluit. The conference was attended by enforcement officers from our Wildlife, Environmental Protection, and Parks Divisions. The training went great, with a mix of in-class and practical training being delivered. This year we had a Conflict Intervention and De-escalation course put on by instructors from the Atlantic Police Academy, which placed an emphasis on verbal conflict resolution, as well as providing tools to deal with individuals who suffer from mental

Region 2 Director Kurt Henry Continued

health issues. It was well-received by our officers, who were glad to be provided the training to better serve Nunavummiut across the territory.

Our organization continues to strive to move forward and continue the professional development of our officers, as the pressure on our resources in the North will continue to increase as the population of Nunavut continues to grow in years to come.

ONTARIO

Overall, the state of affairs of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Enforcement Branch and Conservation Officers in Ontario remains as it was in our last update, quite good. Due to general attrition and a push to fill vacancies, we are seeing hiring like never before. To put it in perspective, Ontario starting



OPC Recruit graduation – December 2016

sending our officers to Ontario Police College (OPC) for initial training about 6 years ago. To date, the province has sent approximately 60 officers through OPC, constituting over 33% of the roughly 180 total badged positions/vacancies. We recently posted an additional 13 jobs to be filled, including a K9 unit position. While we have lost a wealth of experience, knowledge and well-weathered skin through retirements, it has been refreshing to see the enthusiasm brought to the floor by new officers.

Equipment for the troops continues to be replaced and updated with professional and modern gear as it should be. ATV's, snowmobiles,

vessels and trucks are all modern and efficient. We have now implemented a molle system on our kevlar vests which assists to remove weight and gear from the duty belt. With ticks and incidents of Lyme disease becoming more of an issue in Ontario, we have piloted and may be implementing uniform pants with built in tick-guards. We are also in a review process along with our counterparts in the Ontario Provincial Police for a new pistol, the likes of which should be seen sometime over the next year. While I was hoping for a gold-plated desert eagle, it appears my wishes have fallen on deaf ears; not surprising considering they're old game warden ears.

Ontario's field officers completed a variety of top notch investigations and prosecutions this past year, too many to highlight just one. Conservation Officer Mark Lamont, of the Pembroke enforcement unit, was selected as officer of the year in 2016 for his reputation of professionalism, dedication and hard work. You can keep up with our news and media releases through our Ontario Conservation Officers Association (OCA) website and social media network on Facebook and Twitter, operated by our hardworking web-master Ron Arnold.

Of particular importance is the upcoming 2017 summer NAWEOA convention being held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, this July 18th-21st. The OCA will be holding our annual convention in conjunction, and assisting with some of the events. 2017 also happens to be the 125th year anniversary of conservation officers in Ontario, and Canada's 150th anniversary. It's incredible to think we've been holding the thin green line since 1892. While much information regarding events and venues is yet to come, this is one you don't want to miss. One thing is guaranteed, we'll have an abundance of Canadian made refreshments that will trump anything found in the south.

On a final note, the OCA would like to recognize Brett Cachagee for diligently representing us as our NAWEOA rep. for so many years. I have now assumed the role, despite sometimes leaning on Brett with my wobbly legs. Any questions or comments for the OCA can now be forwarded to me, contact info below. Stay safe out there folks and we'll see you at the convention!

Region 3 Director Roger Selesse



The last year in region 3 we kept adjusting with the changes. We have got a few new vehicles for the province, slowly getting all 4x4 extended cab trucks and each region will be equipped with 2 vehicles having silent partners.

We are sharing small equipment like ATV's/ Snowmobiles/Boats with our old department (ERD). We also have changed our name to Justice and Public Safety (JPS/JSP). We had a few officers who retired and their positions have not been replaced, some of those vacancies will be used to turn seasonal positions into full time.

In the new year we will be looking at having joint mandatory training with other unit in our new department. The province is now divided in 3 respective regions with approximately 73 officers left.

From our last contract the employer had agreed to do a study on our job and responsibilities. All officers will be able to participate and this should start in April.

Cleo Leblanc, from Region 1 Est District was named the Shikar Safari Officer of the Year. Cleo is well deserving of this award.

Officers from NB and Quebec have had success in a joint investigation related to illegal moose hunting and selling. Numerous major charges were obtained in different part of the province.

Quebec officers were also very busy in several operations. They have lost several vacancies over the years and are hoping that the wind will change. Public in general are not happy about the situation.

Operation CREPUSCULE was a success full

On November 23, 2016 agents for la de protec-

tion de la faune du ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, successfully ended the activities of two network poaching in Mauricie, Specifically the sectors of Saint-George-de-Champlain, Saint-Thècle, Lac Saint-Pierre, and the Réservoir Gouin.

The investigation began in 2014 after the officers were witness a number of illegal hunting activities.

The poaching activities Mainly concerned: illegal sale and purchase of moose meat, deer meat, and walleye. Hunting during the night. Hunting the big game with illegal weapon.

Currently, 59 people were referred and 320 charges we recorder. If successfully convicted these individuals will be liable to fine of \$ 700,000.

Over 30 searches were made in La Tuque, Shawinigan, and Trois-Rivières. Three weapons, one vehicle, one freezer, two boats, 55 kilos of walleye filet, 70 kilos of deer meat and 225 kilos of moose meat seized by the agents.

The operation mobilized 170 wildlife protection officers who were assisted by the Protection de la Faune du Québec's expert canine team. On December 14-16, 2016 Conservation Officers with the New Brunswick Department of Justice and Public Safety (JPS) conducted take down operations based on an eleven (11) month special investigation aimed at the illegal harvest and sale of moose in the Miramichi and surrounding area. Officers executed ten (10) search warrants resulting in the seizure of processed moose meat, moose parts (heads & hides), equipment for bottling meat, two freezers with approximately 300 under-sized striped bass, a gill net, three half ton trucks, a farm tractor, >20 rifles and 2 handguns, along with all the meat cutting equipment from a commercial meat shop. During these searches the Conservation Officers were assisted by Officers from other sections of JPS including Off Road Vehicle, Contraband Enforcement and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement as well as federal Officers from Fisheries and Oceans and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

Region 3 Director Roger Selesse Continued

During the searches RCMP seized three Harley Davidson motorcycles and a large amount of cash along with significant quantities of marijuana, cocaine, and pills which resulted in one indi-

vidual being charged with "possession with the intent to traffic". Of importance was that inside this dwelling there was evidence of a "Hells Angels" affiliation.

JPS Conservation Officers are presently putting together the file and at this time there are in excess of 200 violations on thirteen individuals with approximate fines of \$279,500 and 861 days in jail.

Region 4 Director Rick Langley



The West has had a crazy winter with many states enduring above-average snowfall and initial surveys are finding significant winter range losses, especially in deer populations in several states.

Other parts of the West experienced record rainfall and flooding and still parts of other states are already experiencing fire danger from a dry winter... go figure.

We are still dealing with challenges to the ownership of our Federal lands and enforcement powers of our Federal enforcement officers, which would have far-reaching impacts to all of our livelihoods. Technological developments are causing several states to try to keep up with legislation on the use of drones, trail camera use, suppressors/silencers and the release of location specific data related to wildlife.

My activities as the Region 4 Director have kept me busy trying to keep track of jurisdiction dues payments, changing jurisdictional representatives, jurisdiction rosters, soliciting award nominations for officers, and begging for reports from the jurisdictions. I am hoping that by the time you read this we will also be welcoming Hawaii as a jurisdiction member. The Board had a very

productive winter meeting in Mississippi where we handled a lot of business for the benefit of the membership. One of the highest priorities was planning for the summer conference in Sault Ste Marie. Scott Haney and our Ontario partners are pulling together a great conference and I hope you are planning on attending. The 2018 conference will be in Cheyenne, Wyoming and the Wyoming Game Warden Association stepped up to the plate to sponsor the conference (the first jurisdiction to do so in several years). They have already made significant progress in planning this conference and we look forward to seeing what they pull together.

No reports submitted by California, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska.

Arizona

Since Gabe Paz retired earlier this year and we have not had a replacement jurisdictional Representative assigned, I will write a few notes on the goings-on in AZ. With most of our hunting seasons over for the year our officers are finally able to slow down for a bit and take a couple weekends off just in time for spring bear hunts and turkey hunts and then it's all OHV's, fishermen and reptile collectors until the fall.

In the past year our Arizona Game Rangers Lodge was successful in doing something that hasn't been done in a long time, namely getting our officers some much needed compensation. Our Wildlife Manager III's who were not already there were all bumped to \$50,000. This was a great boost to many officers, but it also created the issue of compression within the pay grade and some gross inequities with 5-year officers now making the same amount as 20+ year veterans. I think you see the next challenge for the

Region 4 Director
Rick Langley
Continued

Lodge. Our new Governor implemented caps on the number of employees across state government agencies and hiring freezes to deal with budget shortfalls. We are still able to justify filling some positions and we have a class of new 8 new Game Rangers in the academy who will graduate in May and hopefully hit their districts this fall. Even with these new Officers, we will still have vacant districts across the state.

As suppressors/silencers have become more accessible to the public, we have all anticipated the potential for their use in wildlife crimes. While suppressors are now legal to hunt with in AZ they are not legal to use while shooting a spotted fawn at night in the headlights during a limited archery antlered deer season. It will be interesting to see if this individual gets his suppressed weapons returned to him as the case passes through the judicial system.

Our Department has also convened a team to look at "Fair Chase" standards and "Ethics" especially as it relates to some of the new technology that is available to hunters. They are looking at what legislation changes may be necessary to help ensure that wildlife still gets a fair chance in this era of innovation.

Game Ranger Darren Tucker was selected as the Shikar Safari Arizona Officer of the Year. Congratulations Darren! I cannot think of a more deserving Officer. Darren is the Wildlife Manager Supervisor out of Prescott, Arizona and has worked for the Department for almost 24 years. Game Ranger Martin Guarena was the Cliff Sorrell's Award winner (Arizona Officer of the Year) for 2016 and he has made some very important cases in our Tucson Region and has devastated some genuine bad guys. Congratulations Martin!

Adios for now from the Arizona Border Lands, I have to get back to watching a wall being built. Expect the unexpected and stay safe!

Colorado

On the evening of February 21st, 2016 Colorado

Wildlife Employees Protective Association (CWEPA) and Colorado State Parks Employee Protective Association (CSPEPA) hosted a combined social and awards ceremony. This was during our annual law enforcement in-service training which was held in Colorado Springs.

There were several awards given out that night in recognition of acts of heroism, valor, appreciation, and career recognition.

Lifesaving—Wildlife Technician, Ben Gallowich
Lifesaving—District Wildlife Manager, Josh Dille, Park Ranger—Louis Moeller
Cliff Coghill Career Achievement Award—Lead Investigator Bob Thompson

Aside from that get together in February and the important recognition of employee service there are several other updates as well.

Colorado experienced unseasonable warm weather late into the fall which resulted in reduced harvest in a lot of areas, particularly elk harvest. Winter came a little late, but showed up with a vengeance in some parts of the state. Winter conditions in January were such that a baiting operation was implemented in the Gunnison Basin in south central Colorado. Snowpack on the winter range was impeding animal movement and the baiting was implemented to attract deer and elk away from the roadways where they were experiencing significant wildlife/vehicle interaction. Since the crunch time in January unseasonable temperatures have returned and snowpack on winter ranges has diminished and animals are starting to disperse toward their summer ranges letting us all breathe a little sigh of relief.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission approved a controversial research project to measure the effects of predation (bear and mountain lion) on mule deer survival in 2 areas of the state. Those areas are the Piceance (pronounced PEE-antz) Basin southwest of Meeker and the Arkansas River corridor from Leadville to Cañon City. A lawsuit was filed by WildEarth guardians which is pending.

CWEPA membership recently changed our legal defense coverage from local, Colorado firm of Bruno, Colin, and Lowe (BC&L) to the Peace

**Region 4 Director
Rick Langley
Continued**

Officers Research Association of California (PORAC). This change came about at the recommendation of BCL as they work with PORAC as on call legal counsel and they felt that PORAC could provide our officers a more expanded legal defense at a lower cost. The CWEPA board evaluated proposals from PORAC and decided to move forward with the change coming in January.

Retirements:

Wayne Brown-Wildlife Technician 33 years
Phil Ehrlich-Wildlife Technician 26 years

Wyoming

Much of the state is experiencing a more severe winter than we've had for a few years, so there is likely to be higher winter mortality of big game (especially deer and antelope) than the past couple of winters. The previous two years have seen mild winters with good spring moisture, leading to increased survival and juvenile recruitment throughout much of the state. Harsher conditions this year may impact license issuance for the 2017 hunting season. Our season setting process is just underway and field personnel will be surveying big game herds and monitoring winter distribution and mortality for consideration in setting license quotas.

From a personnel perspective, we are doing okay at this time. The governor's office implemented a hiring freeze in the fall of 2016 to help address state budget concerns, but we were able to justify and fill five vacant game warden positions. We are almost at full staff in our law enforcement ranks, but still have a couple of vacancies we are looking to fill and are beginning our testing process for those positions. The Wyoming legislature is currently in session and considering an early retirement bill for state employees. If this legislation passes, there could be several more positions open agency-wide in short order.

There is some other proposed legislation of interest. One bill would lower the legal blood alcohol concentration for boating from .10 to .08% for

operator of motor boats. Another bill would allow the Department to keep certain wildlife data confidential and exempt this information from public records requests (i.e., specific locations of radio/GPS collared animals). In the past, individuals have asked for the specific locations of collared animals so they can hunt them.

From a law enforcement perspective, 2016 seemed to be an average year as far as the number and types of violations encountered. Wardens continue to be concerned about an uptick in cases involving the waste of game meat over the past few years. Investigating and deterring winter range poaching, thrill-killing and out of season violations remain high priorities for our game wardens. We have also undertaken an overdue project to identify and prosecute individuals suspended in the Wildlife Violator Compact who continue to purchase licenses and hunt in Wyoming.

Finally, I would like to recognize Big Piney Game Warden Adam Hymas, the recipient of this year's Shikar-Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year Award for Wyoming.

October 2016

Trophy Deer Poacher Convicted

Big Piney – A high-profile poaching case involving a large mule deer buck that had been illegally shot in the early winter of 2015 has been settled by the Sublette County Circuit Court with a guilty plea agreement prior to a scheduled jury trial.

On March 29, 2016, Nate Strong of Big Piney, Wyoming, was charged with intentionally taking an antlered mule deer out of season. Strong was formally sentenced on October 25, 2016, in the Sublette County Circuit Court. Strong was ordered to pay over \$9,000 in fines and restitution, and will serve 10 days in jail or five days in jail and 50 hours community service. His hunting and fishing privileges were also suspended for seven years.

The case began on February 13, 2016, when Big Piney Game Warden Adam Hymas was contacted by concerned sportsmen who had observed the mounted deer on display at the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah. When they saw the deer on display,

Region 4 Director Rick Langley Continued

they immediately recognized it as one they had observed and photographed multiple times throughout the summer and fall of 2015 northwest of Pinedale. Several photographs of the large, non-typical buck had been taken after the hunting season had closed on October 7. As members of the public discussed this matter online the case received significant public attention on social and traditional media.

During the investigation, Warden Hymas and members of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Investigative Unit learned that Strong had harvested the deer on November 14, 2015, west of Big Piney, about five weeks after the mule deer season had closed in that area. Strong, who had already harvested a mule deer in September, used a license valid for white-tailed deer to tag the mule deer, stating he thought the deer was a hybrid between a mule deer and a white-tailed deer.

John Lund, Pinedale Regional Wildlife Supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, said, "The concern and assistance from

the public is certainly appreciated and this case is a good example of the public and Game and Fish personnel working together to protect Wyoming's wildlife. We often rely on tips and information from the public regarding wildlife violations."



A photo of the live deer taken in the fall of 2015.



The trophy deer mount displayed at a sportsmen show in Salt Lake City in early 2016.

Region 5 Director Jeff Jones



Texas

The 61st Game Warden Cadet class has been selected and will report to duty January 9, 2017. And after successfully completing the course of training they will graduate in August. There are

currently 41 Game Warden cadets and 11 park police officer cadets attending the seven month long academy. This cadet class marks the third joint academy integrating State Park Police cadets with the Game Warden cadets. All cadets

will attend the NASBLA Officer Water Survival training that has also been administered to the field in regional segments.

The Animal Planet television show titled *Lone Star Law* premiered on June 2, 2016. The show highlights Texas Game Wardens protecting more than a quarter million square miles of deserts, lakes, piney woods, bayous, plains, and coast. These men and women serve the citizens of Texas by providing professional law enforcement, water safety and search and rescue, while working to conserve and protect Texas' natural resources. The show is a great opportunity to promote conservation and to educate people on the scope of being a Texas Game Warden. The show was one of the most successful premiers in Animal Planet's history. As a result of this success, *Lone Star Law* is in the process of filming its second season.

The Law Enforcement Division currently has five

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in house and one outsourced mobile app. The division has standardized to the iPhone/iPad iOS platform. These apps, including one that won Best in Texas Government, allow Game Wardens to run hunter education, boater education, license, warrants, cases, turkey check in, disaster activity reporting, locator, and a panic button. Two more apps are being built to complete the suite.

South Dakota

South Dakota has had a few notable changes this past year with the development of an Emergency Vehicle Operation training program and the approval for body cameras.

In October of 2016 South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks sent three officers to Oklahoma for training and another two in December. The five officers who went to Burns Flat Oklahoma were instructed by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and are now certified to teach EVOC and what many call the PIT maneuver. Currently the instructors are in the process of developing a curriculum based on what they learned and to suit our need with trucks and the areas that we work in. Our first training on this will be at the state February in-service training.

Throughout the year the law enforcement and regional supervisors along with Department administrators continued the effort to get Body Cameras for Officers to wear. These efforts were successful with an order being placed late in the year. Currently the cameras will be arriving in the spring of 2017 and the Officers will then receive training on how to properly utilize the camera systems. The department chose to implement the cameras to help with documentation of encounters between the general public and conservation officers, improved officer performance, safety and training, enhanced prosecution of criminal cases, and compliance with a 2008 Senate Concurrent Resolution with the supporting the use of video cameras in law enforcement.

Officers in the field had another busy summer with boating and made quite a few Boating Under the Influence cases using the Seated Battery of

Field Sobriety Tests that we implemented a few years ago. The fall kept officers busy with pheasant and deer case. It sounded like things weren't too busy this last fall with cases but the district I'm in had probably the highest amount of deer cases that any of us could remember with many of them being no license and closed season.

The SD Conservation Officers Association helped with another successful Paralyzed Veterans Prairie Dog Hunt in the Chamberlain area this past June. We did our summer meeting a little different this past year and included a sporting clays shoot after the meeting. The meeting went well and everyone enjoyed the shoot which we plan to continue this summer. The association also hosted another wild game feed for the Becoming an Outdoor Women event near Custer, SD. SDCOA members prepped, cooked and served roughly 130 participants on Saturday night of the BOW event. Members brought fish, pheasant, antelope, rattlesnake brats and deer to the event. Supper included pheasant schnitzel, fried wall-eye, deer goulash, deer chislic, deer tacos, game brats, and antelope salami

Kansas

State Awards - Our annual in-service banquet is to be held Feb. 21-23, and to honor officers for their actions in 2016. At our 2016 banquet, honoring officers from 2015, Game Warden Jesse Gehrt was selected as the KS officer of the year.

The state teamed up with our Dept. in the Fall of 2016 and came up with a pay raise option, but the kicker was that all Game Wardens would have to go unclassified to get it. This classification change would mean giving up our civil service protections as a state employee. With our FOP organizing it, the Game Wardens I and II all took a vote, and voted it down. For some it was a great pay raise, the first in over 10 yrs, but it was voted down to help protect the officers. Other motives were in play as believed by most officers. Currently the FOP is working to propose a pay raise but to remain classified. This is still pending.

Pet deer headlines - In Dec. 2016 our wardens were called to a rural residence where a mule deer was being kept as a pet for that past 22 mos. An ad was put out and Kansas officers

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discovered the issue. Due to the sensitivity of the matter, attempts were made to place the deer in a local zoo or other facility, all of which turned them down. Local Vets were asked to tranquilize the deer, but refused. Only option was to euthanize it. Officers, with body cameras turned on, issued a citation to the homeowner for keeping the deer as a pet, then the next day they ended up shooting the deer away from the residence. The homeowner recorded it all on a cell phone, and it went viral, exploding over the next month. In retaliation of their actions that were well within our policies and everyday SOPs, our officers were receiving death threats, mostly from nonresidents on the west coast. Kansas Wildlife Parks and Tourism heads agreed to look at current policies to avoid future incidents.

Some officers have had Body Worn Cameras for a couple years not, but in 2016 they were ordered for all officers to be worn. A policy was implemented about the wear and storage of the footage. This still needs some tweaking. Issue now is the model of camera is now outdated so newer units need to be looked at. The footage has already been a benefit to officers facing complaints against them, as well as possibly saved some lives, as some armed suspects see the camera in different stops and obviously de-escalate.

Decision has been made for the purchasing of new trucks, to be all crew cab/4 door, a jump up from our current xcabs. Dodge has the contract for 2017. Dept. is considering changing lettering on the trucks.

North Dakota

Game Warden Jim Job was named the 2016 North Dakota Wildlife Officer of the Year by the Shikar-Safari Club International.

Game Warden Greg Hastings was named North Dakota's Boating Officer of the Year.

North Dakota Game Wardens have been actively involved with the ongoing Dakota Access Pipeline protest in southern North Dakota. Game Wardens have worked closely with Law Enforce-

ment Officers from North Dakota and multiple other states. Game Wardens used their expertise in boat, ATV, and snowmobile operations to quickly respond to remote areas that are difficult for the Mobile Field Force to deploy.

Oklahoma

We have a new Director. JD Strong came aboard in October. He is the first ODWC Director in over 40 years to come from outside the department. He is very proactive and is well established in the political arena. He has travelled all over the state and met one on one with several employees to get a feel on what needs to change and what is working. We are looking forward to his tenure as our boss.

We have a new chief of law enforcement. Bill Hale took over on July 1, 2016 for Robert Fleenor who retired. Bill has 27 years experience and has been the assistant chief since 2010. Game Warden supervisor Nathan Erdman moves from the field into the assistant chief's position to replace Bill.

Our 2016 Game Warden of the Year is Mark Murray. He has been an Oklahoma Game Warden since 2008. He works a dual county assignment in Oklahoma and Canadian counties. Mark worked previously in Grady County. Here are some of Mark's highlights for the year:

This year the Oklahoma State Game Warden Association will be busy fighting bills directed at limiting our ability to go onto private land to enforce the law. A bill to do such was written last year but was changed at the last minute. There are no doubts another bill will surface this February when the Legislature goes into session. A radical group called OK2A is backing the bill. They are a pro-gun rights group.

A new hog hunting bill was vetoed by the Governor but we were required to overhaul our permit system for allowing night hunting of hogs. Now a permit can be obtained on-line and practically anyone can get a night hunting exemption to hunt hogs. Night vision, thermal imaging, and suppressors are all now legal.

Oklahoma will have 42 Freshman legislators and the OSGWA will be busy educating them on what Game Wardens do in the line of duty to hopefully

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offset any negative things they will hear at the Capital by those seeking to limit our ability to enforce the state's wildlife laws.

Nebraska

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission – Law Enforcement recent reclassified the Boating Safety Officers to Conservation Officer and moved the Boating Safety back to Law Enforcement Division. There have been Legislative steps taken for Nebraska to enter the Wildlife Violator Compact. Nebraska will be the 49th state to join or take steps to join the compact. Nebraska is also busy training new officers. Owen Johnson and Taylor Dixon have recently completed the FTO program. Owen Johnson comes to Ne-

braska from Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism where he was a conservation officer. Taylor Dixon transfers to the law enforcement division from the Parks division where he was a Park Superintendent. Sean Schultz, Kyler Prochaska and Ethan Teter have recently accepted positions as conservation officers. Sean comes to the division from Ogallala Police Dept. where he was a police officer. Kyler was a deputy sheriff with the Platte County Sheriff's office. Both will begin the FTO program. Ethan Teter comes to the Law Enforcement Division from Wildlife. Ethan will enter the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in April 2017. Conservation Officer Mike Luben was awarded the 2016 Loren Bunney Award by the Nebraska Conservation Officer's Association and Conservation Officer Jeff Jones was the 2016 Nebraska Wildlife Officer of the Year by the Shikar-Safari Club International.

Region 6 Director

Jason Blaylock



I hope this letter finds everyone doing well this year. This year's hunting season played out very strange in the south. Starting with a two month drought before season, followed by extremely warm weather and a

huge acorn crop, hunters didn't experience the success they wanted to have this year. This pattern not only happened in our deer herd but also carried over into our turkey season. Many hunters observed gobbling and strutting activity as early as the first and second weeks of January. Hopefully the carryover of animals will make for an extremely successful next hunting season for everyone.

Once again this year, Mississippi was able to host the NAWEOA winter meeting. This year's meeting was again held at Black Creek Outfitters in Lexington, Mississippi. Our hosts for the event

were "PaPa" Mags, Billy Frey, and Mickey Chisolm. Each day was started with a great breakfast and moved right into business meeting. The cooking was superb as always as we had a feast every meal. Some of these included a shrimp boil, oyster soup, steaks, and even a wild hog taken while on the trip. Sitting in meetings all day everyday brings about the need for a stress relief. To help with this, we set up some hog hunting trips, fishing, sightseeing trips to Sky Lake Wildlife Management Area, and a predator hunt. This not only helped alleviate some of the stress but also allowed a few of the board to do some things they have never done before. The Winter Meeting was again successful and much was accomplished by everyone involved. Special thanks go to "PaPa" Mags, Billy Frey, Mickey Chisolm, and Scott Haney for all the hard work and preparation they put into making the meetings such a success.

Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks are in the middle of a new cadet class. The 12 cadets have moved in to the 10 week Mississippi Conservation Officer's Training Academy to finish out their training. Even with this class, the MDWFP is moving forward in the search of 15 new Conservation Officer hires for the next training academy. The Mississippi Ar-

Region 6 Director Jason Blaylock Continued

chery in Schools Tournament was held in Jackson, Mississippi and right at 5000 youth participated in the event. Winners were crowned in 6 divisions in the public schools as well as the academy and prep schools.

Florida

Members of the law enforcement community joined forces to crack down on an illegal dumping location. Large trucks with "roll off" dumpsters full of trash were observed regularly entering the private property and then leaving completely empty. An investigation was initiated and a search warrant was served. The search warrant revealed that the private property contained heaps of garbage weighing more than 100 tons, and included hazardous waste, construction and demolition debris, yard clearing and vegetation debris, old tires, and household waste. Illegal, unpermitted dumping sites like this can cause runoff issues and potentially harm the surrounding environment. The property owner was arrested on felony and misdemeanor charges. The cleanup of the illegal site will be extensive. Great work by the FWC's Environment Crimes Unit, the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, St. Lucie County Code Enforcement, and the FLDEP for working together to resolve the case.

Alabama: Chris Blankenship of Mobile, Alabama, has been appointed by Governor Robert Bentley at Deputy Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. He replaces Curtis Jones, who retired from the position earlier this month. Most recently, Blankenship served as Director of Marine Resources, a division within ADCNR, for the past six years.



During today's meeting of the Florida Cabinet, Governor Rick Scott recognized six Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officers with the Medal of Heroism for their bravery and service assisting families in Hernando County during Hurricane Hermine.

The following first responders were recognized with the Medal of Heroism Award:

- Lieutenant Kevin Grover
- Officer Dan Fagan
- Officer Robyn Bergwerff
- Officer Scott Peterson
- Officer Dave Spradlin
- Officer Justin Henry

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New York

On January 18, Major Walt Heinrich reported ECO Davey's condition continues to improve. He is currently undergoing home rehabilitation, but still has

minor troubles walking. His recovery and continued progress overall is a true testament to his will and perseverance. To date, generous dona-

tions have been made to ECO Davey and his recovery. Specifically, the PBA of NYS has donated \$6,000, the NYCOA Relief Fund donated \$7,500, GoFundMe campaign produced \$9,500, and nearly \$9,000 was donated from retired officers and the public. We all wish ECO Davey success with a speedy and full recovery.

February 12th marks the day when the 21st Basic School for Uniformed Officers will commence at the DEC Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pulaski, NY. That day, 35 Environmental Conservation Officer trainees and 11 Forest Ranger trainees will begin their 6 month journey where they will be tested both mentally and physically. The Division of Law Enforcement (ECOs) specifically is under-staffed, and the impending class will fill many necessary positions

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and allow for needed promotions.

NWTF Officer of the Year—Matt Nichols
NWTF Officer of the year Nominees—
Brian Farrish, Joshua Sulkey, Anthony Rigoli, Brian Shea and Jamie Powers.

Connecticut

It has been a very busy and trying year for the Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police. As I write this narrative, we are in the midst of the state's largest budget deficit in history. As part of balancing his budget (3.6 Billion deficit), the Governor's plan proposed a reduction of \$700 million a year in labor costs. The Governor is hoping to achieve those savings through negotiations that have been underway with state employee bargaining units. If those talks do not lead to this level of savings, Governor Malloy's budget outlines the layoffs that would be necessary to meet this target. There is no doubt that a general funds reduction of the size proposed by the Governor will cause changes in the way we operate and that layoffs are a serious possibility. Our state parks and campgrounds that usually open on the first day of fishing season (mid April) will be opening on Memorial Day weekend and closing Labor Day instead of Columbus Day, a much shorter season. The state is trying to pass a trout stamp to fund the stocking program and also addressing the issue of senior citizens paying for their fishing license. (Did I say we are in a financial crisis?)

With that said, it was a very productive hunting season. Numerous arrests were made for illegal deer hunting over bait, private property w/o permission, jacklighting, convicted felons and failure to report and tag. A father and son were arrested on Thanksgiving morning for failure to tag both deer they had shot that day. As the Officer was engaging them in conversation, a neighbor stopped by and said that they were having a great season because they had shot deer the previous day. When asked if they had checked those deer in, the response was "no". They had been hunting the property for over 20 years.

Despite the economic troubles, Colonel Overturf was able to secure to positions of which have just been filled. Both Officers will be sworn in on Feb. 15th 2017. Three promotions occurred in September and October of 2016 as well. Sgt. Keith Williams was promoted to Captain and is in command of the marine sector. Officer Matt Stone was promoted to Sergeant and oversees the western marine sector. Officer Greg Ulkus was promoted to Sergeant and is charge of Candlewood Lake, the state's largest and busiest body of water aside from Long Island Sound.

New Jersey

The Division of Fish and Wildlife has been able to add personnel periodically and as of February 4 the Bureau of Law Enforcement have hired five new officers. They will be assigned to various regions, two will be going the northern region, two for our Marine unit and one goes to our central region. They all will begin police academy training possibly in the fall. They start in our own academy immediately.

The hiring of five or less officers over several years will enable the division too stop the problem that we have had in the past with the tremendous loss of knowledge in blocks of multiple officers retiring. We've had a history of hiring 9, 10, or even 12 officers at one time - unfortunately these occasions all tend to result in a major loss of knowledge and experience when many of these officers retire at the same time.

We would like to show our appreciation to all the officers and agencies that made donations to the family of Conservation Officer Mike Szalaj. As you know we loss Officer Szalaj in December when he died suddenly from Kidney failure. He has left a seven-year-old daughter and wife behind and because it was not an in-service death and he was not retired his family is not eligible for any pension benefits and the insurance was minimal. A go-fund-me account has been set up and is receiving funds as we speak. Hopefully this will continue to help the family financially into the future.

Several years ago our officers association (NJCOA) was approach to assist in the purchase of equipment through the military 1033 program in the form of firearms that were available at a

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very reasonable price for law enforcement agencies throughout the state of NJ. The military did not want to deal with multiple agencies throughout New Jersey and it was very difficult for a single police department to act as a coordinator. The NJCOA investigated the request and subsequently approved being a conduit for the monies from various state and local agencies for the purchase of this equipment. After the purchase was completed and the equipment was delivered however certain events occur in the nation which made the distribution of this equipment contra indicated. As of 2017 we were able to release the equipment to the appropriate agencies that purchased them and as of this February the Conservation officers begin training with their new firearms.

In December of 2016 we had a shake up in the administration of the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife department. Our director was given a vote of no confidence by the Fish and Game Commission, which is officially in-charge of our agency, and was replaced by a subordinate. Prior to his official removal to another title he approved expenditures for the Bureau of Law Enforcement which allowed us to purchase new vehicles, 10 new vehicles in fact, and outfit them as well as approving the purchase of three boats for inland use in the 16 to 18 foot range.

We are currently awaiting the arrival of our new marine boat that was purchased through federal money. We will take delivery in April of 2017 of a 36 ft coastal patrol boat which will be used for various LE operations in the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is beginning the process to recruit a new cadet class of officers. The selection process will begin in March of 2017, enrollment of the cadets in March of 2018 and graduation in March of 2019. Funding has been the major obstacle in recruiting a new class of cadets for the past two years. As an independent agency, the PGC is primarily funded

through the sale of licenses, not tax dollars. The agency is currently entering its 18th year without a license increase, which must be approved by legislative action. Many of the services performed by the various bureaus within the agency have been severely curtailed and some completely eliminated. It's estimated that in the bureau of law enforcement alone there may be as high as 30% vacancies in the officer districts by March 2018 and 40% by the time the new class of cadet's graduate in 2019, with insufficient new officers to fill all of those vacancies. Even though officers were covering vacant districts, they conducted over 212,000 enforcement contacts resulting in 8,570 prosecutions and 12,679 warnings.

Matt Hough, Executive Director has announced his retirement for the end of March, 2017. Matt has worked for the PGC for nearly 36 years as a WCO and numerous management positions as he worked his way to the top spot. Matt has always been a strong supporter of NAWEOA. He annually evaluates the training agenda of the NAWEOA Conference and has authorized educational leave for officers who wish to attend. Matt worked tirelessly at the 2010 conference held in Cranberry Township, PA.

The agency continues to monitor 3 wildlife diseases that are of increasing threat to Pennsylvania's wildlife populations. CWD has been detected in yet another area of the state and as such the area has been placed in a disease management unit. This give the Executive Director authority to restrict the movement of high-risk deer parts out of the area as well as other management practices. West Nile Virus is having an impact on the official state bird, the ruffed grouse. White Nosed Syndrome also continues to spread throughout the state. Since being discovered here in 2009, WNS has been the reason for nearly a 99% decrease in some cave bat populations.

The 2016 bear season ranked the 5th highest harvest in state history. 3,529 bears were harvested with 60 over 500 pounds, 17 over 600 pounds and the largest weighing in at 740 pounds taken by an archery hunter. The combined deer seasons resulted in more than 315,000 deer taken.

Shikar Safari Officer of the Year— WCO Rodney Mee

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NECLECA Officer of the Year—WCO Jake Olexsak

NWTF Officer of the Year—WCO Dan Murray

NWTF Land Management Officer of the Year—WCO Jerry Bish

Ohio

The Ohio Division of Wildlife is looking a couple years into the future to hire a cadet class of Wildlife Officers to fill current and upcoming vacancies. Watch for officer position postings in 2019 or 2020. The Divisions of Wildlife's sister agencies, the Division of Watercraft and the Division of Parks and Recreation, have recently combine into one agency, the Division of Ohio State Parks and Watercraft. Like the Division of Wildlife, this new division is under the blanket of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Ohio is in the process of converting to a new computerized fishing and hunting license vending system which should be more efficient, but will only have slight changes for license and permit buyers. The Department is also in the process of updating & replacing all officer's radio equipment, portables and in-car radios. Ohio is also in the process of rolling out a new field based reporting system giving officers the ability to complete reports in the field, get them approved by their supervisors, and search prior reports right from their in-car computers. Up until this point officers could complete a report in their vehicle, but it was one form at a time and they had to be emailed to the office. There was also no way to search prior reports unless the officer went to the district office and leafed through printouts of past reports.

Ohio's Wildlife Officers are still in the process of wrapping up what may be the Division's biggest operation ever involving more than 40 individuals in 8 counties, Operation North Coast. The Division's covert officers in the Special Operations unit worked the case for well over 2 years starting with information gathered from tips and calls over

several prior years leading up to the operation. The case started out with a few specific targets and mushroomed to include dozens of people in multiple counties. The case involved a little bit of everything from poaching deer, over harvest of fish and deer, illegal sales of fish and deer meat, taxidermist violations, to illegal drugs. Five search warrants were served a cross the state, and dozens of deer mounts and racks, deer meat and fish, guns, a vehicle, and various hunting and fishing equipment were seized. The search warrants and takedown involved nearly all of Ohio's Wildlife Investigators and Supervisors as well as most of the County Wildlife Officers. Several cases are still pending, but total fines and restitution values will be in the tens of thousands of dollars. Many individuals lost their hunting and fishing rights and a handful will end up serving jail time, one may even go to prison. Hundreds of dollars of reward monies will also be award to callers that called in TIP information (Ohio's Turn in a Poacher program) related to this case.

Shikar Safari Ohio Wildlife Officer of the Year – Investigator Kirk Kiefer

National Wild Turkey Federation Wildlife Officer of the Year - Wildlife Officer Darin Abbott

Ohio Bow Hunter's Association Wildlife Officer of the Year – Wildlife Officer Matt Roberts

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Agencies, Ohio Wildlife Officer of the Year – Presented to a Covert Investigator with the Special Operations Unit

Mississippi Flyway Ohio Waterfowl Officer of the Year – Wildlife Officer John Coffman and Michigan Wildlife Officer Christopher Simpson.

NAWEOA Life Saving Award – Wildlife Officer Matt Leibengood

Rhode Island

Our officers have had several interesting cases this past fall and winter which included one fisherman that was arrested twice in ten days for possession of undersize tautog. He told the officers that he didn't know what type of fish he caught and therefore didn't know the size regula-

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tions. A check in social media sites said differently. The subject was an avid fisherman and had won several awards from a saltwater anglers association including fisherman of the year for three years straight. He did not receive that award this current year but did receive a conviction and fines.

In October, officers were also involved with arresting two young men for jacklighting deer. An officer observed fresh dirt tire tracks at the South Shore Management Area where the department has received numerous complaints of gun shots at night. The two young men light the field two hours after sunset. The vehicle was stopped for investigation. Between the driver and passenger was a 12 gauge shotgun. Shotgun shells and a Mag light were also located in the vehicle within reach of either men. The driver confessed to shooting at a deer that evening and stated that the reason he was in that field was that he remembers shooting deer in the same field at night with his father as a young boy. Out of the mouths of babes. The shotgun and equipment were forfeited to the state.

This past December, many of the officers were involved with a SAR in the Arcadia WMA for a woman hiker and her two small dogs. Many hours into days were spent in pouring rain, darkness and cold during the search. The search area included thick mountain laurel, deep swamps and rocky terrain. The search lasted six days without locating the woman or her dogs. After the formal search was called off, some officers continued to search and ultimately located the body of the woman. Her two dogs stayed with her to the very end. Although she didn't make it, we were able to return her to her family for closure and save the two dogs that are now with her family.

This past January, 2017, Rhode Island Environmental Police's Chief, Dean Hoxsie, was inducted as the President of the Rhode Island Police Chief's Association. This was a historic occasion for our Department. This was the first time in the

history of the RIPCA that a Chief of a Fish and Game agency has ever held this post or any level of their executive board.

Michigan

On June 3, 2016 – 17 Recruits graduated from the Conservation Officer academy.

Plans are in the works for the next academy, depending on the budget 15 – 25 recruits will be attending the next academy.

On October 20, 2016 the Archery range at the MI DNR Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit was dedicated to the memory of Lt. Arthur Green III.

The Outdoor Channel's Warden show starting February 6, 2017 will be highlighting Michigan Conservation officers.

Shikar Safari Officer of the Year – CO Steven Converse

Waterfowl Officer of the Year – CO Robert Hobkirk

NWTF Officer of the Year – CO Angela Greenway

Boating officer of the Year – CPL Marvin Gerlach

Life Saving Awards: CO Greg Patten, CO Ken Kovach, CO Isaac Tyson, CO Richard Cardenas, CO Kyle Bader, CO Ben Lasher, and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth

National Marine Fisheries Service

Officer Scott Adams from the National Marine Fisheries Service reports that NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) continues to make advancements within its role and responsibility for protecting our nations living marine resources, from conducting Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) implementation workshops in Manado, Indonesia, to enforcement operations along the Aleutian chain in Alaska. For the latest feature stories and enforcement actions associated with protecting our nations living marine resources, such as illegal shark fishing, salmon mislabeling, and a 4-year investigation which exposed one of the largest fisheries conspiracy networks on the East Coast, go to http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/newsroom/14_feature_stories.html.

Recent awards:

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December 9, 2016: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council awarded its annual Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to Special Agent Richard Chesler, of the OLE Southeast Division. The council created this award in 2010 as a way to recognize exemplary and dedicated work to protect marine resources. Chesler was recognized as having a tireless work ethic and willingness to take on additional leadership responsibilities, as well as being an outstanding liaison with partner agencies.

December 6, 2016: International Program Enforcement Tech Erica Nunez was selected as a NOAA Fisheries "Rising Star" by Assistant Administrator Eileen Sobeck and was one of about 20 individuals invited to a private conversation with Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker. For the event with Secretary Pritzker, each NOAA Assistant Administrator, of which there are six, was asked to select one employee from within their line office as a notable employee on the rise. During the event, the topics of conversation varied, but included professional development, advice for moving forward in an administrative transition, and sharing some lessons learned by the Commerce Secretary.

April 29, 2016: ASAC Everett Baxter, U.S. Coast Guard Master Chief Investigator (IVCM), was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) Director Michael Berkow and recognized for his nearly 18 years of service to CGIS. He was also assigned as the Reserve Command Master Chief at USCG Sector North Carolina.

April 15, 2016: Special Agents Ken Blackburn and John O'Malley and SEO Joe Scarpa, all of whom were present with the Outstanding Law Enforcement of the Year Awards by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida. These awards were given in recognition of their investigative work that resulted in successful prosecutions of cases from the Florida Key in protection of the marine resources.

April 8, 2016: Enforcement Officer Justin Hanacek received the Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association's Officer of The Year award at the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual conference Monday in Annapolis, MD. Justin serves the Newport News office and has been an invaluable addition to the OLE team. Always willing to lend a hand and first to jump at new opportunities, this award was well deserved.

April 1, 2016: Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan announced the recipients of the 2016 Bronze Medal and Distinguished Career Awards. The award recipients will be honored at a ceremony this May at NOAA's Silver Spring headquarters. Among these honorees was our SED SEO, Lt. Pat O'Shaughnessy. Pat earned this for his work in developing the first catch share program and real-time landings monitoring system for a recreational fishery in the Southeast Region.

February 26, 2016: Special Agent Anthony Forstiere received an award from the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, Paul J. Fishman. During a ceremony in Newark, Attorney Fishman recognized Anthony's skillful investigation of the U.S. versus D.C. Air & Seafood case; one which uncovered a scheme to harvest 79,666 pounds of Atlantic sea scallops in excess of the vessel trip limit and then create fraudulent reports to conceal that excess. During the ceremony, Attorney Fishman recognized the importance of investigating natural resource crimes. He highlighted the inherent obstacles in these cases such as the lack of living victims and cooperative witnesses; as well as the limited staffing and resources available to agencies like NOAA. He explained how through skill and dedication, Anthony overcame those obstacles to prove that Christopher Byers used his company, D.C. Air & Seafood, to traffic more than \$500,000 of illegally harvested scallops.

2016 Officer Exchange By Roger Selesse Quebec to Utah

In 2016 the annual convention that was held in Burlington Vermont, my name was picked for the one in a life time officer's exchange, couldn't believe it. It didn't take long that some officers were already asking where I was planning to go...

To be honest I first thought of Alaska, since it was so far away from the Maritimes. I was aware that in the last few conferences we haven't had any officers from this state and I was kind of worried, thinking maybe the association is not prepared for this type of visit.



Shortly after I met with Sean Spencer from Utah, (I had met Sean a few years ago and he had come to Quebec for a moose hunt) He was the first one to invite me and was all optimistic about me going to Utah.

As time passed I decided to accept Sean's offer and also had a discussion with Rick Langley from Arizona, In order to have a plan (B) if it didn't work out with the first option.

Sean contacted me and made me aware that his department and his association were all onboard and were willing to be the hosts for this officer's exchange. This was great news for me.

I then received a list of activities that could be offered while I was visiting the State, and was asked if I was able to fly in fix wings of helicopters. Sean also warned me to get some rest before I get there, since it was going to be go go go during the exchange.

I left Moncton NB in the afternoon of November

5th, 2016 and passed by Toronto and got to Salt Lake City about 30 minute ahead of time, 8 pm local time.

Met with Sean and here we go towards his residence, this being my first time in Salt Lake City Sean wanted me to see lots of things, so we drove around for a while.

Got home, met his wife had a short conversation then went to bed. First day got up at 4:30 had breakfast and left towards Provo Canyon in order to get to the Wolf Creek Ranches. He wanted to show me some large elk and mule deer. It was very impressive to see all those big houses scattered in the area. We did see several animals and I took lots of photos.

Then we returned back towards Salt Lake City and went to the Tabernacle and listen to the Choir's practice before the live broadcasting. (This is the oldest Broadcasting Show, it started in 1929 over 88 years ago). After the show we visited the largest auditorium that can hold 21,000 seats without any Cullum's and with an organ that has 7000 pipes. I also visited other attraction in the city.

We had a quick lunch then headed in the direction of Mona in order to meet with Jay Topsham and then release a few pheasants. Got my general hunting licence and went hunting pheasants with Jay's dogs.

They had a good laugh at me since it was my first time to hunt those birds and the use of dogs. I managed to get one and the dogs figured I was to slow, so he got the other one.

As time was passing by we had to leave, I was invited for supper at Sean's lieutenant Bruce Johnson and his wife had prepared a great meal and desert. The next morning we left Bruce's house at 4:30 in direction of a private club to hunt ducks, (Sean had told Bruce that I was left handed so he gave me a left handed shotgun) This

was my first time hunting ducks and I managed to shoot at two and was able to kill one. Brandon Olsen, an officer joined us at this private club. For lunch Bruce cooked duck burgers at the clubs lodge they were delicious.

After lunch we headed to the DNR office in Salt Lake where I met several officers. , the chief Rick Olson, Captain Justin Shirley, Captain Mitch Lane and the desk clerk Holy Betteridge who did retire in Dec. all welcome me and made me feel comfortable.

Then Brendon Olson and I left toward Strawberry Lake where he showed me around before meeting Sean at a residence belonging to the department. We ate burgers and pheasant that I had killed the day before, a few officers came for the BBQ. Jay Shirley, Brendon Olson, Mathews Briggs, Chad Bettriged and his wife. This was a great evening. This gave me the opportunity to meet the officers that I was going to work with. The next morning Sean, his daughter and I left at 7:45 in order to meet with other officers.

I met Bryan Clyde and Kody Jones; we drove for a couple of hours before we met with Adam Wallerstein at approximately 11:50.



They brought me to the top of a mountain, where we prepared the horses and had lunch, before taking off for a 3hours horse ride. Place called Went Ridge, on our way we observed a heard of elk and one buffalo. Got at the camps and we prepared the supper. Next morning Brian prepares the breakfast, and then we left for the day on horses. Arrived at the West Willow Creek, Bryan and Adam decided to check it out while Kody and I continued our route to a specific location where someone had reported a set of antlers that needed to be investigated. As the day passed I was just overwhelmed with the scenery

of all those mountain and canyons.

Kody and I arrived shortly after sunset; it turned out to be a great day for all of us. (Adam and Bryan had fished in a small creek and showed us the photos of trout they had caught and released.

Next morning after breakfast we left and took another route that was just as amazing as the first one. After unloading we had lunch then Adam and I left destination Moab, situated along the Colorado River.

He brought me to the Book lift where we saw several mule deer and turkeys; we did check one vehicle with five passengers on our way out. Later I was dropped at the hotel.

The next Day we headed to the Dead Horse state park where I was able to observe several sceneries of canyons and mountains , then toward La Sale Mountain before we made a stop to meet with officers of other agencies, BLM and State park. We had lunch, in the La Sale mountain we found a dog who appeared to be confused it was picked up and later left in the back of a pickup truck which had cannell in the back. (Probably bear hunters)

Adam brought me to the top of a mountain where we could observe dinosaur foot prints in the rocks; we did check hunters and people cutting fuelwood along a road. He also showed me a little cabin where he can go while patrolling in the area... We later met with His Sargent Denis Shumway had supper then Denis and I drove to Blending.

The next morning we left the house at 6 am we visited the UTE Native property, Chepine Rocks, Elk ridge and he also brought me to a cool place called Doll's house. (Very old Building made out of rock and clay, probably used to store food, estimated to be well over 1000 years old.

While traveling we met with several people who were helping hunters in their Elk hunt.

Also during our travels Denis explained about their; call in a poacher (get a free tag or \$1,000.00 for reporting a poacher), showed me were the army were doing missile testing in the past.

We drove through Ponderosa Forest , passed by Bears 'ear , Mexican hat, and Goose neck , Val-

ley of the gods we passed by a small Community called Bluff where there had been white settlers and finally across the Cow Canyon.

At approximately 14:30 we met with officer Ben Stearns, we picked up some groceries and headed toward Bull Frog. Ben stopped at different locations, so I could get some photos and he was showing me different mountains.



No one at Bull Frog so Ben and I agreed to go back to another cabin situated in the Henry's. I was surprised to see so many cows on the road at night, with all those reflectors. We got at the cabin late. We prepared our supper. The next morning on the 13th we left early to travel in the mountains; I was informed that this was the last mountain to be surveyed in the state. Mount Helene is about 11,000 feet on the horizon we could see Arizona. During our travels we checked several hunters, later in the afternoon we met with Brock Thornley, he took me from Sperr recreational Park and drove me to Price (A Small town which had coal as its main industry, that was shut down resulting in a great loss of jobs) where we had supper at Jay's house.

The next morning we left at 6 am toward Salt Lake City, to assist at the funeral of a young officer that had got killed on the 6th of Nov. at the Maverick Stadium the Grisly hockey team arena. This was pretty emotional, due to the young age of this officer.

Later Jay and his family drove me back to meet with Brock, before we passed by this beautiful park called the Gaubling Valley it consist of several rock formations. We passed by Dirty Devil river. We met Brock and had a quick meal in company of Jay's family, this had been a great day.

I arrived a Bullfrog and met with Brock's family. The next morning we left at 6:45, left to meet with two biologists Brad Crompton and Wade Paskett they brought me flying doing a bighorn survey in the Devils' Canyon this was a great adventure and it gave me the opportunity to take great photos.

Around 13; 00 Brock and I drove around and visited different sites, Later we met with Chad Bettriged. We all went on Lake Powell they wanted to show me the quality fishing on this lake. Believe it or not we were able to find two areas where there was no fish at all... We decided to try at dark at the dock, Brock's family joined us; a few fish were caught, we had a great evening.

My last day in Bull frog we left around 9 am towards Kenab which is situated approximately 120 miles West. On our way, we stopped, fishing in a cove, only Chad was able to catch fish. We went to Rainbow Bridge for a short visit. While visiting the arch we got the visit of a raven that ate the only bread we had for lunch. We were able to get a bread at this gas station situated on the lake. We arrived at Dangling Rope at approximately 13; 00 had lunch while waiting for Zed Broadhead and his partner Brandon White. After greeting I left with Zed and Brandon, this was an interesting trip; at the end of the day I had crossed length wise about 120 miles on the lake. Arrived at Zed's house his wife had prepared a supper for us. After supper we went to a location where Zed was showing to a group of youth, how he would proceed on necropsy while investigating the death of mule deer, this was interesting. He is a very good instructor. The next morning which was the 17th we left early from his house. Sean had given specific sites to visit.

We first drove to Johnson Canyon where I was able to see several mule deer. Then went to a slot canyon where a car had fell in and jammed between the two ledges. Later the government had decided to build a road over it.

Pass by sheep Creek and the Town of Tropic that was establish in 1892. Also by Canyonville, they brought me to Brice Canyon and Zion national park amassing scenery. It was cold and windy, with a little accumulation of snow the night before. I visited a property called Best Friend Animal Property, with its own animal cemetery.

We arrived at Zed's home to meet with Barry Austin, an officer from Arizona. I was surprised by Zed's wife who had prepared a birthday cake for me. After gathering all of my equipment, we all had a piece of cake. Zed's family consists of 4 little boys, which two are twins.

Around 7.30 Barry and I left for Arizona. This was also a great adventure.

(I want to thank the Utah's Department of Natural Resources and all the officers that participated in this officers' exchange. A special thanks to Of-

ficer Sean Spencer who plan this adventure possible. I also want to thanks Rick Langley and his department for extending this officers exchange in Arizona and our NAWEOA Association for sponsoring this program.)

2016 Officer Exchange By Sean Davis

Massachusetts to British Columbia

I grew up in Massachusetts dreaming of hunting in British Columbia. My father and brothers travelled west every fall in the 1980s, while I, being the youngest, had to stay home and attend feverishly to my studies.



I was shocked to hear my name called as the recipient of the Officer Exchange at the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association (NAWEOA) conference in Burlington, Vermont. I had to choose a province in Canada to visit as an exchange officer in 2016. My answer was easy. I talked to NAWEOA board member and British Columbia Conservation Officer (CO) Dave Webster in the lobby of the hotel the next day, and my trip was planned. I flew into Victoria, British Columbia, on the 19th

of September 2016. I was greeted by COs Tony Maestrello and Peter Pauwels. I was given a tour of Victoria and the surrounding areas and traveled to Nanaimo to spend my first evening. I was beyond excited to explore Vancouver Island and was thrilled at the prospect of an adventure—not knowing where I was going or who I was going with.

I spent the next day traveling to the west coast towns of Tofino and Ucluelet with CO Steve Ackles. We patrolled the harbors and talked of fishing and football and the day passed way too quickly. The scenery was magnificent, and I had no idea people surfed in BC, but they do. I found myself, after one day, planning my trip back to this wonderful island. Steve graciously hosted me for an evening of eating and hockey (USA lost to Canada in the World Cup 4-2), and I found myself headed up the coast early the next morning.

COs Dan Eichstadter and Mike Newton and I boarded a patrol boat in Miracle Beach and patrolled the Strait of Georgia around Mitlenatch Island. Sea Lions and birds are the main inhabitants of the island, and the smell proved it. The Island has a unique climate and looks more like Arizona than Canada and receives less than 75 cm (30 in) of rain annually. I could not take enough pictures of the wildlife and scenery.

My next stop was in the port town of Lund, where we were welcomed by Sergeant Dean Miller and

CO Gerry Lister. We visited the CO office in Powell River, and I enjoyed an historic display of old CO uniforms and photographs.



Sergeant Miller and I patrolled the Sunshine Coast and set a trap for a black bear near Sechelt. My Utah influence must have helped as I heard the troublemaker was caught the next day. I was treated to moose steaks and beverages at Inspector Murray Smith's house that evening. Inspector Murray and I caught an early-morning ferry from Gibson to Half Moon Bay. Once again, the scenery was spectacular. The BC ferry system is something you don't see in landlocked Utah. Even though we were on the mainland, we had to take water transportation as no roads access this part of the province.

Inspector Murray and I headed to the Vancouver area from Half Moon Bay, and I got a taste of its rush-hour traffic as we headed back to civilization.

I jumped in with CO Shawn McNaughton who patrols Coquitlam, a suburb of Vancouver. CO McNaughton's patrol area covers over 70 nuisance bear call a day, and he proved it. I will never complain again about having too many bear calls in Utah. He got as many calls in an hour as I get in a year.

We spotted a bear that had gotten into garbage cans in one subdivision. After a short foot chase into the "bush," the bear gave us the slip. The next calls involved a bear ripping the trim off a person's door and a bear that destroyed property in another subdivision. One resident thought it was a good idea to have a beehive in his back

yard in the middle of town. A bear destroyed his beehive and the beekeeper got a ticket. Shawn received seven calls while we set up one trap! These guys definitely earn their paychecks.

I was shuttled over to Chilliwack by Sergeant Todd Hunter. I met my next host, CO Hana Anderson. We patrolled her area, and she showed me some areas where she had recently had some bear issues. CO Anderson graciously took me to a local pub where I could watch the New England Patriots chalk up another win.

The next morning we were greeted by Sergeant Bob Butcher at the Chilliwack office. Sergeant Butcher, CO Anderson, and I travelled north to Lillooet along the Fraser River. I have never seen a more powerful river. The road travelled around old and new rock slides, plunging deep into the gorge. We stopped at Hell's Gate and took the tram down to the river bottom. The Canadian National Railway blasted its way across Fraser Canyon at Hell's Gate and caused a massive rock slide—partially blocking the Fraser River. The slide also blocked the salmon run. It took



30 years and a lot of work to get the river and fisheries back to normal. The tram was a fun ride! Sergeant Butcher, CO Jeff Clancy, CO Anderson, fisheries biologist Mike Phelps, and I took the CO patrol jet boat on the river for a patrol and fish survey. Sergeant Butcher expertly maneuvered us through the fast current—even in the darkness on our travel back. We talked to several sturgeon fishermen and were greeted by black bears on the river's edge. I heard stories of the legendary 650 pound "Pig Nose" sturgeon caught in the area. I pleaded with Sergeant Butcher to take me fishing the next morning. The begging worked. The night was late and the morning was early: we

got on the river before sunrise. We landed on a small island and casted out chunks of squid. We were blessed with three sturgeon; the biggest one caught by CO Anderson was 6 1/2 feet!



My next stop was Bella Coola. I was shuttled to 108 Mile House and met my partner for the next few days, CO Colin Kravontka. We would drive to Bella Coola for the next few days to mostly patrol for nuisance coastal grizzly bears. I hoped to see a big, coastal grizzly. I am sure Colin got tired of me talking about the big salmon eaters. He was probably relieved when I fell asleep. I'd had too many late nights.

We arrived very late at a bed and breakfast right on the Nusatsum River. I dreamt of giant grizzlies and couldn't wait for the next day's adventures. I awoke in the morning to the host cussing the bears. I heard him say they were right under my window stealing his parsnips and carrots. I figured Colin told him about my "bear crush," and they were setting me up. I grabbed a cup of coffee and went out to explore. I was amazed to find a fresh pile of parsnip scat right by my window and fresh tracks littering the devastated carrot patch. I couldn't believe mama bear and her cubs had a buffet within 10 feet of me, and I didn't hear a thing. It must have been a rougher night in Lillooet than I remembered.

CO Kravontka and I received a report of a grizzly sow and her cubs in the town of Bella Coola. I got to see the beautiful terrain of the valley between the cloud cover. The mountains and waterfalls were amazing. A check of the river provided a couple Vancouver residents future court

dates for fishing with barbed hooks and no fishing licenses. I videoed one of the violators reeling in a nice trout for future evidence.

A popular fishing area and boat ramp, Tweedsmire Park, had been closed due to bear activity upstream from Hagensborg. A few vehicles were parked at the gate, so we took a closer look. We observed a Parks Officer near the boat ramp, and we got a little tour of the area, which included a nice view of my first grizzly bear searching the river for salmon. The bear swam across the river towards me, and I heard an anxious CO behind me whisper for me to back up slowly and get out of there. He fled across the river and allowed me to get several pictures before some tourists in a drift boat interrupted my photo shoot. It was amazing to see my first grizzly bear up close. My trip was complete.

The trio returned the next morning to Bella Coola. I was surprised to see the bears right in someone's back yard when we arrived. Mama bear was shaking an apple tree trying to get a free meal. The cubs had a brilliant silver collar of fur around their necks. We harassed the animals until they headed towards the river and made nervous onlookers happy that they were gone for the time being.

CO Kravontka and I headed into the mountains surrounding the town looking for black bear hunters. The rain was coming down and made the waterfalls in the mountains overflow. We were greeted by a large black bear boar on the winding mountain road. CO Kravontka's background is in forestry, and he gave me a history of logging in BC and the surrounding areas.

My sightseeing in Bella Coola also included a bull moose that seemed to find one bovine quite attractive. I was also able to get close enough to a young black bear that was more interested in eating clover heads than caring about a camera-happy Utahan.

I also got to see a landfill that was surrounded by electric fence. I had heard of these dumps and was surprised to find out how successful they had become.

The next stop was Williams Lake where I had dinner at Inspector Len Butler's home. The view was spectacular as we ate dinner out in his yard.

I was able to get in touch with my father's friend and hunting partner, Gordy Elliot and his wife Karen. I was invited to spend the night at their house where we reminisced about my dad's hunting adventures in the nearby mountains. I finally got to see the area I had heard so much about.

Inspector Butler and I headed south and were asked to go to Big Bar Ferry. Sergeant Butcher and CO Clancy had jet boat problems shortly after I left, and the boat capsized in rapids. Some of their belongings had floated downstream to Big Bar. The boat had sunk in the rapids, and they were able to make it safely to shore. I was able to catch a ride on the ferry; it reminded me of the movie, "The Outlaw Josey Wales." We recovered the items and searched for the boat but were unsuccessful. It was nice to be back on the Fraser. Inspector Butler heard of the sudden passing of Inspector Kelly Dahl of the Major Investigations



unit. We headed to the Kamloops Office to get more details and meet the chief. Once we got to the office, we were asked to assist a biologist on a bighorn sheep case. One of the requirements of a sheep is it must be eight years old or a full curl. One of the sheep being checked in did not meet the age requirement and was seized. The hunters were not pleased.

I met Chief Doug Forsdick that evening over dinner. I got to hear his experiences with NAWEOA and his new leadership role. The chief supported the Exchange Officer program and was grateful I had chosen his province.

Inspector Butler took me to Falkland the next day to meet CO Tanner Beck. I learned about his patrol area until we met up with Sergeant Josh

Lockwood in Kelowna at a curling arena; I was definitely in Canada.

Sergeant Lockwood and I met up with CO Dave Webster and seasonal Logan Proulx at a patrol cabin, near the town of Rock Creek, where we would call home for the next few nights. It reminded me of a patrol cabin in Utah near Pine Springs. I patrolled with CO Webster for moose hunters. The season was to start soon, and hunters were pouring in. We wrote a few tickets for fishing closed waters and loaded firearms in vehicles. We patrolled a closed area near Granby. The area is restricted to protect grizzly bears. I got to see Jewel Lake where record brook rainbow trout are caught. The owner of the lodge also played for the Boston Bruins in the NHL. Old hockey pictures and huge rainbow trout (48 pounds) were scattered in the lodge.

I awoke on the second to last day with a aching back. The 11 different beds in 14 nights had taken their toll. Sitting in a truck was painful. CO Webster, Sergeant Lockwood, and I headed to Grand Forks. Sergeant Lockwood was called to the US/Canada border for a suspicious vehicle. After the local RCMP investigated the area, it was determined Sergeant Lockwood was the suspicious one.

After a great night in Grand Forks, CO Webster took me to my last port, Vancouver. I was given a tour of towns where movies had been filmed, including *First Blood* (Rambo) in Hope, *Snow Falling on Cedars* in Greenwood and *Dead Pool* in Vancouver. *Dead Pool* locations were my favorite.

My trip was over before I knew it. I had a wonderful experience. I brought back numerous ideas and tactics, especially as it pertains to nuisance bear problems, equipment, and safety issues. The patrol trucks were the best equipped I have ever seen—including SPOT trackers.

I want to thank all the officers and their families who put me up in their home and fed me throughout my trip. I hope I can pay you back someday. Thanks, NAWEOA!

NAWEOA Awards

By Rob Brandenburg

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

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

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

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

NAWEOA TORCH AWARD

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

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

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

CERTIFICATE OF RETIREMENT

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

AWARD OF VALOUR

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

LIFESAVING AWARD

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

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

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

HONOURARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

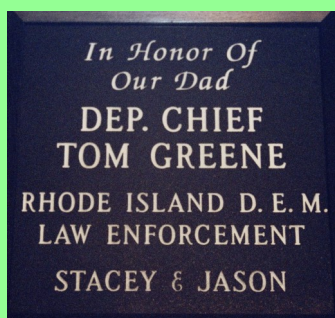
Anyone who has performed an extraordinary service to the association over a number of years may be nominated for this award. It is one of our most prestigious awards and may only be given in rare circumstances. Anyone who is eligible for regular membership in the association who receives this award shall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





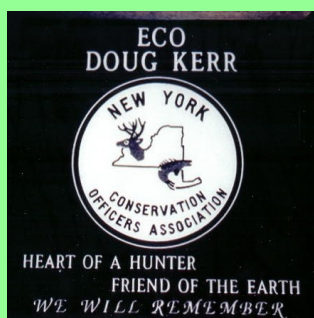
- Paving stones are age, weather and traffic-resistant black polished granite, sized 12" x 12"
- Engraved paving stones provide plenty of room for personal inscription in memory, honor or thanks
- Each sponsored stone will be placed on the museum grounds for public appreciation
- Paving stones can also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

Examples of Engraved Paving Stones



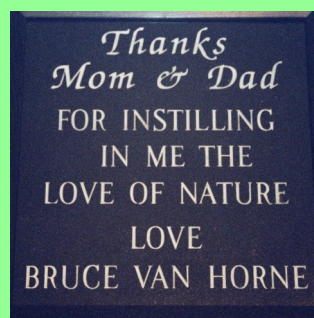
Honor a Family Member

*Demonstrate
Family Support*



Memorialize a Fallen Officer

*Honor
Outstanding Achievement*



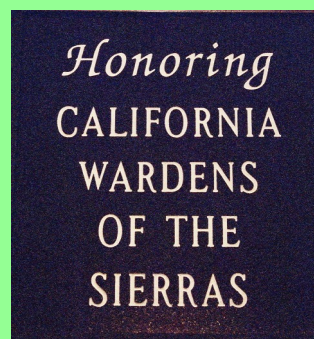
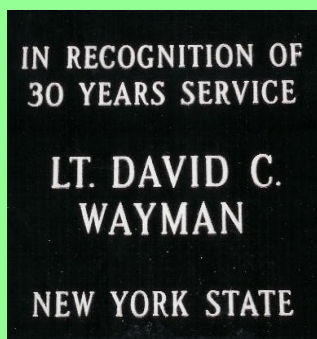
Just Say Thank You

*Demonstrate
Support*



Celebrate Partnerships

*Honor
Officer Retirements*

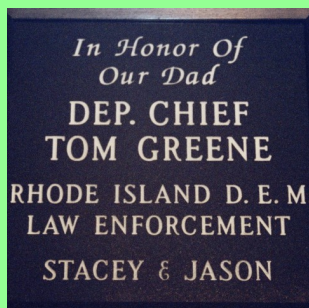


*A thank you card and a photo of your paving stone will be sent to you upon its completion.
A gift acknowledgement is also available upon request.
Museum staff will be available to assist visitors in locating their paving stone
on the museum grounds.*

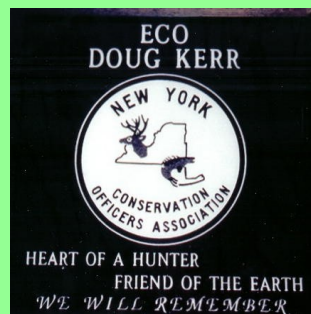


SUPPORT THE GAME WARDEN MUSEUM PURCHASE A PAVING STONE

1. Circle the type of stone your wish to purchase



**Engraved Paving
Stone
\$150**



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

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

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

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

3. Complete the sponsor and payment information

Sponsor Information Payment Options

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

gamewardenmuseum.org

Amount of this sponsorship \$ _____

Phone _____

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

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

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10939 Peace Garden Road, Dunseith, ND 58329

Or

P.O Box 1239 Boissevain, MB R0K 0E0



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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.

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Phone No _____

POSTAL CODE _____

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\$_____Amount if more than \$75.

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☐ \$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.

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