

NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



"The Voice of Resource Law Enforcement"



2018 NAWEOA OFFICER OF THE YEAR **Corporal Brian Adams** **Georgia** **Department of Natural Resources**

Vice-President Rick Langley (left) presenting the Officer of the Year Plaque to Corporal Brian Adams, (right)
Georgia, DNR

FALL 2018
70th Edition NAWEOA Newsletter

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The President's Report

By Shawn Farrell



Greetings from the east coast of Canada. As the leaves start to turn it is hard to believe another conference is behind us and the fall season is fast approaching. This year's 37th conference in Cheyenne definitely did not disappoint. The last time a conference was fully hosted was in Idaho (2013). Hats off to conference chair Jason Sher-

wood and his team. I also want to thank the Wyoming Game Warden Association and as well as the Department of Wyoming Game and Fish for supporting the conference. It all came together and you all should be proud of what you have accomplished.

This year the Canadian Director positions were up for election and unfortunately we had to say good bye to two of our directors. I would like to personally thank Kurt Henry (Region 2) and Roger Selesse (Region 3) for their 4 years of hard work and dedication to NAWEOA and its members. Both directors will truly be missed by the entire board but I am confident in saying we will certainly see them at future conferences.

I would like to welcome two new directors to the executive board. Federal Wildlife Officer Martin Thabault (Region 2) and New Brunswick Conservation Officer Josh Thibodeau (Region 3) were elected to their regional positions and Saskatchewan Conservation Officer Brock Lockhart returns as your Region 1 Director.

The NAWEOA business meetings are always busy and this year was no exception. Our preconference executive meeting was a little different this year and probably a first for the executive. BNSF Railway welcomed us aboard their train and we held our meeting in their executive car while conference guests enjoyed a train ride and enjoyed the landscape from the observation cars. All was offered to executive and conference delegates at no cost. Minutes can be found at <http://www.naweo.org/protected/minutes/index-minutes.htm>. I can ensure the membership that the people you have elected to the various executive positions are all hardworking individuals who continue to represent the members fairly and keep the best interests of NAWEOA in mind. It is an honour to work beside them.

It's never too early to start planning for next year's conference. Oklahoma did a presentation for the membership and I look forward to being in Oklahoma City next July. The city of Nashville will play host to NAWEOA in 2020. Rich Cramer has been working hard to line up host agencies for future conferences. If any other agencies/associations are interested in hosting please contact Rich Cramer.

I hope everybody has a safe and productive fall. Feel free to contact me anytime. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Shawn Farrell

NAWEOA President

The Vice President's Report

By Rick Langley



It's hard to believe the 2018 Conference in Cheyenne is over and we are rapidly moving forward to 2019 and Oklahoma City. I want to pass along my sincere appreciation to the Wyoming Game Warden Association and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for their hard work and dedication to the 2019 conference. I was thoroughly impressed with the organization, professionalism and quality of the programs that this group of "red shirts" provided for the attendees. Once again it was great to make new ac-

quaintances, renew old friendships, and further the bond that is WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT!

With this being my first year as Vice-President, I was overwhelmed at times leading up to and during the conference trying to pull together the awards program. It seems like there is never enough time to give proper tribute to the officers who are nominated each year. On that note, I want to again congratulate Corporal Brian Adams of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources on being selected as the 2018 NAWEOA Officer of the Year. I really enjoyed meeting him and getting to know Brian and his wife, Angie. I think they really had a great time and I hope we see them again soon. Please see Brian's write-up in this newsletter, it is truly impressive! This would be the proper time

The Vice President's Report (continued)

By Rick Langley

to ask you all to PLEASE consider giving me more nominations as the NAWEOA awards program is extremely meaningful to the Executive Board and our members. Nominations can be submitted throughout the year with deadlines for the Torch Awards and Officer of the Year being April 15. If you are unable to submit a nomination through the website, please get with your Jurisdictional Representative or your Regional Director and they will make it happen.

I also want to take the time to thank our two outgoing Regional Directors for the past 4 years of service to NAWEOA. Kurt Henry of Manitoba and Roger Selesse of New Brunswick completed their two 2-year terms as Regional Directors for Regions 1 and 2 and their contributions and personalities will be greatly missed. As we run through our terms on the board, we build some very strong friendships and it is tough knowing that I will not see them this winter at our board meeting, but I know they will be there in OK 2019! With their departure we also get to welcome Josh Thibodeau from New Brunswick as the new Region 3 Director and Martin Thabault of Environment and Climate Change Canada as the new Region 2 Director. I look forward to getting to know these new board members and working with them over the years to come. Martin is not a stranger to NAWEOA and Josh has been to a conference or

two. Thank you both for stepping up and serving NAWEOA!

There are several exciting things in the works for NAWEOA. Foremost is our rebuilt website. WebMaster Mike Reeder (PA) has been working hard on modernizing our website and making it more user-friendly. Rob Brandenburg did a fantastic job with this for years, and now it is time for an update. Keep an eye out for a new site, soon and thank you Rob and Mike! As part of this update, we will also be working with a marketing team to evaluate our logo and other materials we produce. While we do not want to lose the tradition and heritage of NAWEOA, we want to be recognizable and be able to reproduce our logo easily.

In 2017, Henry Rifles donated a couple of rifles to the Ontario conference. They did a great job with the NAWEOA logo engraved in the stock and there was a lot of demand for these rifles. Once we get a new logo we want to move forward, having Henry Rifles produce a NAWEOA commemorative rifle that officers can order directly from Henry. Stay tuned.

The Past President's Report

By Lew Huddleston



I hope and trust everyone made it home and recovered from Cheyenne. Kudos again go to Jason and the rest of the crew from Wyoming. Awesome conference!

One of the important items that take place at each summer conference is the election of officers to the Executive Board.

This year there were three positions up for election. There were three regions, 1, 2, and 3, up for election.

Before I go any further I would like to send out a sincere Thank You for Kurt Henry and Roger Selesse. They were the regional directors for regions 2 and 3 respectively for the past 4 years. They served out the maximum number of terms available for them this last July. It was my pleasure to serve on the board with both of them. They each

brought unique perspectives and ideas to the board's discussions.

Below is listed the Regional Directors for Regions 1, 2, and 3.

Region 1 Sergeant Brock Lockhart, Conservation Officer Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Creighton, Saskatchewan

Region 2: Federal Wildlife Officer Martin Thabault, Wildlife Enforcement Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ontario

Region 3: Josh Thibodeau, Department of Justice and Public Safety, New Brunswick Region 3 South (Welsford / St. George)

I would like to congratulate Brock Lockhart who was re-elected to his second term as the Region 1 Regional Direc-

The Past President's Report (continued)

By Lew Huddleston

tor. Brock has been a tremendous addition to the executive board.

I would also like to congratulate Martin and Josh with their elections to the board and to take a moment to welcome them to the Executive Board. I hope they are ready for an exciting and interesting two years on the board.

I hope to see everyone in Oklahoma City next July.

I wanted to take a moment to send out a request to anybody

that might want to take an active role within the NAWEOA organization. If you think you'd like to take on the role of a regional director please take the time to attend the summer conference in Oklahoma City and visit with one of the current members of the board. Next year regions 4 through 7 are up for election.

Be safe.



Back row, left to right - Brock Lockhart, Kurt Henry, Roger Selesse, Jason Sherwood, Jeff Jones, Jason Blaylock, Larry Hergenroeder, Mike Reeder. Front row, left to right - Rick Langley, Shawn Farrell, Lew Huddleston, Steve Beltran, Rich Cramer

Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart



Region 1 Report

I am pleased to have another term on the NAWEOA board and look forward to working with the group for another 2 years. Thanks for the support and the great work you all do on behalf of and for NAWEOA! Below are two reports submitted to me for the newsletter. Thanks to Saskatchewan and Alberta J-Reps for the submissions.

Saskatchewan

This is my first official report as J-Rep for Saskatchewan. This past July I attended my first (full) NAWEOA conference in Wyoming (I got to attend portions in 2011 when it was in Saskatoon but had to work). Jason Sherwood and his team put on a tremendous conference and I know the Saskatchewan attendees enjoyed the many sites and events held in the beautiful state of Wyoming. Thanks again for hosting us all. Since April 1st our agency has been part of the provinces PRT (Provincial Response Team). What this means is that we receive dispatched calls over the radio and a text message regarding every 911 call that the RCMP have requested assistance to. Our Officers have responded to quite a few of them and it is definitely a change of previous duties. With PRT comes more training

and more equipment. Some of our vehicles have been equipped with ALPRS (Automatic Licence Plate Readers), we have been given Alcohol screening devices, and we will also be issued carbines in the near future. With all of the new equipment and responsibilities comes training, and lots of it. I believe the first number was somewhere around 20 extra training days in the next year (outside of usual yearly requalification's). We did receive a pay supplement and for the most part the Conservation Officers have embraced the PRT and extra duties.

This past April Conservation Officer Michael Banks hosted the 37th Annual Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers(SACO) conference. During the banquet portion of the banquet SACO and the Ministry of Environment give out awards to various Officers, support staff, and members of the public that assist Conservation Officers. SACO recently created an Award of Excellence, to acknowledge the hard work of Conservation Officers around the province. The three winners of this award were Ryan Engele, C. Clarke, and Derek Keast. Sgt. Keast past away this past year and the award was accepted by his two children, Derek was well deserving of this award and was an integral part of our Defensive Tactics program. He will be missed. The ministry also gave out the Conservation Officer of the Year award. Congratulations to Sgt. Troy Thompson from North Battleford on being this years recipient. Troy has had numerous prosecutions in regards to unlawful outfitting

Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart

over the past few years in the North Battleford Area. Congratulations Troy.



(Troy Thompson on the left receiving his award from Director Marc Painchaud)

The last bit of info I will pass on is the recent discovery of a missing plane that contained Conservation Officer Harold Thompson and Pilot Ray Gran. In 1959 the plane disappeared after taking off from Peter Pond Lake, near Buffalo Narrows, heading to La Loche. A search party was sent out but nothing was ever recovered except CO Thompson's briefcase floating in Peter Pond Lake. Left behind to grieve was Thompson's wife and young son, and Gran's pregnant wife.

59 years later Gran's daughter and son-in law recruited an expert in side scan imaging and they hired him to search Peter Pond Lake. 10 hours into the search, they found the plane. There is plans underway to assess the possibility of recovering CO Thompson and Pilot Gran's remains for the family.

The CBC wrote a very good article about it and if you'd like to read it here is the link:

<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/longform/sonar-secrets>

That is all for now from Saskatchewan and I wish you all a safe Fall and Winter.

Chris Maier

President

Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers

Alberta

There is not a lot to report for AGWA. We are currently awaiting information on the move to ACES (Alberta Conservation Enforcement Service). This will be a combination of FWEB and Parks. They are still working out details. No firm decisions on it has been made yet.

AGWA has moved to e-transfer for memberships and regalia items within our membership. We are working on expanding to open up our items to everyone.

We have also set aside funds for president and vice president or designate to attend NAWEOA conferences. Hopefully we will be able to help 2 members attend these conferences. The funds will not cover all costs but it will help out with expenses. The association now is looking at contributing more to its members and donations. That's the focus we are working on currently.

Region 2 Director Martin Thabault



As several of you know I have enjoyed many NAWEOA summer conferences since my first attendance in 2002 (Columbus, Indiana). I am proud and honored to be your new Region 2 Director. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to give back to this organization that gives me such a strong sense of belonging.

I am currently an Operations Manager for the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate of Environment and Climate Change Canada. I started out my career in 1990 as a seasonal Wildlife Officer in the remote St. Lawrence River's Lower North Shore (located just below Labrador) where I spent most of my summers doing marine patrols protecting im-

portant seabird colonies. In 1994 I became a full time Wildlife Officer in downtown Montreal (a slightly different work environment). My role switched mainly to the enforcement of wildlife trade regulations but I also worked regularly in the field doing protected areas patrols and spent each fall doing waterfowl hunting enforcement. In 2007 I strayed for a year to try a new career as an Investigations Specialist in the agricultural field but I came back to my true vocation the following year when I accepted a position in our National Headquarters as a Senior Operations Officer. Finally, in the fall of 2010, I was promoted to my current position where I manage the Eastern and Northern District of Ontario Region which borders two provinces (Manitoba to the west and Quebec to the east), a Canadian Territory (Nunavut to the north) and three American States to the south (Minnesota, Michigan and New York).

Region 2 Director Martin Thabault

I have gotten to know several of you over the years, but even if we haven't had a chance to meet, never hesitate to contact me if need be. I will be glad to hear from you and I look forward to assist you and our organization any way that I can. Finally I would like to thank my predecessor

Manitoba Conservation Officer Kurt Henry for his 4 years on the NAWEOA Executive and for facilitating my transition into this new role.

Region 3 Director Josh Thibodeau



Hello everyone, Thank you all. I am very excited to be serving as the new Region 3 Director. I would like to congratulate and thank Roger Selesse for his two terms as Region 3 Director. Great job Roger, your hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed.

Just a little about myself; I am a Conservation Officer working for the department of Justice and Public Safety in the beautiful province of New Brunswick on the east coast of Canada. I have been a Conservation Officer and a member of NAWEOA for approximately 8 years and I am stationed in the region 3 south district which lies in the southwest part of New Brunswick. I live in the small rural community of Rusagonis which is 20 minutes outside the provincial capital city of Fredericton with my spouse and kids. In my spare time you can find me at the hockey rink watching my kids playing or at the golf course. I am currently the treasurer on the executive board of our New Brunswick Conservation Officers Association. I have been active on the board for the past 5 years. This past winter I took over as the provincial NAWEOA J Rep in an effort to become more involved with NAWEOA. I was also fortunate enough to be the recipient of the 2014 Region 3 NAWEOA Torch award. I was very honored to be the recipient of this award.

I grew up seeing life as a Conservation Officer as my father has been a Conservation Officer for over 30 years and is still an active officer today working in my neighboring district. He has even backed me up on a few calls over the past couple years. Being the son of a Conservation Officer allowed me the opportunity to experience my first NAWEOA conference in 2009 in Moncton, New Brunswick.

My first NAWEOA conference as an active officer was in 2016 in Vermont and it did not disappoint. I got to take part in training and social events and this made me realize even more what a truly great association I was lucky enough to be part of. At this conference I was given the opportunity to

do a write up for the NAWEOA newsletter about some of the training courses I attended and I was more than happy to do that for the association.

This past winter I was also given the opportunity to do a write up for the 2018 spring issue of the international game warden magazine outlining our agency profile. I would like to thank NAWEOA president Shawn Farrell for allowing me that opportunity.

I am looking forward to representing Region 3 and NAWEOA and will do so to the best of my ability. Take care and stay safe!

QUEBEC Opération POCHETTE

On July 18, 2018 the Agents de la protection de la faune du Quebec ended the illegal smuggling activity of Black Bear gall-bladders.

After three years of investigation, the agents de la protection de la faune were able to gather enough evidence to stop the illegal traffic of Black Bear gall-bladders.

Since 2015 the poachers have killed over one hundred Black Bears for the Asian black market.

Currently, 64 people were referred and 121 charges were recorded. If successfully convicted these individuals will be liable to fine of \$328,000.

The operation mobilized 160 agents de la protection de la faune, who were assisted by the Protection de la faune du Quebec's expert canine team.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Hello from New Brunswick! Another good year is unfolding here in the North East. It has been a busy pass six months.

I am pleased to inform you that our new NAWEOA Regional Director for Region 3 is Josh Thibodeau. Josh stepped up with enthusiasm to take the role of director at our last convention in Wyoming in July and he will be an asset for our international association in the future.

Region 3 Director Josh Thibodeau

Our association members are promoting youth activities during the summer months, most of them dealing with angling or at the shooting range. Our officers are constantly working on different projects, gathering Intel to eventually be successful in apprehending individuals or groups committing illegal activities.

While special investigations are ongoing, other field officers were working hard apprehending individuals committing illegal activities.

Some successful turn outs this summer were (12,000.00 in fines to one individual, charges for illegal commercial harvesting on Crown Land, one individual was sent to jail for 14 days for miss use of a fire arm, hunting under the influence and obstruction to a peace officer for a total of \$ 5190.00 in fines. Presently working through the court system at this time as the result of a special investigation is "Operation Pandora" This special investigation targeted the illegal hunting of moose and deer. Twelve search warrants were executed which lead to the seizure of approximately 48 firearms ,hunting gear, approximately 1400 pounds of moose and deer meat, electronic devices and a truck. Several other cases are pending in court waiting for trial dates all relative to major offences.

Our officers are almost done with the training of officers from other branches in our Department. The quality of our trainers is remarkable. Long hours and away from their home is not always easy, but is rewarding at the end of each class. Being short staff in most regions makes it more challenging for the field officers.

All vehicles are now equipped with new digital mobile radios and new portables. These new radios allow us to be in contact with all agencies in our province, It was greatly appreciated while our officers were asked to help on the major flood that occurred last May in the South of the Province. Our Conservation officers were working long days and nights to protect the people of New Brunswick. Protecting their dwellings from vandalism and making sure they were safe and rescued from fast rising water. This is a perfect time to recognise Robert Dekany, one of our officers who had previously won a live saving award. For his dedication to help people in need in the community, on his own time, by using his boat day after day to transport people who were trapped by flood waters.

This summer while most West provinces and US states were on fires, two of our fires investigators were sent to BC in order to assist and perfect their investigative techniques when dealing with fires. We hope that this will continue in the future.

We are hoping to get all our positions filled in each district by next year, especially in the North of the Province where we need Francophone or bilingual officers.

Lastly, the New Brunswick Conservation team would like to welcome a new member to the team. K9 "JR". JR and his handler Corporal Greg Wallace just returned from some

intense training in Alberta. With the arrival of JR it means the upcoming retirement of K9 Bullet. Bullet has attended many calls and has provided a great service to not only Conservation Officers but other enforcement agencies. Thank You Bullet for hard work and dedication!

Bonjour du Nouveau Brunswick, voici quelque événements qui s'est passé dans notre province depuis la dernière info lettre.

Je suis content de vous informer que le nouveau directeur pour la region 3 est Josh Thibodeau du Nouveau Brunswick. Josh a démontré un intérêt à notre dernière convention en juillet au Wyoming. Il va certainement être un atout pour notre association international pour les années futur.

Les membres de notre association font constamment la promotion envers les jeunes durant les mois d'été .les activités sont principalement axe sur les activités de pêche et de tire dans les champs de tire .

Nos agents sont constamment occuper à travailler sur différent projets a compiler de l'information pour éventuellement faire des appréhensions d'individu ou de groupes qui font des activités illégal.

Alors que des enquêtes spéciales sont en cours, les agents travail dure à appréhender certain individus qui commettent des activités illégales. Quelque susses de cette été (12,000.00\$ d'amande pour un individus qui stafferais a la coupe de bois commercial, illégal sur les terres de la couronnes, un autre individu reçu un pénalité de 14 jours de prison, pour avoir chassé sous l'influence, maniement non sécuritaire d'une arme a feu et obstruction d'un agent de la paix en plus de 5,190.00 d'amande. Présentement en attente dans la système judiciaire suite a une enquête spécial du nom de "Opération Pandora" qui avait comme cible la chasse illégal d'originaux et de chevreuils. Avec d'assez bon résultats ou il y a eu 12 mandats de perquisition, dans lesquelles approximativement 48 armes à feu ont été saisie ,1400 livre de viande d'orignal et chevreuils, de l'E-quippement de chasse, des appareils électronique et une camionnette

Nos officiers ont presque fini, de faire la formation d'agent de d'autre section de notre département. Nos instructeurs donne de la formation de qualité remarquable aux autres agents. Les longues heures de travail et loin de la maison n'est pas toujours facile, mais quand même gratifient après chaque cours. De plus le manque d'Officers dans presque toutes les régions augmente le défi pour ceux qui sont dans le champ.

Nos véhicules sont maintenant équiper de nouveaux radios mobiles et de portable. Ces nouveaux radios nous permettent d'être en contact avec toutes les autres agences dans la province. Cela a été tres apprécié quand nos officiers ont été demandée a prêter main forte durant l'inondation du mois de mai qui a affecter principalement le Sud de la province. Nos agents de conservation ont de longues journée de de longue nuit a protéger les gens du nouveau

Region 3 Director Josh Thibodeau

Brunswick. Protéger leurs résidences du vandalisme, faire certain qu'ils étaient en sécurité et secourir ceux qui étaient en danger du à la montée des eaux. Ceci est le moment propice de reconnaître Robert Dekany, un de nos agents saisonniers qui avait déjà reçu une reconnaissance de bravoure pour avoir sauvé une vie dans le passé. Pour son dévouement aider les gens en besoin dans la communauté, de son propre chef étant en congé il a secourus des gens jour après jours avec son embarcation a transporter les gens qui étaient pris à cause des inondation.

Cette été alors que presque toutes les provinces Canadiennes et les États de l'ouest étaient en feu, deux de nos officiers enquêteurs sur les incendies de forêt, ont été envoyée an Colombie Britannique, afin d'assister les enquêteurs et aussi de se perfectionner dans les techniques d'enquête. Ceci est une première pour nos agents de conservation et nous espérons que cela vas continuer dans le futur.

Nous espérons que tous nos postes seront comblés par la fin de l'année, spécialement dans le Nord de la province

ou nous avons besoin d'officier bilingue ou du moins francophone.

Finalement l'équipé d'agent de conservation du Nouveau Brunswick souhaite la bienvenue au nouveau membre de l'équipé. K9 'JR'. JR et le maître-chien, Caporal, Greg Wallace, viens de terminer un cours intensif en Alberta. Avec l'arrivée de JR cela veut dire que Bullet notre chien de l'équipe canine vas prendre sa retraite. Bullet a répondu a plusieurs appels et à participer a plusieurs opérations toute au long de service. Il a été d'une grande aide non seulement aux agents de conservation mais aussi a d'autres agences dans la province.. Merci Bullet pour l'excellent travail et dévouement.

Region 4 Director Jason Sherwood



This has been an exciting time for Region 4 and especially the wardens in the Wyoming jurisdiction!

For the members who missed this summer's NAWEOA conference, Wyoming had the opportunity to host the event, holding it in Cheyenne. In tallying the final numbers, it looks like we had approxi-

mately 443 attendees, including 242 NAWEOA members, 7 non-members, 136 spouses or other guests, and 58 youth. With more than two years' work in planning and preparation, hosting the conference is no small undertaking. There are a lot of moving parts many attendees never realize and hosting certainly provides a much different view of the association. On the other hand, many members of our small local association had the opportunity to meet and visit with wildlife officers from all across our continent, and some of our local experts were able to share their work and knowledge and hopefully get a bit of recognition for their efforts. Personally, helping provide valued training and important networking opportunities to game wardens and conservation officers on this scale is one of the most rewarding things I have ever been involved with. I strongly encourage everyone who hasn't attended a NAWEOA conference to make plans to do so (again this year, more than 50% of attendees paid their own way to the conference). Members

who have attended a few should be working on their home agency and local officer association to host an upcoming conference.

In finishing up conference reports and "thank-you's," and knowing there were some major events going on, I didn't bug Region 4 J-Reps about getting updates turned in, but a few notes were submitted: Jim Ridzon, Hawaii's J-Rep reports they are extra busy with special duties and cleanup from severe weather, hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, and volcanoes—as well as their "usual" issues with the ongoing lobster season. In looking at the regional fire maps, I'm sure quite a few jurisdictions are assisting with wildland fires and know a couple Colorado officers missed the summer conference as they were charged with leading the investigations of a couple large fires. As Idaho enters the fall hunting seasons, their officers will be working with a new trespass law and are waiting to see how the courts define a "reasonable person" as it relates to the new statute requiring, "a reasonable person would recognize...private property..." Idaho is also quite proud of Seth Altmeyer, the Region 4 Torch Award recipient for 2018. As winter approaches, it may be a great time to think about starting award nominations for the outstanding officers in your area!

I imagine many of you have already heard of the assault and attempted murder of a warden near Corning, California. Luckily his injuries don't appear to be severe. Be safe and have a productive fall!

Region 6 Director Jason Blaylock



I hope this letter finds everyone doing well as we gear up for yet another hunting season. I don't know how everyone else's summer went but here in Mississippi we battled our normal hot and humid conditions as we checked for fishing compliance and boating safety. This summer I was able to attend the NAWEOA Annual conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming and I must give props to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for putting on an excellent conference. This year's conference was stocked full of officer training and lots of social activities for the officers and their families. Next year's conference will be in Oklahoma City and if you are able to attend I highly recommend coming and participating in it.

Mississippi

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks is once again advertising for the position of wildlife law enforcement officers. The department is looking to add 12-15 cadets to this year's training academy. On the CWD front, since finding the first Chronic Wasting case this past winter, the MDWFP has been in the process of sampling animals from the area where the initial case was discovered. To date, nearly 1000 deer have been tested since the initial discovery and no other deer have been found to be infected with CWD.

South Carolina

SSG Rhett Sease Bickley, Jr., SCDNR, 49, died Wednesday, July 25, 2018. He was born in Hartsville, SC, on April 2, 1969 to Rhett Sease Bickley, Sr. and Nancy Roper Bickley. SSG Bickley was a US Army veteran and attended Clemson University. He was employed for more than 19 years in various capacities with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. SSG Bickley was most recently assigned to SCDNR Investigations Section, supervising the Aids to Navigation Team and the Dive Team. He was an outdoors enthusiast who especially enjoyed hunting and fishing. SSG Bickley never met a stranger and will be remembered for his friendly demeanor and genuine personality.

Louisiana

A cadet in training to become a Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries agent has died after collapsing during a training exercise. Thirty-eight-year-old Immanuel Washington died on July 19 at Ochsner Medical Center in Baton Rouge. Washington, who was in the third week of training to become an LDWF agent, had just completed a two-and-a-half mile run with his fellow cadets on the morning of July 18 when he suddenly collapsed. Training agents

immediately began CPR, and Washington was rushed to the hospital, where he was placed on life support in the intensive care unit. "Our hearts are broken by this tragedy," Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries secretary Jack Montoucet said. "The whole Wildlife and Fisheries family offer our prayers for his wife, his children, his family and friends. From the accounts I received, Mr. Washington was an excellent cadet and an even better person. This is a loss for Louisiana." An official investigation into Washington's cause of death is currently underway. "All of our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Washington's family at this point. This is a very sad time for his family, the agents and the cadets that came to know him during his training," Col. Sammy Martin, head of the enforcement division, said. "From everything I've heard about this man his dream was to become a Wildlife and Fisheries agent. We were very happy to hire him and believe he would have made a great agent."

Georgia

The Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division completed the five-year transition that consolidated all Law Enforcement functions under the umbrella of the Law Enforcement Division, to include State Parks enforcement. In 2013, the Board of Natural Resources approved the internal reorganization of its operational Divisions that elevated the Law Enforcement Section to Division status, removing it as a sub-program in the Wildlife Resources Division. The changes to the DNR structure were made to more accurately reflect the working structure of the department, streamline operations, clarify chain of command, standardize training, equipment and operational guidance for law enforcement services and to reduce liability.

Throughout the year, the Law Enforcement Division acquired some new vehicles and equipment, utilizing funding from various sources. Vehicles obtained included a new Bell 407 GX helicopter, a 38-foot coastal patrol boat, a mobile command vehicle, 20 4x4 patrol vehicles, 19 patrol boats, 22 kayaks, 27 ATVs, three swift water rescue boats with motors and trailers and a new enclosed trailer for statewide disaster response. New equipment included 74 sets of night vision goggles and smart phones for all field personnel. The smart phones have already proved to be a valuable asset for Game Wardens in the field, allowing increased communication with customers and partners as well as the ability to check license status of hunters and anglers while away from the patrol vehicle.

This Fall, 32 cadets are scheduled to graduate on October 19, 2018 from the 32nd Game Warden Academy. During the 25-week academy, cadets become P.O.S.T. certified and receive a wide variety of Conservation Law Enforcement specific training. They will then complete six months of field training in their assigned counties throughout the state.

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Greetings to the NAWEOA membership. Wyoming was a fantastic host for the Summer Conference in the beautiful prairies of Cheyenne. The Little America Hotel presented wonderful accommodations to our membership with plenty of room and scenery off the back fairway of the golf course surrounding the hotel. My gratitude goes out

to the Wyoming Game Wardens Association that worked tirelessly to make this conference the success it was. As always, rekindling old friendships and shaking hands with new officers was the highlight of the conference. I was finally able to meet Wyoming Game Warden Dustin Kirsch that I assisted in a multi-state investigation last fall that resulted in more than three dozen charges for the illegal guiding and taking of big game in Wyoming. This type of cooperation definitely solidifies the importance of the networking created at the NAWEOA Conferences. Throughout the week wardens traded patches and challenge coins. Challenge coins have been gaining popularity among Game Wardens for the past few years. I began my collection at the 2010 conference in Pennsylvania and now have over 125 coins, only collecting Game Warden Agency or Association coins from both US and Canada. I welcomed the exciting news that came for serious collectors like myself, North Dakota's Officer Association has a new coin available as it was one of those States that wasn't available to collectors until now. A few other officers reported that their States are also putting together a new coin to trade amongst our ranks in US and Canada.

A month or two prior to the conference I had met four Game Wardens from the US trading challenge coins. Although they have nearly 18 years of combined service among them, none of them have ever heard of NAWEOA. That fact disturbed me greatly, so I encouraged their attendance in Wyoming but due to the short notice and their annual leave, it wasn't an option for any of them to attend this year. However, I did receive a commitment from all four that they are planning to attend the 2019 Conference in Oklahoma. Oklahoma Game Warden and 2019 Conference Chairman, Jay Harvey, along with several other Oklahoma Game Wardens, have put together a fantastic itinerary for next July in Oklahoma City. Included are several off site attractions available for families looking to extend their conference into a family vacation. I am also very pleased to have Tennessee under contract to host the NAWEOA Conference in 2020.

For the upcoming 2019 Conference, the NAWEOA Executive Board has solicited the talents of Nick Loposky out of Tempe, Arizona to produce a promotional video to film the 2019 Summer Conference. We would like to thank Oklahoma Game Wardens and Conference Chairman, Jay Harvey, for being receptive to the idea. Jay commented that if it promotes NAWEOA he and his fellow Oklahoma Wardens support it. Nick is a professional videographer and he will produce a youtube type video that can be sent to every email address available to our nearly 9000 Officer membership. This will showcase the traditional events of the Summer Conference to those officers from jurisdictions that haven't been introduced to the NAWEOA family, thus giving them a "what to expect" view if they were to attend the Summer Conference. Hopefully it will inspire several new faces to attend. It will be safeguarded and will only be available to be viewed by Game Wardens as the identity of some of our members need to remain private for covert operations. Also exciting news was the amount of feedback from jurisdictions that are interested in hosting a future NAWEOA Summer Conference.

I would like to congratulate Region 1 Director Brock Lockhart (second term), Region 2 Director Martin Thabault and Region 3 Director Josh Thibodeau in their bid to represent our brothers and sisters to the north on the Executive Board.

Region 7 has six new Jurisdictional Representatives in our ranks. Anne Quirk for New Jersey, Kris MacCabe for Maine, Murray Bauer for National Marine Fisheries, Rick Finnegan for PA Game Commission, Chad Lauer for PA Fish & Boat Commission and Joshua Zientek for Ohio. I would like to recognize the outgoing JReps, Mike Massey, Jeremy Judd, Scott Adams, Gary Toward, Michael Johnson and Steve Thomson for their years of dedicated service to NAWEOA. I hope to continue to see these officers at an upcoming NAWEOA Conference. Also, one of our Region 7 JReps, Kevin Clayton from Massachusetts, was the winner of the Officer Exchange drawing at the 2018 NAWEOA Conference. Kevin is planning to visit Manitoba this fall and a presentation of his trip will be showcased at the 2019 summer conference business meeting.

If you haven't looked ahead at the 2019 calendar this may be a good time to block off the week of July 14th and plan to join your brothers and sisters that walk the thin green line for a great week of training, comradery and professionalism among our ranks. Have a safe and successful fall hunting season and I hope to see you in Oklahoma!

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Pennsylvania Game

A few new changes within the PGC are that we are now officially titled State Game Wardens as opposed to Wildlife Conservation Officers. The new name is to help the general public have a better understanding of who we are and what we do. Many people realize what a game warden is – but the title of wildlife conservation officer may be a little more incomprehensible.

The 31st Cadet class of State Game Wardens will be reporting to their field training assignments starting at the end of September. This lasts for 10 weeks and they will rotate to 3 different officers during that time. Following field training they will report back to the Ross Leffler School of Conservation in Harrisburg, PA until they graduate sometime in February or March of 2019. There are currently 29 cadets in the class.

We are transitioning into a new defensive tactics program called close quarters defense or (CQD). Several officers went through 2-4 weeks of training to become instructors and they will train our field officers next spring / summer. We are also transitioning to a new radio system called the P25. Towers are being placed all throughout the state in order to have a better and more clear form of communication system within the Game Commission as well at the PA State Police who are also transitioning to the same system.

New Jersey

The past year, by most accounts, has been a good one for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Law Enforcement and the state's Conservation Police Officers.

2017 marked the 125th anniversary of the Division of Fish & Wildlife. The legislation that created the predecessor of the Division emphasized the importance of conservation law enforcement. The "Game Protector," and game wardens were the first employees of this new agency. In fact, conservation law enforcement officers were in existence before the beginning in the form of county fish wardens. To recognize the history of the state's game wardens the Division minted a limited run of challenge coins with the 125th anniversary logo on one side and the image of the oldest state warden badge in our collection on the reverse.

Several officers were issued new Ford F150 SSV patrol vehicles in 2017. In the effort to improve public recognition of our agency and officers, the patrol vehicles were marked for the first time in 18+ years, with subdued or 'ghost' decals. Previously, our entire fleet had run unmarked.

In keeping with the goal of improving public understanding of the role and responsibilities of our officers, we added

Police to our title in the fall of 2017. Under New Jersey law, Conservation Officers have always had full police powers. The addition of the word Police is in no way intended to change our conservation mission, but to clarify our authority for the general public by using a universally recognized term. Accordingly, we updated our uniform emblem. Patch collectors were quick to notice. Our new emblems are in high demand, but until the changeover is complete the Bureau and individual officers will have extremely limited ability to accommodate requests for our emblem. The fall of 2017 also brought a new chapter to the Bureau's Marine Region with the addition of the P/V Integrity to our fleet. Our largest patrol vessel, the Integrity is a 36' Calvin Beal built by SW Boatworks in Lamoine Maine. We are grateful to Sergeant Colin MacDonald and Specialist Sean Dow of the Maine Marine Patrol for their assistance in making this landmark purchase possible. Sgt. MacDonald and Specialist Dow provided technical guidance during the process and acted as our proxies during build inspections. In recognition of the importance of this vessel to our Bureau's marine operations a new, dedicated position of Vessel Operator was designated as a lateral opportunity for a Conservation Police Officer with the skills and experience necessary. Brett Nicklow was chosen for the position from the volunteers who applied. He and the Integrity have already made their presence known in the waters that were previously beyond our regular reach, and many significant investigations have already been carried out.



Joining the Integrity will be three Zodiac SRR-870 patrol vessels to replace aging Parkers that have been in service since the 1990's. One is already in use in the Delaware Bay, with two more on the way.

The Bureau purchased two Leica Total Station mapping systems to precision document evidence placement and scenes. The units have already been used to diagram a non-target impact incident and to establish the extent of an illegal Wildlife Management Area clear-cut and property line encroachment. The Bureau thanks the Maine Warden Ser-

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vice and Warden Eric Blanchard for joining us for training and the loan of an extra unit to enable more officers to receive the initial training.

In keeping on the topic of technological advancement, the Bureau has greatly increased the use of covert cameras recently. To protect our public lands from illegal use and dumping, Officers have deployed simple trail cameras, cameras with cellular capabilities, and specialized cameras with license plate capturing abilities, all to excellent results. Our thanks go out to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Warden Dan Murray, Investigator Dave Allen, and Investigator Derek Daly for providing our officers with advanced training on the placement and concealment of these cameras.

In recognition of the dangers of the opiate epidemic, Narcan will be in the first aid kits of all CPOs shortly.

On the personnel side of the operation, in January of this year we welcomed new CO Recruit Jillian Agnello to our ranks. Recruit Agnello graduated from the Morris County Police academy in May, earning the Academic Achievement award. She has completed "Warden School" and is now working under the guidance of a field training officer for the state's incipient hunting season.

The Bureau has permission to hire two more recruits with a test pending in the near future.

At the close of 2017 Chief Matt Brown retired with twenty-seven years of service. J. Sean Cianciulli has been promoted to Acting Chief. Promotional exams for all ranks are pending.

Finally, we congratulate CPO Jordan Holmes, Conservation Officer of the Year - 2017. CPO Holmes was hired in 2008 and is currently assigned to the Northern Region. Chief Cianciulli made the selection in recognition of the following achievements.

Due to vacancies, CPO Holmes has been responsible for covering multiple patrol areas within the Northern Region for most of his career. He has always shown the initiative to plan patrols and respond to complaints within the vacant areas without being asked. CPO Holmes has used his outgoing personality and willingness to make himself available to the public to cultivate informants. His strong-willed dedication to our constituents has allowed him to make a lot of high profile cases based on the information provided by the public and trusted informants.

CPO Holmes was tasked with the prosecution of a large investigation involving the commercialization of wild deer by a butcher shop. The case was initiated by the Bureau's

Special Investigations Unit and culminated with a search warrant being served at the business. As a result of the search warrant and several communication data warrants, over 70 individuals were identified as being involved with the case and subsequently interviewed. CPO Holmes coordinated the case with the New Jersey State Police, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office, the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office, the New Jersey Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

CPO Holmes settled the case with proprietor of the butcher shop who was the primary subject of the investigation. The settlement resulted in a \$1,000.00 fine, \$4,000.00 in restitution for lab fees, a three-month suspension of driving privileges, 120 hours of community service, forfeiture of \$20,268.40 in cash recovered at the business and the forfeiture of approximately 1,200 vacuum sealed packages of processed venison. The processed venison was valued at over \$6,500.00 and was donated to a local food pantry.

New Hampshire

Division is about to announce testing for vacant positions as well as the hiring of two positions dedicated entirely to OHRV/Snowmobile enforcement and education. Check our website, HUNTNH.com, for details – any current wardens with an interest...compare retirement plans and despite what you may read below, you may well be convinced to apply!

like many jurisdictions, NH COs struggle to find time to do 'hook and bullet' law enforcement as the Division is the lead on Search and Rescue as well as OHRV/Snowmobile enforcement in the state. Injured and lost hikers continue to put serious demands on officer's time. The Dept.'s S&R costs annually exceed \$350K.

OHRV enforcement continues to be a demanding focus for Conservation Officers as NH is home to the largest interconnected trail network within the northeast and one of the largest in the country - Ride the Wilds.

Northwoods Law NH TV show continues to command high ratings and is a top show on the Animal Planet Network. Check it out on Sundays at 9PM est.

The Division has had two retirements this summer, Lt. Wayne Saunders and Lt. Scott LaCrosse, leaving the Division with only 40 officers.

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New York

In 2017, the 301 ECOs across the state responded to 26,400 calls and issued 22,150 tickets for crimes ranging from deer poaching to corporate toxic dumping and illegal mining, black market pet trade, and excessive emissions violations.

On July 5, ECO Joshua Harvey found an ivory bracelet detailed with cat carvings being sold online for \$400. After communicating with the seller about the authenticity of the piece, the two agreed to meet at the defendant's antique shop in Long Island City to complete the sale. On July 8, ECO Harvey arrived at the shop in plainclothes with ECO Ryan Grogan waiting down the street in uniform. ECO Harvey engaged the shop owner in conversation about his interest in ivory pieces and the shop owner told Harvey he had more pieces available. The shop owner returned with a box containing 19 additional ivory pieces. After inspecting the pieces and confirming their authenticity, ECO Harvey offered to purchase all 20 ivory pieces. The shop owner determined the total value to be \$2,000. ECO Harvey told the shop owner he needed to get additional money to purchase the pieces, but would return shortly. ECO Harvey met ECO Grogan to explain the sale and then returned to the shop. When the offer of sale had been

made and a receipt was given, ECO Grogan arrived in uniform, confiscated the ivory, and issued two summonses for illegal sale of ivory and illegal commercialization of wildlife along with a Notice of Violation, giving the shop owner the opportunity to settle the case administratively with DEC.

Neil Stevens, a 10-year veteran with DEC's Division of Law Enforcement, was recently named the North East Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association (NECLECA) "Officer of the Year." NECLECA is a professional organization of the chiefs and command staff from 13 northeastern states, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA Office for Law Enforcement, and the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Stevens holds a Bachelor of Science with honors in Natural Resource Conservation from Cornell University and recently became a pilot for DEC's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program, and was deployed to Puerto Rico last year as part of a relief team that helped the island regain electrical service. As a member of the Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation (BECI) unit, Stevens conducted criminal inves-

tigations with successful prosecutions in cases involving the illegal commercialization of fish and wildlife, hazardous waste investigations, and a fatal hunting-related shooting incident. This case required a particularly delicate approach, working closely with other agencies and

prosecutors, and resulted in a guilty plea by the perpetrator. Stevens, who lives in Central New York and is currently a member of the DLE's Training Academy staff, enjoys spending time with his family and dog and piloting airplanes in his free time.

Maine

The Maine Warden Service recently graduated seven Maine Game Wardens and one Penobscot Tribal Game Warden from the 2018 Maine Warden Service Advanced



School. The recent graduates will continue training in the field as they begin the rigorous Field Training Program before settling into their assigned patrols.

Maine Warden Service 2018 Advanced School Graduating Class

From left to right: Jake Voter (Lincoln District), Michael Latti (Gorham District), Chris Hilton (Greenville Warden Pilot), Tyler Leach (Haynesville District), James Gushee (Houlton District), Tennie Coleman (Jackman District), Logan Pardilla Penobscot Tribal Warden, Brandon Sperrey (Sanford District)

Maine Warden Service Retirements

Lieutenant Tim Place- dates of service are 2/23/87 to 7/31/2018

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Game Warden Mike Boyer- dates of service are 11/16/81 to 4/30/2018

The Maine Warden Service hosted its Fourth Annual Camp North Woods in the summer of 2018. Camp North Woods is an overnight camp for youth 9-13 years of age to learn lifelong outdoor skills as well as the importance of sustaining Maine's natural resources.

Camp North Woods is hosted by the University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond. Campers receive instruction from and are mentored by staff from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife along with staff from Bryant Pond. The week is filled with hands-on experiences in rifle, shotgun, archery, map and compass, outdoor survival, canoe and kayak, boating safety, ATV safety, deer and turkey hunting, trapping, open water fishing, fly tying, fly casting and more.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat

The mission of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is to protect, conserve and enhance the commonwealth's aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunity. This year the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat

Commission's Bureau of Law Enforcement has been contributing to that mission by offering anglers with the opportunity to go fishing with a Waterways Conservation Officer. These events are being held in each enforcement region and help anglers get to know the WCO in the region where they might be fishing. They also help recruit new anglers into enjoying the many fishing opportunities provided throughout the Commonwealth.

Besides outreach, officers within the Bureau dedicate themselves to fair enforcement and public service. Recently WCO Mathew Raetsch received a lifesaving award and was recognized for his public service in his response to an individual who was attempting to commit suicide by jumping from a bridge. Officer Raetsch with assistance from a Pittsburgh Police Officer were able to secure the individual and get him the help he needed. WCO Bob Plumb was recently recognized as Pennsylvania's Butch Potts, Boating Officer of the Year for his activities during 2017. WCO Plumb is assigned the busy Wallenpaupack Lake district where he continues with a very active recreational safe boating program.

Secretary/Treasurer Steve Beltran

This year's financials are looking good as far as expenditures and income. Last year we brought in a good amount of resources to cover our expenses. The summer meeting the general membership approved our budget. They also reviewed the financials and approved them as presented. The financial report can be viewed in PPT format. PLEASE check it out at:

<http://naweo.org/protected/financial/Budget/2018/>

Also please visit

<http://naweo.org/protected/Membership/MembershipIndex.html>

To see our current membership status

For those groups that have changed treasurers or presidents please remit your 2018 due as soon as possible. You can make a check out to NAWEOA and send it to POB 7, Leaf River Illinois, 61047. You can also go to naweo.org and pay online.

We've had several companies come to us and offer our members discounts on products. Specifically TruGLO,

Avyd, StealthCam and First light USA. These discounts are a free savings to our officers in green. A special thanks to those companies who have supported us.

AVYD 25% off

<https://www.getavyd.com> GAMEWARDEN18 for 25% off all products. These bow mounted ranging devices are very nice in determining the distance on the fly.

Firstlight USA 25% off

Firstlight-usa.com has generously offered Wardens to receive 25% percent off at their website use code, Flusa_naweo_25 for 25% until next year's conference.

Stealthcam 50% off

The code is: GW50 at stealthcam.net. With this is a 50% off code, valid for the year with a 2 time use per customer

Truglo 30% off

Truglo.com has generously offered Wardens to receive 30% percent off at their website. Use WARDEN30 for 30% through the end of the year.

2018 Spouses/Guest Luncheon By Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder

The Wyoming Room donning white table cloths and soft chairs, awaited the arrival of the spouses of the membership for their annual luncheon. Spouses were welcomed by speaker Emily Siegel who's lecture has the catch phrase Self Care Is Not Just 'Me Time.' Siegel LCSW PC, from Laramie, Wyoming presented a detailed program outlining the coping mechanisms for chronic stress with a window of tolerance, followed by the stressors that come home. The art of the need to create a place of grounding and decompression and finally how to "Self-Care" yourself.

Although every spouse in the room can relate to the life of being married to a Game Warden, Ms. Siegel's focus was more about the everyday stresses being a spouse and living a normal everyday life, going to work and coming home to a wife or husband and children. Ms. Siegel states that chronic stress is different from trauma stress. Instead of one event that sticks with you it's a cumulative experience of embracing and adapting to stressful situations repeatedly without a period of full rest from those stressors. Ms. Siegel offered methods to manage stress and eliminate that stuck in the "ON" position and feeling like you are being stuck in a trash compactor. Chronic stress narrows your window of tolerance where the slightest issues have the tendency to set you off. Sleep deprivation is a warning sign and prioritizing sleep patterns and expecting less of yourself are also factors and methods to manage your stress.

Stress at home is normally brought there from an outside source usually the work place. Ms. Siegel stated that home should be your place of decompression and grounding as long as you don't create unnecessary stress there trying to be perfect. Open dialogue with your spouse about what is important leads to a healthy home environment. Creating reconnection rituals with certain meals, walks, eating ice cream together or reconnecting when distractions have been eliminated, all foster a calmer home environment. Keep conversation about the stressors to a minimum as to not re-activate the emotions that are causing a specific stress. Ms. Siegel's term Self Care, leads to often taking one person in the relationship to come into grounding and regulation to bring the whole vibe down. Ms. Siegel stated that you should not minimize your worries, but do time sharing to manage them, it's a two way street for you and your spouse. In reality your spouse may actually be the one with the chronic stress symptoms.

"Self Care" is a lead by example by keeping your side of the fence clean. Resisting the temptation to drop attention to yourself to become preoccupied with a spouse who is struggling. In other words, be there for your spouse but don't make their stressors yours. Efforts to manage someone else's stress can backfire. "Self Care" goes beyond

methods such as going to the gym or the occasional lunch with a friend. Taking care of yourself as you would your vehicle is critical for stress management. Make the accretive effort to participate in an activity that reduces stress. When you find yourself in one of those stressful situations, and with any stressful situation, breathing tricks such as the "Take 5" deep breaths activate the dorsal vagus nerve and prompt a settling response. Maintain a routine, it is critical for spouses to create a "normal environment" so you or your spouse have a baseline to return home to each day.

Communication is key. Every one of us have our own tolerance level and what may be stressful to one may not be perceived as a big deal to the other. Recognize that your spouse may need your understanding and its ok for either one of you to say no once in a while. If you are constantly doing things you or they do not want to do, will only lead to more stress. Being accepting to the word "no" ahead of time will make it easier to settle on a compromise as being forced to do something you really don't want to do is counterproductive. Routines around the household with set duties for each spouse, followed up with realistic expectations. Its way past the days of expecting a hot meal on the table when you get home from work. Appreciating a hot meal on the table that one or the other spouse has prepared will give a sense of accomplishment and relieve possible stresses. Have open dialogue over that meal without focusing on the problems you had during that day but what relaxing activity may be ahead. You are not expected to place your head in the sand when a problem exists, but take a few minutes off subject to "Self Care".

When it comes to a critical incident take the time to put your own oxygen mask on first before attempting to deal with someone else's needs. It's "ok" to put yourself first. If necessary find another source to listen to your concerns, may that be clergy or a supportive non-bias friend. Make an attempt to return to your normal, whatever that may be. Again, don't say yes when you really want to say no. Avoid doing things for others that they need to do for themselves. Find time to do those things for yourself that will make you feel better in the end. Try taking a walk, reading a book or spending a day at the pool or hiking up a favorite trail.

If you find yourself in need of professional help beyond the "Self Help", don't perceive it as weakness. It takes a strong person to recognize and reach out to resources available for your well-being. There are a professionals in every town that your primary care physician can refer you to. Take care of yourself.

2018 Closing Ceremonies By Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder

The NAWEOA attendees gathered at 4:30 pm on Thursday afternoon and were called to attention in the Little America Hotel's Grand Ball, as the USFWS Honor Guard recovered the American and Canadian Colors. In a synchronized motion the colors were moved from the backdrop of the NAWEOA stage to a predetermined location in front of the stage on the ballroom floor. Oklahoma Game Warden Chad Strang and Captain Wade Farrar were presented the Fallen Officers candle and the NAWEOA flag from Wyoming Game Wardens Jason Sherwood and Justin Dodd. After the colors had cleared the bulkhead of the doorway, NAWEOA President Shawn Farrell, officially closed the 2018 NAWEOA

Conference with a reading of the history of and with the single strike of the honorary gavel. In 1995 the Executive Board produced the gavel from donated wood found in each of the seven regions that make up NAWEOA. The closing ceremony has long been the signature passing of the torch from the current host to the next host of the summer conference. President Farrell and the Executive Board appreciates all of those that attended this year's Conference and invites all of those to join us again in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in July 2019.

Consider Representing IGW in Your Jurisdiction By Carlos Gomez Advertising Manager for IGW

"Good game wardens are known for keeping their eyes and ears open for game violators, it's what we do. So, why wouldn't we do the same to help out our own game warden magazine?" asks Carlos Gomez, OK game warden and Advertising Manager for International Game Warden Magazine.

IGW has never been a financial liability to NAWEOA but it is a financial worry. IGW has at times provided helpful revenues to NAWEOA but recent times have been lean. NAWEOA and their IGW staff are openly seeking ideas and opportunities to support this 'only wardens' magazine, and here's our latest pitch: let's work together to support the only magazine of its kind, our warden magazine. "No one has to be the dreaded salesman" says Gomez "but, by simply forwarding, emailing, or texting the contact info of someone (to Carlos) who the NAWEOA member thinks might have interest in an ad, everyone wins!"

A typical ad runs 1/2 page in size and on a one-time ad, that single text message could produce a 20% incentive payment or about \$240 to the member. If you, the member wished to stay involved in that new magazine relationship (helping to relay information and strengthen the connection for the new client), that \$240 would instead become \$420 (35%)! Those 'finders fees' ARE THE MINIMUM and would go up with every magazine issue the ads were to run in!

IGW advertising rates, when compared to that of other similar publications, are dwarfed by comparison making it very possible that a client would sign up for durations beyond two, three, or even four issues (12 months). A four-issue, finder's fee is not \$240, but instead, \$760!

How many officers sit alone in dark cars at night somewhere on their own time, working part-time jobs for \$20 or \$30/hour just to earn a little extra income? For sending a text or making a phone call, that's a good deal and our officers magazine continues to win with everyone's help! When the local warden stays involved over the duration with his client-contact, helping to strengthen the ad-relationship, at 35% the 4-ad agreement will pay him or her \$1,330! And if that agreement renews in the following year... your thank you is ANOTHER \$1,330 check!

IGW is only asking that you PAY ATTENTION! We all know successful businesses, and many love game wardens and what we're dedicated to. Offer them that chance to show it, help their business and help YOUR warden magazine. There's so much more to know about helping OUR warden magazine so, don't be shy. Reach out to any of the IGW staff or call, text, or email Carlos Gomez. He can be



2018 Warden Skills By Mike Reeder



This year the warden skills competition was held at the picturesque Curt Gowdy State Park, just north of Cheyenne. Although the temperatures were in the 90's, everyone still enjoyed walking around the park and taking in the beautiful scenery. Teams competed at a total of 4 stations.

The first station, wardens used a fishing pole to cast into a floating ring on the water. After being successful, two wardens paddled a canoe through a slalom course and retrieved duck decoys. After returning, the second pair completed the same course but returned the decoys and set a body gripping trap before returning to the finish line.

The second station tested everyone's shooting skills. Wardens acquired points, while shooting targets with air rifle, slingshot and bow and arrow.

Third station was wildlife ID. This tested the wardens ability in identifying skulls, furs and parts of wildlife. Coming up with the scientific names seemed to be the hardest part of this station for most groups.

The fourth and final station was located in a small valley. Teams were given a GPS and sent off into the country side to find several items. Once they were located, the teams

had to lasso a decoy deer, blindfold it and carry it to a waiting trailer. Time stopped once the trailer door was closed.

The warden skills event not only tested officers on their physical fitness and knowledge of the job but provided an



opportunity for comradery between officers and families. After the competition, everyone was treated to live music and a great steak dinner provided by the Albany County Cattlewoman's assoc.

This year Team Utah took home the coveted trophy and more importantly, bragging rights until next years competition.



2018 NAWEOA Torch Run

By Thomas Caifa



The 18th Annual NAWEOA Torch Run was held on Monday, July 16th at the historic Hereford Ranch in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Over 400 participants completed the scenic run/walk along the Hereford Ranch Road. Once again, the weather was picture perfect for the event. After the race, the runners and walkers enjoyed a barbeque with all the fixings (and beer!!!) courtesy of the Wyoming Game Wardens Association and volunteers from the local chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers .

After dinner, the awards ceremony was held to recognize the winners in the five classes of competitors. Top honors for fastest time of 22:47 overall went to Dennis Shumway of Utah. Congrats Dennis! Other runners and walkers placing in their respective classes were:

MENS DIVISION

1ST	Dennis Shumway	22:47
2ND	Nick Roberts	22:57
3RD	Adrian Archuleta	23:30

WOMENS DIVISION

1ST	Marlee VandenBosch	27:09
2ND	Emmy Archuleta	27:45
3RD	Kim Olson	27:50

OVER 50 DIVISION

1ST	Jason Surface	24:40
2ND	Ray Dierking	27:38
3RD	Ken Snowden	29:50

YOUTH DIVISION

1ST	Rocky Finnegan	26:06
2ND	Creighton Beach	27:08
3RD	Rylan Birge	27:15

WALKER DIVISION

1ST	Bob VerBerkmoes	37:46
2ND	Randy Nelson	38:45
3RD	Dave Palmer	40:10

I would like to thank all the sponsors, volunteers, the Wyoming GWA, NAWEOA and the North American Game Warden Museum Board of Directors for making this event a success. Thanks to all of you, we raised over \$10,000 for the North American Game Warden Museum. I hope to see you all in Oklahoma next year.



2018 K9 Presentation By Region 7 Director Larry Hergenroeder

Pennsylvania Game Commission Special Investigators / K9 Handlers Larry Hergenroeder and Derek Daly presented the PGC K-9 Program model in the Grand Ball Room A on Thursday afternoon. Those in attendance were presented with the PGC Puppy Program that is the current model for the PA Game Commission. The PA Game Commission employs Wildlife Detection Dogs where they perform detection work for the four big game species found in PA, that being White-tailed deer, Black Bear, Elk and Wild Turkey. PA K-9's are also trained to alert on waterfowl including ducks and geese stashed in vehicles, buildings or open fields. Article searches for firearms, shell casings, knives, bows and arrows, etc; is the second of the three disciplines with Human tracking / trailing being the third and final discipline.

The training session was designed for those agencies that do not currently have a K-9 program and are looking to start one in their State or Province. Attendees viewed a power point presentation, outlining the PA K-9 Program from the development of the position of Special Investigator / K-9 Handler to notable deployments they have had over the past three years. The selection of Labrador retrievers from a reputable breeder, training methods, equipment, disciplines and benefits of the Unit with the commitment obligations of the handler was highlighted in the presentation. Depending on the needs of your agency the average cost of starting and maintaining a viable K-9 Program was also discussed. The PA model employs Labrador Retrievers and the program begins when the puppies are only 10 weeks old. For most agencies there will be an additional cost of training a K-9 Unit that has to be considered. Penn-

sylvania is unique, in that it has an in house Master Instructor thus the need to travel to another state to a reputable training facility is a non-factor and a major cost reduction.

In attendance were other K-9 handlers from Connecticut, Vermont, Maine and Colorado that were interested in seeking additional information regarding the training techniques used by the PA Game Commission's K-9 Unit. During the training Wyoming Highway Patrol Troopers that serve on the Governors Security Detail had two of their K-9's with them. Troopers agreed to bring their explosives and drug detection K-9s in for a demonstration. Although the PA Game Commission doesn't employ these two disciplines in their program, the search and final response to a find is basically the same. Each K-9 was deployed in the room for planted evidence. The explosives were hidden on the back wall in a floor vent. Once the Labrador retriever alerted on the scent the Trooper attempted distraction techniques where the K-9 gave a final response and stayed on source until a ball reward was given. The second K-9, an English Cocker Spaniel searched for drugs hidden in the lecture podium. Once alerting at source, the K-9 would not leave the podium and in a scratching motion as a final response, again a ball was the reward. Attendees applauded each K-9 for their efforts.

The program concluded with a questions and answers segment where various methods were discussed between attendees and the PA K-9 handlers. Any additional information regarding agencies interested in starting a K-9 Puppy Program can be requested via email to Larry Hergenroeder at lhergenroe@pa.gov.



**2018 NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award
Officer Corporal Brian Adams
Georgia
Department of Natural Resources
By Rick Langley**



At the 2018 Conference we recognized Corporal Brian Adams of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as the NAWEOA Officer of the Year. The Officer of the Year was selected from a pool of 12 nominees this year. 3 Executive Board members voted on their selection and it was a pretty close run! Please take the time to read Corporal Adams' nomination and you will quickly understand why he was selected. After the reading of his nomination, I had an officer I know well and who is a top performer come to me and say "listening to what that guy has accomplished, makes me realize I don't do \$h!+!" I had a blast talking to Corporal Adams and his wife Angie during the conference and we even realized we know some of the same folks and have several common interests. Congratulations Corporal and keep up the hard work and thank you for coming to the conference so that we could recognize the excellent work you do!

The deadline for the Officer of the Year nominations will be April 15, 2019. They can be accepted anytime through that day. Late nominations will not be accepted as we send the nominations to the selection committee immediately and notify the officer and his chain of command of his selection by May 1, so they can make plans for travel to the conference. NAWEOA reimburses the selected officer for up to \$1000.00 of travel costs and their conference registration.

The State of Georgia is pleased to nominate Corporal Brian Adams for the 2018 NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award. Cpl. Adams has exceptional performance as a Georgia Game Warden and has distinguished himself among his peers. His hard work and dedication make him an excellent candidate for consideration as the recipient of NAWEOA's most prestigious award. As you will see, his Conservation Law Enforcement efforts and achievements are outstanding. His public outreach and education, tireless enforcement efforts, and his commitment to the organization.

Corporal Adams was born and raised in Warren County, Georgia. He graduated from Thomson High School, McDuffie County in 1994, and in 1998 he graduated from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College with degrees in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Concepts. Brian accepted a position with DNR Law Enforcement in 1998 and was assigned to Hancock County. In 2000, he transferred to Morgan County where he would promote to the rank of Corporal. In 2004, in an effort to return to the small-town values of home to raise his children, Brian made the difficult decision to voluntarily demote and accepted assignment to Glascock County. In 2015, he resumed the rank of Corporal. Since November, Brian has been covering the counties of Warren, Glascock, Taliaferro and McDuffie.

2018 NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award (continued)

By Rick Langley

Cpl. Adams understands the importance of public outreach and is committed to quality education and involvement with the youth. This year Brian presented 29 I&E programs. He regularly submits articles relating to the functions of the Division to the Warrenton Clipper, Jefferson Reporter and the McDuffie Progress. He has presented PowerPoint presentations to civic organizations in Glascock, Warren and Jefferson Counties. Brian's most impressive educational efforts stem from Glascock County public schools where he has implemented into the curriculum Hunter Education for all 9th grade students and Boater Education for all 8th grade students. This progressive effort will insure that before graduation every student in Glascock County will have opportunity to be certified in Hunter Education and Boater Education. Earlier this year Brian gained approval to launch a Shooting Sports program at Glascock County High School. The program is set to be implemented this fall and the school system has allocated funds in its budget to provide uniforms and skeet. Brian has volunteered the use of his property to hold practice for the team. This year marked the 12th year that Cpl. Adams organized the Glascock County Kids Fishing Event. During this 5-day event, every student in Pre-K through 5th grade had the opportunity to spend a day fishing in a pond stocked with catfish. Brian coordinates the stocking of the fish with Fisheries, facilitates meals through the donation of food by local businesses, and marshals activities such as casting and big fish contests in which prizes are awarded through donation.

With 19 years of experience, Cpl. Adams is a validated leader in his work unit and region. Cpl. Adams places a high emphasis on conservation law enforcement and team work. Cpl. Adams demonstrates a fair, but vigorous, common sense approach to his law enforcement efforts. Brian's devotion, enthusiasm, and expertise in knowing where to be and when to be there attribute to his quality and quantity of contacts. Brian consistently leads the work unit in enforcement activity and has done so for many years. This year, Cpl. Adams documented 209 hunting license checks, 162 fishing license checks, and conducted 210 vessel inspections. Brian also conducted 25 WMA patrols, 22 State Park patrols, and 12 PFA patrols. As a result, Brian issued 111 citations, 43 warnings, and tallied 84 assists. Cpl. Adams is also a proven investigator and has embraced the principle of problem adoption. This is evident by the volume of complaints handled this year. Brian recorded over 100 complaints during which he logged 365 complaint hours.

This year Brian initiated four lengthy investigations which highlight this; each requiring the diligence and dedication that only the most ardent would pursue. The following is a synopsis of each:

(1) The Castleberry case was a multi-state investigation that originated with an anonymous complaint. Utilizing a confidential informant Brian established that a non-resident hunter with a

wildlife violation history from Florida was illegally deer hunting in Washington County. Cpl. Adams made contact with Florida officials and learned that the subject was under current investigation by FWC and Kansas Department of Wildlife. After a search warrant for Castleberry's Facebook account was executed Brian assisted both states with the search for wildlife violations. Armed with numerous Georgia violations Brian located Castleberry while hunting deer on a private tract of land in Washington County. After a brief foot pursuit Castleberry was arrested and charged with 22 violations which included non-resident license violations and failure to record deer harvest. Castleberry was issued seven citations in Florida for illegal guide activities and was charged in Kansas with over 50 violations ranging from night hunting to license violations. Several Boone & Crockett deer were seized by Kansas Game Wardens.

(2) The Wright case stemmed from an anonymous complaint of killing over the limit of antlered bucks. The complainant suggested that Brian look at Antron Wright's Facebook page for validation of his complaint. Cpl. Adams secured a search warrant for Wright's Facebook account and after reviewing 1,400 pages of information he determined that Antron had killed 5 antlered bucks in McDuffie / Warren Counties. A search warrant was obtained and executed on Wright's residence. The search resulted in the seizure of only one set of deer antlers, however, due to Wright's status as a felon, seven firearms were seized. Additionally, the search yielded 46 pounds of marijuana, \$24,000.00 worth of THC laced chewing gum (Kushy Punch), liquid THC for use in electronic cigarettes, and \$4000.00 US currency. Wright was arrested and charged with 24 violations which included over the limit of antlered deer, hunting without fluorescent orange, selling wildlife, trafficking marijuana, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime.

(3) The Plemmons case involved a suspect that has long been sought after by Game Wardens in Taliaferro County, dating back to the late Cpl. Monroe Matherly. Cpl. Adams received information that Plemmons was hunting turkeys over bait and out of season. The complainant further advised that Plemmons was a convicted felon. Using a make-shift map provided by the complainant Brian was able to locate five areas with blinds that were baited for turkeys. With it being a month before turkey season would open, Brian utilized Spartan and Plotwatcher cameras to monitor the activity of Plemmons. Numerous times were recorded of Plemmons baiting the areas. Cpl. Adams logged over 100 hours of observation prior to the opening of season. On the opening day of turkey season Plemmons was observed calling turkeys from one of the baited blinds. He was arrested and charged with hunting turkeys over bait and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. While Plemmons was being processed at the jail, Cpl. Adams received information from the complainant that

2018 NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award (continued)

By Rick Langley

Plemmons had killed a turkey the evening prior. Evidence recovered at the scene, including a spent shot shell, wadding, and feathers, indicated that a turkey had been killed at the baited blind. Hunting out of season and hunting turkeys over bait charges are pending. Brian is waiting on results from the GBI Crime Lab.

(4) The Morris case originated from a landowner complaint regarding possible fishing without permission in a Warren County pond. While conducting a foot patrol of the pond Cpl. Adams found an alligator set which consisted of a limb line with a large hook baited with chicken. Brian deployed the Plotwatcher camera and made numerous patrols of the pond over the course of two weeks. While reviewing the Plotwatcher footage, Cpl. Adams observed two males check the alligator set. Cpl. Adams met with the landowner and confirmed the presence of two alligators in the pond. On one of Brian's patrols he found the limb line broken and only one alligator could be accounted for. After meeting with Sheriff Deputies and Parole Officers, Brian was able to positively identify one of the subjects as Jason Morris. It was determined that Morris was a convicted felon on active probation. A search warrant was obtained for Morris' home and property for alligator hunting equipment and meat/skin. Prior to execution of the search warrant, Cpl. Adams received a fishing without permission complaint on an unrelated property. Upon arrival, Brian found one of the subjects to be Jason Morris. Morris and two other subjects were arrested and charged for fishing without permission, possession of methamphetamine, and outstanding warrants. While Morris was being transported to the jail, Cpl. Adams and assisting officers executed the search warrant on Morris' residence. The search resulted in the arrests of three additional wanted subjects, all of which were convicted felons. Items seized during the search included hook and line resembling that on the alligator set, fishing pole with a weighted treble hook, 15 firearms, 92 grams of methamphetamine, ½ ounce of marijuana, blasting caps and ammonium nitrate, numerous electronic devices, and \$26,000.00 in cash. Interviews with those arrested confirmed the identity of the subject in the video with Morris as Kenneth Hadden. Hadden was arrested two days after the execution of the warrant. A total of 37 violations were documented to include fishing without permission, hunting alligators out of season, hunting alligators with illegal methods, trafficking of methamphetamine, possession of a firearm by convicted felon, theft by receiving stolen property, and possession of firearm during the commission of a crime. Brian enlisted the assistance of ATF, GBI, NICB and the District Attorney's office, and to date it has been verified that three of the firearms, one ATV, and a welder were stolen. Other charges are pending. These investigations resulted in 89 violator contacts and the seizure of 14 vehicles, over \$30,000.00 in cash, 22 firearms, and illicit drugs with a street value of over \$310,000.00.

Cpl. Adams' assignment is to poor, rural counties, which is to say that many times he is the only law enforcement officer on duty. He is often called upon by local agencies to share in their work load. This was recently demonstrated in Glascock County when Brian assumed the role of hostage negotiator. A father, high on methamphetamine, refused to comply with custody orders. The subject threatened harm to his children and stated that he would "kill cops" if they attempted to remove them. Brian negotiated with the subject for over three hours while watching him destroy the home, terrorize the children, and constantly asked to be killed. Cpl. Adams was relieved by a trained hostage negotiator from Columbia County. After another eight hours of failed negotiation, a breech was conducted by Richmond County SWAT, and the subject was arrested. The children were unharmed.

Brian's commitment to the organization might best be shown in his willingness to assist others through collateral duties. He is a current member of the CTTF Team where he instructs other members in Land Navigation. He was recently deployed to assist with the execution of high risk arrest warrants in the Atlanta area. He is a POST instructor and teaches Mapping, GPS, Land Navigation, and Man Tracking at the Basic Game Warden Academy. Brian is currently enrolled in the Professional Management Program at Columbus State University with graduation scheduled for 2018.

Cpl. Adams has enjoyed a very commendable and successful career. His accomplishments and significant achievements are far reaching: • Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award 2015 • Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award 2014 • Region III Ranger of the Year 2015 • Region III Investigative Ranger of the Year 2015 • Public Employee Recognition Award for Heroism 2008 • DNR Law Enforcement Life Saving Award 2007 • POAG Officer of the Year for Valor Nominee 2005 • POAG Officer of the Year for Valor Nominee 2000 Listed below are other outstanding accomplishments: • Member of Career, Technology and Education Advisory Committee Glascock Co. • Instructs at Wildlife Class Glascock High School • Participates in Wood Duck box construction Glascock FFA • Archery in the School Glascock High School • NWTF Jakes Day at Mayfield, Warren Co. • Ducks Unlimited Greenwing Program Glascock Co. • Fish for Life Kids Fishing Event Columbia Co. • CHAMPS ATV / Boating Safety Warren Co. Because of Brian's many efforts he has earned the respect of his peers and the gratitude of those that he serves.

Thank you for taking the time to consider Cpl. Adams for this prestigious award. For these reasons and many more, Cpl. Brian Adams would make an excellent candidate for the 2018 NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award.

2018 NAWEOA AWARDS

By Rick Langley

NAWEOA Awards Program for 2018

NAWEOA 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. Our awards program is ingrained within the constitution of the Association and many of our objectives speak to the importance of recognizing our own officers. Awards are presented annually at the summer conference. Officers in attendance are presented with their award in front of their peers.

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. This year I'm pleased to announce that we received 108 different nominations for our various awards. I credit all those officers who have taken the time to nominate a fellow officer because the honor of being nominated by a peer is, in essence, the real reward.

Officer of the Year

Must be a fully certified conservation officer in the state, province, territory, or country in which employed.
Must be a full time field officer, up to and including first line supervisors from the field in the last calendar year.
Both the nominee and person submitting nomination must be a member of NAWEOA.
An officer whose character is beyond reproach.
An officer who is competent, knowledgeable and capable.
An officer who promotes wildlife law enforcement. An officer who demonstrates professionalism in every facet of life.

Corporal Brian Adams – Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Valor

This award 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.

] James Yetter, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Jason Harrold, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Matt Hanvey, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Tanner Dixon, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Alan Dudley, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Jonathan M. Wyant, Pennsylvania Game Commission

Life Saving

"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"

Adam Gerstenberger, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Cody Purcell, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Jordon Depriest, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Pepper Canterbury, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Rick Gardner, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Britton Corbin, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Donald Vacin, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Christopher Ryan, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Eric Johnston, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Felix Collazo, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Jason Lipford, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Jeremy Birchfield, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Joe Simpson, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
John Salem, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
John Shaw, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Nathan Brock, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Paul Godward, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Robert Berg, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Ryan Matthews, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Seth Loeffler, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Shelton Bartlett, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Stephen Spradling, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Tony Lee, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

2018 NAWEOA AWARDS

By Rick Langley
(continued)

Lifesaving (continued)

Bobby White, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Patrick Gibbs, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Scott Martin, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Matthew Bass, Massachusetts Environmental Police
Tracy Stites, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Jordan Piecowye, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment

Torch Award

Presented annually, to an officer from each region, to encourage the professional development of recently appointed officers. The nominated officer must not have worked as a wildlife enforcement officer more than five years. The officer must have demonstrated a genuine desire to protect the resource and develop professionally and has also demonstrated exceptional ability and initiative in the performance of his or her duties, including public education.

Region 1: No nominations

Region 2: Brock Houndle, Manitoba Conservation Officers Service

Region 3: Nadine Belanger, New Brunswick Dept. of Justice and Public Safety

Region 4: Seth Altmeyer, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game

Region 5: Mitch Johnson, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Region 6: Chris Kernahan, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Region 7: Austin Dickinson, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Outstanding Service

"Anyone who is eligible for regular membership may be nominated for this award. It is given for outstanding achievement or service in the field of Wildlife Law En-

forcement, and to NAWEOA Executive or outgoing NAWEOA Directors."

Byron Trunnell, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Casey Westbrook, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Larry Rogstad, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Alan Webb, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Asa (Bo) Davis, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Chris Schirbock, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Juan Blanco, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Matthew Gore, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Michael Bibeau, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

David Chabot and K9 Ruby, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Eric Blanchard, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Gary Dumond, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Travis Abele, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Mark Bailie, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Donald G. Chaybin, Pennsylvania Game Commission

Rick Finnegan, Pennsylvania Game Commission

Kurt Henry, Region 2 Outgoing Director

Roger Selesse, Region 3 Outgoing Director

Craig Porter, State of Ohio, Jefferson County

Edward J. Mccann, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Dustin Kirsch, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Jason Sherwood, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

ZETX

2018 NAWEOA Conference Training Review

By Steve Beltran

ZETX training seminar was again excellent this year. The software lives up to its expectations and seamlessly plots you along a virtual trail to the crime scene. ZETX innovation utilizes the cell tower dump data sheets and plots them on a map in google earth giving you a visual representation of the cell tower communication locations of an offender's phone. Naturally Officers would need to get this information from legal measures via the court. ZETX staffs employees and computer databases to help you walk through the sometimes daunting task of getting the technical data from the cell companies. Once the data is plotted into the system the cell tower relay information is echoed as time passes. The cell phone communicates with the

towers. The tower location and response rate is logged and ZETX compiles this into a handy visual aid. ZETX also has expert testimony available to illustrate their technology is accurate and reliable.

Not every wildlife crime will be solved by dumping cell phone data but the information and visual aid is a compelling tool to be used in your investigation. ZETX offers classes throughout North America and can be reached at <https://zetx.com/>. A video produced by the owner of the company can also be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tgLBQK59e0>

Evading Evil: A Story of Officer Survival

2018 NAWEOA Conference Training Review

By Rick Langley

Nate Martinez is a District Wildlife Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, but Nate Martinez is nothing less than a survivor. In March of 2015, Officer Martinez and a local Sheriff Deputy experienced a life-altering contact in remote northwest Colorado, with a couple who were on a cross-country crime spree. The couple were able to take the two officers by surprise, disarm them and hold them hostage until Officer Martinez was able to take advantage of a brief window of opportunity and attacked the male subject, shooting him in the struggle for the gun, and saving himself and the Deputy from almost certain death at the hands of the couple.

Officer Martinez's presentation was a great learning experience and very moving. It highlighted the dangers many of us face while on patrol in remote areas, during what appeared to be a routine motorist assist. I was impressed by his openness and willingness to discuss his experience, during which he questioned many of his own decisions that day. He was not wearing his ballistic vest and he was not

wearing his full duty belt, because he was not on a high profile patrol. Would that have changed the outcome that day? Nobody knows and Officer Martinez does not belabor these questions and second-guess his decisions. In the end it was quick thinking and decisive action that saved his and the Deputy's lives.

One of the biggest lessons that I took away from this experience, was how important it was to have agency support in this type of critical incident. Colorado Parks and Wildlife gave Officer Martinez the support and resources he needed to survive this incident emotionally and professionally. Officer Martinez is still working in the field today. It is sad to say, but the Deputy did not get the same type of support from his agency and he resigned shortly after the incident.

In 2016, Officer Martinez was awarded the Pogue-Elms award by AFWA; truly one of the highest honors that can be given to any officer. Thank you Officer Martinez for sharing what has to be a very difficult experience for the rest of us to learn from.

2018 Officer Exchange Winners

By Martin Thabault

One of the most exciting NAWEOA traditions during the summer conference is the draw to select the two registered members who will participate in the Officer's Exchange Program. This happens every year during the Officers' Lunch when four names are drawn: a U.S. attendee and a Canadian, as well as two alternates. The winners can choose any jurisdiction that they would like to visit in the neighboring country and, based on the acceptance of the jurisdiction to host the winning Officer, NAWEOA will sponsor the traveling Officers' expenses up to an amount of \$1,000 USD.

I have never been fortunate enough to be picked as one of the winners but I know several colleagues who have benefited from this opportunity to go see how things get done in another jurisdiction. The luck of the 2018 draw went to long time NAWEOA attendee and former Region 7 Director Kevin Clayton from Massachusetts and my colleague (and J-Rep) Canadian Federal Wildlife Officer Amy

Biensch. Kevin has confirmed his plans to visit Manitoba this October and Amy will be going to Hawaii next winter. Unfortunately the US winner from 2017, Christopher Smith from Washington State, could not partake in the exchange last year. His alternate Mike Reeder (our own NAWEOA Webmaster) from Pennsylvania is currently looking at his options and rumor has it that he may be going to Eastern Canada...Please stay tuned as a story on the Officer Exchange trips will be featured in the 2018 Spring Newsletter. We will also be treated to their live presentations next summer in Oklahoma City.

On a final note I would like to personally thank Enforcement Chief Robert Farrell from Hawaii and Chief Conservation Officer Jack Harrigan from Manitoba for supporting this NAWEOA initiative. Without your blessings this exchange would not have been possible.

Wildlife Forensic—Who We Are and How We Got Here

2018 NAWEOA Conference Training Review

By Jeff Jones

Kim Frazier, Lab Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish forensics lab began the training with an overview and introduction of her staff. Kim has been with the department for 19 year. Kim holds a MS degree in forensics DNA and serology. Kim has established herself in four states as an expert witness in wildlife forensics. Kim's staff includes many recognized wildlife forensic scientist. Tasha Bauman is the forensic program manager with 10 year on the department. Tasha holds a MS in forensic science and is also recognized as an expert witness. Lauren Schumacher is a new addition to the department. Lauren is a forensic analyst and holds a MS in population and conservation biology. Carl Smith is a forensics biologist and also a fish health biologist with 7 years on the department. Shawna Muller is the wildlife forensics database coordinator. She has been with the department for 7 years.

What is important to know is the interagency cooperation that Wyoming Lab has. Wyoming contracts with 7 other states for forensic lab services. The Wyoming lab has helped in numerous ways in solving poaching in Montana and New Mexico just to name a few. Wyoming manages a heedless wildlife data base for other states like South Dakota.

So what is poaching? Kim defined poaching as the killing of wild animal that are protected by law. Other crimes that the wildlife forensic team investigates are the buying and selling of protected animals, alive, dead and products made from protected wildlife. They also assist in seafood product fraud and animal cruelty. Seafood fraud is becoming more frequent. It had been determined that less than 70% of the grouper sold in Florida was actually catfish. Other statistics were 77% of red snapper was not actually red snapper and 56% of the salmon labeled as wild caught was actually farm raised.

What can the wildlife forensics lab do for the investigator? The lab can assist in an investigation by using protein and DNA to determine species, gender matching and a minimum number of animals. The lab can also take different types of evidence for analysis. Blood stained clothing, edged weapon other items can be analyzed and to match to a particular animal. DNA can be found anywhere from fish slime, scales, blood, antlers, horns to tissue. mtDNA can be used by the lab to determine species of origin from jerky or cooked meat. Other analysis that the lab can perform is hair identification. Some of the contracting states have established a headless species database. Samples of headless carcasses are sent to the lab to create the database by officers. When a suspected antler or mount is sent in, they lab will cross reference the database. This has already solved several cases.

The lab would like to know final dispositions of cases. Other information that the lab requests when sending in samples are court dates. The Lab requests as much lead time to the court date. They would also like to know if there is a plea agreement prior to testing is completed. The turnaround time will depend on the current case log.

The final part of the training was hands on sampling of antlers. Tasha showed the officers how to drill a sample of DNA from antlers. She used a 1/8th inch drill bit and drill in an inconspicuous location. One thing to remember is not to cause too much friction heat when drilling. You may have to take several breaks as to not heat up the sample site. Also if the skull has not been boiled look for the meninges layer on the skull and send in a sample of that. When sending in a sample, use plain white paper envelope or make a bindle. Dyed paper can cause false results in the sample.

The overall content was wonderful and informative. The Wyoming Game and Fish Lab is a state of the art wildlife forensic lab.

Defensive Tactics Course

2018 NAWEOA Conference Training Review

By Jason Blaylock

One of this year's certified training classes I was able to take part in was the Defensive Tactics Course with Nick Turner and Scott Denamen. Scott Denamen and Nick Turner, Ohio Wildlife Officers for 19 and 8 years, respectively, had a combined total of 22 years in teaching defensive tactics and subject control. Approximately 25 participants took part in working in pairs on defense/escape techniques for choke holds and mounted positions. Many of

the state's and province's participants stated how this was good training for them in that their agencies didn't provide much training in the techniques taught during this class. This class proved to be very informative and beneficial to me in not only helping me get POST-Certified Training, but also having the instructors demonstrate these techniques give me another tool to help me protect myself while working law enforcement.

Opening Ceremonies

2018 NAWEOA Conference Review

By Jeff Jones



The 2018 NAWEOA Conference was kicked off with the master of ceremony Rich Cramer introducing our distinguished guest. Wyoming Governor Matt Mead and Cheyenne Mayor Marian Orr welcomed the attending officers and their families to the great state of Wyoming and the City of Cheyenne. Laramie County Sheriff Dan Glick and Cheyenne Chief of Police Brian Kozak gave a law enforcement welcome to our attendees.

USFWS honor guard presented the color in true patriotic pride and professional that made all of us proud of the country, state and providence that we serve. Katie O'Bryan graced us with her vocal talent with the singing of the national anthems of the United States and Canada. Pastor Tim Ricker gave the invocation and blessing of conference and participants. Our president, Shawn Farrell opened the conference with the traditional pounding of the gavel of our founding fathers. For me, I cannot wait for the roll call of jurisdictions. It is always interesting to see where everyone

attending is from and how far they have traveled to attend our conference. Vice President Rick Langley introduced the 2018 Officer of the Year Brian Adams of Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The most moving part of our opening ceremonies was the honoring of our fallen officers and Indiana Conservation Officer Sgt. Edward Bollman. The color guard lead us outside to the where we honored the fallen. We were graciously blessed with the family of Sgt. Bollman and also Pennsylvania Game Commission fallen officer David Grove. Indiana conservation officers presented Sgt. Bollman hat and placed it on the empty chair. President Farrell read the circumstances leading up to the death of Sgt. Bollman. One of most moving and honoring of a fallen officer was given by the Wyoming Game and Fish honor guard. With the presentation of the riderless horse, the sounds of the bag pipes, to the sounding of taps and 21 gun salute. This was an emotional tribute to Sgt. Bollman and all of our fallen officers.



Chronic Wasting Disease—Dr. Mary Wood

2018 NAWEOA Conference Training Review

By Brock Lockhart

Dr. Wood is a Wildlife Veterinarian with the State of Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. Dr. Wood described to the group what CWD is and explained that it as a fatal brain disease wherein infected proteins are changed in shape from regular proteins. The host animal does not have the ability to recognize and therefore resist the disease. This disease attacks that brain and leads to the death of the animal. Dr. Wood explained that infected animals take weeks or even months to show signs of the disease. To date, there are no occurrences of the disease infecting humans and

there is still ongoing testing to determine the chance or likelihood of that transmission ever taking place.

Attempts to manage the disease from states and provinces where CWD is present have included eradication of deer populations, Focused Non-Specific Density Reduction, Non-specific Density Reduction, Test and Remove, Containment and Vaccinations. None of the attempts were proven successful in eliminating the disease from the population. Moving forward the focus will be on Adaptive Management with cooperation from many agencies/jurisdictions including state and provincial governments.

Predator Attack Teams

2018 NAWEOA Conference Training Review

By Brock Lockhart

Brian Debolt was the presenter and has over 25 years' experience in dealing with human/wildlife conflict

During the course of Brian's presentation, he stressed a few key points when dealing with predator attacks on humans. One of the most important messages he spoke of was the necessity to establish a response team of objective officers who possess professional preparedness and a willingness to investigate predator attacks on people. Brian suggests that agencies do so and to develop a comprehensive set of guidelines vs. using a protocol style approach. Brian suggests this method is best in order to guide the team through predator attack incidents. Through Brian's experiences he has learned that when a predator causes a human's death, many agencies will be involved in the investigation and all

agencies will look to Wildlife Officers to be the experts on the scene. As such, it is important that we best prepare ourselves through appropriate training, ensuring proper equipment is available and by conducting professional investigations in order to meet those expectations. Brian also stressed the importance of media communication after a predator attack on a human. He suggests our agencies should develop key messages and to deliver those key messages to the media only off site of the incident.

Part of Brian's presentation included 3 Case Files which effectively demonstrated the highlights of his presentation. His final message to the audience was to "prepare for the worst- hope for the best"



Conference Youth Activities

2018 NAWEOA Conference Review

By Jason Sherwood

In keeping with the tradition of the annual conference, 2018's event wasn't set up with only activities for wildlife officers in mind. Youth attendees were given a number of opportunities to meet and catch up with each other, with a number of them notably maintaining tight, long-term, long-distance friendships with other NAWEOA youngsters for years—and often into adulthood.

Besides the usual “youth room” opportunities each evening during hospitality events, a few special events were also arranged by the conference planning team and youth coordinator Sarah Abbott (who also happens to be a Wyoming dispatcher for SALECS, the “State Agency Law Enforcement Communication System”).

On Tuesday morning, Baggs Wyoming Game Warden Kim Olson and the Kofron Family taught attendees how to rope.



The kids (and a few adults) learned about lassoes, how to properly make and swing a loop, and how to capture the plastic and hay-bale dummies standing in for the day as wayward cattle. At least a few kids must have paid good attention and provided a few tips to their parents, as the roping event during the Warden Skills Competitions the following day showed some surprisingly good times!



On Thursday, attendees were treated to a couple of interesting visitors. In the morning, the Cheyenne Fire Department sent a fire truck over to the conference hotel for a demonstration of their fire equipment. Everyone had time to chat with the firefighters, explore the fire truck, and ask questions. (It was a really nice event, and I don't think anyone even posed any of the age-old law enforcement vs firefighter jabs!)

That afternoon, K-9 troopers from the Wyoming Highway Patrol visited the Youth Room. Participants were given time to pet the dogs as well as to learn about their duties in explosive or other evidence detection and see them practice.



Executive Board Meeting on the BNSF Train.

“Breakthroughs for Peace Officers”
“The Best Back-Up, Breakthroughs for Officers and Spouses”
2018 NAWEOA Conference Training Review
By Shawn and Shelly Farrell

During this summer’s conference both officers and officers/spouses were fortunate to participate in Chicago police chief Kent Williams (retired) training seminars. After the loss of a close friend and co-worker to suicide Kent committed his life to figuring out how and why this could have happened and how these events can be prevented with other officers. As an officer I attended the seminar “Breakthrough for Officers” and the next day I attended the next seminar “The Best Back-Up, Breakthroughs for Officers and Spouses” as an officer/husband along with my spouse. As a spouse of a law enforcement officer, my wife stated that it was a pleasure to attend a training seminar for both the officer and the spouse. The second seminar certainly shed light on the influences and effects of policing on families and how to overcome obstacles. We would both recommend that every officer and spouse should receive these seminars within the first few years of their careers.

The “Breakthrough for Officers” seminar provided a new set of skills to assist in maintaining a balanced, meaningful and rewarding lifestyle, while maintaining and protecting the nobility in a servant’s spirit. The second seminar “The Best Back-Up, Breakthroughs for Officers and Spouses” was designed to help both officers and spouses lead a balanced, meaningful and rewarding lifestyle.

Kent Williams is truly an amazing presenter who captures your attention right from the beginning and sends the message home to the point where you believe he is talking to you solely. The seminars commenced with describing the early beginnings of a newly hired officer and how the officer becomes highly trained in order to survive on the job.

After an officer’s first four years on the job, common characteristics of highly identified self-sufficient officer’s surface as being; “pessimistic, non-trusting, control freaks that fight change and assess blame.” The officers are on high alert continually but need to learn how to turn this off at home and find balance for “the kingdom will be as well as the king is at home”.

In the eyes of the enforcement culture, society is made up of sheep, wolves and sheepdogs. The sheepdogs are the guardians who are always on high alert watching for dangers that could bring harm to the flock. This trait typically stays with an officer 24/7 whether they are on or off duty. Enforcement officers are the sheepdogs in life.

All sheepdogs have a shepherd. Kent asked the question, “Who is yours? Realize your spiritual needs and make sure you to take time to go there.”

Kent also talked about the officer holding three leashed dogs. The first dog is work where the officer has been taught techniques to stay safe. The second dog is the department/agency which can be a problem dog due to large amounts of negativity over time that can stagnate careers for some. The third dog is the officer’s personal life. The officer needs to learn how to control these dogs in order to have a healthy work/life balance.

Trust and control are two fears identified for officers. If an officer trusts too often on the job, it could cost them their life but if an officer is not trusting at home, it creates anger and other issues. The second fear is controlling too little for the officer knows the consequences of what could happen if they do not have control of a situation. Trying to control your family can result negatively as well. These fears must be mastered by the officer to survive and find the balance which is the true blessing. Turn these fears into success and legacy.

Trust more + Control less = Success

Passion + Purpose = Legacy

At the completion of the seminars, Kent summarized his key points of his presentation indicating every officer has: 5 Strings, 4 years, 3 dogs, 2 fears and 1 life.

Your “why” is found at home. The sooner we know the better. Serve with care, protect with confidence.

Thank you for what you all do and God bless.

2018 Vendors

2018 NAWEOA Conference Review

By Jason Sherwood

Hearing a few comments from vendors at past conferences, Wyoming changed the vendor schedule for the 2018 conference. Instead of attending throughout the week, a vendor gallery was opened for only the last full day of the conference, with an optional “sneak-peek” period the evening prior. This allowed vendors to attend the NAWEOA conference without a long obligation during the busy summer show season, or investment in multiple days’ travel. The daily schedule for training, family, and retiree events was opened up slightly to allow for longer breaks and adequate time for interaction with the vendors.

A number of quality vendors participated in the 2018 conference:

- Otter Products (<https://otterproducts.com/>)
- Angel Armor (<https://angelarmor.com/>)
- Sig Sauer Firearms (<https://www.sigsauer.com/>)
- Custom Robotic Wildlife (<http://www.roboticwildlife.com/>)

- Kenetrek Boots (<http://www.kenetrek.com/>)
- Zet X, Inc (<https://zetx.com/>)
- BNSF Railway Police (<https://www.bnsf.com/in-the-community/safety-and-security/police-team.html>)
- Hunting With Heroes (<http://huntingwithheroes.org/>)
- Idaho Conservation Officers Association (<https://icoastore.myshopify.com/>)
- Wyoming Peace Officers Association (<https://wyomingpeaceofficers.com/>)
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department (<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/>)

A few of the “usual” booths, such as International Game Warden Magazine, the North American Game Warden Museum, and the NAWEOA Patch Collection maintained by George Wilcox, ran with the registration desk and a Wyoming Game Wardens Association booth throughout the event.

2018 Wyoming Migration Initiative

2018 NAWEOA Conference Review

By Jason Sherwood

With the idea of presenting a local topic of international significance and having a presentation families would enjoy, the 2018 conference planning committee was able to have Greg Nickerson, a writer and filmmaker for the Wyoming Migration Initiative, give the afternoon address following opening ceremonies.

The Wyoming Migration Initiative is a group of biologists, cartographers, photographers, and writers who collaborate to document ungulate migrations and share that information with the public to help spread the word on the struggles migrating animals face, as well as the critical importance of migration corridors to the survival of wildlife populations. Based out of the US Geological Survey’s Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Wyoming, the group has documented several of the longest migration routes in the lower 48 states and have been successful in partnering with the Wyoming Game and Fish and several land management agencies to better conserve several important bottleneck areas.

In one significant project, the group recently identified and documented migrations of elk herds throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem using satellite collars and camera traps. Besides delineating nine major migration routes and

tracking elk movements across a variety of habitats—through mixed land ownership and a number of political jurisdictions spanning an area five times the size of Yellowstone National Park, they were able to capture amazing imagery and video of animals along these migration routes, resulting in a short film featured by National Geographic, “Elk River.” Before closing, Greg shared the video to give participants an up-close view of elk migrations through some of the most breathtaking scenery Wyoming has to offer, as well as a personal view of the obstacles these animals face along the route. (You can watch the video at <https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/short-film-showcase/take-an-epic-journey-with-the-elk-of-yellowstone>)

Greg, with other members of the Migration Initiative, has also developed a game to help people learn about ungulate migrations in which daily location data showing the migration travels of individual collared animals are played on through a time-lapse video on an area map. He brought the video equipment to the evening hospitality event and gave people an opportunity to win extra raffle tickets by successfully guessing the amount of time it took for animals to reach their summer or winter range destinations.

Fallen Officer Tribute

2018 NAWEOA Conference Review

By Shawn Farrell



Sergeant Edward Bollman drowned while attempting to rescue a man who fell through the ice on a pond at Camp Kikthawenund. While he intended for a relaxing off-duty fishing trip with his friend, the

trip quickly turned into an ill-fated duty-related rescue attempt for Sgt. Bollman.

As Bollman prepared his gear and attempted to don his insulated clothing, his friend Roger Chezem, ventured onto the ice. While walking across the pond, Mr. Chezem fell through the ice and had a heart attack, likely due to the sudden immersion in cold water. Sgt Bollman immediately attempted to rescue Mr. Chezem, but eventually ended up in the water as well. Before drowning, Sgt. Bollman broke nearly fifty feet of ice while towing Mr. Chezem back toward shore.

Sergeant Bollman served as a Conservation Officer with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources since 2003. He previously received the Meritorious Service Award from his agency in 2010 for placing himself in danger in a successful effort to rescue an individual who was drowning at Geist Reservoir.



He is survived by his wife, Belinda, and a 10-year-old son, Hunter.

Each year the annual conference dedicates a portion of the opening ceremonies to a Fallen Officer ceremony. This year NAWEOA sadly recognized the loss of Indiana Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer Sergeant Edward R Bollman. Master of Ceremonies/Conference liaison Richard Cramer acknowledged Sgt. Bollmans family; Belinda Bollman (wife), Hunter Bollman (son), as well as Ron Bollman (father) & Nancy Bollman (mother). Also acknowledged were Dana and Lucy Grove parents of fallen officer David Grove 2010. Dana and Lucy have attended several conferences and have offered support to the families of fallen officers.

Conference attendees were then asked to follow the USFWS Color Guard outside and to proceed to the location



of the ceremony. The ceremony that followed will be one that I will remember for a long time. With the sun shining and a light breeze blowing the Wyoming Game Warden Honor Guard dressed in their red shirts, jeans, hats and white gloves marched into the parade area with rifles and came to rest. Indiana Conservation Officers Sgt. Trent Stinson and Darren Reid entered the parade square and placed the Officers hat on a chair, saluted and posted adjacent to the seat. NAWEOA president Shawn Farrell read the "End of Watch" information. After the reading a pipers played "Amazing Grace" and a riderless horse entered the area from the southeast and faded off to the northwest. This was then followed by a lone bugler who played "Taps" and a 21-gun salute. After a moment of silence the honor guard left the parade square leaving the Indiana officers guarding the hat/chair. A very fitting ceremony to Sgt. Bollman who paid the ultimate sacrifice in an attempt to save another person. Rest easy sir, you will forever be remembered.

**2019 Conference
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**



The central logo is a circular emblem with a yellow border. The outer ring contains the text "NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION" in blue, with "NAWEOA 2019" at the top and "OK" at the bottom. The inner circle features a globe with an American flag on the left and a Canadian flag on the right, crossed by a green olive branch. Below the globe, it says "OKLAHOMA GAME WARDENS" and "110TH ANNIVERSARY" on a red banner.



A collage of six photographs is arranged around the central logo. Top left: a prairie chicken in a field. Top center: a plate of fried food with a dipping sauce. Top right: a bison in a field. Middle right: a scissor-tail flycatcher perched on a branch. Bottom right: a night view of a city street with a boat. Bottom left: a person fishing in a river.

**Join Us In
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
2019
NAWEOA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 15TH-20TH**



A smaller version of the NAWEOA logo, featuring the text "NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION" and "NAWEOA SINCE 1980".



The Oklahoma State Game Warden logo, featuring a green shield with a star and the text "OKLAHOMA STATE GAME WARDEN ASSN.".

CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK
Simply search 2019 NAWEOA Conference - Oklahoma

2019 Conference Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Scheduled tours:

1. Cowboy Hall of Fame
2. Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial Walking Tour
3. Alabaster Cavern and Selmon Bat Cave Tour
4. Pioneer Woman Tour
5. Sunset Cocktail River Cruise



The Torch Run will be in the morning followed by a Dutch Oven cooked breakfast

The Warden Skills games will be capped off with a two meat BBQ dinner.

The conference training schedule includes 12 different training sessions.



Information regarding
NAWEOA Jurisdictional Representatives,

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

Can be found elsewhere on the NAWEOA website
naweo.org



MUSEUM VISITING OFFICER PROGRAM

Looking for a get-away weekend or planning a family vacation? The International Peace Garden on the Manitoba-North Dakota border is a great destination. Each summer, officers from the US and Canada plan a vacation or a trip that includes a stop at the Game Warden Museum, not just to see the Museum, but to participate in its Visiting Officer Program and explore the Peace Garden.

Museum Director Tom Caifa, a conservation officer from New York, has participated and describes the experience. "I have done the Visiting Officer Program three times in the past and I really enjoyed it. It's not just the program itself, but the whole experience of staying at the Peace Garden and seeing the Museum that celebrates the game warden profession."

Presentations can be as simple as the standard "who we are and what we do" or can be more elaborate. Every game warden has interesting stories and since every state is different, the material is always fresh.

If you have an interest or know of any game warden that you think might like to participate in the program (active or retired), please contact the Museum or any Board Member.



SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYMENT – INTERNSHIP



NORTH AMERICAN GAME WARDEN MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

LOCATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDENS
NORTH DAKOTA/MANITOBA

We are seeking individuals for employment in June, July, and August. Duties include assisting as Museum attendant, meeting visitors, interpreting exhibits in the Museum and the Memorial Garden, salesperson, and possibly some light maintenance. Hourly pay rate will be negotiable based on the individual's commitment to length of employment, experience, and skills.

We would consider commitment for as short as one month to three months. Local housing is available.



Send a resume and references to
board@gamewardenmuseum.org

JOIN US IN 2018

"The mission of the Game Warden Museum is to celebrate natural resource protection by educating the public and honoring the profession's heroes."



Add us to your "places to go" list.

Head for the International Peace Garden.
See North Dakota and Manitoba and end up in the
Turtle Mountains and visit the North American
Game Warden Museum.

Add us to your "things to do" list.

If you can't visit the Museum this year, become
a Contributing Member or, preserve your identity
as an Officer with a permanent Paving Stone
displayed at the Museum. Both of these
enhance your commitment to the profession
and honor you for your service.

Visit us at GAMEWARDENMUSEUM.ORG

See us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/gamewardenmuseum

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