

BIO – MY NAME IS KIRK

KIEFER. I was born and raised in Indiana. I grew up hunting and fishing and always knew I wanted to be a game warden. I obtained an associate's degree in Conservation Law Enforcement from Vincennes University in 1999 and a Bachelor degree in Criminology from Indiana State University in 2001.

I got my chance to be a game warden when I was hired by the State of Ohio in 2002. I started my career working as a county wildlife officer for approximately 6 years and was promoted to a plain clothes wildlife investigator.

I have held the Investigator position for over 15 years. I have worked and lived across the State of Ohio from the flat farm ground in the NW, to the more urban areas of central Ohio, to my present work area in SE Ohio. SE Ohio is the most rural part of the state and includes the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

The majority of the landscape is forested and also includes the most public ground in Ohio. I am married and have a daughter who is a junior at The Ohio State University. Go BUCKS! The book reviews are always the first article I turn to when I receive the IGW publication, and I use it to find new game warden books to read.

I currently own 149 game warden books and have a large list of books on my wish list. My goal for the articles is to assist others in finding game warden books to entertain and educate yourselves along with passing on the game warden lifestyle to others.

A secondary goal is to support game wardens across the US and Canada who have taken the time to tell their stories and memorialize their legacies.

Happy Reading!

Wardens NOTES

RED JACKET

Lute Bapcat Mystery (3 book series)

JOSEPH HEYWOOD,
author Fiction

Joseph Heywood may sound familiar as he authored a very popular 12 book series, the Woods Cop Mysteries. The series follows his character Conservation Officer Grady Service. However, in *Red Jacket*, Heywood introduces readers to a new Michigan Game Warden Lute Bapcat.

Lute was a sharpshooter in the Spanish-American War serving under Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. Upon returning to the states after the war, Lute tries cowboying out west, working in underground mines and ends up settling on beaver trapping on the Keweenaw Peninsula in the UP of Michigan. While seeing the beaver numbers dropping, Lute is summoned to a meeting with now U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. Lute accepts a new job of "game warden" from Roosevelt in 1913 and has little guidance on what he is supposed to do as a game warden.

A great cast of characters help Bapcat figure out how to enforce the laws, along with the few fish and game regulations of the time. Namely a previous enemy of Bapcat who is a Russian wolf trapper, Zakov, and

the widow Frie, a business woman who has connections across Michigan. But Bapcat hits many roadblocks doing his job, which includes corporate greed from the underground mine owners, starving miners who have gone on strike, and political interference with corrupt sheriff's.

A huge disaster in town which kills men, women and children needs to be solved and Bapcat needs all the help he can get. *Red Jacket* is a mystery with great history components along with excellent outdoor scene descriptions. Heywood is clearly a professional writer.

Red Jacket has 113 Chapters with 420 pages.

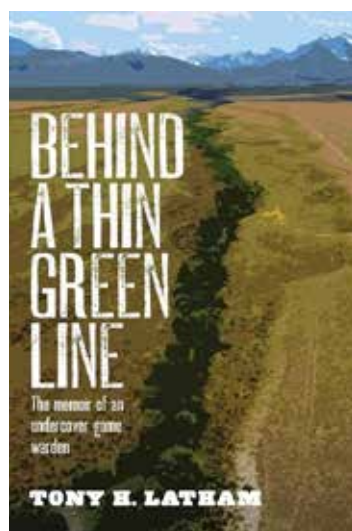
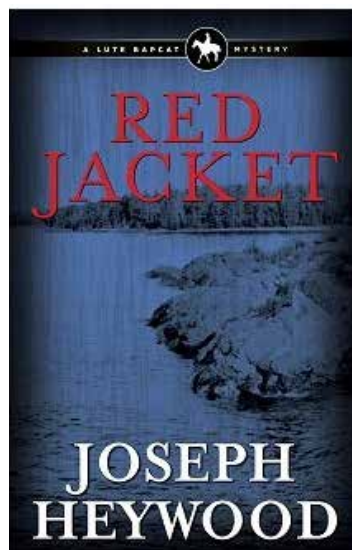
Red Jacket is published by Lyons Press,

Guilford Connecticut. ISBN 978-0-7627-8253-6. Costs on Amazon \$19.97 (Hardcover, US) / \$27.27 (Hardcover, Canadian), or \$13.60 (Paperback, US) / \$18.57 (Paperback, Canadian).

BEHIND A THIN GREEN LINE

The Memoir of an undercover game warden

TONY H. LATHAM,
author Nonfiction
Behind a Thin Green Line tells the story of an investigation Idaho Fish and Game Conservation Officer Tony Latham worked undercover. The case involved the slaughtering of elk by a handful of poachers. Tony lays the groundwork for how the case started and builds the reader up into how he decided



to make his covert contact. The case developed rapidly and before you know it,

Tony is riding with the poachers trying to kill elk. Tony details the poaching trips with the poachers and the way he gathered the evidence he needed for a successful prosecution. Tony does a great job adding in the details about his thoughts, worries, risks and accomplishments during the case.

Tony also explains how he kept the suspects straight along with how he determined who killed which elk along with how many each suspect killed. Ballistics and DNA are touched on with the Idaho Fish and Games crime laboratory. The book concludes with the takedown with his team of Idaho Conservation

Officers doing their interviews. Tony also includes a list of the charges and sentences the poachers received.

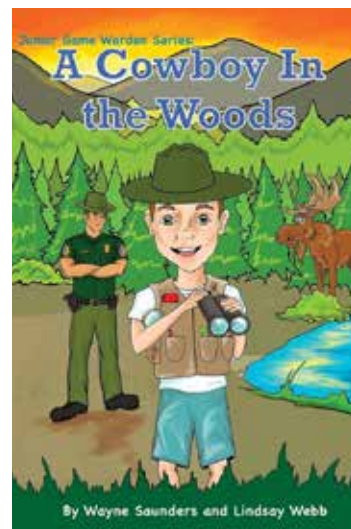
Behind a Thin Green Line has 37 Chapters with 163 pages.

Behind a Thin Green Line, ISBN 9781978092327. Costs on Amazon \$14.95 (Paperback, US) / \$20.41 (Paperback, Canadian).

Tony Latham has two other non-fiction books and two fiction books (mystery/ thrillers):

Non-Fiction: *Analyzing Ballistic Evidence, On-Scene by the Investigator Trafficking, A Memoir of an Undercover Game Warden.*

Fiction: *Five Fingers Seven Dead Fish*



A COWBOY IN THE WOODS

Junior Game Warden Series
Wayne Saunders and Lindsay Webb,
authors Fiction

A Cowboy In The Woods is a children's book written by New Hampshire Conservation Officer Wayne Saunders and Wildlife Biologist Lindsay Webb. The book tells the story of 8-year-old Bobby Forest and his wildlife investigation. The book includes Bobby's first experience meeting a conservation officer while Bobby is fishing with his father. Bobby wants to be exactly like the conservation officer or as he refers to him, the cowboy in the woods. The book is a children's book and I encourage you to gift one or more to any children in your life. You never know, they may be the next generation of game wardens.

A Cowboy In The Woods, NH has really good illustrations and includes 38 pages.

A Cowboy In The Woods published by TMC Books in Conway, New Hampshire. ISBN 978-1-7349308-9-4. Costs on Amazon \$16.00 (Hardcover, US) / \$21.85 (Hardcover, Canadian).

WARDENNOTES are dedicated to the following fallen officers:

Samuel B. Buntrock - Idaho
- EOW 5/29/1974

Arthur A Green III - Michigan
- EOW 8/9/2015

James Clark II - New Hampshire
- EOW 10/4/1971

Contact Kirk Kiefer at
wi1154@yahoo.com

NAWEOA 2025
Erie, Pennsylvania
July 13-19, 2025

Join us for an unforgettable conference, on the shores of Lake Erie, at the Bayfront Convention Center.

Room Rates
\$149 per night