



President's Message . . .

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is ready for an exciting 2007. I am very enthusiastic to be a part of our organization and optimistic that this year will bring the New Jersey Conservation Officer's Association many new opportunities. Our website is beginning to take shape . . .and is being seen . . .we already have well over 2000 hits. I am beginning to receive e-mails from other officers all over the country. I would like to encourage all members to be a part of our growth and success by contributing to our site with stories, pictures, and information. Please feel free to e-mail me at torourke@njcoa.com.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding our Association. I look forward to working with each of you in the near future.

Best,

Tom O'Rourke

"Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do.
Attitude determines how well you do it." - **Lou Holtz**

Business Worthy . . .

It's that time of the year . . . dues are due. Enclosed in this newsletter you will find your membership renewal form. Please take the time to fill out your renewal at your earliest convenience. **IMPORTANT NOTE ***** This newsletter will be the last hard copy version to be mass mailed. Beginning with the next newsletter, we will be moving to a more eco-friendly paperless system. Future newsletters will be distributed electronically in pdf format and will be e-mailed to current members as well as available via download from the members section of the njcoa website. Please remember to list your current e-mail address on your membership renewal to make sure you get on the e-mail list. If you do not use or have access to e-mail, please make a note of that on your membership renewal form and a hard copy will be mailed to you. Implementation of the paperless system will allow the association to expand the content of it's newsletter as well as save the association financially in paper, printing, and postage fees.

New Jersey's Wildlife Law Enforcement - A History

By Shannon Martiak, Conservation Officer

New Jersey's wildlife is diverse and, with the exception of those species with Endangered or Threatened status, thriving. There are many wildlife success stories, such as the reintroduction of such species as wild turkey, and the many species of game fish now available to anglers. Such good news doesn't happen by accident.

A large contributor to these successes has been the work of those responsible for enforcing regulations protecting both game and nongame species and educating the public about those regulations and the species they protect. The history of those officers, once known as "game wardens" and now the more encompassing title "conservation officer" is a long and proud one.

On March 15, 1871 Governor Theodore F. Randolph signed into law an act creating fish wardens. "The governor shall appoint one person in each county adjoining the river Delaware, who shall be a resident of said county, to be fish wardens. Whose duty it shall be on view or information to enforce the fishing laws in their respective counties." The original nine fish wardens were Jacob Westbrook (Sussex), Lewis C. Weller (Warren), A.J. Scarborough (Hunterdon), J. Ashmore (Mercer), N.D. Carman (Burlington), Frederic Shindle (Camden), H.V. Heritage (Gloucester), James Logue (Cumberland), and James S. Hannah (Salem). Thus began the official, organized enforcement of wildlife law in New Jersey.

On April 14, 1884 another law was enacted which empowered fish wardens to enforce game laws; hence the position as NJ Fish and Game Wardens was created. Early wardens had difficulty enforcing the law for lack of cooperation and respect from the fishermen. The original law of 1871 directed local constables or sheriffs to assist fish wardens in their duties when requested - or a fine of \$10.00 could be imposed.

One strategy for enforcing regulations was to use a camp, located in Lebanon State Forest and leased to the state, as a base of operations during the hunting seasons. The camp consisted of two uninsulated cedar barns with no electricity or running water.

In 1895, there were 25 wardens throughout the state including a position as Fish and Game Protector, now known as Bureau Chief.

The annual salary for a warden in 1895 was \$600 plus a \$200 annual expense account. No vehicles were provided, as wardens utilized horses, trains, trolleys, bicycles, and foot. It was not until 1912 that the first motorized conveyances were issued, those being 5 motorcycles.

As a result of the large geographic area of the state to patrol and the number of wardens employed, in 1896, legislation was enacted creating the position of Deputy Fish and Game Wardens. These deputies were not compensated as is the tradition today.

In 1897 a uniform procedure was created for fish and game enforcement. This uniform procedure established a foundation for prosecuting cases within New Jersey's legal system. It was not until March



Warden Harry M. Loveless (seated) with Deputy Michael Bobera



Warden camp in winter.

1949 that the first training conference for Fish and Game Wardens was held. Today's fish and game wardens, or more commonly referred to as conservation officers, have come a long way from their humble beginnings in relation to their training, salary, uniform, equipment and duties.

We are in the process of collecting and organizing any memorabilia associated with NJ Game Wardens (pictures, badges, patches, uniforms, memos, stories, etc.). The end result being a display documenting the history of NJ Game Wardens. If you have any material please contact Shannon Martiak at Lorax007@aol.com or (609) 947-8659

What NAWEOA Can Do For You.

by Lisa LaCroix

NAWEOA... Ok you get the newsletter, but do you really know what NAWEOA can do for you? The NAWEOA newsletter and IGW are great ways to read about what other Conservation Officers/Game Wardens are doing around North America and the world, but wouldn't it be great to sit down with these wardens and talk to them face to face? Share stories of great cases, trade tips and information, patches and memories. Have a few laughs and make friends for life. Have you been dreaming about a bird hunt in Nebraska? Elk hunt in Colorado or Salmon fishing in British Columbia? The friends you make through NAWEOA can help you organize and plan your trip, they might even put you up for a few nights and share some insider tips. Does your spouse feel a little secluded? Does she or he feel that none of their friends really understand the bizarre hours and work conditions that a Conservation Officer's spouse has to deal with? Why don't you attend the next NAWEOA conference in July 2007 and find out what NAWEOA can do for you!!

I am not going to highlight the 2006 Conference in Quebec because you can read all about it in the Fall 2006 NAWEOA newsletter. The fall newsletter has some really great articles about the presentations and activities. Some of the best articles though are those written by several kids, a spouse, a first-time attendee and an administrator on their "perspective" of NAWEOA and the summer conference. They are a must read.

I want to send a special invitation to all NJCOA members to attend the 2007 NAWEOA conference in St. Paul, Minnesota this July. The 26th Annual Conference will be held from July 16-21 at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel. The conference actually starts on Thursday, July 19 with the traditional parade of officers and opening ceremonies. The opening ceremonies are always very moving with a dedication to the fallen officers of the past year. Friday is the Warden Skills Day, which is always a lot of laughs for competitors as well as spectators. The conference wraps up with a



banquet on Saturday evening which includes an auction and music and dancing. (This is usually what gets the spouses excited about going to the conference. You get to go on vacation, spend several days sightseeing and shopping, get to spend a nice evening dressed up and go dancing and you get to stay in a 5 star hotel!) Throughout those three days, there are a number of great presentations planned. Some of the presentations include: "Getting Out Alive"- how to survive cold water immersion, hypothermia and surviving a night out in the extreme cold weather, "Let the Victims Speak"-game and fish forensics, "How it Really Happened"-crime scene reconstruction, "Playing with the Big Dogs"-timber wolf issues, now and in the de-listed future, "Learn How to 'Reid' Between the Lines"-the Reid technique of interview and interrogation, and "Land View-GIS and GPS Technology". Some of the smaller sessions will include waterfowl enforcement, hunter education, SIU, warden pilots, defensive tactics and firearms training. As expected, you can't put a lot of wardens together and not have beer, so the "hospitality" nights are some of the highlights of the conference. Make sure you bring some money because there is ample opportunity to drop some cash on silent auctions and raffles.

Okay, so you say you are on vacation and you don't want to spend all your time thinking about work stuff, well there are a lot of exciting trips planned as well. These include: Mall of America, Valleyfair amusement park, America's biggest indoor water park, Padelford Riverboats, Mystic Lake Casino, Cabela's, Duluth Sail and Rail Tour, Minnesota Zoo, Trick Shooter/Armstrong Ranch, and fishing trips. There is a lot to do in three days. If you can extend your trip a bit, I would suggest getting there in time for the Torch Run/Walk to benefit the Game Warden Museum. For a small donation, you can run or walk the 5K event, you get a commemorative t-shirt and dinner and it goes towards a great cause. The Torch Run/Walk is held on Wednesday, July 18th. There are a lot of tours and a golf tournament scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. You also don't have to worry about your spouse or kids getting bored. There are plenty of activities scheduled. Every conference has a kid's room where the smaller kids are kept entertained day and night so you and your spouse can enjoy some together time or just some time without the kids.

I have been attending the NAWEOA conferences since 1995 in Harrisburg, PA and I have been hooked ever since. I have only missed one conference since 1995 and that was in 2003 because I was delivering my twins. My husband has been attending since 2000 and my children since 2004. We consider the conference as part of our summer vacation and always plan to spend some extra time in and around the area of the conference. We have been to some pretty amazing places over the years. One of the highlights of the conference is the officer exchange program. Every year they pull a US officer's name and a Canadian officer's name out of a hat and those officers get to pick a state/province to go to in the other country. Three officers from NJ have won this "trip of a lifetime", Ken Kroeze, Mike Massey and myself. I won at my second conference and I went to the Yukon for an incredible two weeks with a two-week side trip to Alaska. I was also fortunate to be able to serve on the NAWEOA Executive Board for 4 years as the Region 7 Director.

If you can't make this year's conference or if you want to think about future conferences, they have awarded the following bids for the next 3 years: 2008 Montana, 2009 New Brunswick (Canada-not NJ!), and 2010 Pennsylvania.

If you are interested in finding out more about the conferences feel free to talk to me, Shannon Martiak, Mike Massey or Frank Virgilio. I would also recommend visiting the NAWEOA website, www.NAWEOA.org and the conference website, www.naweo2007.org

"Meet Ya On the Mississippi"
Lisa Lacroix

Mark Your Calendar Upcoming Events . . .

April 18, 2007 Retiree BBQ

11:00AM Central Regional Office

Calling all retired wardens and deputy wardens! Come catch up with old friends and make new ones. On April 18, 2007 at the Central Region Office (1 Eldridge Road, Robbinsville, NJ), Assunpink WMA NJCOA will be holding a BBQ lunch for all retired CO's and Deputy CO's. Festivities start at 11:00 am and will feature a brief NJ game warden slideshow, BBQ lunch, door prizes, and learn about some recent cases that CO's have been working on. Looking forward to seeing you there! Shannon Martiak (609) 947-8659

June 10, 2007 Annual Meeting "Potluck" Picnic 10:00AM Central Regional Office (1 Eldridge Road, Robbinsville, NJ) Note: Bring a dish for all to enjoy!

March 11, 2007 Executive Meeting 10:00AM Central Regional Office (1 Eldridge Road, Robbinsville, NJ)

September 9, 2007 Executive Meeting 10:00AM Central Regional Office (1 Eldridge Road, Robbinsville, NJ)

North

3rd Annual Sparta Mountain Day on May 20th, 2007

The purpose of Sparta mountain day 2007 is to have fun with outdoor activities while fostering an environmental awareness and a conservational theme. It will be a day for walking in the woods, discovering our unique ecosystems and understanding why we should help protect these ecosystems. In the past 2 years we have had over 500 people attend Sparta mountain day to enjoy the hikes, raptor presentations, bird walks, geology discussions, animal discussions etc. this year we will start marketing our event earlier and hold it on a Sunday in order to drive more participation. We are seeking volunteers for Sparta mountain day 2007, which takes place on May 20th at Ryker's lake and the Edison monument on Edison road in Sparta, NJ. We have had volunteers from the state of NJ, the EPA, the NJ Audubon society, Rutgers University, our neighborhood...etc. join us in the past. For more information please contact *Mitch Morrison* mmorrison@nac.net 973.222.4703

South

South Jersey Youth Outdoor Day August 18, 2007

This totally **FREE** event is held annually on the third Saturday in August. Its purpose is to encourage the youth of South Jersey to get involved in outdoor sports & activities. This event provides a great opportunity for beginners to try out different outdoor sports, without having to buy any of the equipment or supplies. No selling or solicitation is done at this event (except for organizations recruiting new members). The event is based in Salem County, but is open to youth from all of South Jersey. Our next event will be held on Saturday, **AUGUST 18, 2007** at the Salem County Sportsmen's Club in Carney's Point. This event is open to youth ages 7 through 17. All youths must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who will be responsible for their supervision. Participation is limited to the first 150 youths registered. You must register in advance. No same-day registrations will be accepted.

Please see website for more information. <http://www.geocities.com/outdoorday/>

Lets make memories . . .

Last year we were fortunate enough to get some NJCOA members and non- members together to share some fun on the Atlantic Ocean. I'm hoping to get more people interested this year. We had a blast. "The Porgy slayer", "The Fish Chummer", "The Rip Hook Setter" and "The Flounder Pounder" . . . you know who you are. Great memories and a great time by all.



C.O.'s Dravis, McManus, Lt. Sich, Martiak, Petruccelli, O'Rourke
Bringing home the bacon.



C.O. Martiak Is this the Chicken of the Sea?

Maine Warden Games 2006 . . .



DCO Bowen, C.O.'s Applegate, Martiak, Stites, O'Rourke and Retired C.O. Kroeze



DCO Bowen, C.O.'s Applegate, Stites



Whoa! Did you feel that tremor? C.O. Applegate



Only DCO Bowen would attempt to shoot a bear bare foot with a sling shot and a peanut M&M

International Game Warden Museum Fallen Officer Memorial

Through the joint efforts of NJCOA and NJ Conservation Officers' PBA Local 120, we have raised the required funds to purchase a plaque honoring the fallen officers of New Jersey. The Fallen Officer Memorial is located at the North American Game Warden Museum on the border of North Dakota and Manitoba. New Jersey's plaque will honor the six officers who have given the ultimate price while protecting the natural resources of New Jersey. CO Amos Horrocks, Warden William Holblitzell, Warden John C. Rheinbold, Warden David W. Brocker, CO Alfred Perkins, and Deputy Gant.

Shannon Martiak

Congratulations to our New Junior Game Wardens!

Adam & Bridget Sennick gave birth to **Declan Robert** on April 9, 2006
Joe & Jess Soell gave birth to **Lily Jayne** on April 6, 2006
Mark & Sue Canale gave birth to their third child **Kendra** on Feb.15, 2006
Frank & Rosanne Panico gave birth to **Nicholas** Oct. 2006.



Congratulations to Ian Herrigty for a successful deer season!

Executive Board Positions

Tom O'Rourke, *President*

Shannon Martiak, *Vice President*

Chuck Fee, *Vice President DCO*

Lisa Lacroix, *NAWEOA (North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association)*

Scott Risher, *Representative South*; Gregory Petrongolo, *Deputy Representative South*

Chris Petruccelli, *Marine Representative*; ***Vacant position***, *Deputy Representative Marine*

Ann Paul, *Representative North*; Gerald King, *Deputy Representative North*

Jim Farinaccio, *Retired North Deputy Representative*

Shawn McManus, *Representative Central*; ***Vacant position*** (*Deputy Representative Central*)

Shawn Cianculli, *Supervisor Representative*; ***Vacant position*** (*Retired Representative CO*),

Vacant position, *Retired CO*; Austin Perrone, *Deputy Rep. Retired*

Steve Murza, *Secretary (Appointed position)*

Brian Wotton, *Treasurer (Appointed position)*