

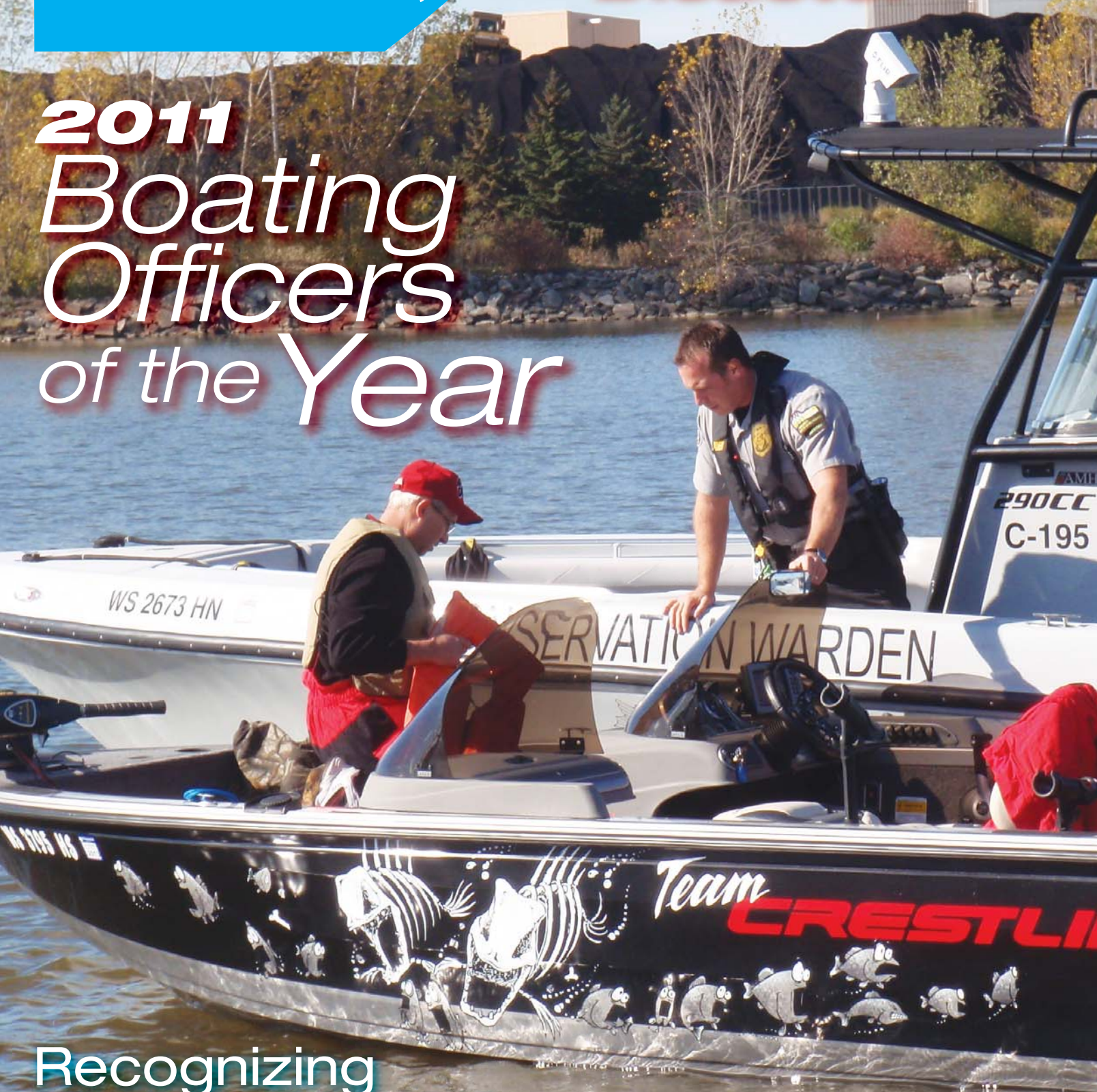
# SCA

small craft advisory

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011 | VOL. 26 NO. 6  
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

## Dealing with Disaster

## 2011 Boating Officers of the Year



## Recognizing High Achievers



# SCA

small craft advisory

The official publication  
of the National Association  
of State Boating Law Administrators

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## About the Cover

Conservation Warden Benjamin Treml with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources checks an angler's boat for equipment. In September 2011, NASBLA named Treml as the Boating Officer of the Year for his dedication to ensuring safety on the water.  
Staff photo

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*Mike Fields*  
NASBLA  
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*John Johnson*  
NASBLA  
Executive Director

## Job well done

**T**he NASBLA Annual Conference, held this year in Milwaukee and hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, provides a unique forum for boating safety professionals across the U.S. and Canada. No other event throughout the year brings together as many different organizations and agencies as does this annual migration of boating law administrators (BLAs), federal and state agency personnel, and boating organization leaders.

This year's event hosted BLAs from no less than 51 states and territories – a new NASBLA record – who were joined by representatives from nearly 60 additional state, regional and national organizations and agencies. This concentration of talent and commitment, both at the annual conference and at the NASBLA committee functions throughout the year, attest to the association's central role in bringing together the people and programs that shape our national boating safety and maritime security missions.

My hat is off to the officers and directors of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for their warm hospitality and critical logistical support, and I want to offer a special note of gratitude to the Milwaukee Police Department for their local assistance on and off the water, and for their help and camaraderie in the run-up to the event. We simply could not have pulled it off without the assistance of both agencies.

Among those I want to recognize most are the thousands of officers and educators who give their all working with the public every day to make our waterways safer

and more secure. It is their efforts on our waterways and in our classrooms that really make the difference in the work we do. At the annual conference, that national corps of committed professionals is represented by the three regional Boating Law Enforcement Officers of the Year, as well as the three regional Boating Educators of the Year.

In 2011, the NASBLA Awards Committee faced incredibly tough challenges as it labored to choose national award winners from among an exemplary field of regional candidates. I would be remiss if I did not recognize and applaud the efforts and contributions of each of these boating professionals. From the Northern Region, congratulations to the regional Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Conservation Warden Benjamin Trembl of Wisconsin, and to the regional Boating Educator of the Year, Len Lewellen of New York. Conservation Warden Trembl went on to capture NASBLA's National Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Great work, Warden Trembl!

From the Southern Region, congratulations to regional Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Conservation Officer Jerrod Alley of Kentucky, and to regional Boating Educator of the Year, Betsy Woods of Tennessee. Ms. Woods also went on to claim the NASBLA National Boating Educator of the Year Award. Way to go, Betsy!

From the Western Region, congratulations to regional Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Warden Mike Krings of Montana, and to regional Boating Educator of the Year, Ed Huntsman of Arizona.

The efforts of all of the awards recipients are greatly appreciated, as are the donations from our awards sponsors who make these national recognition programs possible.

My special thanks to Scott Swanby and our friends at Revere for their continued support of NASBLA's Butch Potts National Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, and to Kerry, Brent, Larry, Robert and our other partners at BoaterExam.com for conceiving and sponsoring the NASBLA Boating Educator of the Year Award. Along with our members, both of these national sponsors recognize that the critical work of boating safety and security actually happens on the water and in the classroom and that our awards recipients represent the legions of boating professional that are the first line of defense in our efforts to make our waterways safe and more enjoyable.

Accolades for the many other awards recipients recognized at the 52nd NASBLA Annual Conference can be found on pp. 5-7. The contributions of these dedicated folks help keep the National RBS Program moving forward year after year. Working together, we can all share in the satisfaction of a job well done, a job that has resulted in saving more than 40,000 lives over the last four decades. Those we have honored have paved the way to resolving the challenges that lie ahead as we all strive to further reduce or eliminate accidents and deaths on our nation's waterways. \*



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BOATERexam.com would like to take a moment and thank all of the boating safety educators across the country. 2010 marked the lowest number of boating fatalities ever recorded. Your work made this possible.

In 2011, we teamed up with NASBLA to create the Boating Safety Educator of the Year Award. In the years to come, we hope this award will shine a light on the importance of the work done by you, the professionals and volunteers who dedicate themselves to boating safety through education.

We are already looking forward to the 2012 nominations—we hope you are nominated!

For more information visit [www.BOATERexam.com/award](http://www.BOATERexam.com/award)

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# NASBLA News

## NASBLA offers new airboat course

NASBLA has added another course offering to its ever-expanding Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) program. The new course – the Airboat Operator Course – will be held April 16- 20, 2012, in Delacroix, Louisiana.



The Airboat Operators Course provides law enforcement and emergency personnel the opportunity to become more proficient with specialized skills necessary to operate airboats. A key element of this course is the

preparation of participants to become qualified in the tasks necessary for response to maritime safety and security operations.

Students will operate within a controlled environment with an emphasis on hands-on operational training. The course is delivered using “team teaching” as the model, where all instructors are engaged in every module within the course, under the operational command of a lead instructor. Participants will receive recognition in the national qualification database maintained by NASBLA.

For more information on NASBLA’s BOAT Program, visit [www.nasbla.org/BOAT](http://www.nasbla.org/BOAT) or contact John Fetterman ([john.fetterman@nasbla.org](mailto:john.fetterman@nasbla.org)) or Mark DuPont ([Mark.DuPont@nasbla.org](mailto:Mark.DuPont@nasbla.org)).

## Former Wyoming Senator Malcolm Wallop dies

NASBLA mourns the death of one of the “fathers” of the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund. Former Republican Sen. Malcolm Wallop died at his home in northern Wyoming on Sept. 14, 2011, following an extended illness. He was 78.



Wallop represented Wyoming in the Senate from 1977 to 1995, and he spent that time

aggressively pursuing energy and environmental policy on behalf of the constituents in his home state. Wallop was a leading conservative voice during the Reagan era in fighting for space defense and a tough anti-communist policy in Central America. In 1984, he helped create the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund, an account used to finance state fisheries and boating programs. The fund uses money raised through special fees and taxes on fishing gear and motorboat fuel.

Wallop was a rancher and meatpacking executive before his career in public service. He also served two terms in the Wyoming House and one term in the state Senate.

## Barrett succumbs to cancer

NASBLA is sad to announce that David T. Barrett, longtime New Hampshire boating law administrator, died on October 18, 2011.

Born in California on January 4, 1947, Dave moved to New Hampshire 29 years ago. He served four years in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. Dave was director of the Division of Safety Services within the N.H. Department of Safety. In this position, he served as the state’s boating law administrator. He was also in charge of the Inland Water Moorings



Program, the Boater Education Program and the Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety Bureau.

“Dave was a man who cared deeply about the boating safety

community and the safety of all boaters,” said John Johnson, NASBLA CEO.

Dave was a patrol officer for the Hampton Police Department, Hampton, N.H. and a supervisor for the Riverside Police Department in Riverside, Calif. (1972-1981), the chief of police in Newton, N.H. (1983-1987), and the chief of police for the Jaffrey Police Department (1987-1992). He also worked for the N.H. Police Standards and Training Council (1984-1992).

Recognized for his dedication and hard work, Dave received a number of awards, including the Meritorious Service Award in 1974, a Commendation-Public Service in 1975 from the New Hampshire State Senate, the Exceptional Police Merit Award in 1977, a Meritorious Duty Commendation award in 1980, and the Valor Award for Public Service.

Dave was a lifetime member of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police and a member of the Saint James Masonic Lodge No. 102 F. & A.M. Hampton, N.H. An avid motorcycle enthusiast, he was also a very proud member of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America and the Granite State BMW Riders.

## Three BLAs appointed to NBSAC

Three boating law administrators (BLAs) were recently appointed to serve on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC). The Council was established by the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971 to advise the U.S. Coast Guard on matters related to recreational boating safety.

The BLAs appointed to serve as state representatives on the Council are Mike Fields (KY), Brian Kempf (NY), and Jeff Johnson (AK). This is each person’s first term on NBSAC.

NBSAC consists of 21 members drawn equally from state officials responsible for boating safety programs; representatives of the boating industry; and representatives of national recreational boating organizations and the general public.

The other state representatives on NBSAC are Herb Angell (Nebraska BLA); John Fetterman (retired Maine BLA and current law enforcement director for NASBLA); Fred Messmann (retired Nevada BLA and current deputy director for the National Safe Boating Council), and Richard Moore (Florida BLA).

For more information about NBSAC, contact Jeff Ludwig, executive secretary of NBSAC, at [jeffrey.a.ludwig@uscg.mil](mailto:jeffrey.a.ludwig@uscg.mil) or 202.372.1061. \*

# Paying homage to high-achievers

Each year, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) honors outstanding individuals and groups for their contributions to recreational boating safety. Following are summaries of this year's honorees.

## Boating Educator of the Year

NASBLA launched a new award – the Boating Educator of the Year Award. Generously sponsored by BoaterExam.com, the award is designed to recognize those in the boating education field who go beyond to engage students and boaters, raise awareness, and make boating education and education initiatives relevant, thorough and exciting. The regional Boating Educators of the Year are as follows:



*Betsy Woods, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Boating Educator of the Year Award*

## Northern

Len Llewellyn is a volunteer boating safety education instructor with the New York Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation. He trained as a boating safety instructor for New York's "Make Sure Make Shore" young adult boating safety program at its inception 52 years ago and has been continuously teaching in that program known today as the "New York Safe Boating Program." Llewellyn was one of the very first instructors involved in one of the earliest – if not the first – mandatory boating education courses in the country. He is the only remaining original instructor still teaching the New York State program. It is estimated that he has taught over 1,000 students including the children and grandchildren of some of his original students.

## Southern

Serving on both NASBLA's Education Committee and the National Safe Boating Council's Executive Board, Betsy Woods, the statewide Boating Education Coordinator for Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, is in a great position to promote boating safety by staying current with national educational information. She is plugged into various media outlets and works tirelessly to

coordinate boating events and share information with the media to spread the word in regards to safe boating. Woods is to be commended for her efforts the past three years on the "Wear It! Tennessee" campaign. She also coordinates all aspects of the TWRA's online boating program. For example, she has worked diligently to make available as many outlets for individuals to take a boating safety course. So far she has brought 83 of the state's 95 county public libraries online to offer the boating safety courses.

## Western

Ed Huntsman, Boating and OHV Program Manager with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, has tirelessly dedicated his career to promoting recreational boating safety and serving the educational needs of boaters nationwide. His law enforcement background coupled with his many years experience in senior business management have given Huntsman an excellent foundation in which to flourish and cultivate his enthusiastic and passionate determination to promote the numerous aspects of boating safety. He has worked tirelessly to implement the "Wear It! Arizona" life jacket and boating safety program. Huntsman is a five-time presenter at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit, serves on the NASBLA Education and Training Committee, and serves on the board of directors for both the National Safe Boating Council and the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona.

## National

Besty Woods was named the national Boating Educator of the Year during the awards ceremony.

## Boating Safety Award

Stephen Verchinski, boat program coordinator and marine officer with the New Mexico State Parks Division, received the 2011 Boating Safety Award for maintaining a solid work performance for 13 years and continuing to teach boaters and co-workers the intrinsic value of boating safe and smart in the Land of Enchantment.

Sponsored by the National Safe Boating Council, the Boating Safety Award is presented to a state or local government individual who is involved in boating safety and has demonstrated outstanding performance in any area of the program.

A certified and commissioned law enforcement officer, Verchinski possesses advanced knowledge, skills and abilities that



*Stephen Verchinski, New Mexico State Parks, Boating Safety Award*

are great contributions to the Division. The multiple and diverse responsibilities, experience, education and professional skill set that he provides within his position is unique to the Division. The state, Division, local communities and boaters benefit from his hard work and willingness to take on a variety of duties to continue to make the Division's boating safety, education, and enforcement program successful.

## Compass Award

During the annual business meeting, NASBLA President James Graybeal presented the Missouri State Highway Patrol with the Compass Award for the agency's leadership, commitment and sacrifice in assisting NASBLA and the U.S. Coast Guard in promulgating the first-ever seated battery of standardized field sobriety tests to enhance boating under the influence (BUI) enforcement actions across the nation.

In 2005, NASBLA embarked on an ambitious, five-year initiative to develop and validate a new series of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) to enhance our ability to enforce boating under the influence (BUI) laws nationwide. The most significant and complicated aspect of the validation project involved extensive field-testing of the SFSTs under real world conditions out on the water. This effort included the full-time commitment and collaboration of a team of four Missouri water patrol officers working alongside project researchers on the Lake of the Ozarks throughout the summer of 2009.

## Herbert C. Bonner Award

Captain Mark Rizzo, chief of the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, received the 2011 Herbert C. Bonner Award for his exceptional leadership and dedication to recreational boating safety.

*Continues on p. 6*



Captain Rizzo's high level of engagement with the Auxiliary and boating safety community is a testament to his dedication to reducing injuries and saving lives. He served as an early example of local Coast Guard Commanders and boating law administrators establishing strong local relationships, as demonstrated from his days in Virginia where he developed a close working relationship with longtime Virginia boating law administrator Charlie Sledd. He continues to establish and maintain partnerships, providing a positive impact on those working relationships.

Capt. Rizzo has had an active role in advocating the importance of NASBLA's relationships with flag officers in the U.S. Coast Guard. He also facilitated the cooperative work between the USCG Auxiliary and NASBLA in developing the Basic Crew Member and the Boat Operator Search and Rescue course as part of the NASBLA BOAT Program.

### **Innovations in Technology Award**

The Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation (IDPR) received the 2011 Innovations in Technology Award for its time-saving online grant application. NASBLA, in conjunction with its Mission Partner, Boat Ed, developed the Innovations in Technology Award to recognize programs or initiatives that demonstrate the highest level of innovation leading to advances in boating safety. The Innovations in Technology Initiative leverages the latest



*Dave Dahms, Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation, Innovations in Technology Award*

technology to help the states and territories make boating safer and more enjoyable, and make the most efficient use of scarce state resources.

In Idaho, state statute mandates that enforcement of the Idaho Safe Boating Act is the responsibility of the county sheriffs. To this end, substantial U.S. Coast Guard funding passes through IDPR to the county sheriffs for marine law enforcement and boating safety education programs. IDPR

requires the counties to fill out a grant application and sign a grant agreement to obtain funding each fiscal year. IDPR developed and implemented an easy-to-use, online version that saves the counties both time and money.

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

NASBLA President Graybeal bestowed a Lifetime Achievement Award on Jo Mogle, with U.S. Sailing, for meaningful contributions to recreational boating safety both on state and national levels.

Mogle has been recognized as a national authority on boating education and safety for decades. She has been instrumental in partnering with all of the recreational boating safety community, serving as an excellent liaison while adding her expertise, her receptiveness, and her passion to the efforts.

Through her work with U.S. Sailing, NASBLA, the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), she has shared her expertise in order to improve recreational boating safety. Jo has been very active in



*Jo Mogle, US Sailing, Lifetime Achievement Award*

representing U.S. Sailing, receiving many commendations for her work with the organization. She has participated in NASBLA's boating education committee for over two decades, including much time devoted to the boating education standards. She has been an active participant in the International Boating and Water Safety Summit and has provided a great deal of help to the NSBC, including grant work.

### **NASBLA Award**

Captain Gary Haupt of the Missouri State Highway Patrol received the 2011 NASBLA Award in recognition of the exemplary time and effort he has dedicated to NASBLA in the field of accident investigation and reconstruction. His expertise has helped the organization achieve the highest professional reputation in the country for a training program that has been acknowledged nationally for the betterment of the boating safety.



*Capt. Gary Haupt, Missouri State Highway Patrol, NASBLA Award*

Throughout his 32-year career, Capt. Haupt has been dedicated to saving lives by advancing the knowledge regarding boating accident reconstructions. He is currently the leading boating accident reconstruction expert for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, providing guidance and supervision for the boating accident reconstruction team. Capt. Haupt initiated the concept of a seven-member reconstruction team that travels statewide to conduct in-depth analysis of complex and high-profile boating accidents.

Capt. Haupt provided his expertise in boat accident investigation by serving as the chairman for the Boating Accident Investigation, Reporting and Analysis Committee (2006-08). He continues to serve on the Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee. He also works closely with other members of NASBLA to review and analyze trends in boating accident statistics and their contributing causes to address the need for new laws or public awareness campaigns.

### **President's Award**

NASBLA President Jim Graybeal bestowed two President's Awards for special recognition of contributions last year to boating safety and NASBLA:

- \* NASBLA's Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC) for the members' tireless perseverance and excellent progress on a number of complicated and involved charges over the past year; and
- \* Dick Lamphier, a retired engineer from Mercury Marine, who has been instrumental in helping state boating enforcement agencies develop court-accepted testing procedures for boat noise enforcement.

### **Waterways Management Award**

Randy Henry, with the Oregon State Marine Board, received the Waterways Management Award for his prolific work in improving waterways for varied users. As the operations policy analyst, Henry is



involved in numerous high-profile and controversial issues in which his experience, level head, strong work ethic, and genuine concern have been instrumental in moving the agency forward.

Henry played a major role early on in the planning and implementation of the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention (AIS) Program. He also served as the agency liaison with the Oregon Invasive Species Council and chaired the Diamond Lake AIS Prevention Committee, a group dedicated to educating boaters and anglers to not reintroduce invasive species into the lake. Henry's knowledge helped the agency to successfully respond to House Bill 2220, which applied a boater fee and mandated an education and enforcement program for invasive species prevention.

Henry is the principal advocate for dealing with waterway user conflict in Oregon. He is involved in landowner versus boater issues, and motorized versus non-motorized issues. One of the most controversial issues for the Marine Board in the past decade revolved around motorized and non-

motorized conflict around Ross Island in the Willamette River in Portland. Paddlers requested the establishment of slow/no-wake zones. Henry worked closely with both user groups throughout the process, obtained consensus on a number of important areas, and eventually made a recommendation to the Board that was adopted.

### William B. Garner Award

President Graybeal surprised NASBLA CEO John Johnson by presenting him with the 2011 William B. Garner National Boating Safety Leadership Award in recognition of his ongoing efforts to steer the ever-growing, national nonprofit organization.

Johnson has been employed with NASBLA for over 20 years. In the early stages of his career, while working for the Center of Recreational Safety as an administrative contractor for NASBLA, he provided extensive administrative support. Johnson emerged as a leader as NASBLA began to emerge as a national organization and moved to a new, more directed board governance model.



John Johnson, NASBLA, Garner Award

In 2006, Johnson accepted the position of chief executive officer for the "new NASBLA," a template for national nonprofit associations across the country. He carries great institutional knowledge and braves the constant winds of change and evolution within the recreational boating safety community. His accomplishments have been overlooked for years but he continues making personal sacrifices and is deeply committed to the service of the association. He provides the needed leadership qualities to steer the association through tremendous growing cycles, stringently focusing as an advocate for policies and resources to reduce the loss of life on the water. ✱

### LDWF Enforcement Division first agency to earn BOAT accreditation



NASBLA President Jim Graybeal presents a certificate of accreditation to LDWF's Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne and Lt. Spencer Cole. Also taking part in the presentation are NASBLA CEO John Johnson (far left) and NASBLA BOAT Program Manager Mark DuPont (far right). Staff photo

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement Division is the first agency in the U.S. to earn national accreditation in the Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) program administered by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

During a ceremony in Milwaukee, Wis., at NASBLA's Annual Conference, NASBLA President Jim Graybeal presented LDWF's Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne and Lt. Spencer Cole with the formal Accreditation Certificate.

The BOAT program establishes a national standard for the training and qualification of maritime law enforcement and rescue personnel. Adoption and implementation of the BOAT program provides a true national standard for the purpose of maritime interoperability at the federal, state and local levels. Standardization ensures maritime agencies can interact together and will bolster their ability to act as force multipliers nationwide.

"Agencies who choose to adopt this national standard of training can assure their ability to conduct missions on our nation's waterways safely and effectively and operate seamlessly with their federal, state and local partners on the water," said John Fetterman, NASBLA's director of law enforcement. "Congratulations go to Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries for being the first accredited state agency in our BOAT program."

The LDWF Enforcement Division is the first agency to implement the BOAT standard in all aspects of operations and training including cadet training at the academy level and training of partners throughout the state across all jurisdictions. The BOAT program will enhance LDWF's training plans in the areas of basic crewmember, boat operator for search and rescue and tactical operations.

"This is a significant achievement for the department as we work with the U.S. Coast

Guard, state police and local authorities daily in patrolling our local waterways," said LDWF Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne, the state's boating law administrator. "This training program allows every enforcement agency responsible for securing and providing safe passage on our waterways to train together and be on the same page during natural disasters and maritime security threats."

The LDWF Enforcement Division is an active participant in Louisiana's Homeland Security Plan and represents the state in waterborne emergencies. Through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, LDWF is the lead agency for search and rescue operations during natural disasters and maritime security of Louisiana's vital business and government interests along the coast and major rivers.

As members of the Governor's Homeland Security Advisory Council, the Area Maritime Security Executive Steering Committee and all major port security committees within the state, LDWF Law Enforcement Division agents frequently respond to requests to deploy LDWF marine resources for security concerns. The LDWF Enforcement Division's specialized training and equipment and its ability to operate throughout the state's vast maze of waterways and wild areas has complemented Louisiana's ability to respond to emergencies on the water. ✱

# NASBLA conference provides forum for information, networking

By Kimberly Jenkins

**T**he National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) held its 52nd Annual Conference in Milwaukee Sept. 10-14. Held in a different state each year, this conference provides a forum for boating law administrators, marine patrol officers, boating safety educators, marine industry leaders and others to discuss issues regarding recreational boating safety, connect with peers and recognize individuals for achievements.

The conference officially kicked off on Sept. 11 with the opening ceremonies. Richard Moore, the boating law administrator (BLA) for Florida, provided a tribute to the 9/11 victims in honor of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S.

RADM Michael Parks, Ninth Coast Guard District Commander, welcomed everyone to the area. He discussed the importance of partnerships and applauded conference attendees for their work toward achieving the nation's lowest fatality rate to date. RADM Parks also commented on the need to implement measures that will significantly increase the life jacket wear rate, stating that the message still needs to be "Wear It!"

Christopher Hart, vice chairman of the National Safety Transportation Board, served as the evening's keynote speaker. He thanked the audience for their work in boating safety and asserted, "We share the same vision – improving safety and saving lives." Hart shared results that show the efforts are paying off – continued decreases in the number of accidents, the number of deaths, and the number of injuries – and indicated NASBLA's role in the success.

The first full day of the conference, Sept. 12, began with a working session for BLAs, during which they discussed a number of topics, including the lapsed boater program, the NTSB's safety



*During the conference's opening ceremonies, RADM Michael Parks (right) discusses the importance of partnerships and applauds conference attendees for their work toward achieving the nation's lowest fatality rate to date.*  
Staff photos

recommendations, towed sports, the new National Education Standards Panel, the Boat Operations and Training program, and accident reporting.

Attendees enjoyed the annual awards luncheon, during which some of the



*The conference provides a variety of breakout sessions. During one well-attended breakout, Dan Maxim, president of Everest Consulting Associates, and John Fetterman, NASBLA's law enforcement director, discuss "inattentional blindness" and "change blindness" within the realm of recreational boating safety.*

go-getters in the realm of boating safety and enforcement were recognized and applauded for their efforts.

*Editor's Note: For more information about the 2011 awards, see p. 5-7.*

NASBLA's annual business meeting followed the luncheon and served to wrap up the previous year's business, as well as begin the next year's work. Dusty McCoy, chairman and CEO of Brunswick Corp., shared his perspective on the health of the boating industry and how to ensure the longevity of the sport. His suggestions included attracting younger boaters, removing the reasons not to boat, and focusing on all races, with particular emphasis on contacting minorities.

Next, NASBLA President Jim Graybeal signed a memorandum of understanding with C-PORT and another with the Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. David Dickerson, with the Personal Watercraft Industry Association, presented the 2011 Boating Safety Leadership Award to Sharon M. Carrick, director of the Maryland Department of Natural



Resources Licensing and Registration Service, and Boyd Walden, deputy director of the Division of Motorist Services for Florida, for their work with the development of the Uniform Certificate of Title Act for Vessels.

President Graybeal recognized the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Enforcement Division as the first agency in the United States to earn national accreditation in NASBLA's Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) program. *Editor's Note: For more information about the accreditation, see p. 7.*

The membership then discussed a number of action items from NASBLA's committees and approved resolutions honoring the 100th anniversary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division, as well as a resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the Western States Boating Administrators Association.

#### **NASBLA members elect new Executive Board members:**

- \* President – Mike Fields, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
- \* Vice President – Toby Velasquez, New Mexico State Parks
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- \* Immediate Past President – Jim Graybeal, Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

The next day began with a perceptive presentation from Chris Chabris, co-author of *The Invisible Gorilla: and Other Ways Our Intuitions Deceive Us*. Chabris' everyday illusions that contribute to one's inattentive blindness. This engaging presentation served as a reminder that looking is not necessarily seeing and that "paying" attention to one thing might come at the cost of missing another altogether.

Capt. Mark Rizzo and Jeff Hoedt, with the U.S. Coast Guard's Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, provided the latest recreational boating statistics, then Capt. Timothy Espinoza, chief of the USCG Office of Boat Forces, discussed the enduring and ever-expanding partnership between NASBLA, the Coast Guard and BLAs and the importance of this partnering in homeland security efforts.

Attendees were served lunch at Lake Shore State Park. Following lunch, attendees participated in various on-water demonstrations.

“We share the same vision – improving safety and saving lives.”

*Christopher Hart, NTSB Vice Chair*

Wednesday opened with breakout sessions covering topics including grants, marketing, boating safety outreach, thermal imaging, vessel registration and e-tickets. The afternoon featured a Mandatory Life Jacket Wear Town Hall Meeting, which produced a great deal of discussion among attendees. A fair number of commentators suggested using education rather than implementing more regulations. Concerns about comfort and affordability were also expressed.

Next, Jim Parroco discussed the importance of building relationships with boating law administrators and the boat factory visit program. The conference's final presentation explained the new seated battery of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. NASBLA received funding for a three-year grant in which four tests – horizontal gaze nystagmus, finger to nose, palm pat and hand coordination – were identified for afloat use. A new training curriculum has been developed. The conference ended that afternoon with the historic passing of the fid as Jim Graybeal transferred his responsibilities to the new president, Mike Fields. \*



*Author Chris Chabris provides an insightful and engaging presentation on everyday illusions that contribute to inattentive blindness.*



*Serving as keynote speaker, NTSB Vice Chairman Christopher Hart thanks the audience for their ongoing work in boating safety.*



*RFC Richard Tanner  
deploys the sonar device while  
searching for a drowning victim as  
Cpl. Scott Carroll (seated) and  
Capt. Jeff Swift (standing) assist.*

# Side Scan Sonar facilitates quicker recovery

By Richard A. Tanner  
Conservation Ranger First Class  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

**T**he public's participation in on-water recreation has continued to climb. Registered recreational boats in Georgia alone climbed by 10 percent from 2005 to 2010 to over 350,000. With the increase in recreational activity, there has also been an increase in boating incidents and drowning incidents. In 2010 there were 51 reported drowning victims on Georgia's waters, up from the prior year's 40. In many of the reported drowning incidents, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources utilized a highly technical device to aid in the recovery process – the Klein 3900 Side Scan Sonar.

The side scan sonar consists of a towable fish, processing unit and a laptop computer. The sides of the towable fish are lined with rows of ceramic discs that

vibrate when influenced by an electrical current. The vibration sends a sound pressure wave through the water that continues on its path until influenced by a solid object. Once the pressure wave comes in contact with a solid object, the wave is reflected and sent back to the towable fish. The incoming signal is then relayed to the processing unit via a cable. Upon receiving the signal, the processing unit sends the data to a laptop computer for data analysis. With the laptop computer, the operator is able to view the images in real time.

As with many searches conducted in an underwater environment, a high number of resources are utilized, taking up a considerable amount of time. Not only does this time affect the researchers, but it also places an emotional toll on the

family members. In 2007, a double fatality boating incident occurred on Lake Sinclair in Middle Georgia. Search and rescue personnel performed a labor-intensive search utilizing search dogs, small side scan sonar devices, helicopter, dive teams from multiple agencies, as well as manpower from several different law enforcement agencies of the area for 10 days before being able to locate the victim. With several instances similar to this case in the amount of time taken to locate the victims, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources began looking into another resource to aid in locating drowning victims in a more efficient manner.

During the summer of 2009, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Office of Homeland Security awarded the

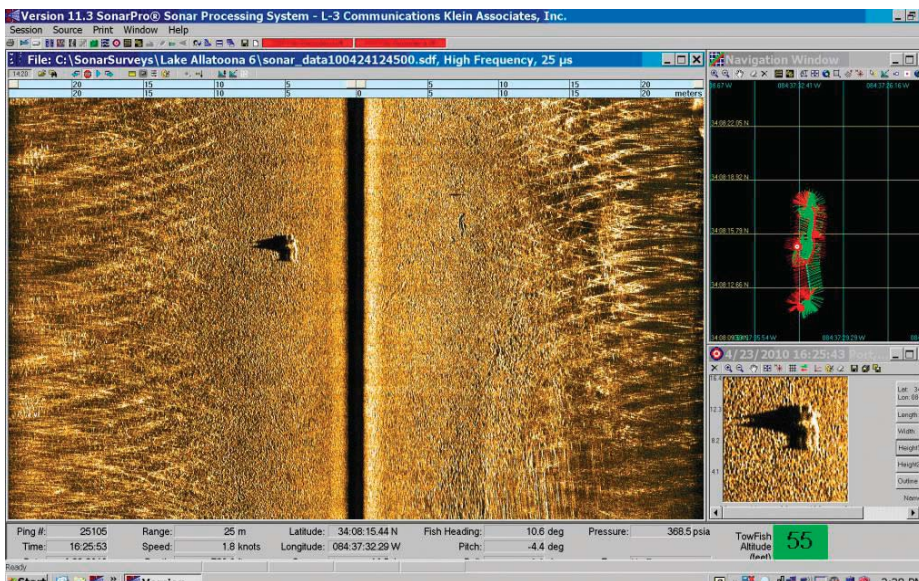


Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section grant monies for search and rescue purposes. Of this money, \$50,000 was used to purchase a Klein 3900 Side Scan Sonar device. In October of 2009, the Georgia DNR sent one of its rangers to L-3 Klein Associates to attend a three-day training course on basic operation of the sonar device. During this training, participants were also able to use what they had learned by locating items on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of New Hampshire.

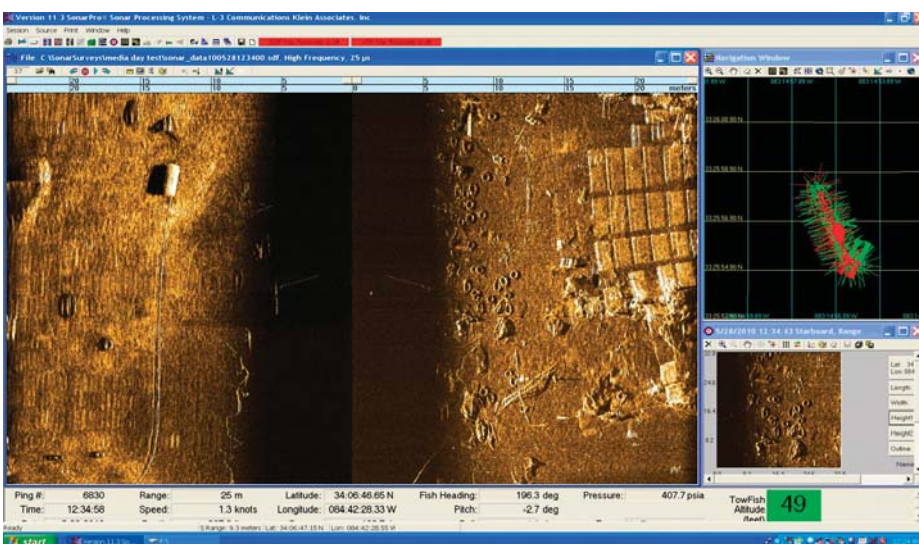
During its first year of service, the device was used to assist in the search of nine drowning victims as well as two sunken vessels. In April 2010, a boating incident occurred near Atlanta where a police officer was ejected from the vessel in which he was riding. The sonar was called in to assist with the search operations. Within a few hours, the sonar operator was able to effectively cover and eliminate a large search area as a possible location. As the search continued, a witness came forth and narrowed down the search area. Once the area was narrowed down, the sonar operator was able to locate the victim in approximately 20 feet of water. As many rescuers are aware, searches for drowning victims can at times take days if not weeks to locate the victim. In one search, the sonar operator was able to locate the victim four minutes after beginning the search.

Following the first year of service of the first sonar unit, Georgia DNR was awarded additional grant monies from the Georgia Port Authority that allowed the purchase of three additional side scan sonar devices during the summer of 2010. These additional sonar devices were spread throughout the state to allow for faster response times to critical incidents. Since the expansion of the sonar program in Georgia, the sonar operators have been asked to assist in the search for over a dozen drowning victims as well as sunken vessels.

The side scan sonar is not an ideal search and recovery tool in all cases. At times conditions are not favorable for searching with a towable device. Vegetation plays a



*This sonar image shows a drowning victim located in approximately 20 feet of water.*



*Tires that had come loose from a breakwall are shown in this sonar image.*

huge impact on how well the device works. In several searches where the victim was unable to be located using the sonar, the vegetation was so thick that the sonar could only be towed 10 feet before having to be pulled up to remove massive quantities of thick hydrilla. Also, since the device is towed under a vessel, any other submerged items such as timber and rocks can affect whether the unit can be used. There have been several instances where the tow fish either has struck or got tangled around rocks or flooded timber while performing a search.

Since its first deployment with the department, the side scan sonar has been called to assist in approximately 35

searches. The team now consists of four sonar units and eight trained operators with an additional two units and four to six trained operators scheduled to be activated by the end of 2011. With these available resources, DNR Rangers will be able to respond to drowning incidents across the state with an improved response time. While no one tool can be 100 percent effective for all underwater search and recovery operations, the Klein 3900 side scan sonar has proved to be an effective asset that will be providing assistance to searchers in the future to help bring closure to those families that are missing their loved ones. ✨



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# 2011 Boating Law Enforcement Officers of the Year

## tars on the water

**T**he responsibilities of today's marine law enforcement officers encompass a broad range of disciplines. Today officers on the water do much more than patrol and enforce fish and wildlife conservation and boating laws. They educate the boating public, conduct homeland security patrols, respond to environmental and natural disasters, and conduct search, rescue and recovery while undergoing rigorous training and professional development. Often these officers go well beyond the call of duty, and we honor these boating law enforcement officers in the following pages.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators created the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award in 2000 to recognize outstanding officers. This year we had nominees from 42 states and territories. The officers described in the following pages represent the top boating law enforcement officers in the nation.

### Sponsored by Revere

The Boating Officer of the Year Program is generously sponsored by Revere Survival Products (<http://www.reveresupply.com>). "The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is pleased and proud to partner with Revere Supply Company to recognize the outstanding marine patrol officers across the country," said John M. Johnson, NASBLA executive director. "Many thanks to Revere for their

continued support in our most important recognition program. Their support helps us fulfill one of our critical missions in providing training and development programs for the officer on the water."

Revere Survival Products, also known as Revere Supply Inc., has exclusively been a family-owned business beginning in 1936, now on their fourth generation of ownership.

The company has routinely celebrated a vast number of awards and honors for their life-saving supplies and equipment. Their product line includes life rafts, emergency locator beacons, inherently buoyant and inflatable PFDs – as well as other safety and rescue products. Revere's distributor base can be found in over 20 U.S. states, as well as countries in Europe, South America, the Caribbean and Asia.

**National Boating  
Officer of the Year**  
Marine Conservation  
Warden  
**Benjamin Trembl**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
**Wisconsin**



*Marine Conservation  
Warden Ben Trembl (center)  
accepts the National Boating  
Law Enforcement Officer  
of the Year Award at  
NASBLA's 52nd Annual  
Conference. Presenting the  
award to Trembl are  
NASBLA President James  
Graybeal (right) and Scott  
Swanby of Revere Survival  
Products, sponsor of the  
annual award.  
Staff photo*

"Just like the Green Bay Packers and the Lombardi Trophy awarded to the team after the Packers' victory at the 2011 Super Bowl, this national award for outstanding warden service to the public and the natural resources has returned to Green Bay," Northeast Regional Warden Supervisor Byron Goetsch said of the award presented to Marine Conservation Warden Ben Trembl during NASBLA's 52nd Annual Conference in Milwaukee.

Trembl's dedication to clearing the public waters from intoxicated boat operators and developing warden water survival training are two reasons behind his top honor from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and Revere Survival Products. Trembl also has shown a strong boating safety initiative by increasing working relationships with other agencies that patrol his area, including the U.S. Coast Guard, working closely with the media, and attending public relations events.

Trembl has been a conservation warden with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources since 2000, serving the last nine years as the marine conservation warden stationed in Green Bay. His administrative area includes the Bay of Green Bay and its tributaries for Brown and Oconto Counties, an area that receives a considerable amount of

# WISCONSIN warden named 2011 Officer of the Year

fishing, recreational boating, and commercial boating traffic for most of the year. Trembl has an extremely well-rounded boating program including enforcement, education, public relations, and inter-agency cooperation.

During 2010, Trembl issued 82 boating citations/criminal charges and 97 warnings. He also assisted other wardens

with the issuance of 17 additional citations/criminal charges and numerous other warnings.

He has become a leader in the area of BUI enforcement. In 2010, Trembl arrested 17 boaters for BUI, several of which involved the use of controlled substances. He also assisted other wardens with the arrest of two others for BUI.

Trembl and another warden took the lead on developing a public service announcement to be filmed about boating and cold-water safety relating to open-water duck hunting in response to an increased amount of that activity on Lake Michigan/Green Bay. The PSA worked to distribute an important safety message to hundreds of duck hunters on Green Bay.

In addition, Trembl has been instrumental in improving training for the department's wardens in the area of water safety. As a DAAT instructor and one of the department's two certified water survival instructors, he has been critical in developing and providing water survival training to all of the wardens in the state including all newly hired wardens.



# REGIONAL OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

## **Southern Region Boating Officer of the Year** **Officer**

### **Jerrod Alley**

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources  
**Kentucky**



Officer Jerrod Alley, a six-year veteran of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, is a role model who exemplifies service to the public and helps keep Kentucky's waters safer.

Officer Alley, whose jurisdiction includes Lake Cumberland, spent 492.5 hours working under the boating grant in 2010. During that time he issued 38 courtesy notices and cited 106 boating violations in 2011, including eight boating under the influence charges, multiple alcohol intoxication charges, various drug possession charges and many safety violations.

After encountering many potentially serious safety violations from rented vessels, Alley began speaking with the marina owners regarding their operating instructions to potential renters. He worked with marina personnel to address several of the areas apparently being overlooked when issuing the instructions. Following Alley's involvement, noticeable decreases in rental vessel violations were encountered.

Most notably, Alley was key in responding to several life-threatening calls. He personally pulled two persons from the water after responding to an overturned vessel call. He also pulled five people from the shoreline and water after their vessel sank. He rescued two adults and two children from a sinking vessel after responding to a stranded vessel call on a scheduled day off. Only two adult-sized personal flotation devices were on board the vessel.

## **Western Region Boating Officer of the Year** **Game Warden**

### **Mike Krings**

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
**Montana**



Game Warden Mike Krings began his career as a game warden with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in April 2008. While Krings receives assistance from visiting game wardens during busy weekends, he carries the bulk of the workload on the Tongue River Reservoir (TRR) and is the primary contact for emergencies all week long, 24/7. His nearest backup is located more than an hour away and as a result, he has developed keen officer safety skills and found alternate ways to complete investigations.

Right out of the enforcement academy in 2009, Krings recognized the safety hazards at TRR and began implementing a high visibility and intensive water safety enforcement program. These efforts resulted in a downward trend in the number of violations and arrests in water safety, and park violations in 2010.

Krings takes an especially proactive approach to BUI enforcement, which has led to his being asked to participate in the local DUI highway task force. Together they have set up special patrols and have brought down a DUI / BUI processing trailer owned by the Montana Highway Patrol for processing drunken drivers and boaters.

During the hundreds of boat safety contacts made at TRRSP every summer, Krings issues a far higher number of educational warnings than he does tickets. He also participates in several events each year that allow him to educate kids on water safety.

## Northern Region State Recipients



**Officer  
Steven Stanko**  
**Department of Energy  
& Environmental Protection**  
**Connecticut**

Officer Steve Stanko with the Department of Environmental Protection patrols the Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River. He is a four-year veteran of the Law Enforcement Division and consistently generates a high volume and variety of incidents. He willingly accepts all assignments and has demonstrated his leadership abilities as a Field Training Officer instructing new officers in an effective manner. Officer Stanko distinguished himself in 2010 by making 17 boating arrests and issuing 11 written warnings for boating violations both on Connecticut's waters and at the state's boat launches.

In 2010 Officer Stanko made two arrests for boating under the influence (BUI). The first BUI arrest was in Long Island Sound off the shore of Westbrook where the operator of a vessel failed the standard field sobriety tests and a breath test. The operator was arrested for BUI with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) that was two times the legal limit. During the course of this arrest, Officer Stanko also arrested a passenger who inadvertently displayed illegal narcotics when the officer asked the individual for identification. The individual was found to be illegally in possession of Oxycontin, a prescription drug, and had been using a razor blade to cut the pills in order to snort the substance.

The second BUI arrest occurred while Officer Stanko was participating in Operation Dry Water at Candlewood Lake. Officer Stanko arrested an individual who was found passed out, adrift in his vessel. The operator failed all the standard field sobriety tests and the breath test with a blood alcohol concentration that was twice the legal limit.

Officer Stanko investigated five boating accidents in 2010, several of which involved injuries. He also was the lead officer investigating the premature death of an individual at the Baldwin Bridge Boat Launch in December.



**Senior Corporal  
Douglas Messeck**  
**Department of Natural  
Resources &  
Environmental Control**  
**Delaware**

Agent Douglas Messeck worked very hard in 2010, displaying a high level of professionalism during the execution of his duties as a marine patrol officer. Last year he made over 4000 contacts with the public, documented 770 boardings, and recorded over 330 on-the-water patrol hours while logging in over half of his time as a state employee on boating safety and enforcement.

Agent Messeck maintained his patrol vessel at an impressive level of cleanliness, keeping it in good working order. He has also taken the lead in inspecting and providing advice into the status of other patrol vessels, ensuring all vessels in his area are kept in optimal operating condition and ready for emergency deployment at any time.

Agent Messeck's presence on the water has had a positive influence on the safety of boaters in his patrol area. In addition, last year he took on extra duties such as tracking boat registrations and legal ownership to deter boat theft in Delaware. He also volunteered on numerous occasions to perform boating safety programs for kids during the busy summer months, providing Delaware's boating safety message, "Wear it!"



**Conservation Police Officer  
James Mayes**  
**Department of Natural  
Resources**  
**Illinois**

Conservation Police Officer James Mayes patrols 4900-acre Clinton Lake, one of the state's busiest bodies of water with over 1 million visitors a year, and 2800-acre Lake Decatur, the largest lake on the Sangamon River. His enforcement efforts are an outstanding example of his initiative to make the waterways safer.

During 2010, CPO Mayes made six arrests for persons operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs (OUI). Additionally, he was involved in the apprehension of several other subjects for OUI during enforcement details he coordinated.

CPO Mayes issued 44 boating citations and 50 written warnings, with several for life jacket wear. CPO Mayes is a staunch enforcer of this law especially when it comes to the mandatory life jacket wear law for children and personal watercraft operators. He made 35 drug arrests, 10 arrests for under age subjects illegally consuming alcohol and 4 arrests for subject providing alcohol to minors. He conducted nearly 100 boating inspections and made 67 arrests for fishing violations.

CPO Mayes serves as a Field Sobriety Test (FST) Instructor for the department. In addition to educating officers on OUI enforcement, he has instructed countless local county and municipal officers in FST training. This has aided in removing intoxicated motorists from the roadways.

CPO Mayes serves as the district's evidence officer. He created a system of individual secured lockers and tracking for officers, adding to the security, efficiency and integrity of the facility. He also spearheaded the effort implemented by the Illinois State Police Forensic Science Lab to start a barcode tracking system.

CPO Mayes is also a platoon sergeant with the Illinois National Guard's 233rd Military Police Company. SFC Mayes attended an extensive amount of training in 2010 in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan in 2011, his second combat tour.



**Corporal William Beville**  
**DNR Law Enforcement**  
**Division**  
**Indiana**

Corporal William Beville successfully wears many hats. He is an assistant district commander with dual responsibilities – officer training and field enforcement, a state defensive tactics instructor, a Fish and Wildlife officer, a Hunter Education and Boater Education Instructor, as well as a Boating Enforcement Officer.

Cpl. Beville personally took 90 boating law enforcement actions in 2010. He plans ahead to make concerted efforts in working with officers with a specific purpose in mind. He is a team player and does a very good job communicating his thoughts and views. His positive outlook and team spirit approach to the



profession provides a good example for the officers under his command. He remains very active in his community providing appearances to various groups. He is the top officer in the District Boater Education/water safety public. These programs have traditionally been more challenging to get into the schools; however, he continues to succeed. Last year he conducted 36 boater/water safety public appearances, logging 42 hours in this area.

A composed and compassionate officer, Cpl. Beville's service and professional relations are exemplary. In a drowning and missing person investigation on the Ohio River last December, Cpl. Beville took on the role as family liaison in a multistate, multiagency incident command. His compassionate, empathetic communications to the family of the missing boater were exemplary. He helped set up a location where the family could remain close to the incident command post yet have a comfortable private location in which to grieve. He coordinated and communicated the factual flow of information to the family so they remained in touch with what was developing during the search operations. He partnered with local pastors to minister to the family. This difficult and emotionally challenging task was done with empathy and professionalism.



**Conservation Officer  
Erika Billerbeck  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
Iowa**

Erika Billerbeck's assigned county contains a federal reservoir, which means she responds to all events on the reservoir, including special projects, incidents for investigations, complaints, etc. Officer Billerbeck does a great job handling these demands along with the other demands placed on conservation officers.

Officer Billerbeck is an instructor for field sobriety. She realizes the importance of staying current in alcohol awareness, specifically intoxicated boaters. She has made many boating while intoxicated (BWI) cases over the past several years, and she focuses on checking boaters for signs of intoxication during every boating stop. Her actions on the Coralville Reservoir to find intoxicated boaters are saving lives.

During 2010, Officer Billerbeck investigated seven incidents on the Coralville Reservoir – two property damage incidents, four personal injury incidents and one fatality. While boat incidents always occur on the Coralville Reservoir, the fatal incident on Memorial Weekend involving a child was an unexpected tragedy. Officer Billerbeck handled this situation with utmost professionalism and care.

Soon after completing the fatality investigation, Officer Billerbeck was called to investigate an incident in which the father and mother of two young girls each sustained a broken arm while boating on the Coralville Reservoir. The parents had been trying to secure items in a moving vessel. Knowing that the two young girls were distressed to have both parents spending the night at the hospital, Officer Billerbeck took it upon herself to assist the family further. She treated both girls to dinner at the hospital cafeteria, and then she went to the campsite to take the family pets to a local animal shelter until the family returned. This is not an expected obligation of an Iowa Conservation Officer, but it is Erika's expectation of herself and how she would like officers to treat her family in similar situations.



**Warden  
Neal Wykes  
Warden Service  
Maine**

Warden Neal Wykes with the Maine Warden Service works on Sebago Lake, one of the state's largest lakes at over 26,000 acres and a popular destination for recreationalists of all types. With over 30 years of experience, Warden Wykes continues to seek out training opportunities to aid himself in recreational boating enforcement. In the past, he has attended sound meter training and was instrumental in 2010 in assisting other local law enforcement interested in boating law enforcement.

In the spring of 2010, Warden Wykes received a new FLIR unit for his recently acquired Safe Boat. He spent many hours becoming familiar with the new equipment and took the time to instruct several area wardens in the use of the new electronics and the watercraft.

2010 was a busy recreational boating year, and Warden Wykes logged well

over 200 reportable boating hours, documented over 1,300 contacts, and issued numerous summonses and warnings during boating patrols. All of this was accomplished while being bordered by three vacant warden districts and handling over 400 other calls for service.

During the summer, Warden Wykes took a proactive approach to supervising three deputy game wardens assigned to the boating program. Warden Wykes took the time to educate and teach the new deputies how to inspect boats, identify what safety violations needed addressing, and how to safely operate issued watercraft. Warden Wykes' instruction and experience proved invaluable, resulting in the deputies recording over 1,000 RBS hours and over 3,500 boat inspections.

In 2010 several boating issues arose at Saturday Pond and Warden Wykes attended lake association meetings and brought resolve to the group's recreational boating issues. Warden Wykes has identified the value of creating a positive working relationship with the local marina and frequently makes himself available for concerns, questions and problem solving.



**Sergeant  
Richard Sylvia  
Environmental Police  
Massachusetts**

In his position with the Boat & Recreational Vehicle Safety Bureau, Sergeant Richard Sylvia is responsible for serious and fatal vessel accident investigations as well as providing interagency support for boat accident investigations and boat operation training. He also performs boating enforcement duties including teaching and coordinating public boating safety education courses.

Sgt Sylvia is an officer who constantly and consistently displays integrity, reliability, professionalism and compassion in his response to boat accident investigations. Over the years, he has responded to numerous fatal accidents as well as accidents involving seriously injured accident victims throughout the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Two recent cases exemplify his unique skill set as both a determined investigator and a

compassionate member of law enforcement. Last year Sgt. Sylvia was instrumental in the successful prosecution of a motor vessel accident. The accident involved a 63-foot motor vessel that ran over a 35-foot sail vessel. Numerous agencies responded to the accident in New Bedford Harbor. Both vessels were under way at the time of the collision and sustained extensive physical damage. The accident resulted in fatal injuries to the operator and physical injuries to the passenger of the sail vessel. The heavily damaged vessels required extensive use of physical reconstruction techniques. Sgt. Sylvia conducted numerous interviews of participants, witnesses and marine experts to aid in developing a criminal prosecution. His diligent investigation resulted in a successful prosecution.

During this high-profile case, Sgt. Sylvia simultaneously handled a case involving a minor who fell overboard from a motorboat and was stuck by a propeller. This case resulted in criminal prosecution of the operator. Sgt. Sylvia again utilized his professional and diplomatic skills combined with his sense of compassion when dealing with all parties in this highly emotional case.



**Conservation Officer  
Joel Lundberg  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
Michigan**

Conservation Officer Joel Lundberg has worked for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division (DNR-LED) for over eight years. During this time, he has demonstrated a tremendous work ethic and continually made marine safety one of his top priorities.

Lundberg is assigned to one of the state's busiest inland water counties where he annually participates in boating safety classes, helping youthful operators get boating safety certified. He also spends many hours each boating season doing on-water marine law enforcement.

In 2010 alone, CO Lundberg arrested or assisted in the arrest of eight intoxicated boaters. One of these arrests was made during Operation Dry Water. This specific operator had a BAC of .18, his passenger had a warrant for her arrest and they were in possession of illegal drugs.

Lundberg gave 72 warnings and completed another 14 marine-related arrests, including one arrest for possession of illegal drugs in a motorboat, two arrests for minors in possession of alcohol in a boat, and two fugitive arrests on the water.

On Labor Day weekend of 2010, CO Lundberg was the first responder and lead investigator of a fatal boat crash involving juveniles. He spent many hours thoroughly gathering evidence and compiling witness statements of the crash which occurred on a busy Labor Day weekend. He has also assisted on several other boat crash investigations in his patrol area.

CO Lundberg participated in Michigan DNR-LED's Operation ARREST (AuSable River Recreational Enforcement Strike Team) where hundreds of users take to the river for summer recreation on Michigan's famed AuSable River. A team of officers from multiple agencies patrol the river during these high-use times, with public safety being the primary concern of enforcement efforts.



**Conservation Officer  
Jackie Glaser  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
Minnesota**

Conservation Officer Jackie Glaser is highly respected with 10 years of service in the DNR Enforcement Division. She served those years in the Mound station, which includes a large portion of Lake Minnetonka, a 14,000-acre body of water located in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metro Area. The lake has the highest boat-use density in the state. In addition, she has 25 other lakes and rivers in her patrol area. Prior to her joining the DNR, she served as boat and water safety deputy for Carver County for a year. The very foundation of her career is based on a strong commitment in boating safety. This is truly her specialty.

Officer Glaser is an exceedingly productive officer, having the highest number of enforcement contacts in her district in 2010, which far exceeded the statewide averages. She annually meets or exceeds all work plan goal hours. She is always willing to help with any request for assistance, volunteering to cover vacant stations.

Officer Glaser's most notable asset is being able to handle the various demands of a very busy metro station and still manage to spend a large amount of time out in the field, on the lakes and rivers, doing enforcement and education face to face with boaters and anglers.

She worked 397 hours on boating safety in 2010 – three times the required goal hours. This included numerous night, weekend and holiday hours on the water, as well as volunteering for extra boating details. In an average year, she writes a number of citations for boating safety violations and about twice as many written warnings. In 2010, she was the primary arresting officer on 17 boating under the influence (BUI) cases and assisted her co-workers and sheriff's deputies on other BUI cases.



**Sergeant  
Brice Remus  
Cass County Sheriff's  
Department  
Nebraska**

Sergeant Brice Remus is employed as a deputy by the Cass County Sheriff, and his beat is Beaver Lake in eastern Nebraska. He also has law enforcement responsibility for the surrounding residential area. Beaver Lake is a semi-private lake community of about 2,000 residents and 400 surface acres of water.

In addition to his regular law enforcement duties, Sgt. Remus has developed a strong interest in boating and boating safety. In 2000 he became a state certified boating safety instructor and has taught several classes annually for the past 11 years, certifying literally hundreds of boaters in safe boating practices. Sgt. Remus spends many hours in the summer months boat patrolling Beaver Lake. As a result, very few accidents occur there in spite of the fact many users of the lake cause extreme vessel overcrowding, especially during weekends and holidays.

Sergeant Remus's boat patrol activities provide a constant vigilance of the lake and the lake residents recognize him as a true professional. He is extremely reliable and self-motivated with an exemplary work ethic. He is well versed in the legal requirements of Nebraska recreational boating, navigation rules, and the geographic layout of his patrol area. He is always willing to assist boat patrols and



is an outstanding asset to water patrols in his area.

In 2010 he was the primary investigator in his first boating fatality at Beaver Lake. The accident involved a man who had fallen overboard and was missing for several days. Sgt. Remus worked untiringly throughout the investigation to interview witnesses and the boat operator to reconstruct the events leading to the man falling overboard. He also exhibited his resourcefulness in recruiting people with sophisticated sonar devices that aided in the recovery of the missing man.



**Sergeant  
Cindy DeLappa  
Lake George Park  
Commission  
New York**

Sergeant Cindy DeLappa has been a peace officer for the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) for 20 years. Her relentless efforts have contributed significantly to the overall boating safety effort on Lake George, a famous vacation destination for boaters.

At 32 miles long, Lake George presents the LGPC's officers with over 50 square miles of patrol area, including the shoreline and some 245 islands. An annual boat count puts the estimated number of boats found daily on the lake at somewhere between 10,000 and 12,000.

On May 31, 2010, Sgt. DeLappa performed beyond the normal scope of her duties. At approximately 3:30 p.m., she was on routine patrol when she heard a distress call broadcast over the EMS channel. The dispatcher was calling for any available patrol vessel to check for an overturned canoe near the Sun Castle Resort. Arriving in less than 10 minutes, Sgt. DeLappa was the first officer on the scene. She spotted the overturned canoe about 100 yards from shore.

One of the canoe occupants had made it to shore and was yelling to Sgt. DeLappa to save his friend, who had not surfaced. Sgt. DeLappa saw the man lying motionless on the bottom in approximately 12'-15' of water. With little regard for her own safety, Sgt. DeLappa swam to the bottom and brought the man up to the surface. For several minutes, she used her water rescue skills to keep herself afloat and

the victim's head above water until help arrived. When the fire department and county sheriff's patrol vessels arrived, they assisted Sgt. DeLappa with getting the victim on her vessel. CPR was performed, but unfortunately the victim could not be revived. Nevertheless, Sgt. DeLappa's brave and decisive action gave the victim a fighting chance.



**Game Warden  
Erik Schmidt  
Game & Fish Department  
North Dakota**

Game Warden Erik Schmidt works the very busy Lake Oahe in his home district, which has become a fishing and boating hotspot. He is also very eager to work shifts on the Missouri River in Bismarck as part of the river task force, which is focused on boating safety. Over the course of the summer Warden Schmidt worked about 130 on-water hours, many of which were alone and in hazardous conditions. Along with the hours spent on the water Warden Schmidt works countless hours doing safety and compliance checks at the many boat ramps located throughout his district and the Bismarck area.

Warden Schmidt has become very skilled at detection, field testing, arrest and prosecution of impaired boat operators. During the 2010 boating season his long hours of hard work netted four boating under the influence arrests.

Warden Schmidt is a very enthusiastic worker and approaches each day with a positive attitude. He is always willing to work when times are busiest on the water. Because of his hard work and dedication the people of North Dakota have a safer environment on the water to enjoy.



**Officer  
Walter Hodgkiss  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
Ohio**

Officer Walter Hodgkiss strives for excellence in the workplace and is determined to always do what's right. He is described as someone who exercises tact, can think quickly on his feet and takes great pride in his work, always completing a project before its deadline. He is quick to identify a problem and is able to solve it with little direction. Officer Hodgkiss stays focused on customer service, to both fellow

employees and the public and is known for being straightforward and kind at the same time.

Officer Hodgkiss routinely is complimented while on patrol, often from someone he just wrote a ticket to. He leads by example and has become a valuable resource at his field office and across the state. He is highly motivated and promotes a positive work atmosphere through his outstanding communication skills. He is poised and works with a high level of confidence. He is always willing to accept a new task or responsibility and does so without complaint, often changing his personal schedule to accommodate. His willingness to help others is apparent. He is always quick to respond to a request for assistance from a fellow officer, and can always be reached regardless of what time of day it is. He is selfless and doesn't hesitate to put others first.

Officer Hodgkiss takes education to heart. He volunteered and participated in the "Coldwater Boot Camp," exposing himself to the elements to further the study of the effects on the body of cold-water immersion.

Officer Hodgkiss has been recognized for his part in developing the "Get on Board with a Sober Boater" campaign. This campaign and its efforts received national recognition, and Officer Hodgkiss accepted the Alcohol Awareness Impact Award from the National Safe Boating Council, on behalf of the Division of Watercraft.



**Waterway Conservation  
Officer  
Larry Furlong  
Fish & Boat Commission  
Pennsylvania**

In 2002 Larry Furlong graduated from the H.R. Stackhouse School of Fisheries Conservation and Watercraft Safety. He has been assigned to E. Allegheny County, district 2033, for the past eight years. In 2004 Officer Furlong graduated from the USCG Maritime Patrol Officers Course and was awarded the 2004 BUI Top Gun Award.

Officer Furlong has a commendable education and public outreach program in his district. In 2010 he taught two safe boating courses and presented three boating safety programs. He participated in Boating Safety Week. This officer is an

integral part of any special detail in the Three Rivers area. He participated in five boating safety details, including Operation Dry Water. He worked with the Pennsylvania DUI Association in setting up a BUI Boating Safety Public Relations Task Force in the Three Rivers area for the Fourth of July weekend. During this weekend, Officer Furlong took news reporters from two stations on ride-alongs on his patrol vessel.

Officer Furlong has developed excellent partnerships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh River Rescue and the Coast Guard, enabling the PFBC to provide safe boating during the many marine events that take place in the Pittsburgh area. Officer Furlong routinely takes a very active role in the planning and coordination for the patrolling of special events and serves as a liaison between the southwest region staff and other federal, state and local entities.

Officer Furlong's BUI detection skills are outstanding as evidenced by his six BUI arrests and two BUI assists. He is a BUI Instructor and instructed the PFBC's 19th WCO class in BUI Detection & Enforcement Techniques. He also investigated four boat accidents and assisted with two other boat accident investigations.



**Environmental Police Officer  
Sheila Paquette**  
Department of  
Environmental  
Management  
Rhode Island

EPO Sheila Paquette is a very hard working, dedicated officer. She conducts numerous boat accident reconstructions every year and reviews her work repeatedly to ensure that her reconstructions are accurate.

EPO Paquette conducts numerous boat patrols – no matter what time of year or the temperature – relentlessly enforcing boating safety laws and regulations as well as a host of other laws and regulations. Officer Paquette operates a variety of patrol boats, including 17-foot Boston Whalers and 30-foot rigid hull inflatables up to a 35-foot twin diesel patrol craft.

She studied for and obtained a USCG Captain's license on her own time to enhance her professional credentials.

A very busy mother of two, Officer Paquette always brings plenty of energy to the job. She would be an asset to any law enforcement agency.



**Conservation Officer  
Sam Schelhaas**  
Game, Fish and Parks  
South Dakota

Conservation Officer Sam Schelhaas has over eight years of experience in the field in two duty stations and continues to keep the Department's mission in focus while meeting the needs of the public on the water. He possesses and demonstrates a professional demeanor in his boating patrol activities and was highly efficient in handling all water incidents in 2010.

Conservation Officer Schelhaas worked diligently with the Yankton County Emergency Management Office in securing and monitoring two joint power agreements between the two agencies, involving nearly \$30,000 worth of boating equipment. This relationship has fostered a sound basis for conducting joint operations in the area and establishing support roles to each agency in times of disaster, need and emergency.

Conservation Officer Schelhaas was assigned his first duties this year as a wildlife training officer. During the mentoring and assessment of a trainee, he provided relevant and needed information to his trainee in regards to boating enforcement. Throughout the year and during this training, Officer Schelhaas conducted nearly 100 hours of on-water patrol, resulting in the apprehension of three individuals for boating under the influence. Additionally, Officer Schelhaas was involved in four search-and-rescue efforts and assisted several law enforcement agencies in the recovery of lost persons.

Officer Schelhaas is a reliable officer that serves the public selflessly. His efforts were vital in the boating patrol activities in the southeastern part of the state. Officer Schelhaas's boating responsibilities encompass the Missouri River corridor with over 30 miles of shoreline in Yankton County. He works closely with the Corp of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, ensuring consistent joint

patrol and the protection of endangered and threatened species habitat that utilize this district.

## Southern Region State Recipients



**Officer  
Walter C. Lacey**  
Marine Police  
Alabama

Officer Walter C. Lacey's professionalism, dedication to duty, and his belief in serving his community reflect great credit upon himself and the Alabama Marine Police Division. He works a one-man post on Lake Jordan and had a very active year in 2010, having written over 100 citations and worked several boating accidents. Although a relatively new officer, he has stepped into a leadership role in alcohol- and drug-related enforcement as evidenced by his cases: 7 BUI arrests, 1 DUI arrest, 9 minor consuming alcohol cases, 3 illegal possession of marijuana cases, 1 illegal drug possession case, and 3 possession of drug paraphernalia cases. He also made one arrest for obstruction of governmental operations and one arrest for escape.

As a proponent of boating safety education, Officer Lacey has conducted numerous educational and community service events in the River Region area. Additionally, he volunteered to attend ALERT (Alabama Emergency Response Team) and Explosive Ordinance Instructor School and has been very active in teaching ALERT classes to other law enforcement agencies in the region. In addition to his patrol, instructor and educational duties, he attained an amazing 200 hours of continuing education credits in 2010.

Officer Lacey also believes in serving his community however needed. One summer day while traveling Opateola Street in Wetumpka, Ala., he observed a toddler walking down the middle of the road. Noting the lack of adult supervision, Officer Lacey intervened and provided safety for the toddler. He then contacted the local police department for assistance and helped the local police locate the toddler's residence. Wetumpka P.D. eventually was able to



contact the child's parents at work. The toddler had wandered away from the house while a relative, who was supposed to be watching the toddler, took a nap. Officer Lacey's actions prevented further endangerment to the toddler and quite possibly saved the child's life.



**Corporal  
Lyndle Crownover  
Game and Fish  
Commission  
Arkansas**

Corporal Lyndle Crownover has been in law enforcement for 19 years, working more than five years as a wildlife officer for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. He is stationed in Baxter County, home to the White River (56 miles), Norfolk River (4 miles), Buffalo National River (13 miles), Lake Norfolk (20,000 acres) and Bull Shoals Lake (45,440 acres) – all of which see well over 12 million visitors each year.

Since joining AGFC, Cpl. Crownover has been the driving force behind BUI and boating safety efforts throughout his district. He has worked with other local wildlife officers, the Corps of Engineers, the Baxter County Sheriff's Department and other agencies to plan law enforcement patrols on area lakes and rivers, placing a high priority on BUI enforcement. In 2010 he issued and assisted in 44 BUI arrests – 53 percent of all BUI arrests for the entire state. He was instrumental in organizing efforts for Operation Dry Water in his district, partnering with other local law enforcement agencies; distributing flyers; and notifying local media. Lake Norfolk experienced a reduction in boating accidents in 2010, a direct correlation to Cpl. Crownover's enforcement efforts targeting BUI. He has maintained a 100 percent conviction rate for BUI arrests.

Cpl. Crownover worked 816 hours of boating patrols and made 4,089 contacts. He issued 131 citations and warnings and was credited with 89 assists. He investigated five boating accidents. He also organized and taught eight boating education classes and conducted or assisted with an additional 17 public relation/school programs related to boating/water safety. Each year he assists with the annual hands-on boating education class for Calico Rock School, allowing students to operate several types of watercraft under direct supervision.



**Officer  
Ken Thompson  
Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission  
Florida**

Officer Ken Thompson has been a stellar officer since beginning his career in 1989. He always puts forth the extra effort, maintains an even keel, and has a positive, contagious attitude along with maintaining his equipment in immaculate condition and ready for service.

In 2010, as in many other years, Officer Thompson put forth great effort in keeping the waterways in and around Tampa Bay safe. He finished the year with 1,122 vessel patrol hours, 86 boating citations (66 of which were manatee zone violations), and 283 written warnings. Throughout the year, he handled numerous boating accidents and responded to two reports of attempted suicide jumpers from the Sunshine Skyway bridge.

Officer Thompson has remained a member in good standing of the Southwest Special Operations Group (SOG) team since its inception. As a SOG team member, he has responded to three manhunts. One manhunt was for a suspect that dragged a Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) trooper during a traffic stop and then fled into the woods; the second for a suspect that shot at a FHP trooper and also fled. The third manhunt was for the suspect in the tragic shooting death of two Tampa Police officers.

Officer Thompson is an expert boat driver and has helped on numerous occasions with the Waterborne Response Team (WRT) training. He has also volunteered to be the team leader for the newly formed Critical Incident Stress Management team. For the majority of 2010, Ken provided expert guidance and training to many new officers as a Field Training Officer while trying to meet his goal of vessel patrol hours.

Thompson was instrumental in developing and implementing an Equipment Maintenance Training Program. He worked with other officers and supervisors and delivered a finished product to the field.



**Ranger First Class  
Robert Timmerman  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
Georgia**

Working for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement, Ranger First Class Robert Timmerman conducts water patrols on Clarks Hill Lake – at over 70,000 acres, the largest U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project east of the Mississippi River – and the Savannah River.

In 2010, RFC Timmerman devoted over 70 percent of his patrol time from May through August on or around Clarks Hill Lake. He logged over 700 boating safety patrol hours, conducted safety inspections on over 350 vessels and investigated 14 boating complaints. Timmerman issued nearly 70 boating contacts and had over 25 boating-related assists. He assisted with six waterborne search and rescue operations in which nine citizens were brought to safety. He also presented six boater education programs in his assigned area.

RFC Timmerman recognized that many of the Clarks Hill Lake visitors were unable to relay their location in time of need. On his own initiative, he obtained highly visible road signs to place on the 11 bridges that cross Clarks Hill Lake. Each bridge is now marked with the road name and creek or river, enabling all boaters to accurately relay their location in the event of an emergency.

RFC Timmerman's demonstrated work ethic, organizational commitment, and leadership potential were evident during Georgia's implementation of Swiftwater Rescue Training. Timmerman trained to instruct in South Bend, Indiana, at the River Rescue School. Upon his return to Georgia, RFC Timmerman assumed the role of lead instructor and developed lesson plans for statewide in-service.

Since beginning his career with DNR in July 2001, RFC Robert Timmerman has proven to be a dedicated boating officer who strives to meet the demands of the growing recreational boating population. He received the 2007 Georgia Governors Award for Safety and the 2007, 2009 & 2010 Region III Boating Officer of the Year Award.



**Officer  
Eric Deneault**  
Wildlife, Parks &  
Tourism  
Kansas

Kansas Natural Resource Officer Eric Deneault became the boating officer in northeast Kansas in 2009. He immediately began to acquaint himself with other officers and the area's bodies of water and develop plans and strategies to address problem areas.

During the 2010 season, Officer Deneault attended the International Association of Marine Theft Investigators conference, the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Patrol Officer's Tactical course, the NASBLA level 1 comprehensive boat accident investigation course and the Visual Statement FX 3 accident diagramming course. He brought back his knowledge and began to apply it toward his duties and passed the information along to other officers. Officer Deneault assisted his custody and control officer, Glenn Cannizzaro, with training involving officers in the water demonstrating several exercises relating to officer survival. This was one of the few times officers have utilized training exercises in a water-based environment.

Officer Deneault secured training for selected officers utilizing the department's new side-scan sonar units. He also set up a training session with various department officers, local dive teams, and other law enforcement agencies to conduct exercises in utilizing these units. During the summer of 2010, Officer Deneault was responsible for the discovery of four submerged vessels and five submerged vehicles. One vehicle recovered from Clinton reservoir contained the remains of a female who had been missing since 2004. Upon examination of the crime scene, it was classified as a suicide, but the tenacity of Officer Deneault to report his findings and work with the local law enforcement and rescue agencies resulted in the closure of a six-year-old missing person case.

Officer Deneault organized five special enforcement operations targeting boating under the influence violations. These operations resulted in increased awareness from the boating community, increased media coverage, and arrests for actual violations relating to boating under the influence.



**Senior Agent  
Toby Meyers**  
Department of Wildlife  
and Fisheries  
Louisiana

Senior Agent Toby Meyers has been employed with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for eight years and has eagerly engaged in all aspects of boating safety in Northwest Louisiana. His bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Louisiana State University Shreveport has set the foundation for him to build on within the department.

As a graduate of the Marine Patrol Officer Course (MPOC), Agent Meyers has utilized the instructor skills learned to provide a positive impact on the local boating community. He personally set up and presented initial boating safety instructor courses to the Caddo and Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol deputies as well as to the military game wardens that patrol Barksdale A.F.B. In 2010 he provided 12 public boating safety classes, providing recreational boaters with the necessary skills to use the waterways in a safe manner.

Agent Meyers attended and graduated from NASBLA's Boating Under the Influence Course. Already extremely experienced in working DWIs, this course honed his knowledge and skills to better tackle an ever-increasing problem with boating under the influence on Louisiana's waterways. He is directly responsible for the removal of several intoxicated boat operators from area lakes and rivers to provide a safer boating environment.

Recently certified as a Swift Water/Flood Rescue Technician, Agent Meyers put his newly acquired expertise to the test during the massive floods that hit Northwest Louisiana last fall. His training in high-water rescue was invaluable in providing rescue and assistance to numerous Bossier Parish residents.

Agent Meyers has investigated and processed numerous boat accidents for Region 1. His keen analytical mind is able to weed out erroneous information and develop an accident scene to bring out the true facts of the mishap. His report conclusions are a true and comprehensive depiction of the incident.



**Corporal  
Jeffrey W. Sweitzer**  
Natural Resources  
Police  
Maryland

Corporal Jeffrey W. Sweitzer is an 11-year veteran of the Maryland Natural Resources Police and is currently assigned to the Western Region. Corporal Sweitzer is professional, tenacious and an outstanding officer.

Corporal Sweitzer's experience, dedication and proactive law enforcement style gained him the distinction of Area 8's most consistent and highest producing officer. In 2010 he led Area 8 in OWI arrests and hours of boat patrol. His outstanding accomplishments included 198 hours of boat patrol, 65 boating-related citations, 201 boating-related warnings, five weekend JEA patrols in Ocean City and seven arrests for the charge of Operating a Vessel while Under the Influence of Alcohol.

Corporal Sweitzer received his area's nomination for Natural Resources Police Boating Safety Officer of the Year for 10 of the 11 years he's been with the Natural Resources Police. He was also selected as the Natural Resources Police Boating Safety Officer of the Year in 2008. In addition to his boating enforcement activities he possesses a vast knowledge of conservation laws and regulations, and served as the Area 8 criminal investigator.



**Trooper  
Kimberly Davis**  
State Highway Patrol  
Missouri

Trooper Kimberly Davis is a 12-year veteran of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Recently, the Missouri State Water Patrol was merged with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Kimberly has served her entire career as a member of the Water Patrol Division.

Trooper Davis truly is a well-rounded, inspiring officer who consistently displays enthusiasm, professionalism, and dedication in her approach to her duties. Her first assignment after graduating from recruit training was to Smithville Lake in northwest Missouri. From the beginning, she was an instant success with the patrons of Smithville



Lake. Her congenial manner, coupled with her genuine desire to make people safer, gives her a unique ability to perfectly balance education with enforcement. These efforts have not gone unnoticed. She was offered the opportunity to become the Safety Education Coordinator for the northwest Missouri district, in addition to her patrol duties. Trooper Davis readily accepted the challenge. Her new responsibilities included the scheduling and presenting of boating safety courses and programs. Thousands of young people have participated in mandatory boater education courses and they are a legacy of Trooper Davis's work in public education.

Trooper Davis spearheaded two very successful projects. One was in partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in rewarding children for wearing their life jackets. Any child found wearing a life jacket while on the water received a T-shirt that read, "I was caught wearing my life jacket." In another program, troopers issued a voucher for ice cream to youths who were wearing a life jacket. Both programs were very popular with both kids and adults. Trooper Davis's creativity in combining safety education with regular patrol duties projects a positive image for boating safety.



**Senior Officer  
William Cain  
Wildlife Resources  
Commission  
North Carolina**

Senior Officer William Cain has been working with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission for five years and stationed in Beaufort County for four of those years. His patrol area consists of two large river basins, the Pamlico Sound and more than a dozen navigable creeks.

During 2010, he dedicated more than 350 hours to boating patrol, 58 of which were at night. He performed safety inspections on over 360 boats, resulting in 34 arrests and 39 warning citations. Ten of these arrests were for Operating While Impaired (OWI). North Carolina led the nation in OWI arrests during Operation Dry Water last year. Officer Cain led the State in OWI arrests during Operation Dry Water, arresting five individuals for OWI in one weekend.

In 2010 Officer Cain devoted over 30 hours of his time this year promoting boating safety in his patrol area. He instructed five boating safety courses this past year, gave a program at a local middle school where he spoke with the entire fifth grade concerning boating safety after they had completed the boating safety course, and spoke with approximately 60 children at summer camp concerning boating safety.

Officer Cain received several letters of commendation this year for his courage and going beyond the call of his duties. One letter referenced an incident in which he responded to a distress call. The call came out on a Saturday morning approximately 4:30 a.m. on one of the harshest winter days during one of the worst winters on record for Eastern North Carolina. The distress call was from a boat taking on water with five individuals on board. He quickly responded alone to the distress call, launching his boat in snow, sleet and treacherous waters. His quick action prevented the party from entering into a state of severe hypothermia.



**First Sergeant  
Ken Simmons  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
South Carolina**

First Sgt. Ken Simmons has a keen understanding of the importance of boating patrols and enforcement. This was never more apparent than in the early summer of 2010, when two horrific accidents that killed four young people occurred within minutes of each other. Sgt. Simmons had to identify exactly what had happened and assess the needs of the injured. He performed CPR on one of the victims until EMS arrived; that victim later died from massive head injuries.

However, this was just the beginning of Sgt. Simmons summer. He supervises two counties, but when the supervisor of an adjoining unit took sick leave for eight months, Sgt. Simmons volunteered to take that unit as well. He worked tirelessly to ensure coverage of Lake Murray and the rivers of his unit, as well as the adjacent unit. He accomplished this with a strong work ethic, "leading by example" and proper communication. In a few days, Sgt. Simmons had merged the two units into one cohesive group that prevented another major accident during this time period. Courtesy boat

inspections, as well as normal patrols, were organized to optimize available manpower during peak times, while still keeping someone back to answer calls throughout the day.

Simmons has proven himself an excellent, well-rounded boating officer in every aspect. His outstanding performance is seen in his dedication to boating safety enforcement, BUI enforcement, leadership, outreach, accident investigation and community service. In 2010, he spent over 270 hours on patrol, inspecting 377 vessels and over 232 fishermen. He issued 62 boating summons and assisted with 47. Of the 47 assists, 11 were BUI and 2 were Felony BUI. Simmons is professional and courteous in his demeanor and appearance and represents the Department in a positive light.



**Officer Jeff Roberson  
Wildlife Resources  
Agency  
Tennessee**

Officer Jeff Roberson's assigned area encompasses 12 counties and is bisected by the Tennessee River. His boating law enforcement efforts were outstanding in 2010. He inspected 425 vessels for compliance with Tennessee boating laws resulting in 53 citations and 24 warnings. He also arrested six operators for boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs and assisted six boaters who were stranded because of mechanical failure. In addition he issued citations for other violations including 96 for sport fishing, two for commercial fishing, and nine for hunting violations.

Officer Roberson excelled in boating safety education. He monitored and graded 190 boating education exams for Tennessee's mandatory education program, and he taught seven boating safety courses. In addition he taught 20 students in hunter education, which has a boating education component.

Officer Roberson did a great job in the area of public outreach. He partnered with the Boy Scouts of America, received the Hardin County 4-H Partnership of the Year award, delivered five public programs and set up public displays at three locations. He was also responsive to the media and wrote two newspaper articles and participated in a radio show highlighting boating safety.

After attending the NASBLA Advanced Boating Accident Investigation course in 2010, Officer Roberson put his training and skills to use by leading the investigation on one fatal and two serious injury boating accidents. He also assisted on a fatal boat collision involving a recreational boat and a commercial tow barge. By the time the agency was notified of the incident, the tow was several miles upriver from the collision site. Officer Roberson was able to locate the vessel, stop and board it, and collect evidence that proved crucial in determining the cause.



**Game Warden Ryan Hall**  
**Parks & Wildlife**  
**Department**  
**Texas**

Game Warden Ryan Hall's patrol assignment is Polk County, which includes Lake Livingston, one of the largest lakes in Texas at approximately 83,000 acres, as well as the Neches and Trinity rivers. He is routinely called upon to patrol from a personal watercraft due to his training and expertise in this area.

Warden Hall has developed a reputation of being one of the best at detecting intoxicated operators. He has developed knowledge in the Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Texas Water Safety Act and other state and federal statutes that is far superior to most. He has either made or been instrumental in approximately 65 boating while intoxicated arrests in his career – no small feat in just eight years. He also has a near-100% conviction rate on all of his BWI arrests. Warden Hall's ability to articulate facts in a clear and convincing manner to juries has been touted by district and county court judges, prosecuting and defense attorneys, and jurors. The reputation that Hall has developed is often sought out by fellow officers when they need help in filing BWI cases. He has been utilized by his supervisors to train both new and veteran officers in all aspects of BWI enforcement.

Warden Hall has been instrumental in working with the county's district attorney in implementing a zero tolerance for refusal at all times on Lake Livingston. Since the implementation

last year, Hall has been involved in approximately 25 BWI arrests. The results of this effort have drastically reduced the number of boating accidents and drownings, making Lake Livingston a safer recreational lake for the public. Ryan has also developed a strong working relationship with the Trinity River Authority.



**Conservation Police Officer**  
**James Brooks**  
**Department of Game &**  
**Inland Fisheries**  
**Virginia**

Officer James Brooks conducted numerous on-water patrols on area lakes and rivers in 2010. He also participated in nine boating under the influence safety checkpoints and investigated a complaint about illegal drug activity at a boat ramp and in areas along the Clinch River.

Because of his dedication, Officer Brooks led his district for boating enforcement with 57 arrests for boating or boating-related offenses. He contributed to public safety by arresting a subject for DUI; underage possession of alcohol; possession of alcohol on or near boat ramps; and felony possessions of Schedule II Narcotics. He also made charges for littering, drinking in public and public display of alcohol. He led the district in detecting violations on Laurel Bed and Hidden Valley lakes.

During one boat patrol on the Clinch River, Officer Brooks encountered two subjects leaving the water with a johnboat in the back of a truck. After conversing with the vehicle's operator, he determined that the subjects had been fishing. Upon checking the fishing license of the vehicle operator, he detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage. He administered a field sobriety test and determined that the operator was operating under the influence of alcohol, resulting in an arrest for DUI.

Officer Brooks made an extraordinary effort in boating safety education by initiating seven educational programs and coordinating five boating safety classes. He was active in two other boating exhibits. During the course of his outreach activities, he led the district by contacting over 2,000 citizens. To ensure

compliance with state-mandated training, he offered instruction specifically for Tazewell County deputies and Virginia State Police which allowed for joint agency patrols on waterways in the county.



**Natural Resources**  
**Police Officer**  
**Timothy White**  
**Department of Natural**  
**Resources**  
**West Virginia**

Officer Timothy White is assigned to Nicholas County, West Virginia. Encompassed in his area is Summersville Lake, the premier recreational lake in the state. The quality of the water is such that Summersville Lake has been referred to as the Little Bahamas of the East. It is such a sought-after recreational area that boats from five states are berthed at the marina for the entire boating season year after year. The size of the lake also results in a significant number of large marine-documented vessels. In addition, the Gauley River, recognized as the most challenging and hazardous white water in the Eastern United States, flows through Nicholas County, beginning at the tow of the Summersville Lake Dam.

Officer White participated in the planning and execution of special boat patrols that included multiple shifts, multiple patrol boats and kayaks as spotter craft to encourage the public to voluntarily obey statutory requirements. Officer White was the arresting officer or lead patrol officer for 87 percent of the BUI arrests made in this district. His abilities to locate, identify, confirm and arrest boaters under the influence are uncanny.

Officer White's leadership led to district-wide accomplishments. A primary concern expressed by headquarters was that Summersville Lake had a high number of accidents for fiscal year 2008-09. Through increased patrols and aggressive enforcement, led by Officer White, the accidents have been suppressed, going from 13 in fiscal year 2008-09 to two in the 2010 boating season.

Officer White performed 360 boating hours, including 185 enforcement hours on the water for the 2010 boating season.



He issued 49 citations and 59 warnings. He was the lead officer in three BUI prosecutions and the assisting officer in three additional BUI prosecutions. He conducted 223 Compliance/Safety Checks and assisted 25 vessels.

## Western Region State Recipients



**Trooper  
Justin Rodgers  
Wildlife Troopers  
Alaska**

Assigned to the Dillingham Post, "C" Detachment Trooper Justin Rodgers has established himself as the Detachment's 2010 leader in rural Alaska boating safety enforcement. His boating safety efforts extend beyond boating safety enforcement patrols and include boating safety education in rural Alaskan schools and maintenance of the Kids Don't Float life jacket stand at the Dillingham Small Boat Harbor.

Trp. Rodgers is a state pilot and spends the majority of his time flying to patrol the vast Bristol Bay area. Therefore, his extra effort in 2010 in conducting boating safety patrols in rural Alaska is noteworthy, especially since rural Alaska leads the state in fatal boating safety incidents.

Trp. Rodgers' personal boating safety enforcement statistics for 2010 included 32 hours dedicated solely to boating safety enforcement with 115 recreational boats contacted and 24 warnings and 14 boating safety violations issued. Trp. Rodgers also logged 5.5 hours in boating safety education presentations in rural Alaska schools, delivering important boating safety messages to 85 rural schoolchildren.

Additionally, Trp. Rodgers ensured local Kids Don't Float stations were maintained and always kept extra life jackets on his patrol boat to lend to boaters. Further, Trp. Rodgers always took the time to explain the importance and reasons behind the various safety items, leaving the public with a better understanding of boating safety requirements. Finally, there were no fatal or serious boating safety accidents in Dillingham during 2010.

Trp. Rodgers epitomizes C Detachment's mission of protecting Alaskans and their wildlife resources. His positive attitude, commitment to getting the job done, and willingness to take on any assignment given to him in a prompt, professional, and thorough manner truly enhances the image of the Department. His performance and dedication to the State's Boating Safety mission was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Alaska Wildlife Troopers.



**Deputy  
Andy Bahn  
Maricopa County  
Sheriff's Office  
Arizona**

Deputy Andy Bahn has been with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for 10 years and has spent the last four years with the Lake Patrol Division. He has a strong desire to serve the residents of Maricopa County in all aspects of his law enforcement responsibilities. He rises above the norm when it comes to working Lake Patrol.

Deputy Bahn, besides being an experienced patrol deputy, is a basic emergency medical technician, a certified SCUBA diver for the Sheriff's Office Dive Team, and a certified phlebotomist. He assists other deputies on the squad and within the office by performing blood draws for the prosecution of operating under the influence and driving under the influence arrests.

In 2010, Deputy Bahn led the Sheriff's Office in making 31 OUI arrests. This was almost 40 percent of the total OUI arrests made at Lake Pleasant. Deputy Bahn spent in excess of 350 hours in 2010 devoted to on-water boating enforcement; he wrote 290 water-related citations and 117 boating warnings. He was also involved in the investigation of three boating accidents.

Lake Pleasant has had the distinction of being on the top 10 list of dangerous waterways in the United States for the last several years. It is also the second largest lake within the state of Arizona and is arguably the busiest body of water within the State. The number of alcohol-related boating accidents is down at Lake Pleasant, and it's believed that this is directly related to the enforcement efforts of Deputy Bahn.



**Park Ranger  
Grant Brown  
State Parks  
Colorado**

Park Ranger Grant Brown has worked for Colorado State Parks on a permanent basis since 2008; however, he began working as a seasonal employee with Parks as soon as he was old enough to have a job. His duty station is Cherry Creek State Park, which is home to one of the busiest reservoirs in Colorado. Ranger Brown oversees the Lake District at this busy park, which sees nearly 28,000 boats annually.

Safety is Ranger Brown's top priority. In 2010, he and his boat staff assisted 1841 persons, issued 112 citations, responded to 10 boat accidents, and logged 2034 patrol hours on the water. In addition, Ranger Brown taught several boat safety classes, teaching more than one tenth of all people taking the class in Colorado. Ranger Brown is also passionate about boating under the influence (BUI) enforcement in Colorado. He led Colorado in BUI arrests in 2010. Additionally, he helped organize a BUI Checkpoint in concurrence with Operation Dry Water and The Heat Is On national campaigns.

Ranger Brown's dedication to the Boat Safety Program is unmatched. He spends countless hours working on bettering the program. He often comes in on his own time to place buoys, work on patrol boats, or assist with accidents, etc. He constantly seeks out opportunities to improve his knowledge base, attending various trainings.

Perhaps one of the most impressive attributes Ranger Brown possesses is the ability to be an approachable enforcement officer. He is always sought out by not only other professionals, but also by the boating community and park visitors. Cherry Creek Marina patrons all know him by name, and are constantly stopping by to say hi. Ranger Brown is both fair and firm in his enforcement, and he has therefore earned the respect of the boating community.



**Captain  
Dan Kindig  
Minidoka County  
Sheriff's Office  
Idaho**

Captain Dan Kindig has been a full-time deputy with the Minidoka County Sheriff's Office since 1989, working his way up through the ranks. He has been instrumental in developing, maintaining and overseeing the Marine Patrol Division of the Minidoka County Sheriff's Office, including the dive/rescue team.

Capt. Kindig's attention to detail and his commitment to service have earned him the respect of the surrounding counties, and he is called upon frequently to assist them with dive/rescue operations. Capt. Kindig has developed a positive working relationship with other organizations within the community. Marine patrols for the county involve a reservoir and portions of the Snake River, some remote in nature. Every year inexperienced boaters are stranded in these hard-to-reach locales and need to be rescued. Capt. Kindig leads a team of experienced river operators to bring these boaters to safety.

Capt. Kindig is also very involved in the education of children when it comes to boating safety. Every year he teaches hundreds of schoolchildren about the importance of wearing life jackets and safe boating practices. He is a certified boating safety instructor and has taught the Boat Idaho boating safety course to countless people over the years.

Capt. Kindig uses his experience as a marine patrol officer to help others and has been an active instructor at the state's annual marine law enforcement academy. He has also been instrumental in the development of an on-the-water tactical based instruction course for marine officers and a swift-water boat operation and navigation course for Idaho. One of his fellow instructors notes that "Dan's willingness and drive to develop better training for future marine deputies and to better serve the boating public is what makes him stand out as a leader among his peers."



**Game Warden  
John Swisher  
Department of Wildlife  
Nevada**

John Swisher started as a fish hatchery technician for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) in 1994. In 1999, he became a game warden primarily responsible for boating patrols on Lahontan Reservoir.

Situated in the high desert of Northern Nevada, Lahontan had for many years been a magnet for drunk and irresponsible boating. After several years working on boating safety on the lake, Warden Swisher took an operating under the influence (OUI) training class in 2004. Over the next few boating seasons he made 15 OUI arrests and helped to change the unsafe culture of an important regional waterway. The word has now spread through the boating public that drinking and boating do not mix on Lahontan.

NDOW recently added another experienced boating officer to the lake, but before this change Warden Swisher was the main liaison with Lahontan State Park rangers and Lyon and Churchill Counties Search and Rescue personnel. He also helped schedule other game wardens who added law enforcement presence during the busy boating season. This team approach helped make Lahontan a dramatically safer place, and it shows the teamwork ethic that defines this officer.

Also during this time, Warden Swisher has managed an unsung but deeply important program – aids to navigation in Northern Nevada. He is responsible for placing and maintaining navigational buoys throughout the reservoirs in Northern Nevada. He has also stepped up to train other officers as a defensive tactics instructor for NDOW, again sharing knowledge and experience he has developed over the years.

If one thing could be said of Warden Swisher, it's that he's a team player. So often, an officer acting alone can distinguish himself. What is more rare – and valuable – is an officer who brings others with him to do great work as a team. Warden Swisher is such a person.



**Deputy  
Daren Krag  
Klamath County  
Sheriff's Office  
Oregon**

Deputy Daren Krag of the Klamath County Sheriff's Office was chosen Oregon Officer of the Year for the second year in a row. He was among the state's leaders in arrests, citations and hours of contribution to the Marine Patrol Unit. Other notable attributes include his positive attitude, willingness to teach, and exemplary team ethic.

Deputy Daren Krag began his career in law enforcement in 2004 with the Klamath County Sheriff's Office. He became a Marine Patrol Deputy in 2006 and since then he has consistently demonstrated the highest professional standards. He has played a key role in promoting recreational boating safety and compliance in his county in addition to serving as a mentor for fellow deputies around the state. He has certainly performed well beyond the call of duty.

Consistent excellence throughout 2010 (as well as his entire career) describes Deputy Krag's service to Oregon boaters. Among his outstanding numbers, Deputy Krag led the state in boating under the influence arrests with 11, almost 25 percent of the entire BUI arrests in the state. He was one of the state's leaders in boat examination reports with 963 and in citations with 48. Of the nearly 1700 hours he contributed to the Marine Law Enforcement Program, almost 750 of them were boat patrol hours, again among the highest numbers in the state.

Not all of Deputy Krag's accomplishments involve stellar statistics. He is an exemplary field-training officer, responsible for instructing, developing, and serving as a role model for newly hired deputies. He also assists his unit's Search and Rescue group and is on-call to respond to incidents year-round. He has also been very active in the schools, last year reaching more than 1,600 kids with boating safety messages.





**Ranger  
Chris Bradshaw  
State Parks & Recreation  
Utah**

Ranger Chris Bradshaw has worked for Utah State Parks and Recreation for eight years, performing duties at both Willard Bay and Lake Powell.

Willard Bay is a busy, water-based park located near a metropolitan area. Ranger Bradshaw has many different duties at Willard Bay, including law enforcement, operations and administration. He performs each to the best of his ability and to the benefit of the more than 340,000 people who visit Willard Bay each year.

Ranger Bradshaw is an exceptional law enforcement officer. He is always very courteous and consistent with each person he contacts. In 2010 he issued 68 citations; investigated 14 OHV accidents and three boating accidents; had one BUI arrest; assisted Box Elder County agencies with accidents, warrants and domestic violence calls; answered 41 calls from boats needing assistance; and organized the first ever BUI checkpoint at Willard Bay for Operation Dry Water.

Bradshaw was instrumental in a case involving a man who was reported missing by family out of state. Chris located his vehicle at the park and followed through with the incident until the man's body was located several months later.

On September 5, 2010, Ranger Bradshaw was on boat patrol when a severe storm hit Willard Bay. He came across a capsized catamaran with two people on board and two in the water. The two on board informed him that only one person in the water was wearing a life jacket. Ranger Bradshaw started a search for the two individuals while also requesting help from other rangers, search and rescue, and a helicopter. The water conditions were very rough with six- to eight-foot swells, which made searching very difficult. While other units were responding, Ranger Bradshaw was able to locate the two individuals and get them out of the water in a successful rescue.



**Deputy Sheriff  
Mike Simmons  
Chelan County  
Sheriff's Office  
Washington**

Deputy Mike Simmons has served in law enforcement for over 20 years, with the last 10 as a marine deputy with Chelan County. This county has many lakes and four pools of the Columbia River. Deputy Simmons' primary patrol area is the 55-mile-long Lake Chelan, a vacation destination for many Washingtonians as well as visitors from other states.

To prepare students living in the Lake Chelan area, Deputy Simmons created an on-the-water training boating class to be taught in Chelan High School's physical education classes. The class includes both classroom instruction and practical hands-on boating instruction using canoes and motorboats. In 2010 he conducted four classes, training over 120 students to help prepare them to boat responsibly and begin the process of earning their boater education card, which is now a requirement to operate most recreational motorboats in the state.

During the summer months, Deputy Simmons' duties are to patrol the lake and to serve as a liaison with the more than 12 personal watercraft rental companies that are heavily used by numerous visitors to the lake. He starts each spring season by meeting with the rental owners and managers to review the laws and the staff responsibilities when renting PWC. He reviews the safety presentations that each business provides to rental customers to ensure that the laws are properly explained and understood before customers operate on the lake.

Deputy Simmons is the primary law enforcement officer on Lake Chelan. In 2009 he completed over 150 written inspections and issued 150 citations for violations in his patrol area. In 2010 he continued at a similar pace, and in his first 75 hours of patrol completed 189 written inspections and issued 134 citations.



**North Cody Game Warden  
Craig Sax  
Game & Fish Department  
Wyoming**

North Cody Game Warden Craig Sax's strong watercraft enforcement work ethic, his dedication to public safety and his tenacity for watercraft law enforcement set him apart as an officer.

Warden Sax's area of responsibility includes Buffalo Bill Reservoir and the north and main forks of the Shoshone River. These waters experience high recreational boating use, requiring a focused and skilled approach to watercraft law enforcement. Over his nearly 20 years of patrolling these waters, Sax has maintained the vigor and positive attitude often seen in younger and less seasoned officers. He works tirelessly at watercraft law enforcement and rarely misses a busy weekend day patrolling his lake and rivers.

Warden Sax continually enforces standard boating safety equipment and operation laws while keeping an eye out for more serious boating violations. He protects Wyoming citizens by removing drunken boaters from the water and ensures justice is served by investigating both minor and serious boating accidents. He doesn't hesitate to respond to calls for assistance during boating emergencies. Warden Sax frequently sets up courtesy boat inspection stations prior to the boating season to ensure that boaters will be safe and informed before going out on the water. His efforts at routine enforcement and his keen boating investigation skills related to more serious situations have resulted in increased public safety and awareness on Cody area waters.

Warden Sax's ability to positively affect the safety of his community and boaters from outside of the area are a testament to his professionalism. His accomplishments are proof of how one dedicated watercraft enforcement officer can have a much broader impact on a large scale. \*

*A deadly tornado struck Vilonia in central Arkansas on April 25, 2011. AGFC photos*



# Arkansas officers provide disaster response

**By Capt. Stephanie Weatherington,  
Boating Law Administrator,  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**

**O**n April 25, 2011, a deadly tornado struck the city of Vilonia in central Arkansas. Officers with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) responded immediately. Twenty members of the Disaster Response Team (DRT) traveled from various parts of the state to assist. Initially four strike teams were established for search and rescue.

DRT members searched 210 structures within Vilonia. Eight checkpoints were established and manned throughout the night and the following two days. At night people were not allowed into the area (except for emergency personnel). During the day, people were allowed

access into the damaged areas if they could provide proof of residency in the area. Officers also distributed water, food, donated clothing and other goods to the affected residents. A total of 498 man-hours were worked. As luck would have it, the month before, officers had just completed work on the agency's new mobile communications/command center and two bunk trailers. This equipment came in very handy during this event and what would follow in the coming months.

On May 4 the DRT team was again called upon to respond to the flooding occurring in Monroe, Woodruff and Lee Counties. This significant event called

for the team to be activated until May 23. A total of 46 DRT officers responded and they worked 3,028 hours providing disaster relief services. The team established their base camp in Brinkley. Officers conducted a wide range of duties, including search and rescues, looting patrols, traffic control, welfare checks, law enforcement patrols and sand bag details. Various methods were used to accomplish these missions – foot patrols, boats and personal watercraft (PWC), and vehicles.

The AGFC officers were the only law enforcement presence in many areas due to the flooding. The sheriff's departments relied on the wildlife



*Members of the Disaster Response Team performed numerous welfare checks on citizens affected by the disaster.*



*Officers also distributed water, food, donated clothing and other goods to the affected residents.*



officers to take calls in the severely flooded areas simply because they had the boats and PWC to get there. One boating team was actually “attached” to the local EMS ambulance service – the officers would travel to the home or site of the medical call, extract the person and place them in the boat, and transport them to the awaiting ambulance on land. The agency’s PWC and jet motor boats were indispensable during this time as they could operate in relatively shallow water and allowed quick access to the people in need. One PWC officer became an instant hero to a local family when he was able to go to their home and rescue their beloved dog that they had no choice but to leave behind when they evacuated.

On May 25 another devastating tornado struck Franklin County in the northwest part of the state, destroying the cities of Denning and Etna. Nine DRT officers responded and worked 444 hours throughout the next five days again manning checkpoints and performing law enforcement patrols for looting and curfew violations.

During all this, the DRT was sent to Chicot and Desha Counties to conduct Levee Patrols on the Mississippi River, as requested specifically by the Department of Emergency Management. This mission lasted from May 10 to May 31. A total of 22 officers responded and worked 1820 hours. The officers not only provided security for the levee (prohibited access and kept people from driving on the levee) but they also monitored it for any breaches or sand boils. During the day, Corps of Engineers and USFS officers would locate the boils, sand bag them and mark them; then our officers during their night patrols would inspect each boil several times and ensure the sandbags were holding, make sure it wasn’t getting any larger and/or mark any new boils that may have developed.

In all a total of 100 wildlife officers responded; working almost 5,800 hours throughout 44 days of continuous operations during this historic natural disaster event.

# Flooding keeps Missouri officers in their toes

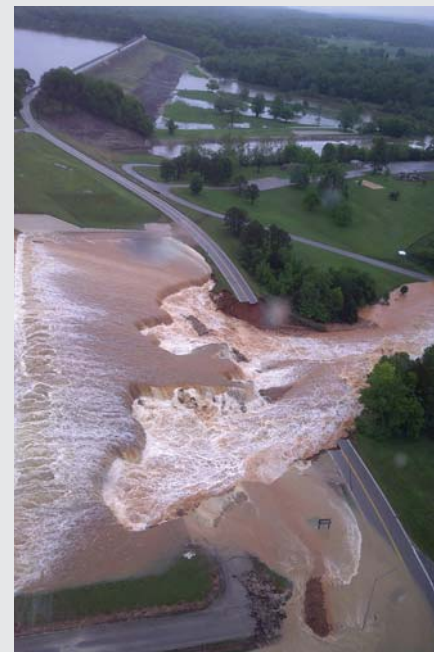
**By Sgt. Jerry Callahan,  
Public Information Officer,  
Missouri State Highway Patrol**



*The Mississippi River floods in April and May 2011 were among the largest and most damaging recorded along the U.S. waterway in the past century. During the devastating spring flooding in Butler County, Sgt. Justin L. McCullough and Trooper David R. Nelson offer assistance to local citizens.*

**F**looding remained the hot topic in Missouri most of the summer. Every corner of the state was affected by flooding. Therefore, the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Water Patrol Division stayed on high alert from April until September, when the Missouri River finally fell below flood stages.

Flooding started early and affected the entire eastern border of Missouri, which is where the Mississippi River runs. Flood walls remained in place in many of the towns north of St. Louis, but the big story was along Missouri's southern stretch of the Mississippi River. Missouri was thrust into the national spotlight when levees were breached intentionally to flood 200 square miles of land to help alleviate



*In April 2011, two major storm systems deposited record levels of rainfall on the Mississippi River watershed. When that additional water combined with the springtime snowmelt, the river and many of its tributaries, including the Black River shown above, began to swell to record levels by the beginning of May. MSHP photos*

pressure from the river in other communities. Troopers from the Highway Patrol worked with affected sheriffs and the Missouri National Guard to ensure evacuations were in place far ahead of time. Patrols from the water were conducted in flooded communities up and down the river; but, there were very few water emergency calls due to the advanced warnings for early evacuation.

While the large rivers came up slowly and predictably, troopers were scrambling from call to call across the southern part of Missouri where heavy rainfall caused smaller streams to rise fast and spill over roadways and into communities. This type of flooding can catch people by surprise and be one of the most dangerous environments in which a marine law enforcement officer works. After the quick rise, Missouri's small streams dropped just as quickly and were in good shape for the summer months. Many in the public were surprised to hear these rivers were fine, due to the continued

*Continues on p. 30.*

flood conditions on the Missouri River throughout the summer. Many float outfitters attributed lower than usual numbers to this lack of awareness. This same situation affected many businesses during the 1993 record flooding on the big rivers.

Lakes along the White River Basin on the Missouri-Arkansas Border saw record releases of water due to the heavy localized rain in the spring. The Highway Patrol was forced to cancel permits issued for regattas and fishing tournaments because of safety issues due to floating debris. Additionally, reliable access to the lakes was blocked because most marinas and boat ramps were under water. The record release from Table Rock Lake caused strong currents, which then tore loose entire boat docks. Many other lakes

across the state swelled to record levels; and emergency spillways were tested in managing the high water.

Once summer was in full swing, boating across the state of Missouri settled into its usual rapid pace. The popular Lake of the Ozarks continued to be a major draw for powerboat enthusiasts across the Midwest. Officers responded to crashes, accidents, drownings, and complaint calls with the professionalism the public has come to expect. The summer was marred with tragedy upon the loss of Trooper Frederick F. "Fred" Guthrie Jr., who drowned while on flood duty in Northwest Missouri. This is the patrol's first marine officer to be lost in the line of duty. The winter months are on their way. Boating has slowed to include only the heartiest of sorts, but planning for the next season is well under way.



*To help alleviate pressure from the flooded Mississippi River, levees were breached intentionally, such as the Birds Point Levee shown above, to flood 200 square miles of land. Troopers from the Highway Patrol worked with affected sheriffs and the Missouri National Guard to ensure evacuations were in place far ahead of time.*



## Officer loses life to flood waters

On August 1, 2011, Trooper Frederick F. "Fred" Guthrie Jr., 46, of Platte City, MO, and his Patrol K-9, Reed, were assigned to Missouri River flood duty. They were working in the area of Big Lake on Missouri Highway 118 at Missouri Highway 111 in Holt County, MO, when they were apparently swept away by swift moving flood water. On August 2, 2011, the body of K-9 Reed was located in the swift moving flood water approximately 100 yards from where Trooper Guthrie's patrol truck and boat were located. Trooper Guthrie's K-9, Reed, was a five-year-veteran with the Patrol.

On September 28, 2011, Colonel Ron Replogle, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, regrettably announced the official death of Trooper Guthrie. Trooper Guthrie is the 30th member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to die in the line of duty.

Trooper Guthrie joined the then-Missouri State Water Patrol on January 2, 1994, and transitioned to trooper with the merger to the Missouri State Highway Patrol January 1, 2011. He served in the Water Patrol Division within Troop A serving Platte County and working the Missouri River and Smithville Lake.

In 2007, Trooper Guthrie was honored by the governor of Missouri for his actions while responding to a capsized vessel on Smithville Lake. Trooper Guthrie braved six-foot waves, 60 mph winds, and dangerous lightning to rescue occupants who were clinging to a buoy in mid channel after their boat capsized. In 2008 he was recognized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators as Missouri's Boating Officer of the Year.

Trooper Guthrie lived for his family and was deeply involved in his children's activities. He leaves behind his wife, Teresa, and children, Amber, Dylan, and Cody.

The Patrol continues to search daily for Trooper Guthrie's body. He is believed to have drowned, and is still missing.



## BOATING

# Briefs

### USPS, USCG Aux. boost boating safety efforts

United States Power Squadrons and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary signed an agreement during the Auxiliary's national conference in August 2011 to broaden their cooperation in vessel examinations, public affairs and education.

USPS and the Coast Guard Auxiliary are committed to improving boating safety through increased boater education, vessel examinations and public awareness events.

"With this cooperative effort we will reach out to the growing population of recreational boaters providing needed training and vessel exams to keep them safe on the water," said Jim Vass, Auxiliary National Commodore.

"The USPS is proud to continue our partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as we continually strive to improve the boating experience for recreational boaters," noted Frank Dvorak, USPS Chief Commander.

### NMMA provides interactive docking experience at boat shows

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) purchased the Power Boat Docking Challenge from Culp Concepts, bringing more of an interactive experience to show-goers and helping demonstrate how fun docking can be with practice and proper instruction.



"With the recent additions of new seminars and the Discover Boating Resource Center at NMMA shows, we've seen firsthand the value of offering more educational and hands-on learning opportunities for attendees," noted Ben Wold, executive vice president of NMMA. "The Power Boat Docking Challenge is another great addition to the NMMA show educational portfolio, providing a fun way for boaters

and would-be boaters to get more confident behind the helm and experience for themselves the satisfaction of learning how to dock with ease."

The Power Boat Docking Challenge is an interactive experience that pits the boater against other show attendees. Participants compete against the clock, steering and docking a 4-ft, twin engine, remote-controlled power boat, using a life-size helm station found on a traditional boat, down a 20-ft. pool into a marina and ultimately a slip, for a chance to win a host of prizes.

For a complete list of NMMA boat and sportshows scheduled for 2012, visit <http://www.boatshows>.

### BoatUS president passes away after battle with cancer

Nancy Michelman, president of BoatUS and publisher of BoatUS Magazine, passed away Oct. 7, 2011, after a yearlong battle with cancer. She was 60 years old.



Michelman was a self-described "Jersey Girl" who began sailing at summer camp in Maine as a child, and grew up with a love of boating. During her time with BoatUS, Nancy grew membership from 350,000 to 650,000 and took over the role of publisher for the association's flagship publication. Under her direction BoatUS Magazine became more dynamic, personal and aspirational.

Michelman's relationship with members was personal. For months afterward, members shared their own stories and words of encouragement.

Michelman was also known for her desire to develop personal relationships with members. She often picked up the phone to hear a member's point of view. This personal touch was genuine, even sharing the story of her illness in one of her editorials in BoatUS Magazine, inspiring members to live their lives and passions to the fullest.

An online memorial for Nancy can be found at [www.boatus.com/Nancy](http://www.boatus.com/Nancy).

### PWIA presents boating leadership award for UCOTA

The Personal Watercraft Industry Association (PWIA) presented its 2011 Boating Safety Leadership Award to Sharon M. Carrick and Boyd Walden for their work with the development of the Uniform Certificate of Title Act for Vessels (UCOTA). The award is presented each year to one or two public officials who worked, together with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), to achieve positive steps in boating safety.



This year's award recognizes the work of Carrick, director of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Licensing and Registration Service, and Walden, deputy director of the Division of Motorist Services for Florida, and was presented during the 2011 NASBLA Annual conference Sept. 12 in Milwaukee, Wis.

The UCOTA establishes standards for title and registration for boats fitting five requirements:

- Qualify as a state titling law that the Coast Guard will approve;
- Facilitate transfers of ownership of a vessel;
- Deter and impede the theft of vessels by making ownership information available to both government officials and potential buyers;
- Accommodate financing and mortgage arrangements for vessels; and
- Provide consumer protections during the purchase of a vessel through the act's branding initiative, which requires the title to be marked if the boating vessel has been significantly damaged.

### Water safety is 'take-home' in rescue video



The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has produced a video that stresses water safety through the story of a south Georgia fishing trip that almost turned tragic.

Daniel Fields of Pembroke and two of his sons were bank fishing along the Ohoopsee River in Tattnall County on July 4, 2011, when first one of the boys, then the other fell in. Neither could swim. Fields, only a marginal swimmer, jumped in to help.

All were struggling in deep water when Sgt. Don Dasher and Ranger 1st Class Clint Jarriel of DNR's Wildlife Resources Division pulled them out, with the help of a bystander. Dasher and Jarriel had been checking anglers at the Ga. 147 bridge, their last stop of the evening on a busy July Fourth.

The video posted on the Wildlife Resources Division's YouTube channel features interviews with the Fields and the

## BOATING

# Briefs

conservation officers, and emphasizes safety tips such as the use of personal flotation devices.

As of Aug. 15, 32 people have drowned in Georgia lakes, rivers and ponds this year.

Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver said the video's take-home message is that "accidents happen." For non-swimmers and in accordance with safe-boating laws, "It's best to wear your life jackets and be prepared," Weaver said.

"Ohoopsee River Rescue" is available at [www.youtube.com/GeorgiaWildlife](http://www.youtube.com/GeorgiaWildlife).

Lawmakers in the state House and Senate recently honored Jarriel and Dasher with resolutions.

### Wisconsin buys boat decontamination system from Boating Industry

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has purchased a boat decontamination unit that kills invasive species with hot water.

These units are common in Western states, but this is the first unit east of the Mississippi, according to an article in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.

The unit cost \$16,000 and was purchased through federal funds via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. It looks like a pressure washer and can pressurize and heat water to 140 degrees. This instantly kills species such as zebra mussels. It takes about 20 to 30 minutes to decontaminate a boat and trailer.

At this point, the unit is being used for demonstrations and education.

### WSIA awarded U.S. Coast Guard safety grant

The Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) has been awarded a U.S. Coast Guard federal grant to help with the Coast Guard's mission to increase awareness of boating safety and reduce boating accidents and deaths.

The federal grant worth \$637,341 was awarded to the educational arm of the WSIA, known as the Water Sports Foundation (WSF).

"The WSIA has become a consistent champion of recreational boating safety especially in the world of towed water sports and now we get to expand this work into all aspects of recreational boating safety," said WSIA Executive Director Larry Meddock.

The WSF will be working with Bonnier Corporation to spread the message through a variety of media, including boating safety websites, video "webisodes," interactive games, banner ads, a social media campaign, video messaging, newsletters and print ads. "We have been challenged by the U.S. Coast Guard to make a difference in boating safety and we believe that over time, our comprehensive plan will ultimately change public behavior and attitudes," said Jim Emmons, project administrator of the U.S. Coast Guard grant.

The WSF and the WSIA are two non-profit organizations headquartered in Orlando, Florida that promote water sports safety and the unencumbered access of public waterways for the pursuit of watersports activities. For more information contact the WSIA at 407.251.9039 or visit [www.wsia.net](http://www.wsia.net).







*Robin Freeman  
Vice President – Education  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Association*

# PARTNER PERSPECTIVES

**Proud to  
work with  
outstanding  
professionals**



*Scott Warner was recently named by the Coast Guard Auxiliary as the organization's first Auxiliarist of the Year.*

NASBLA's annual conference is one of my favorite events to attend. This year, the workshops and presentations were excellent, we shared outstanding networking opportunities, and as always, I thoroughly enjoyed the Awards Luncheon. I love seeing people who work so hard be recognized.

During the lunch, a slide presentation showed the marine officers who were selected as the state, regional and national level Boating Officers of the Year. It is truly heartwarming to see the men and women at work, doing amazing things on behalf of boating safety! And getting to meet the regional and national Boating Officer of the Year award recipients is always a great pleasure.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary recently added "New Auxiliarist of the Year" to our awards system, to better align with similar Coast Guard awards. To qualify for this award, a member must:

- have been in the Auxiliary at least one but no more than three years;

- exemplify the core values of the Coast Guard: Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty;
- consistently deliver outstanding performances in leadership, Auxiliary programs and knowledge;
- maintain exemplary uniform appearance and bearing; and
- have achieved results of high quality, customer service and teamwork benefiting Auxiliary and/or Coast Guard units.

Our 2011 Auxiliarist of the Year is Scott Warner, of Southwest Harbor, Maine. Like many Auxiliarists, Scott joined the Auxiliary to make a difference in his community. Scott is retired from the Marine Corps. At the time he was approached to join the Auxiliary, he was working as a ranger for the National Parks Service at Acadia National Park. Scott's service to NPS was as lead medic, and many times the Coast Guard in Southwest Harbor and NPS teamed up on rescues. As Scott's retirement from NPS approached, he was asked to consider joining the local flotilla to continue his fine work with the small boat station there.

Scott became a member in 2008 and, in the short time since, has become qualified as an engineer/crewman on the 47' Motor Lifeboat, is breaking in as quartermaster on the Coast Guard Academy's training ship the Eagle, has attended the Coast Guard Instructor Development course and is active in teaching, is an instructor/staff at the Coast Guard Academy for AIM Week, and serves on Coast Guard Auxiliary's National Staff as Deputy Director for Recreational Boating Safety Outreach. Scott has received numerous Coast Guard and Auxiliary awards, including the Award of Operational Merit, and he has qualified for the Boat Forces Operations Insignia. Scott has an impressive list of accomplishments personally and professionally, and I would say his Auxiliary involvement is certainly making a difference in his community as well as nationally. Congratulations, Scott!

Congratulations, too, to all of the award recipients at the NASBLA Annual Conference! It's quite a privilege to work with all of the professional, dedicated, boating safety advocates from all of our organizations. ✨



Jeff Hoedt  
Chief, Boating Safety Division  
Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety  
U.S. Coast Guard

## A passion for boating safety

**B**oating is an incredible pastime to enjoy in the United States and in many nations around the world. Here in the U.S., we've watched the number of registered boats increase at a fast and furious pace since the 1950s. Since the late '90s, the biggest growth has been in unregistered boats, particularly sit-on-top kayaks and new types of vessels such as paddleboards. Passion for boating has grown and continues to carry on.

Another type of passion for boating emanates from those involved in boating safety. Particularly in law enforcement and search & rescue, we recognize the passion of so many of the officers around the country who patrol our waterways. These people routinely go beyond the call of duty, and even put themselves in harm's way, in striving to see that the boating public enjoy their boating activity and then return home safely.

Many of you who read this publication have that passion. You sincerely care about what you do and strive to help the boating community. To all of you, bravo zulu. You do incredible work for the right reasons. Please know that your efforts are making a difference, they are appreciated, and you are constantly setting the standards for all of us to follow.

Within the honorable community of caring, compassionate marine patrol officers, a select few receive special recognition each year. These are the state, regional, and national Boating Officers of the Year. These officers tend to continually share their exceptional talents and dedication far beyond the call of duty – resulting in numerous people being saved from harm and their families and friends being appreciative of their loved ones coming home safely. To you, the Coast Guard offers its sincere congratulations and thanks.

Keep up the great work!

## A Coast Guard RBS Update

At the October 14, 2011 meeting of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC), members discussed several noteworthy updates on legislative and regulatory efforts concerning boating safety:

- \* S.1657 – A bill that would extend the authorization of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund through 2017.
- \* The Coast Guard received several comments regarding a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking about vessel numbering, the vessel identification system and accident reporting. The Coast Guard is considering each comment and determining the next action to take regarding this project, which may be to publish a Final Rule in the near future.
- \* An Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published in the Federal Register on June 8, 2001, concerning the possible requirement for engine shut-off devices, on select motorboats, in order to decrease the number of incidents where a person is thrown off a boat and sometimes hit by a boat's propeller. The Coast Guard is now considering each resulting comment determining the next action to take regarding this project, which may be to publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.
- \* An Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published on August 26, 2011 concerning the possible requirement for a boat operator to turn a motorboat's engine off, when a person is immediately behind the boat, in order to decrease the number of incidents where a person is hit by a boat's propeller. Comments will be received through November 25.
- \* A Request for Comments was published on September 6, 2011 concerning possible options for improving the boat accident reporting system. Comments will be received through December 5.
- \* A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published on September 29, 2011 concerning the allowance for standards to be established that would permit select age youth under the age of 16 to use inflatable life jackets while boating, as opposed to being required to just use more traditional designs of life jackets.
- \* The Coast Guard is preparing for a proposed regulatory project that would match its boat titling regulations to the Uniform Certificate of Title Act for Vessels recently adopted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. NBSAC will be consulted in this process.
- \* The Coast Guard has requested NBSAC to consider and provide advice on whether a new regulation should be promulgated that would require recreational vessels to carry an emergency locator beacon when operating more than three miles off the U.S. ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes coastlines. This is as per a law that was enacted in October 2010.

Such federal legislative and regulatory efforts are rare in the world of boating safety. It has been several years since any new boating safety regulations were completed. Now, after years of effort by NBSAC and the Coast Guard, the above listed projects are under serious consideration.



# How do I know an Officer of the Year when I see one?

By Joe Carro  
Program Operations Branch  
Boating Safety Division  
Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety  
U.S. Coast Guard

**O**h, you'll know an officer of the year when you see one. If you aren't already one, you have all the makings of one.

Still we wonder:  
What makes the difference?

Many of us have been in boating safety and boating law enforcement for a long time, while others have just come aboard. It doesn't seem to make much difference if you are a newer officer or an old hand. Officer of the year doesn't just happen. It takes hard work, long hours, dedication and more. Not just more hours, more work or more dedication than the next officer, but more than you thought you could do. In fact, you do it without any thought or expectation of extra recognition or self-elevation. We receive the traditional "nice job," or the "I've never seen anything like that before," and usually shrug it off with a "Thanks, just doing my job."

As it turns out, you are doing more – in some cases much more – than just your job. Because of this, many of you have been recognized by your agency, your community and, frankly, the nation. A sincere "Congratulations" is appropriate.

Still, what makes the difference?

Sometimes it's as simple as being in the right place at the right time. This may seem over simplified, but most officers were not just in the right spot at the right time. They were in these right spots because they chose to be near the right spot, ready to be ready. Whether these right places have been identified from years of experience, having a great training officer or just some gut feeling, you know where to be and where to go for a given situation. You are in the area you needed to be because you are patrolling, checking on a report of something, or conducting the business of making yourself available when needed.

This "right place at the right time" thing may be good for an incident or two, but overall you have to put in the time. Not just the extra long hours just mentioned, but extra long meaningful and constructive hours. We must excel and put these many hours to more than good use, they must surpass the expected.

We don't just want to patrol for eight hours, we want to patrol for eight hours and conduct a dozen boardings, taking the time to conduct training and education for the family of new boaters, and ensure that the intoxicated trio buzzing the swimming area is properly informed of the errors of their ways. Many of us do these things daily; still we wonder: What makes the difference?

Part of it is taking the knowledge we have gained and turning that into something beneficial. We have all seen situations we know we can make better, both within our agencies and out in the boating public. The few that transform these situations from an idea to an implemented technique, procedure, or departmental policy all possess this difference.

These exceptional officers are not alone. You all have this opportunity to excel beyond some intangible (occasionally very tangible) achievement. I don't think any of us wake up saying, "Today, I'm going to work on my Officer of the Year quals." We do this every day. Some just go further. This "further" includes little things like shining your boots or making sure your boat is squared away, beyond inspection ready. I don't mean just look at the check sheet and assume everything is good to go. I mean check everything and make sure it's good to go. I know this has never happened to any of you, but I know I have gone for a piece of gear that is always right where it's supposed to be only to find it was not.

One more tangible quality of these officers is their leadership. Not just positional leadership that comes with rank insignia but the ability to see what needs to be done and making sure it is accomplished. You don't have to be a major or a colonel to understand and exhibit the traits of effective leadership. You move forward developing this skill set every day. Leaders transform ideas and concepts into an action that produces a result.

There should be no question about what makes the difference – YOU make the difference. Congratulations and thanks for your dedication and commitment to duty. \*



*Matthew Long  
NASBLA  
Government Affairs Director*

## What the charged political climate means for your agency

It's no secret that Washington has never been a particularly efficient city, but the political climate in the past year has surpassed anything long-term observers have ever seen. Tensions between the parties are at an all-time high and even the most common political decisions spawn ideological debates. In this maelstrom of rhetoric and inaction, it's easy to lose sight of what this means for your agency.

### Reauthorization

In light of the economic downturn and other mitigating factors, Congress is desperately trying to curb spending whenever possible. In the past, the Surface Transportation reauthorization (Highway Bill) has been a massive legislative effort, incorporating thousands of transportation projects around the country. The legislation and these special projects have been essential in maintaining the crumbling infrastructure of the country. The 112th Congress, though, is seeking to limit this spending based on the version released by the House of Representatives.

For boating safety agencies, this legislation is critical due to the inclusion of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund within the larger Surface Transportation bill. The reauthorization of the Trust Fund is critical for the continued operation of boating safety divisions around the country.

While the more limited legislation won't have an impact on the Trust Fund itself, the political wrangling surrounding the reauthorization will. The Trust Fund is a user-pay, user-benefit system, meaning that it is funded completely by users of the

resource. However, as legislators debate the actual size and scope of the Surface Transportation legislation, the Trust Fund will be carried along with it.

Members of Congress are under considerable pressure to pass some sort of transportation bill. Reauthorization is already two years late and has been operating under a series of continuing resolutions since the original expiration. If Members of Congress don't pass a version of the Reauthorization in the next six months, it is unlikely they will do so until after the 2012 elections.

As long as Congress passes long-term continuing resolutions, recipients of monies from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund will continue to receive payments as normal. But, should a series of short-term continuing resolutions pass Congress, then state agencies will only receive incremental payments, causing problems for the efficient administration of programs around the country.

### Homeland Security

NASBLA correctly identified a need several years ago for a dedicated homeland security grant program that would help facilitate marine homeland security grants for states and localities. The program would principally be used to pay for training so that all state and local marine law enforcement would be trained to a certain standard.

Given the economic climate in the country, finding the resources to pay for such a program has become a political nightmare. Instead, marine homeland security advocates have been working


with Congress to find other ways to provide this vital grant money directly to state and local applicants.

The 2010 Coast Guard Authorization was an important first step in identifying this need by mandating that the U.S. Coast Guard identify and develop national standards to which states could be trained. It also made allowable certain types of training within the Port Security Grant Program for state and local marine law enforcement agencies to apply. This funding is essential in ensuring that on-the-water experts can communicate effectively and efficiently when safeguarding our borders.

Once again in 2011, the prospect of a dedicated grant program is not feasible, but expanding the types of allowable training courses eligible for grant funding is a political reality. Expanding the allowable expenses under the Port Security Grant Program is a no-cost way to expand the sphere of state and local law enforcement that may pursue advanced, on-the-water training programs.

The current climate of economic frugality and partisan divisiveness has affected all people and programs all around the country. The inability of Congress to work efficiently and in a bipartisan manner has put at risk important programs that have been serving the American public for decades. These actions have also affected state boating safety agencies and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. With a strong voice in Washington, however, NASBLA ensures that the interests and needs of its members are always held in consideration by Congress.\*





I stopped a boat, and the woman was holding a baby, maybe six months old. I took it kind of personal and said, “Ma'am, why don't you have that baby in a life jacket?”

She said, “Well, he gets cranky when I put him in a life jacket,” and I told her, “I get cranky when you don't have him in a life jacket.”

She got a ticket for that.

Texas Game Warden Jonathan Gray in his own words from a video that's part of Boat Ed's® “Safety Matters” campaign, a growing collection of video testimonials about safe boating.

[www.boat-ed.com/safetymatters](http://www.boat-ed.com/safetymatters)

To see more than 70 educational boating safety videos that you can embed and share, go to [www.youtube.com/kalkomey](http://www.youtube.com/kalkomey)

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small craft advisory

November-December 2011 | Vol. 26 No. 6

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## 2011-12 Recreational Boating Safety Calendar

**2011  
November  
15-17**

**NASBLA**  
Executive Board Meeting  
Lexington, Kentucky  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[ron@nasbla.org](mailto:ron@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**December  
14**

**National Recreational  
Boating Safety Coalition**  
Fall Meeting  
Washington, D.C.  
[NRBSCoalition@aol.com](mailto:NRBSCoalition@aol.com)

**2012  
January  
11-14**

**US Sailing**  
National Sailing Programs  
Symposium  
Long Beach, California  
[www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org)  
[karendavidson@ussailing.org](mailto:karendavidson@ussailing.org)  
401.683.0800

**19-20  
Colorado River Law Enforcement  
Association**

Annual Conference  
Laughlin, Nevada  
[www.crlea.org](http://www.crlea.org)  
[bvanhaitsma@ndow.org](mailto:bvanhaitsma@ndow.org)

**25-29  
United States Power Squadrons**

Annual Meeting  
Jacksonville, Florida  
[www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)  
888.367.USPS

**February  
19-22**

**International Association of Marine  
Investigators**  
Annual Training Seminar  
San Diego, California  
[www.iamimarine.org](http://www.iamimarine.org)  
[iamimarine@aol.com](mailto:iamimarine@aol.com)  
866.844.4264

**27-28  
NASBLA**

Executive Board Meeting  
Lexington, Kentucky  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[ron@nasbla.org](mailto:ron@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**29-March 1**

**NASBLA**  
Boating Law Administrators  
Workshop  
Lexington, Kentucky  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[ron@nasbla.org](mailto:ron@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**29-March 1**

**Homeland Security Outlook**  
Small Vessel Security  
Threats Conference  
Charleston, South Carolina  
[www.svstconference.com](http://www.svstconference.com)  
203.644.6020

**March  
4-7**

**National Water Safety Congress &  
National Safe Boating Council**  
International Boating & Water  
Safety Summit  
San Diego, California  
[www.watersafetycongress.org](http://www.watersafetycongress.org)  
[www.safeboatingcouncil.org](http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org)

**April  
23-24**

**American Boating Congress**  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.nmma.org/abc](http://www.nmma.org/abc)  
[cpomorski@nmma.org](mailto:cpomorski@nmma.org)  
202.737.9774

**May  
18**

**Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day**  
[www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)  
[outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org](mailto:outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org)

**19**

**Ready! Set! Wear It!**  
[www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)  
[outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org](mailto:outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org)

**19-25**

**National Safe Boating Week**  
[www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)  
[outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org](mailto:outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org)

**June  
2-10**

**National Fishing & Boating Week**  
[www.takemefishing.org](http://www.takemefishing.org)

**9**

**National Marina Day**  
[www.nationalmarinaday.org](http://www.nationalmarinaday.org)

**10-13**

**Western States Boating Administrators  
Association**  
Annual Conference  
Breckenridge, Colorado  
[pfiffner@ndow.org](mailto:pfiffner@ndow.org)

**13-15  
NASBLA**

Executive Board Meeting  
Breckenridge, Colorado  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**22-24**

**Operation Dry Water**  
[www.OperationDryWater.org](http://www.OperationDryWater.org)  
[ron@nasbla.org](mailto:ron@nasbla.org)

**July  
16-20  
NASBLA**

BLA Academy  
Lexington, Kentucky  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[ron@nasbla.org](mailto:ron@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**September  
8-12**

**NASBLA**  
Annual Conference  
Mobile, Alabama  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[info@nasbla.org](mailto:info@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**November  
2-4**

**American Canoe Association**  
National Paddlesports  
Conference  
Charleston, South Carolina  
[www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)  
[cstec@americancanoe.org](mailto:cstec@americancanoe.org)  
540.907.4460