

# SCA

small craft advisory

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2012 | VOL. 27 NO. 6  
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

## Recognizing High Achievers

# 2012 OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

*Annual  
Conference  
deemed  
success*





# SCA

small craft advisory

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

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**FRED MESSMANN**

Creative Director **ROLANDO ZERQUERA**  
**ANGSTROM GRAPHICS**

Circulation Director **SAM LYNCH**

## EDITORIAL OFFICES

1500 Leestown Road, Suite 330

Lexington, KY 40511

PHONE: 859.225.9487

FAX: 859.231.6403

E-MAIL: editor@nasbla.org

## About the Cover

State Park Ranger Dawn Larsen with the Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation patrols Deer Creek Reservoir and Provo River. In September 2011, NASBLA named Larsen as the Boating Officer of the Year for her dedication to ensuring safety on the waterways. Utah State Parks and Recreation photo

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# from the Helm



Toby Velasquez  
NASBLA  
President



John Johnson  
NASBLA  
Executive Director

## Officers vital to boating safety & security

**F**or more than a decade, NASBLA's Butch Potts Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award program has been championing the accomplishments of our country's outstanding marine law enforcement officers. On behalf of all of our members and staff, the association is proud to congratulate Utah State Park Ranger Dawn Larsen as the 2012 *NASBLA Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year*.

Ranger Larsen is a model boating enforcement officer whose professionalism, knowledge and compassion have distinguished her among her peers. Like so many other marine law enforcement officers, Ranger Larsen responds to a wide range of rescue, medical and enforcement scenarios in the course of a season's work responsibilities. As one of the primary first-responders in the Deer Creek Reservoir and Provo River area, Ranger Larsen's training and preparation served her and the citizens of Utah well when she coordinated the rescue of 20 victims and the subsequent retrieval of 17 capsized vessels during a violent thunderstorm.

While Ranger Larsen's leadership was critical in a moment of crisis, it is her day-to-day, steady commitment and assertive pursuit of boating law violators that has won her the commendation of her superiors. In 2011 alone, Ranger Larsen wrote more than 530 citations and prepared 26 crime reports, 46 accident reports, and more than 50 officer information reports. She also conducted numerous boating safety patrols and helped coordinate saturation patrols, improving safety on Utah's waterways.

NASBLA also awarded Regional Boating Officer of the Year awards to Master

Conservation Officer Shawn Brown of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and to Captain Spencer Cole of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Captain Cole is not only a formidable ally in boating safety and maritime security in Louisiana, but he is also chairman of NASBLA's Preparedness & Response Committee. We are indebted to Scott Swanby and our friends at Revere Survival Products for their generous financial support for the award program.

NASBLA is proud to play a small part in recognizing the achievements of the men and women who comprise our national cadre of marine law enforcement officers. Today's marine law enforcement officers (MLEOs) play a critical role in recreational boating safety and an increasingly important role in our nation's maritime security matrix. Although not always linked to conservation law enforcement, many modern MLEOs share an all too common condition with traditional fish and game officers. Often, they are the only sworn law enforcement officers for miles or counties around – and they usually work alone.

Another common trait among today's MLEOs is their "multi-mission" mission. Like their coxswain counterparts in the U.S. Coast Guard, state and local marine law enforcement officers are defined by the breadth and variety of their mission objectives, which are just as numerous as their respective labels. Just start listing the variety of maritime missions, and you start defining the diverse missions of our member agencies and our other partners on the water, including boating safety, maritime security, fish and game enforcement, illegal migrant interdiction, drug enforcement and interdiction,

radiological/nuclear detection, human trafficking, environmental protection, flood and emergency response, and customs and border patrol.

For the last two decades, NASBLA has been working diligently to position itself as the go-to organization for marine law enforcement training, training standards and support nationwide. In May 2012, we signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Coast Guard naming NASBLA the standard-setting organization for national training standards for state, county, local and tribal maritime law enforcement officers.

NASBLA presently offers more than 15 distinct marine law enforcement curricula designed to provide operational training and expertise from basic crew member instruction through advanced tactical operations to a series of high-tech laboratory and investigative training courses. Through effective training and credentialing of marine law enforcement officers, NASBLA is investing in uniformity one officer at a time. With agencies across the country now able to train to the same standards, NASBLA is breaking down barriers to agency interoperability and creating real force multipliers among first responder partners and others.

To learn more about NASBLA's Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) program and how your agency can benefit from participating in our accreditation and national credentialing program please contact Director of Law Enforcement John Fetterman at [john.fetterman@nasbla.org](mailto:john.fetterman@nasbla.org) or BOAT Program Director Mark DuPont at [mark.dupont@nasbla.org](mailto:mark.dupont@nasbla.org) \*



# NASBLA News



*Immediate Past President Mike Fields passes the fid to incoming NASBLA President, Toby Velasquez, signifying transfer of responsibility. Staff photo*

## **New Mexico BLA becomes NASBLA President**

NASBLA elected Toby Velasquez, New Mexico's boating law administrator, as president of the nonprofit organization for the 2012-13 year during the 53rd Annual Conference in Mobile, Ala. He succeeds Capt. Mike Fields, Kentucky's boating law administrator.

Toby Velasquez became the chief of Law Enforcement and Boating for the state of New Mexico in March 2006. He has worked with the state's Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department – State Parks Division since 1999. In addition to his involvement with NASBLA, Velasquez is a two-term president of the Western States Boating Administrators Association and is active within his community coaching and mentoring youth through nonprofit organizations promoting outdoor recreation, sportsmanship and teamwork. Other officers of the association serving with Velasquez include:

- Vice President – Herb Angell, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
- Treasurer – Kevin Bergersen, Arizona Game & Fish Department
- Member-at-Large – Eleanor Mariani, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
- Member-at-Large – Darren Rider, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- Member-at-Large – Dave Harris, Utah State Parks
- Past President – Jim Graybeal, Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

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**Mark DuPont**  
National BOAT Program Director  
[mark.dupont@nasbla.org](mailto:mark.dupont@nasbla.org)

National Association of  
Boating Law Administrators  
1500 Leestown Road, Suite 330  
Lexington, KY 40511  
859.225.9487



# NASBLA News

## NASBLA LE Director appointed to National Maritime Security Advisory Committee



Maj. John C. Fetterman (ret.), NASBLA's director of law enforcement, was recently appointed by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to the National Maritime Security Advisory Committee for a three-year term.

Comprised of 22 members representing all segments of the maritime industry, the National Maritime Security Advisory Committee (NMSAC) provides advice to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security via the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard on matters such as national security strategy and policy, actions required to meet current and future security threats, international cooperation on security issues, and security concerns of the maritime transportation industry. The committee addresses such issues as the Transportation Worker Identification Credential, port security grants, security regulations, and

facility security planning and threat assessment policies. The committee also works with representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, FEMA and the Transportation Security Administration as well as other federal agencies.

### Register now for airboat training

Officers are encouraged to register for NASBLA's new Airboat Operators Course, scheduled for February 25-March 1, 2013, in Delacroix, Louisiana.



*NASBLA's new Airboat Operators Course provides hands-on training for officers.*

The Airboat Operators Course provides maritime law enforcement and emergency responders a comprehensive framework in order to become more proficient with specialized skills necessary to operate airboats in the maritime environment.

Students will operate within a controlled environment with an emphasis on hands-on operational training. Participants will receive recognition in the national qualification database maintained by and through NASBLA.

The fee for the course is \$4,800 per student (with a minimum of 10 students) and covers all instruction, ground transportation from New Orleans Airport, lodging and meals for the duration of the five-day, 40-hour course. Maximum class size is 20 students, so be sure to register early.

To register for this course or for more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AirboatTraining>.



**Weekly  
e-newsletter  
available**

In late October, NASBLA launched a new format for our electronic newsletter, NASBLA Currents. The newsletter will now be delivered to your inbox on a weekly basis. Along with updates from NASBLA headquarters, the e-newsletter will also include timely industry news relevant to our members.

Not on our mailing list yet? Simply visit <http://multibriefs.com/optin.php?nasbla> to subscribe.





# PARTNER PERSPECTIVES

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

## Outstanding colleagues provide *inspiration*

**T**he 2012 annual NASBLA Conference was once again a great event! It was held in the historic downtown area of Mobile, Alabama – right on the water. I enjoyed skipping lunch a time or two and taking walking tours of the downtown and learning about the history of the various buildings. Also, across the street was a beautiful park that was lively with people young and old, happily fishing. You know me, if there's fishing I must go check it out.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Police Division, was the host agency, and showed great Southern hospitality. Erica, Joe and Ryan, thank you. NASBLA's staff organized a superb event. The on-water training at nearby Five Rivers was outstanding, from tactical officer training demonstrations to stand up paddleboarding tricks and tips. Boat manufacturers were happy to take people out on the boats and show off their products.

I liked all of the sessions and breakouts I attended, but I have to say NASBLA's Awards Luncheon is one of my favorite parts. I really like the slideshow during lunch, showing all of the boating officers of the year. It's wonderful to see people be recognized for their work and dedication! This year was no exception.

Congratulations to Utah State Park Ranger Dawn Larsen for her selection as Boating Officer of the Year, and to Joseph McCullough of the Alaska Office of Boating Safety for his selection as Boating Educator of the Year. Both of these individuals truly love what they do, and their awards citations were inspiring.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, at its national conference held a couple of weeks before NASBLA's event, likewise recognized members with awards. One of the newer awards is Auxiliarist of the Year, and the recipient this year (2011 award year) is Stephen Lee, from District 11 (southern region). Lee joined the Auxiliary in 2009 and right away dove into getting qualified and becoming active. The ALAUX citation quotes that as his sector's public affairs specialist, Lee has already provided over 1130 hours of service to recreational boating safety outreach, vessel safety checks, and on-water patrols. He regularly contributes safe boating press releases to websites as well as the Los Angeles Times. His award citation, too, is truly inspiring (if you'd like to read the ALCOAST



*During the Coast Guard Auxiliary's national conference, National Commodore James Vass (left) and Admiral Robert J. Papp Jr. (right) present the Auxiliarist of the Year Award to Stephen Lee (center) from District 11. USCG Auxiliary photo*

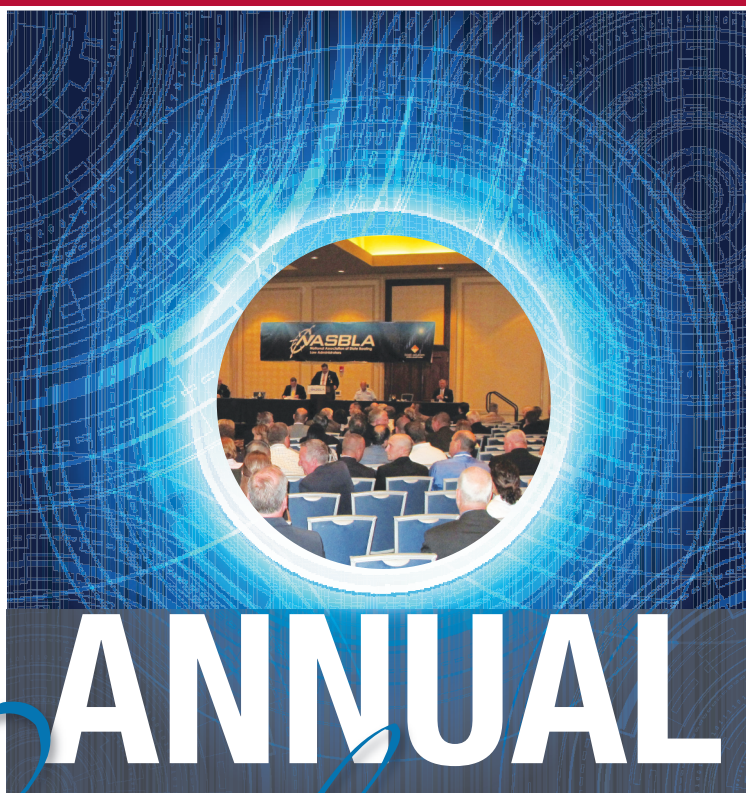
announcement and learn more about Lee's volunteer efforts, visit [http://www.uscg.mil/announcements/alcoast/362-12\\_alcoast.txt](http://www.uscg.mil/announcements/alcoast/362-12_alcoast.txt).

Awards are a wonderful way to recognize colleagues who've been outstanding in their field. While I do know and have worked with Joe McCullough for quite a few years, I haven't met Ranger Larson or Auxiliarist Lee, but reading their citations gave me quite a sense that they too are exceptional. Congratulations to our three colleagues "of the Year"!

There were many more awards during NASBLA's conference, and to all of you, working with you and seeing what you do for boating safety inspires me daily. Our work in boating safety matters! ✨



**T**he National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) held its 53rd Annual Conference in Mobile, Alabama, Sept. 8-12, 2012. This year's conference had it all – awards, networking, exhibitors, a reception, social gatherings, keynote speakers, breakout sessions, a business meeting, on-water demonstrations, and – most importantly – information. The following pages offer highlights from the event.



# ANNUAL *Conference*

*by Kimberly Jenkins*





# Information & Networking

## Pre-conference training

Chief Rodger Norcross and Deputy Chief Karen Muench with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Watercraft Division delivered a training course that – when implemented by the states – is certain to save officer lives. On the day before the conference kicked off, the DNR Watercraft Team unveiled the Officer Survival Training course, which was developed to prepare the maritime officer for not just an accidental fall overboard but also for the unforeseen moment of officer

survival when the fight must be taken to the water.

Students selected for this special preview class represented program and agency leaders from across the country, giving them a firsthand opportunity to assess the need for this training within their agencies for every officer they assign to the maritime mission, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the survival training itself. Each of the participants acknowledged the training event as a worthwhile and physically humbling experience.

“The Ohio DNR Division of Watercraft has led the nation in the development and delivery of one of the most exciting and beneficial training curricula available for marine law enforcement,” said NASBLA CEO John Johnson. “The course will soon be offered nationwide, providing member agencies and others the opportunity to add a whole new layer of critical, life-saving techniques to the marine law enforcement officer’s core training.”

(Continued on page 12)





## Opening ceremonies

Rear Admiral Dean Lee, who is responsible for Prevention Policy, including Recreational Boating Safety and the Auxiliary, opened the conference. He stressed our common purpose to prevent accidents and injuries, the need to exchange ideas and develop productive relationships, and the need to focus on unsafe acts such as bow riding, boating under the influence, and uneducated personal watercraft operators. He then underscored the impact on a family and society as a whole when a life was lost needlessly on the water. He closed by commending all involved in RBS for their dedicated efforts.



*Rear Admiral Dean Lee addresses the attendees during his keynote address.*

## General sessions

Dr. James Reese kicked off the general sessions with an engaging dialogue about coping with change. Employing both wit and wisdom, Dr. Reese stressed the power of a positive attitude. While change is inevitable, he said that every person has a choice: stay better or get better – explaining that change begins with the individual. He reminded the audience, “We don’t see things as they are. We see things as *we* are.”

Sgt. James Knauss with the King County (Washington) Sheriff’s Office discussed his agency’s aggressive efforts to improve safety on local waterways. To prove the value of a personal flotation device ordinance on rivers, the agency developed strong partnerships and studied death rates on the rivers. They also worked with local departments to remove logs and other hazards from the waterways. The stakeholders succeeded in having a temporary ordinance enacted – an

ordinance that is still complied with voluntarily today.

Capt. Dave Rokes and Jeff Hoedt presented a report from the U.S. Coast Guard. The topics garnering the most attention were budget sequestration and the National Recreational Boating Survey.

In August 2011, Congress passed the Budget Control Act of 2011 aimed at cutting the federal deficit by mandating automatic spending caps on the federal government’s nondefense-related, mandatory and discretionary spending – known as sequestration. While trust fund monies would not go toward the deficit, if implemented, funds would still be “sequestered” or withheld from distribution to the states. Obviously, this would have a huge impact the Sport Fish & Boating Trust Fund, leading to significant cuts to the recreational boating safety grant program.

The Government Performance and Results Act mandates that federal agencies utilize proper measures of effectiveness for their programs and establish aggressive goals. During a recent review of the National Recreational Boating Safety program, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pointed out that the U.S. Coast Guard had no adequate measures in place. To remedy the problem, the Coast Guard developed a new comprehensive survey to capture data on items including boating participation, exposure hours, boating safety and awareness behaviors, the economic impact of boating, negative event incidence and risk, and boat statistics. The results will provide a much-needed way to measure the effectiveness of our efforts.



*Dr. James Reese kicks off the general sessions with a witty and wise discussion about coping with change.*

Brandi Baldwin, staff engineer in the Lifesaving & Fire Safety Division of the Coast Guard’s Office of Design & Engineering Standards, explained the new standards being developed for personal flotation devices. The Coast Guard has been working with their Canadian counterparts to develop a Harmonized North American Standard for Wearable Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). The new standard will be based on the international standards – currently being used in Europe – with certain deviations applicable to U.S. and Canadian approvals. This format would allow life jackets designed and tested for use in North America to be approved in Europe with minimal additional testing.

## Annual business meeting

NASBLA’s annual business meeting served to wrap up the previous year’s business and to begin the next year’s work. NASBLA leadership presented representatives from the Massachusetts Environmental Police with a framed certificate in recognition of the agency



*Members discuss a variety of topics during the annual business meeting.*

becoming the second member state to receive full accreditation under NASBLA’s BOAT Program.

Next, the NASBLA membership presented Kim Elverum with a resolution honoring him on his retirement. Elverum served as Minnesota’s BLA for an unprecedented 38 years, during which he gave unselfishly of his time and expertise to the national recreational boating safety community.

Committee chairmen presented their groups’ action items for approval. One such item was a resolution from the Enforcement & Training Committee



recommending that, by Jan 1, 2014, every NASBLA member state/territory adopt a mandatory life jacket wear policy for their internal law enforcement officers and rescue personnel while under way in any department-owned vessel. The resolution additionally recommends that those state/territory agencies that provide recreational boating safety dollars to outside agencies or partners require, by January 1, 2014, as a condition for receiving those dollars, that the outside agency or partner adopt a mandatory wear policy for their law enforcement and rescue personnel.

The conference committee announced that the 2013 NASBLA Annual Conference will be held Sept. 14-18 in Boise, Idaho and the 2014 conference Oct. 15-19 in Bar Harbor, Maine.

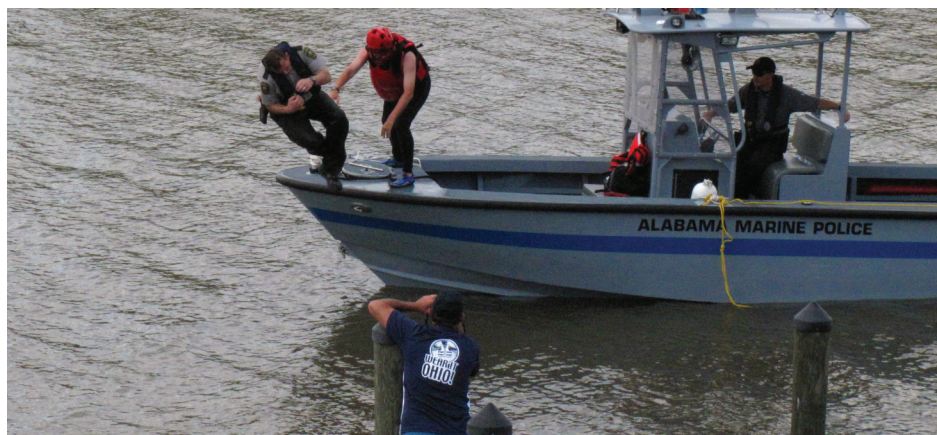
### On-water demonstrations

During the afternoon, conference attendees enjoyed an afternoon of on-water demonstrations at Five Rivers – Alabama’s Delta Resource Center. Demonstrations included the National Safe Boating Council’s Close-Quarter Boat Control training, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ In-Water Officer Survival training, NASBLA’s Seated Battery of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, and Stand Up Paddleboards/Paddlesports. Following the on-water demonstrations, participants could attend breakout sessions with the presenters for more information, try their hand at stand up paddleboarding or close-quarters boat handling, or visit with exhibitors and take short boat rides.

### Breakouts

The last day kicked off with a variety of breakout sessions. One breakout garnering a lot of attention was a presentation on GPS Forensics. Officer Paul Alber, Palm Beach Police Department, and Capt. Raul “Skip” Camejo, Connecticut State Environmental Conservation Police, provided the audience with tips for recovering evidence from GPS devices and how to present the information in the courtroom.

Another popular breakout was the emotionally charged Public Relations & Death Notifications presentation by Maine Inland BLA Joel Wilkinson and Chaplain Kate Braestrup. Giving



*Two officers demonstrate officer survival tactics.*

examples from their own lives, they explained the important role officers play in the grieving process when notifying family members of the death of a loved one.

Idaho BLA Dave Dahms presented his agency’s cold-water training in another breakout. What began as an informal block of training for local sheriff’s departments has evolved into a formalized four-hour course that has been approved by the Idaho Peace Officer Standards & Training.



*NSBC Executive Director Virgil Chambers introduces the new Recreational Boating Safety Instructor Network during a breakout session.*

NASBLA Law Enforcement Director John Fetterman and BOAT Program Director Mark DuPont provided an overview of the ever-expanding officer training opportunities offered by NASBLA.

### Exhibits

Opening during the President’s Reception, the exhibit hall became a popular spot in the mornings and

during breaks. Nearly 30 companies set up booths, with the range of products and services including safety education products, data management applications, boat and motor manufacturers, search and rescue equipment, safety and security products, among others. ✱



*WSIA President Jim Emmons talks with a conference attendee about water sports.*

### Digital Hub

Were you unable to attend the conference? Or, if you did attend, would you like to revisit a presentation? With the recent launch of NASBLA’s new **Digital Hub**, checking out the educational content from our conference and other events is as easy as a click of the mouse. The Digital Hub will house informative and educational materials and videos from NASBLA events. PowerPoint presentations along with audio feed from the 53rd Annual NASBLA Conference are available now. Access the Digital Hub via a link on NASBLA’s homepage, [www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org).

# Appreciation

# Congratulations

NASBLA's leadership recognized numerous outstanding individuals and organizations throughout the NASBLA Annual Conference. These award recipients have provided invaluable assistance to NASBLA in undertaking its multitude of strategic objectives.

## Boating Safety Award

### **Sgt. James Knauss, King County (Washington) Sheriff's Office**

Sgt. James Knauss – who has worked for the King County (Washington) Sheriff's Office for 33 years and is the lead marine enforcement officer in his agency – collaborated with Katy Vanderpool, with the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and Tony Gomez, of Public Health – Seattle and King County, to raise awareness about hazardous river conditions. Working with King County



leaders, the group successfully advocated for an emergency ordinance making the wearing of a personal flotation device (PFD) mandatory when on moving water. The ordinance passed on June 21, 2011, receiving considerable local media attention and resulting in increased public awareness about river safety.

Over the course of the summer, the King County Sheriff's Office issued 133 no-fee tickets for violations of the ordinance and river safety continued to receive a great deal of media attention. The ordinance had a dramatic effect. On average, King County experiences 18 drownings a year with 60 percent of those occurring in open water (lakes and rivers). In 2011, there were no drownings associated with recreational activities covered by the ordinance.

## Compass Award

### **Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Division of Law Enforcement**

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Division of Law Enforcement became the nation's first state agency to earn national accreditation in the Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) program.



In 2009, NASBLA instituted the BOAT Program as a national standard of training, typing and credentialing maritime law enforcement officers and emergency responders recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,



Division of Law Enforcement first embedded their instructors into BOAT courses being delivered throughout the country and followed the NASBLA Instructor Certification Program, establishing a cadre that could begin the training of their officers internally.

Next, LDWF pursued accreditation. In 2011, having assessed their training plans, means of documentation, and maintenance of files and currency of qualifications, and finding them to be in perfect compliance with the national standards, LDWF was deemed the nation's first agency to achieve accreditation in the BOAT Program.

## Innovations Award

### Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

As in most other parts of the United States, abandoned and derelict boats are a serious problem in Florida. After recognizing the potential cost and time savings that might result from a more proactive approach to abandoned and derelict boats, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission staff



developed the At-Risk Vessel initiative and combined it into the agency's Derelict Vessel Program. This initiative was intended to be a means of getting out ahead of the derelict boat problem, and its goal is to solve immediate boating/navigation safety problems while deterring violations of Florida's boating laws by initiating proactive communication with boat owners whose boats meet conditions

known to precede a boat being abandoned or becoming derelict. The electronic tracking system links with Florida's Derelict Vessel Database and allows the state to solve problems before boats become either a hazard to navigation or environmental threat, or both.

## Legislative Award

### Rep. Alan Austerman, Alaska

A former police officer, commercial fisherman and publisher of the Kodiak Times newspaper, Alaska State



Representative and House Majority Leader Alan Austerman has spent nearly two decades serving the people of Alaska and their many interests, including the thousands of boaters and

anglers in the state.

A member of the Alaska House of Representatives, Rep. Austerman has represented the 36th District since 2009. He also serves on the Fisheries, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Community and Regional Affairs committees.

Rep. Austerman was selected to receive the Legislative Award in recognition for his legislative leadership as the primary sponsor of House Bill 301, which successfully removed the sunset dates of Alaska's boating safety and education program. Rep. Austerman's commitment to the Alaska recreational boating community ensures that Alaska's multi award-winning program to educate and raise awareness for boating safety has a more permanent footing. Since the Alaska program was enacted in 2000, recreational boating fatalities have decreased 22 percent.

*Editor's Note: Rep. Austerman will receive his award in Juneau early next year.*

## Lifetime Achievement Award

### Officer Tim Baumgarten, Arizona

Officer Tim Baumgarten's 30-plus year career has exemplified professionalism and expertise in recreational boating safety law enforcement. His career has centered on the advancement of impaired boat operator detection and enforcement efforts. Because of this, Officer Baumgarten is recognized nationally as the top expert in operating under the influence enforcement and on-the-water sobriety checkpoint techniques. He has been involved in OUI special projects since the first OUI checkpoint in Arizona in 1993. Since then, he has participated in and supervised over 95 Arizona sobriety checkpoints, more than any other watercraft officer nationwide. Having personally accounted for well over 120 OUI arrests in his career and assisted fellow officers with hundreds more, Officer Baumgarten clearly is one of the nation's most proficient OUI officers. In the biggest advancement in alcohol



enforcement in over 20 years, Officer Baumgarten was the driving force, critical technical advisor, and background author for the multi-year validation study for the seated battery of the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs). As a direct result of his expertise, these tests are now standardized and validated for use by

(Continued on page 12)

watercraft officers. Officer Baumgarten has trained or helped train dozens and dozens of watercraft officers from across the west and the country in the new seated battery through his role as a NASBLA boating under the influence trainer and Arizona General Instructor.

### NASBLA receives Distinguished Public Service Award from USCG



During NASBLA's 53rd Annual Conference in Mobile, Alabama, the U.S. Coast Guard presented the association with the Distinguished Public Service Award. The Coast Guard bestows Distinguished Public Service Awards to recognize extraordinary heroism in advancing the Coast Guard's mission, exceptional coordination and/or cooperation in matters pertaining to the Coast Guard's responsibilities, and personal and direct contribution to the Coast Guard that had a direct bearing on the accomplishment of the Coast Guard's responsibilities to its citizens. NASBLA is proud to receive this award and will work to continue furthering the Coast Guard's mission.

## Nasbla Award

### Margaret Podlich, BoatUS

For nearly two decades, Margaret Podlich has been an active and engaged associate member, providing valued cooperation and collaboration, especially at the NASBLA committee



level, where she became a respected, contributing member of NASBLA's Education Committee, the Waterways Management Committee, and its predecessor the Environmental and Social Impacts Committee. Her knowledge of environmental issues, her advocacy for clean marina programs and boating access, and her devotion to stewardship as one of the great shared values of the recreational boating community has earned her the respect and admiration of her peers from across North America.

In addition to her support for NASBLA policy objectives throughout the years, Podlich played a key role in shaping the content and minimizing the potential negative impacts of the Clean Boating Act on the states and recreational boaters. A lifelong boater, she is a leader in the recreational boating community and a passionate supporter of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

## President's Award

- Dave Dahms, Idaho BLA for his inspiring leadership of the organization's Education & Awareness Committee.
- Dan Heskett, Kansas BLA for helping NASBLA achieve greater uniformity in vessel identification, registration and titling.
- Lt. Paul Niepling, D.C. BLA, for his invaluable assistance with a special national offering of the Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program's Tactical Operators Course.
- Colonel Joel Wilkinson, Maine Inland BLA, for his inspiring leadership to the organization's Enforcement & Training Committee.
- Captain Brad Williams, Florida, for his invaluable, ongoing contributions to the development of the organization's Tactical Operators Course.
- Brian Kempf, New York BLA for his noteworthy contributions as chairman of the Waterways Management Committee.

## Waterways Management Award

### Mystery Bay Management Plan Team, Washington

The Mystery Bay Management Plan, completed in 2010, was developed by a team of state and local agencies, tribes, shellfish growers, and local residents to address the problem of too many boats anchored or moored near shellfish beds in the bay. Located on the west side of Marrowstone Island, Mystery Bay is a productive shellfish area for commercial and tribal harvesting. The small bay is also a popular anchorage with recreational boaters. In 2009, the Washington State Department of Health closed the beds in much of the bay during boating season because the





number of boats exceeded federal standards for commercial shellfish safety.

NASBLA cited the successful collaborative effort as the main reason for selecting the Mystery Bay Management Plan Team as this year's award recipient.

"We were impressed that a large group of individuals with varying backgrounds and goals were able to pull together and develop a workable, comprehensive plan to solve such a complicated issue," said John Johnson, CEO and executive director of NASBLA. "The team's efforts truly embody the spirit of partnership, which is key to successful waterways management."

*William B. Garner*  
*National Boating*  
*Safety*  
*Leadership*  
**Award**  
*Richard Moore, Florida*

"Capt. Moore truly embodies the spirit and purpose of the Garner award," said NASBLA CEO John Johnson. "His efforts

have undoubtedly taken our nation's boating under the influence policies, training and enforcement to heights never before seen."

Having been a fisherman, hunter, and recreational boating enthusiast since high school, Capt. Moore's wide variety of boating experiences have cultivated his genuine passion for taking an active role in making boating a safe and enjoyable activity for all who participate. He has taken leading roles representing the boating safety interests of the state of Florida at both the state and national level.



Under his leadership and direction, NASBLA has created new standards in field sobriety tests and applied those standards to redesigning a national curriculum for teaching boating under the influence (BUI) detection and enforcement. As BUI program manager and frequent lead instructor in NASBLA's BUI Detection and Enforcement Course, Capt. Moore has championed BUI enforcement.

*Editor's Note: The Boating Officer of the Year and Boating Educator of the Year awards were also presented during the conference. To read more about the officers, turn to page 15. To read more about the educators, see the Sept-Oct 2012 Small Craft Advisory. \**

## NASBLA CEO inducted into Hall of Fame



NASBLA CEO John Johnson was inducted into the Boating Safety Hall of Fame by the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) during the NASBLA Annual Conference. The National Safe Boating Council utilizes the Boating Safety Hall of Fame to bring the deserving attention to those individuals that tirelessly and selflessly commit themselves to such a worthy cause and, in turn, making our nation's waterways safer for all to enjoy.

Johnson has been employed with NASBLA for over 20 years and during his time has provided leadership both within and outside the association as well as been an advocate for policies and resources to reduce the loss of life on the water.

"John has been a shining example of an advocate of boating safety throughout his career," said Virgil Chambers, NSBC executive director. "The manner in which he achieves goals and develops lasting relationships have all been great strides in the name of furthering boating safety and education programs."

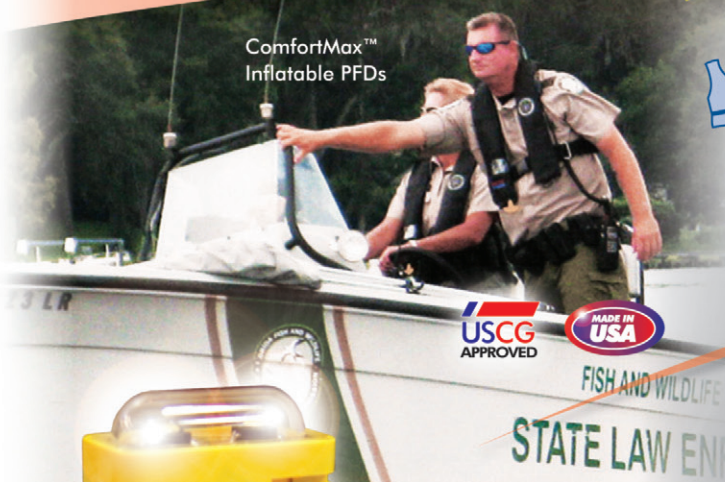
Johnson has been a devoted supporter of the National Safe Boating Council and its programs as well as supporting other organizations and missions in which he has truly believed. Among the highlights in his career, in September 2011 he was presented with the prestigious William B. Garner National Boating Safety Leadership Award in recognition of his ongoing efforts in boating safety.



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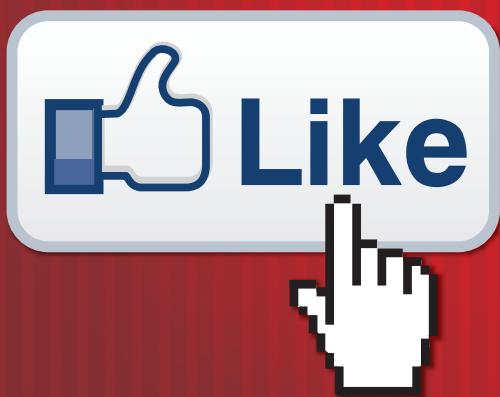
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# 2012 BOATING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE YEAR



The 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 43 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**  
Deer Creek State Park  
Ranger  
**Dawn Larsen**  
State Parks and  
Recreation  
**Utah**



Known for her professionalism, knowledge and compassion, Ranger Dawn Larsen has been recognized for serving as a role model for other women in law enforcement.

Assertive in her pursuit of boating law violators, Ranger Larsen wrote 536 citations, 26 crime reports, 46 accident reports, and 52 officer information reports in 2011. She responds to a wide variety of rescue, medical and enforcement calls on the heavily visited Deer Creek Reservoir and Provo River. Her great work was a major factor in the successful rescue of 20 victims during a fierce microburst storm, and the subsequent retrieval of 17 capsized boats. She conducted numerous safety patrols and helped coordinate saturation patrols on the river and reservoir, which has helped improve safety for all visitors on these waters.

Ranger Larsen has handled many challenging incidents and accidents – always in a professional manner – including several involving intoxicated and out-of-control individuals. She is credited with saving the life of a distraught individual who was

# UTAH Ranger named 2012 Boating Officer of the Year

contemplating suicide. Ranger Larsen was able to calm the victim and get help from emergency medical personnel, who then safely transported the victim to the hospital for evaluation and treatment.

Ranger Larsen has been commended for her ability to communicate effectively. In one particular incident, she responded to a drowning where communication with the victim's Spanish-speaking family was difficult. However, Ranger Larsen spoke enough Spanish to communicate with a relative at the hospital to obtain information for the case. Her colleagues were very impressed with Larsen's abilities and compassion. She went out of her way to follow up with the victim's relatives to make sure his family in Mexico was notified.

Ranger Larsen helped initiate, develop and now has major responsibility for management of permits for commercial rafting and fishing companies launching from Deer Creek State Park on the Lower Provo River. Her work has resulted in greatly increased boating law compliance by rafting companies, and a much safer experience for visitors using their services.



# REGIONAL OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

## Northern Region

Master Conservation Officer

**Shawn Brown**

Department of Natural Resources

**Indiana**



Photo courtesy Sgt. Michael Kellems  
La Porte County Sheriff's Department

Having served northwest Indiana's boaters for 16 years, Master Conservation Officer Shawn Brown is a highly motivated, trained and dedicated boating enforcement officer who conducts highly effective marine patrols. What he has accomplished in boating enforcement, when taking into account all his other responsibilities as an officer, is simply incredible.

Officer Brown's patrol area includes several inland lakes and Lake Michigan. In 2011 he issued 81 arrest citations and 99 warning tickets for boating violations. He also worked 150 hours of boating overtime. What makes the amount of boat enforcement activity generated by Officer Brown more amazing is that Indiana Conservation Officers are responsible for all types of natural resource recreation enforcement, not just marine-related regulations.

Officer Brown instructed four boater safety education classes in 2011. He also strives to make every boating contact an educational opportunity by handing out regulation booklets and answering questions.

Officer Brown made 17 boating while intoxicated (BWI) arrests in 2011. Because of his success in detecting drunken boaters, he is helping to develop BWI patrol training for all Indiana Conservation Officers. Frustrated with the lack of understanding prosecutors have toward BWI enforcement, and their reluctance to take these violations to trial, he developed a PowerPoint presentation to educate them on patrol techniques and probable cause standards when making these cases.

He completed NASBLA's Tactical Boat Operators Instructor Course and has already used this training to educate local police agencies, the USCG, and Fish and Wildlife Officers around the country in tactical boat operation. Officer Brown also attended the Close Quarter Boat Operation Course hosted by the National Safe Boating Council. He also attended the 2012 NASBLA BUI training course to become a Standardized Field Sobriety Test instructor. All of this training makes him a valuable asset to Indiana's boating enforcement program.

## Southern Region

Captain

**Spencer Cole**

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

**Louisiana**



Captain Spencer Cole joined the Enforcement Division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as an agent in 1999. Throughout his career, he has been active in recreational boating law enforcement and training. He has remained steadfast in his core beliefs that training and knowledge will go far to make Louisiana's waterways safer in regards to recreational boating safety and maritime security.

Because of his dedication and passion, Capt. Cole was assigned to headquarters in 2008 to become a part of the agency's recreational boating and maritime security program. In 2010, he was appointed as the LDWF/LED Director of Training. Most notable has been his remarkable display of conviction in working with NASBLA since 2009 to have the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries accredited in NASBLA's Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) program. His efforts paid off last fall when LDWF/LED became the first agency in the United States to earn national accreditation in the BOAT program.

Capt. Cole maintained the momentum of the NASBLA accreditation by obtaining accreditation from the Louisiana Peace Officer Standardized Training council. In 2011 the Louisiana POST council made Louisiana the first state nationally to accredit the BOAT program as a law enforcement standard for maritime boating safety enforcement and search and rescue.

Lt. Cole continues to display energy and enthusiasm in regards to his duties in recreational boating and maritime security. He has continuously searched for innovative funding sources to obtain equipment and training for his agency's agents. His most recent efforts provided the department with training and equipment such as side-scan sonar, FLIR, and vessels, reducing the financial burden of the department's multi-mission responsibility and further enhanced the agency's core mission responsibilities.

## Northern Region Boating Officers of the Year



**Officer Sean Buckley**  
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
**Connecticut**

Officer Sean Buckley is a five-year veteran with Connecticut's Division of State Environmental Conservation Police. His assigned sector contains Candlewood Lake, the largest inland water body in Connecticut with a surface area of 8.4 square miles (5420 acres) and property including five different towns. Candlewood Lake has over 2,000 docks and 6,000 registered boats on the water. The majority of 86 miles of shoreline contains single-family homes as well as 11 marinas, shore side restaurants and bars, and several public boat launches.

The Connecticut State Environmental Conservation Police (EnCon Police) are the primary boating law enforcement agency on Candlewood Lake consisting of an EnCon Police Sergeant, an EnCon Police Officer and two to three seasonal Special Conservation Officers. The Candlewood Lake Authority augments enforcement with part-time Lake Patrol Officers.

In 2011 Officer Buckley volunteered for the EnCon Police Officer assignment on Candlewood Lake. During the 2011 boating season – May through mid-October – Officer Buckley performed over 300 hours of dedicated boating patrols on the lake, resulting in 46 incidents, 15 arrests and three warnings. Five of the arrests were for boating under the influence. To put these arrests in perspective, during an average year the EnCon Police routinely make between five and 10 boating under the influence arrests statewide.

In June of 2011, the Candlewood Lake Sergeant was reassigned. Officer Buckley was made acting Sergeant for the summer, taking over the responsibility of supervising the EnCon Police Special Conservation Officers and the Candlewood Lake Patrol officers. In addition, he continued conducting boating enforcement patrols on the lake.

Officer Buckley's positive attitude, drive and professionalism were demonstrated

in his exceptionally high desire to ensure that the boating enforcement mission of the EnCon Police was successful on Candlewood Lake. As a result, there were fewer complaints from residents about unsafe boating practices on the lake.



**Agent First Class Oran White**  
Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Section  
**Delaware**

Agent First Class Oran White has been an enforcement agent for the Delaware Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Section for two years. Although he is one of the newest officers, his dedication and hard work in the field of recreational boating safety have not gone unnoticed.

In 2011 he amassed 1296 boating enforcement hours as well as made 45 boating-related arrests and several difficult boating under the influence cases. He led the agency in 715 boardings and 419 underway patrol hours. AFC White conducted many nighttime patrols of Delaware waters during peak boating activity periods and worked several nights, weekends and holidays. His hard work and enthusiasm for the job serves as an example to all.



**Conservation Police Officer Christian Stone**  
Department of Natural Resources  
**Illinois**

Conservation Police Officer Christian Stone consistently works toward making the boating public safer and looks for ways to educate the public on safe boating. He assists with patrol efforts in District 10, which covers 86 miles of the Illinois River and encompasses several lakes, including 4,200-acre Lake Springfield. This is one of the busiest bodies of water in Central Illinois with over 14 lake clubs and hundreds of private residences along the 57 miles of shoreline. Lake Springfield hosts over 90 fishing tournaments throughout the year and sees very heavy recreational watercraft use. CPO Stone's enforcement efforts help to keep the boaters who enjoy these waters safe.

During 2011, CPO Stone led the district by making seven arrests for persons operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs (OUI). He also assisted in the apprehension of four other subjects for

OUI during enforcement details. He issued 31 citations and 28 written warnings for other boating violations.

CPO Stone conducted over 150 vessel inspections and assisted in the investigation of two fatal boat accidents in 2011. He also made multiple drug arrests. He was part of an enforcement detail for a large fishing tournament that brings hundreds of boaters to a narrow seven-mile backwater of the Illinois River. CPO Stone issued citations and warnings for life jacket violations, reckless operation, violation of no-wake zones, and many other violations during the three-day event. He also assisted with the safe return of swamped or sinking vessels and the passengers on board.

CPO Stone is a member of the department's Boat Accident Team, which investigates serious injury and fatal boat accidents. He is also a certified Defensive Tactics (DT) instructor, firearms instructor, district evidence officer and sonar operator for the department. CPO Stone is always willing to seek out and obtain additional training to improve his own enforcement skills.



**Conservation Officer Matt Bruner**  
Department of Natural Resources  
**Iowa**

Assigned to Boone and Story counties, Matt Bruner has done a phenomenal job with navigation enforcement, public relations, and education work for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Even though Saylorville Reservoir and Big Creek State Park are technically in Polk County, these two high-use areas are close enough for Officer Bruner to provide additional navigation enforcement. The two conservation officers assigned to Polk County welcome Bruner's assistance because they are always extremely busy working the Des Moines metro area. Officer Bruner often assists the seasonal water patrol officers with enforcement on Saylorville. If he knows neighboring officers are working along the Des Moines River or on Saylorville, he will coordinate and maximize his navigation enforcement on the same stretch of river.

Officer Bruner's navigational experience and time on the water have been great assets for the navigational enforcement



in his region. He worked many navigational hours in 2011, and his time out on the water enforcing the laws provided great opportunities for educational and public relation contacts with the anglers and boaters. He assisted BLA Susan Stocker with numerous navigational public service announcements. Being recognized due to these PSAs has helped Officer Bruner facilitate an excellent rapport with the public.

Officer Bruner is one of the agency's primary instructors for the standardized field sobriety tests. With the new Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) law change that took effect on July 1, 2011, the agency's BWI forms needed to be updated to correspond to the new law. Officer Bruner stepped forward to take the lead on this difficult and time-consuming process.

Officer Bruner's proficiency with handling BWI violations is an excellent reflection of his strong work ethic and his high caliber of professionalism as an enforcement officer. He made nine BWI cases in 2011.



**Pilot  
Steven L. Ingram**  
Marine Patrol  
Maine

An 18-year veteran, Pilot Steven Ingram worked many years in the Wells Patrol as a marine patrol field officer before being promoted to sergeant, then to pilot.

Pilot Ingram was instrumental in several searches in 2011. In one case, he found a small vessel circling in the Kennebec River with no one at the helm. His quick action expedited the search and limited the search area. Although the outcome was tragic, Pilot Ingram's efforts over the next several days helped the family deal with the crisis. Another case involved a boating accident off Monhegan Island, 10 miles off the Maine Coast, where Pilot Ingram immediately responded and stayed on scene for several days during the search.

Equally impressive is the effort Pilot Ingram makes after searches are called off. On his own accord, he continues to check the areas from the air and provide over-flight data to the families so that they know Patrol has not given up on finding their loved one.

Marine Patrol Pilot Ingram wears many hats for the Bureau. He is in charge of the watercraft facility in Rockland where all maintenance and repairs are made on Marine Patrol watercraft. He is qualified as a Tactical Boat Operator on the Homeland Security Protector Vessel fleet. He recently adopted the lead on the agency's latest addition of a hovercraft to be used for ice rescues. In addition, he has proven himself as an expert grant writer, taking a leadership role in accomplishing this very important function. He has successfully created recreational boating safety grants that have allowed Marine Patrol to participate in crucial on-the-water training as well as in specialized details that impact boating safety along the coast of Maine. Pilot Ingram's efforts to support and enhance Maine's emphasis on recreational boating safety are admirable.



**Officer  
Michael Camire**  
Environmental Police  
Massachusetts

Officer Michael Camire has been a sworn officer with the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP) since 1998. Prior to joining the state law enforcement ranks, he was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard for 22 years. Boating and water safety have been a paramount theme and objective throughout his life and career choices.

Officer Camire not only talks the talk but does so while wearing his life jacket. He has taken the initiative to wear his agency-issued inflatable PFD each time he teaches a boating safety class in the commonwealth. His passion for boating safety comes through loud and clear from his dedicated service and targeted life jacket wear message.

Officer Camire's work assignment coupled with his passion for safety allows him ample opportunity to share his passion for both marine enforcement and education by participating in Operation Dry Water and MEP-sponsored boating safety courses, partnering with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in education and outreach efforts, and conducting vessel accident investigations within his area of assignment. Officer Camire recently took the initiative to share his boating safety message through the publication of an article in *Massachusetts Wildlife* magazine.

Officer Camire participates in numerous community-based activities such as the annual Polar Bear Plunge fundraising event, a local softball league as well as consistently supporting fire and police charitable events to benefit others.

Officer Camire is the longest standing board member of the Environmental Police Officers Association, mentoring and supporting new officers as they come onboard with the agency.



**Conservation Officer  
Andrew Bauer**  
Department of Natural Resources  
Michigan

Conservation Officer Andrew Bauer has been assigned to Berrien County since 1991. A portion of Lake Michigan within his patrol area includes the Cook Nuclear Power Plant. The power plant poses unique on-water enforcement challenges, including a no-float zone on Lake Michigan. In addition, Officer Bauer patrols the St. Joseph River, which has year-round boating and fishing. Three hydro dams, each with its own unique safety concerns and patrol issues, are located on the St. Joseph River system. His work area is heavily populated with a large influx of anglers and recreational boaters.

Officer Bauer places strong emphasis on marine enforcement, working on marine safety compliance with all user groups. He continually coordinates multi-agency patrols with officers from Michigan and Indiana, along with federal agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. One patrol organized by Officer Bauer led to 24 arrests.

Officer Bauer maintains an exceptional working relationship with the USCG in St. Joseph and with the Berrien County Sheriff's Department, coordinating patrol efforts with both agencies during the Venetian and the Fourth of July Festivals. Officer Bauer is also a member of a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement team, which focuses on homeland security and marine safety issues.

During a patrol he organized during Venetian Festival 2011, Officer Bauer and two other conservation officers heard screaming coming from the vicinity of a boat nearby. It was after midnight and extremely dark. The officers responded, traveling toward the screams, and

discovered that an intoxicated man had fallen from a moving boat into the 60-degree water. Struggling to stay afloat, the victim was observed going underwater numerous times. The boat occupants did not know how to safely operate the boat to rescue the subject. Officer Bauer and the other two officers were able to reach the drowning man, who was exhausted, and pulled him from the water.



**Conservation Officer  
Adam Block**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
Minnesota

Adam Block is a highly motivated Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officer. Before joining the DNR, Officer Block served as a water patrol deputy for Le Sueur County for two summers. For the past seven years, he has patrolled the demanding Prior Lake station, which includes over 36 lakes, as well as over 50 miles of the Minnesota River.

Officer Block routinely volunteers to work special boating safety patrol assignments in other locations throughout the state. He has logged over 44 special boating safety enforcement projects over the past six summers. He also varies his work schedule to maximize his efforts. In 2011 he worked 383 late hours and 510 weekend hours to achieve the "exceptional" rating in his review on time management. Since 2005, he has worked 1,652 boating safety hours, far exceeding his assigned goal. In the past six summers, he wrote 136 citations and 343 warnings for a variety of boating violations, including arresting 32 individuals for boating under the influence of alcohol. Those arrests resulted in seven boat seizures, including two felony level arrests.

In 2011 Officer Block presented boating safety information at 26 different events including various schools, civic organizations, the state fair and several sporting groups. He has also given presentations to childcare centers promoting life jacket awareness.

Officer Block works closely with the Scott County Sheriff's Office on joint patrols and safety presentations to serve the boating public. He puts forth extra effort in promoting the wearing of life jackets to both youth and adults alike, handing out countless PFD Panda

Awards to kids in boats who are wearing theirs. He also conducted media interviews regarding boating safety as well as interviews regarding limiting the spread of invasive species on area lakes.



**Supervisor  
Brian P. Starck**  
Marine Patrol  
New Hampshire

Supervisor Brian Starck has proven to be an excellent employee and is of tremendous value to the citizens he serves. He is well liked in the workplace, pays attention to detail, and generates an impressive work product. Moreover, his ability to lead by example is an asset to the agency.

Brian Starck began his career as an officer with the New Hampshire Marine Patrol in 2006. Throughout his tenure, he has been assigned to Lake Winnepesaukee, the state's largest body of water, encompassing eight towns and two counties. Annually, this lake accounts for the most boating traffic and calls for service statewide.

In 2009, Starck was promoted to shift supervisor and has maintained an excellent rapport with his colleagues. He consistently sets an excellent example for his subordinates and takes pride in maintaining high morale. He has also received multiple letters of praise from members of the public for his positive, professional, and calm demeanor.

Holding a degree in education, Supervisor Starck is employed as an educator by a school district within the state. He applies his educational background to the agency by assisting with commercial license testing and the training of new officers.

During the 2011 boating season, Supervisor Starck volunteered to rewrite the outdated commercial boating license exam. Utilizing input from senior officers, he drafted three lengthy written exams. This was a major undertaking, which affects approximately 500 boating license applicants each year. The new test has received positive feedback from testers and officers alike, as questions are phrased more clearly and concisely than the previous versions.

Supervisor Starck has also participated with the training of new marine patrol

officers. As a field-training officer, he has taught many new officers the variety of tasks required to perform their job functions. His high quality level of training produces proficient and confident officers.



**Trooper II Jamie Ablett  
and  
Trooper II James Laspada**  
State Police  
New Jersey

On November 2, 2011, the Atlantic City Station received a call from the Ocean City Police Department advising that a 75' commercial vessel had been stolen. Trooper II Jamie Ablett and Trooper II James Laspada were dispatched to investigate. They located the vessel – a three-deck commercial paddle-wheeler – in the Atlantic Ocean. It was traveling in circles, approximately 100 feet off a large rock outcropping, in heavy seas. At this point, the troopers had been advised that the suspect had an extensive criminal history and was believed to be under the influence of narcotics and/or alcohol.

As the troopers approached the vessel, they saw the suspect in the third-deck wheelhouse. The suspect then disappeared into the lower levels of the vessel. The vessel was making way in reverse, heading in the direction of the shoreline and jetty. As the vessel approached the shoreline, the surf conditions became more of a concern to Troopers Ablett and Laspada. The vessel and its occupant were in danger of capsizing and sinking in the heavy surf as well as colliding with the rocks.

In an effort to protect the suspect, vessel and civilians along the shoreline, the troopers quickly boarded the vessel to change its course. The troopers made their way up to the wheelhouse, gained positive control of the vessel and piloted the vessel away from the surf and certain destruction.

Once the vessel was out of immediate danger, Troopers Ablett and Laspada conducted a complete search of the vessel while backup troopers were en route. With assistance from two other troopers, they located the suspect who was combative and under the influence of narcotics and alcohol. After a brief physical struggle with the suspect, the troopers arrested the suspect and brought him to safety.





**Major  
Clark M. Young**  
Office of Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation  
New York

Major Clark Young's inspired leadership and unwavering devotion have contributed immensely to New York's overall boating safety on the waters of Livingston County, and throughout the Finger Lakes and Genesee regions.

Major Young has been involved in marine law enforcement and recreational boater education since his earliest years with the Livingston County Sheriff's Office. First employed as a part-time marine patrolman in 1967, then Deputy Young was assigned to patrolling the county's waterways. After his hiring, patrol hours more than doubled on his waterways, and tickets and warnings increased ten-fold. Distinguishing himself through his tireless efforts in bringing law and order to the county's waterways, he was soon given the supervision of the entire marine patrol, rising through the ranks, eventually becoming Major. Now, having retired, Clark Young returns to the department each summer to continue in his marine patrol capacity from which he began – his love of boating and commitment to safety a thoroughly engrained part of his life.

Soon after beginning his employment with the county, Deputy Young immediately made it his mission to establish a countywide boater education program. Over the past 47 years, while continuously employed within the Sheriff's Office, Major Young has taught over 5,500 students in the safe and proper operation of motorboats. During that time, he has also recruited and trained additional instructors within his department through team-teaching strategies. At the conclusion of every class Clark clues everyone in on his "secret sign," a thumbs up, which they can use on the water as an indication to any marine patrolman of their having successfully completed the boating safety course.



**Game Warden  
Eugene Masse**  
Game and Fish Department  
North Dakota

Game Warden Gene Masse has been stationed in the New Rockford district since he was hired as a permanent employee with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in 1974. Throughout his long and storied career, Masse has become very knowledgeable about North Dakota's largest natural lake, Devils Lake, which now has grown to about 140,000 acres.

Warden Masse spends the majority of his time patrolling in and around Devils Lake by vehicle, boat, snowmobile and ATV. His value to the Enforcement Division is felt year-round as his district includes a world-class fishery and a four-season tourist destination spot.

For many years, Warden Masse had sole responsibility for Devils Lake, a daunting task that is now shared by three game wardens. Masse also is tasked with patrolling many other smaller water bodies within his district. Most game wardens tire of the boat and water safety patrols in the later stages of their careers, but Warden Masse has continued to find the strength to continue his water patrols.



**Watercraft Officer  
Blaine Downing**  
Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio

With more than 10 years of service, Watercraft Officer Blaine Downing leads by example. Every day he dons his uniform and prepares for patrol even if he is going to spend the day in the office. This preparedness has allowed Officer Downing to respond quickly to calls of service. Others in the office have taken note and followed his lead.

Officer Downing was called out almost weekly last summer on his days off, responding to calls ranging from the office's alarm going off to fatal boating accidents. He was promoted to the position of specialist and took on a great deal of responsibilities including coordinating a marine patrol day for local marine patrols and constituents; attending law enforcement meetings by local departments; reviewing and correcting reports generated by officers; handling

office evidence; maintaining the office nuclear chemical equipment; ensuring three intoxilyzers are correctly calibrated weekly; updating and maintaining the office court information (approx 20 different courts); and acting as the officer in charge for special patrols and as a liaison to the United States Coast Guard. This list is certainly by no means all the duties in which this officer is tasked, but does represent Officer Downing's well-rounded character because he has been able to handle all of these projects, while still surpassing 300 boating inspections and completing 40 education events.

Officer Downing worked tirelessly to get an MOU signed between the Division of Watercraft and a city for use of their jail facility. The Division of Watercraft office now works with a sigh of relief knowing that we can incarcerate someone if need be in this particular city.



**Waterways Conservation Officer  
Anthony J. Quarracino**  
Fish and Boat Commission  
Pennsylvania

WCO Anthony Quarracino has been serving with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission since July 17, 2001. A role model to fellow officers, he exemplifies professional service to the citizens of the commonwealth by keeping the waterways safe.

A major part of WCO Quarracino's patrol area is comprised of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Raystown Lake project. This 8,300-acre impoundment is the largest lake wholly contained in Pennsylvania and has become known as the premier boating destination in the south-central region of the state.

In 2011, WCO Quarracino logged 318½ hours conducting boating law enforcement with all or part of 44 shifts onboard a patrol vessel. During that time, he conducted 330 boardings and issued 141 citations and 176 warnings.

WCO Quarracino is very proactive in boating under the influence (BUI) enforcement. During 2011, he supervised two on-the-water boating safety/BUI details and participated in several others. As a result, he successfully apprehended and prosecuted nine boat operators for BUI and related charges. He also assisted fellow officers with four more apprehensions. This activity

earned WCO Quarracino the Bureau of Law Enforcement's Top Gun Award for 2011, which recognizes outstanding efforts in detecting and apprehending impaired boaters.

During the 2011 boating season, WCO Quarracino investigated four boat crashes/accidents and assisted with three others. Four of these incidents occurred within a four-hour period on Raystown Lake during the very busy Labor Day holiday weekend. Additionally, he assisted with two search and rescue operations on Raystown Lake.

Realizing that education also saves lives, WCO Quarracino logged 22 public relations events in 2011. These included boating skills programs at the Franklin County Youth Field Day and Fulton County Camp Cadet. He also assisted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' seasonal ranger training in boat operations, safety and enforcement.



**Environmental Police Officer  
Michael Stach**  
Department of Environmental  
Management  
Rhode Island

Environmental Police Officer Michael Stach is an experienced officer who spends a high percentage of his time on boating safety patrols. Always courteous and professional in his dealings with the boating public, Officer Stach is an expert boat handler and very effective in boating patrols and educating the public.

One summer day in 2011, while securing his vessel after a boat patrol, Officer Stach and a fellow officer heard a report via department radio of an overturned boat with individuals in the water. Stach and the other officer returned to the patrol boat, got under way, and within a short period were at the scene of the overturned vessel. Officer Stach expertly maneuvered his vessel between the overturned vessel and the people in the water in the dark in choppy sea conditions. With the victims struggling in the water, there was no time to waste and Stach operated the vessel in a manner that enabled the officers to rescue five victims from the water without incident. The accident victims were treated at local hospitals and criminal charges resulted from the incident.



**Conservation Officer  
Brook Brown**  
Game, Fish and Parks  
South Dakota

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officer Brook Brown's dedication to serving the public is shown by his enthusiasm and strong work ethic, attributes he has displayed since becoming an officer in 2001. Officer Brown is responsible for covering several lakes in Hamlin County, including one of the busiest and most controversial lakes in South Dakota, Lake Poinsett. Approximately 8,000 acres in size, Lake Poinsett is a highly developed recreational lake that is intensely used both for fishing and water sports.

The summer of 2011 proved to be a challenging boating year for Officer Brown. Record high water levels created tension on the lake as many residents faced devastating flood conditions. Lake levels peaked at approximately five feet above the ordinary high water mark and remained high throughout the summer.

Officer Brown worked countless hours on and off the water patrolling the lake as well as attending lake association meetings, educating residents and answering questions. He assisted the local association in acquiring a no-wake restriction to help control damage incurred by the high water. Officer Brown focused his patrol time on educating the boating public and built an outstanding working relationship between the Game, Fish and Parks Department and various different stakeholders of the Poinsett area.

Officer Brown, like many officers in South Dakota, was also tasked with additional boat safety duties over the summer. He covered the Deuel County station while it was vacant and spent considerable time on Lake Cochrane, another busy recreational lake in South Dakota. Officer Brown also made several trips to Dakota Dunes to assist with the 2011 Missouri River flood effort.



**Conservation Warden  
Scott A. Bowe**  
Department of Natural Resources  
Wisconsin

Conservation Warden Scott Bowe has been a Field Conservation Warden for over 18 years. During his career he has been stationed in two areas of high waterway use, Wisconsin Dells (along

the Wisconsin River) and Cornell (along the Chippewa River). Conservation Warden Bowe has made enforcement and safety of the waterways an important aspect of his job, including enforcement, education, training, and accident reconstruction.

Conservation Warden Bowe is stationed in Chippewa County, a county that has 449 lakes totaling over 20,027 acres. While normally only responsible for half of the county, in 2011 he was responsible for the entire county, including the two largest impoundments, Lake Holcombe (3,670 acres) and Lake Wissota (6,300 acres). He devoted 398 hours of his patrol time to boating-related work during that year and recorded 17 citations and issued 55 warnings. Conservation Warden Bowe focused his patrol in the evening hours to address a rash of boat crashes on Lake Holcombe, and, as a result, arrested three operators for operating while intoxicated. In fact, one of those arrested had actually been a victim in an alcohol-related boat crash that Bowe had investigated three years earlier.

Conservation Warden Bowe works closely with the County's Boating Patrol Deputies and surrounding conservation wardens by coordinating boating enforcement "group" checks on a regular basis. He routinely provides guidance to these officers on the new boating laws and assists them with situations they encounter while on patrol.

A tactical instructor and field-training officer, Conservation Warden Scott is heavily involved in training the warden force. He routinely trains recruits as well as veteran field wardens in firearm proficiencies and defense strategies. In 2011, in addition to his regular duties, Conservation Warden Bowe agreed to take on the added responsibility of having a college intern. This "on the water" training helped solidify the intern's drive to become a conservation warden.

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



**Officer  
Thomas Bobo**  
Marine Police  
Alabama

Officer Thomas Bobo is a well-rounded officer who places equal importance on enforcement, education, and serving his



community. He continues to concentrate his enforcement efforts on dangerous activities, resulting in eight boating under the influence arrests, 16 minor-in-possession arrests, seven drug arrests and one felony arrest for possession of a controlled substance. Officer Bobo's supervisor received compliments from the local district attorney's office on Officer Bobo's work ethic and the quality of his cases.

In addition to being recognized by this agency as the Alabama Marine Police Officer of the Year, Officer Bobo also received a Certificate of Commendation from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for his part in responding to a call on a downed aircraft with a family of seven along the Tombigbee River. Upon receiving the call, Officer Bobo and another officer began a six-hour search through the night for the aircraft and any possible survivors, broadening the search perimeters by over 12 miles from the last known location of the aircraft. They detected a faint odor of smoke at one location and called the GPS coordinates in to an aviation unit, who spotted a small fire on the top of the riverbank. Officer Bobo climbed the steep riverbank, located the downed aircraft, and began searching through the wreckage and around the perimeter for any survivors. Unfortunately, none of the family survived the crash. Officer Bobo called in the location to the local authorities and stayed with the wreckage until they arrived on scene at 4 a.m.

This is just one example of Officer Bobo's work and dedication to duty. He always goes beyond what is asked of him and sets a stellar example for newly hired officers by demonstrating integrity, reliability and conscientiousness in every undertaking.



**Officer  
Brad Young**  
Game & Fish Commission  
Arkansas

Officer Brad Young is stationed in southeast Arkansas and has been in law enforcement for nine years. His enthusiasm and law enforcement experience have been tremendous assets to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and his enforcement district. While Officer Young's accomplishments are in and of themselves very good, they become even more impressive given the fact that

Officer Young is stationed in a county with very little water (only one small river). Most of his boating enforcement is conducted by volunteering outside of his assigned county.

Even though Arkansas Wildlife Officers are multi-tasked, in 2011 Officer Young worked 308 boating hours and made contact with approximately 400 boat operators. He also issued 108 boating citations/warnings and assisted with many more, in addition to coordinating and participating in 10 boating special operations. Officer Young scheduled his work time to coincide with high boating use times in areas with suspected boating violations. He made seven arrests for boating under the influence violations and arrested six boaters for possession of a controlled substance.

Officer Young took it upon himself to educate local district judges and prosecutors on the current BUI laws prior to the initiation of enforcement saturations within their jurisdictions. He has been invaluable in explaining the differences between BUI and DWI enforcement techniques during court proceedings. He also assisted other officers with their BUI reports, field sobriety testing, BAC machine testing and courtroom preparation. Officer Young has no doubt made his entire district more proficient in dealing with impaired boaters.

Officer Young also made boating education and public relations a high priority. He conducted boating safety programs at the Cleveland County area schools; actively promoted boating safety and specifically the dangers of cold water boating during four hunter education classes last fall; and volunteered to work a booth at the Arkansas State Fair.



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

Ranger First Class Richard Tanner goes above and beyond to ensure the boating public has a safe and enjoyable time on Lake Oconee and the adjoining waterways. He takes boating safety handbooks to local boat dealers and stores and helps keep the boxes surrounding the lake full for the boating public. In 2011 he set up and assisted in the teaching of three local boating safety classes. In addition, RFC Tanner logged over 330 hours of boating safety time

and checked 130 vessels to ensure they conformed to safety requirements. He made two boating under the influence arrests and investigated and assisted with eight marine search and rescues, assisting 10 citizens.

RFC Tanner is the agency's expert on the side scan sonar, a highly technical device to aid in the recovery process. He developed a lesson plan for the agency's side scan sonar and is the only instructor on the operations of the device. He was recently asked by the side scan sonar company to become a contact person to assist others throughout the world on the particular model of side scan sonar he uses. Locally, RFC Tanner has given presentations to EMAs about the uses and capabilities of the sonar equipment. He also gave a presentation to a group of visitors from China on emergency underwater search and recovery as well as a presentation on the side scan sonar capabilities at the FBI.

To improve awareness about the capabilities of the side scan sonar, RFC Tanner conducted interviews with TV media from the Atlanta area and held local newspaper interviews. He also submitted an article on side scan sonar for *Small Craft Advisory* (Nov-Dec 2011) and wrote another article for the *International Game Warden* and the *Southeastern publications*.



**Officer  
Donnie McKee**  
Fish & Wildlife Conservation  
Commission  
Florida

Described by his supervisor as a "committed and driven officer," Officer Donnie McKee started his career with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) on January 28, 2007. In 2011 he led his region with seven boating under the influence (BUI) arrests. He also issued 166 uniform boating citations (UBC) and 125 written warnings while logging 870 hours of water patrol.

Since joining the agency, Officer McKee's BUI initiatives have been one of his major priorities. He regularly starts BUI details and seeks out BUI violations within his patrol zone. During these details he helps mentor his squad members. This extra effort acts as a force multiplier by helping these officers become more comfortable and proactive in pursuing BUI violations.

Officer McKee initiated the 2011 operational campaign, "Don't Rock the

Boat," which targeted vessels that did not slow down as they approached stopped law enforcement vessels. The campaign resulted in the issuance of 30 UBCs and six written warnings.

Officer McKee helped establish the use of Mobile Computer Terminals (MCTs) among the officers in the region. His experience has allowed him to take the lead within his squad on the use of mobile forms on an MCT to generate citations and warnings. Officer McKee is also a leader in the use of the MCT when completing boating accident reports. This is illustrated by his use of the diagramming program and photographs to represent an accident. Officer McKee also went the extra step by rigging his patrol boat to allow for MCT use while on water patrol.

Officer McKee is an expert on derelict vessels and continues to hone his skills to complete derelict vessel investigations efficiently. These cases can be very demanding and Officer McKee makes it a point to work with the vessel owner in an attempt to gain compliance before bringing up criminal charges.



**Natural Resource Officer  
Tyson Nielsen**  
Department of Wildlife, Parks  
& Tourism  
Kansas

Natural Resource Officer Tyson Nielsen began his career full-time with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism on November 11, 2001. During his course of employment, Officer Nielsen has been one of the top boating enforcement officers in the state of Kansas.

Through aggressive enforcement and education, Officer Nielsen's actions have increased awareness of the risks and consequences involved in violating the safety aspects of boating laws and regulations. Officer Nielsen has taken a positive approach in promoting life jacket awareness to the public. His efforts have greatly increased the wear rate along with accessibility of life jackets on El Dorado Reservoir, an 8,000-acre reservoir located 28 miles from Wichita – Kansas's largest city.

Officer Nielsen's personal campaign to combat the operation of vessels under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs has had a dramatic effect on the boating

community. His enforcement efforts have resulted in the boating community on El Dorado Reservoir policing their own ranks by purchasing preliminary breath-testing instruments for use prior to operating their own vessels after a day of partying.

In 2011, Officer Nielsen completed 103 documented vessel inspections, coordinated and participated in 10 boating selective efforts, presented two boating programs, composed and delivered four boating-related news releases, worked eight minor-in-possession cases, made three drug arrests, worked nearly 27 hours on suspected illegal drug cases, and made eight arrests for boating under the influence. These statistics were obtained despite Officer Nielsen being on four weeks of medical leave during the height of the 2011 boating season.

Officer Nielsen recently volunteered to be one of four area coordinators for the boating education program for the state. His philosophy that education and law enforcement being utilized simultaneously as the most effective approach is validated by the fact that one of the busiest and most accident prone reservoirs had zero incidents during the summer of 2011.



**Officer  
Chris Fossitt**  
Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Resources  
Kentucky

Officer Chris Fossitt is assigned to Campbell County in northern Kentucky. In 2011 he issued 13 boating citations, including pending felony charges on a boating accident. He also made six boating under the influence arrests and assisted with 10 others. In addition to his enforcement activity, Officer Fossitt provides boating safety education to the public. He offers one class every month from April to September.

Officer Fossitt has cultivated close relationships with several partner organizations, including the U.S. Coast Guard, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Boone County Water Rescue. He coordinates with these groups on joint patrols, concerts and several annual events on the Ohio River.

During the 2011 boating season, Officer Fossitt responded to 10 emergencies in his district. These situations ranged from flood emergencies to rendering aid at accident scenes to assisting with the search for fleeing assault suspects.



**Corporal  
Jeffery Sweitzer**  
Natural Resources Police  
Maryland

Corporal Jeffery Sweitzer joined the Natural Resources Police on January 24, 1990. Tenacious in his pursuit of boating safety and the enforcement of boating regulations, he sets a high standard of professionalism for himself and other officers. He is especially adept in his detection of boating safety issues and the pursuit and apprehension of operating while intoxicated violators. He is looked upon by other officers as having exceptional boat operator skills.

Cpl. Sweitzer's experience, dedication and proactive law enforcement style allow him to be one of Maryland's most consistent and highest producing officers annually in the detection of violations. In 2011, he issued 43 citations and 162 warnings for boating violations. In addition, he had 164 boat patrol hours and 13 operating while intoxicated arrests. All of Cpl. Sweitzer's OWI arrests occurred on Deep Creek Lake, which presents unique challenges. On some arrests, he not only had to facilitate the transportation of the individual but he also had to make a disposition of the suspect's vessel while working alone. Cpl. Sweitzer's positive attitude, his incredible work ethic, his knowledge of Natural Resource Laws and regulations, and his dedication to the job have a positive impact on other officers within the agency.

Cpl. Sweitzer exhibits a very high degree of attention to detail in all aspects of his job including investigations, reports, warnings, and citations and sets a very high standard for himself. His dedication, positive attitude, and incredible work ethic, are an asset to the Department of Natural Resources. Nominated for Boating Safety Officer of the Year 11 times, Cpl. Sweitzer was also selected as Maryland Natural Resources Police Boating Safety Officer of the Year in 2008 and 2010.





**Private  
Marcus Christon**  
Department of Wildlife,  
Fisheries & Parks  
Mississippi

Since joining the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks in 2009, Officer Christon has consistently exhibited an extraordinary work ethic, a high degree of professionalism and a willingness to serve the public that sets him apart from his peers. Just one example of Officer Christon's dedication to protecting Mississippi's citizens and resources can be found in the 30+ boating details he has participated in, issuing numerous citations for boating violations.

Additionally, Officer Christon has been on the forefront of innovation in conducting boating safety classes for the public. It is not unusual for Officer Christon to teach classes in counties with vacancies, going above and beyond his normal duties to provide information to communities that would otherwise remain under served.

Officer Christon proved to be invaluable during the 2011 flood, acting as the department's most reliable and proficient officer in Tunica and Yazoo counties. During this crisis, he upheld the highest level of professionalism during the many partnerships that were formed between local, state and federal agencies.



**Lieutenant  
Wayne E. Talburt**  
State Highway Patrol  
Missouri

Lieutenant Wayne E. Talburt has provided 31 years of service on the water to the citizens of Missouri and served 27 years on the dive team. During 2011, as supervisor of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Dive Team, Lt. Talburt supervised and worked floods in Missouri involving numerous rescues. He also helped supervise one of the longest searches for a trooper who drowned during a flood.

On June 14, 2011, Lt. Talburt was instrumental in the rescue of three female boaters who had become stranded on a bluff on the North Fork River. During a float trip, the tube of one woman was punctured by a tree, so

they decided to walk back to their camp. They followed the edge of the bluff but when they attempted to descend the bluff, one woman slipped and fell about 20 feet. She came to a stop on the edge of a drop-off about 150 feet above a gravel bar. She was afraid to move, fearing she would go over the edge, and the other two women were too afraid of sliding over the edge to climb back up. They caught the attention of a passerby named Mr. Lewis who called 911.

Lt. Talburt, Cpl. Jim Britt and Tpr. John Roberts responded to the call. With the assistance of Tpr. Roberts and Mr. Lewis, Lt. Talburt was hoisted onto the bluff face where he climbed to the women. Tpr. Roberts then hoisted Mr. Lewis up, and he climbed halfway up the rock wall. Lt. Talburt was able to lower two women to Mr. Lewis, who then passed them down to Tpr. Roberts to be lowered to the gravel bar. Finally, Lt. Talburt then took hold of the third woman, the one who had fallen down the bluff, and pulled her back up the slope from the edge. Lt. Talburt assisted her along the edge of the bluff to Mr. Lewis, who then lowered her down to Tpr. Roberts and onto the safety of the gravel bar. All three women were safely returned to their campground.

On August 1, 2011, Marine Trooper Fred Guthrie went missing while working floods in the Big Lake area of the Missouri River. Lt. Talburt was extensively involved in supervising this search operation, which involved extremely dangerous dives in very swift current with poor to no visibility. Tpr. Guthrie's body was finally located almost six months later.



**Master Officer  
Doug Jones**  
Wildlife Resources Commission  
North Carolina

Master Officer Doug Jones demonstrates an outstanding work ethic, holds a superb work record, and serves as a valuable resource to fellow officers and his community. Having patrolled the coastal waters of North Carolina for the past 16 years as a wildlife enforcement officer, Officer Jones possesses invaluable knowledge and expertise in coastal navigation, boating safety and law enforcement, making him a tremendous asset to the North Carolina Wildlife

Resources Commission as well as to the public he serves.

Officer Jones' patrol area includes multiple rivers and tributaries in four counties as well as the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). In 2011, Officer Jones patrolled 372 hours, inspected 933 boats and issued 153 citations. Throughout his career, he has distinguished himself as a leader in operating while impaired (OWI) arrests, making three OWI arrests in one day alone in 2011. In addition, during the 2011 Operation Dry Water campaign, Officer Jones partnered with multiple law enforcement agencies, resulting in 58 citations and 13 OWI arrests.

Officer Jones' commitment to excellence goes beyond what is required. Using his personal time and resources, he earned his U.S. Coast Guard Captain's License. He then shared his new knowledge with fellow Wildlife Enforcement officers, helping them to better their navigation skills.

Officer Jones' professionalism and pride in his job earned him a commendation last year. While out patrolling the ICW, Officer Jones noticed a family in distress stranded in their boat. The commendation stated, "Officer Jones exemplified the ideals of what I believe all officers should embody. He was extremely friendly and helpful, while maintaining the ideals instilled in him in his training. His courtesy and his commitment to your mission helped to ensure that I and my family had a safe time on the water."



**Sergeant  
Steven C. Pop**  
Department of Natural Resources  
South Carolina

During the 2011 boating year, Sgt. Steven C. Pop of Pawley's Island worked extremely hard to keep the waters of South Carolina safe and to educate the public about safe boating practices. A model officer and a valuable and highly respected member of the SCDNR Law Enforcement Division, he plays a major role in training new SCDNR officers. Sgt. Pop also seeks out opportunities to teach boating safety to others. In 2011, he conducted 18 public presentations, as well as courtesy boat inspections and school presentations, delivering the

boating safety message to hundreds of adults and students.

Sgt. Pop's firm, friendly demeanor, fair treatment and overall ability to control crowds while educating them in safe boating practices has resulted in low accident numbers and no fatalities in his district for several years. His honesty and fairness are reflected in the fact that he issues five times as many warnings as summons. During 2011, he issued 33 citations and 187 warnings for boating violations. Sgt. Pop also logged 421 boating hours, inspected 1107 boats, logged 12 accident investigation hours and 56 search and rescue hours.

Sgt. Pop's successful enforcement skills go far beyond boating safety. He is also a leader amongst his peers in state and federal fisheries enforcement. Sgt. Pop initiated and worked a three-year investigation with NMFS agents, the SCDNR covert team and the U.S. Coast Guard to stop an illegal offshore charter fishing vessel operation. Sgt. Pop also conducted undercover observation of docks throughout the night to apprehend subjects offloading illegal fish and spent more than 14 consecutive hours in his patrol boat on the waters of Georgetown Harbor conducting surveillance of a Florida dive boat, eventually apprehending the subjects with 79 pounds over the limit of gag grouper, two undersize scamp, and one undersize red grouper.



**Officer  
Pam McDonald**  
Wildlife Resources Agency  
Tennessee

Possessing the unique ability to bring fellow officers, other agencies, and the public together to achieve the goal of a safer community, Officer Pam McDonald was instrumental in leading an effort to provide a safe boating environment on the Buffalo River, a designated "state scenic river" and popular location for paddle sports activities.

Acting on complaints from the boating public and landowners on Buffalo River in Wayne County, Officer McDonald set up boating enforcement details to reduce accidents and injuries resulting from alcohol and drug abuse aboard paddlecraft on the Buffalo River. She encouraged cooperation from the

jurisdiction's drug task force on their boating enforcement details in the area, and they made dozens of drug and underage alcohol cases each day – resulting in a decrease in the number of boating accidents, injuries and fatalities on the Buffalo River.

Since a large number of the people using the river are first-time boaters, Officer McDonald also launched an innovative way to provide information on safety requirements for paddling on the river. She suggested developing a decal that could be placed in each rental craft that explained the laws and guidance on safely traveling the river. This idea was well received by the rental liveries and public alike.

In 2011 Officer McDonald inspected over 1,600 boats, was the lead investigator on six boating accidents, and issued 24 citations and five warnings for safety violations. She made two boating under the influence arrests and assisted other officers on 35 court citations and one BUI. She also certified 14 students in boating safety, worked public events such as Clifton Riverbend Festival on the Tennessee River and a fishing rodeo with 300 participants.



**Warden  
Michael Hummert**  
Parks & Wildlife Department  
Texas

Since transferring to Grayson County in September of 2010, Warden Michael Hummert has averaged over 500 boat hours a year patrolling Lake Texoma and other smaller bodies of water in the district. In 2011 he filed six boating while intoxicated cases, including one third-degree felony, one Class A and four Class B charges. He assisted in four other BWIs. He was involved in a boat pursuit of a large cigar style boat during the Memorial Day weekend, that started in Texas waters and lead into Oklahoma waters, which resulted in a BWI and evading charges the following day when the subject was located. Warden Hummert has had eight other alcohol-related arrests on the lakes along with high numbers of water safety citations and warnings.

Warden Hummert has streamlined the process of obtaining a specimen of blood over breath samples on BWI enforcement on Lake Texoma. He utilizes the Texoma

Game Warden Station to obtain video evidence in a controlled environment, obtain blood search warrants via fax to the presiding judge, transport to the local hospital for blood draw and book the subject in jail, in a little over one hour. Most cases are pled out before court and those that do go to court are found guilty.

Warden Hummert provides several educational events around the area. He was the host last year for the Boy Scouts Safety at Sea event, which was held at the Texoma Game Warden Station on Lake Texoma. Over 75 scouts participated in the two-day event of water safety education and various marine education programs.

In 2011 Warden Hummert worked four major boating accidents, including one that led to the arrest of a subject that had nine prior DWI convictions. He was also the first officer on the scene of various accidents and coordinated response and victim rescue/recovery.



**Officer  
Beth Garrett**  
Department of Game & Inland  
Fisheries  
Virginia

Virginia Conservation Police Senior Officer Beth Garrett has been a sworn employee with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for the past 15 years. She has developed into a very well rounded boating enforcement officer. She is well respected by the boaters and anglers she encounters as well as the other law enforcement officers she works with on the water. She continues to grow and seek out opportunities to improve on her knowledge, skills and abilities.

Over the past three years, Officer Garrett has significantly increased her boating safety efforts and has been a leader on this front. In 2011, she inspected 293 boats and made 102 boating related arrests, which led the district. In addition, she led the district with three operating under the influence arrests.

Officer Garrett is always willing to work with local, state and federal agencies. During the summer of 2011, she volunteered to work joint patrols on Lake Anna with U.S. Coast Guard personnel from the Milford Haven Station. Officer Garrett has been



instrumental in nurturing this budding relationship between the Virginia agency and the Coast Guard station. She has also developed a very good working relationship with the Stafford County Sheriff's Department Marine Unit. She has been asked by them on multiple occasions to conduct classroom instruction and continues to work very closely with their members while on the water. During the summer of 2010, Officer Garrett worked a joint patrol with the Stafford County Sheriff's Department that resulted in arresting three operating under the influence and one driving under the influence arrests in a single shift.

## Western Region Boating Officers of the Year



Field Staff Law Enforcement  
**Michael Dodson**  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management,  
Colorado River District  
Arizona

Having served double duty as a boating enforcement officer and a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) law enforcement ranger for the last 12 years, Ranger Michael Dodson's main focus encompasses BLM, Reclamation, U.S. Coast Guard and Arizona/California rules, regulations and laws relating to public safety, boating operations and natural resource protection on the Colorado River, Lake Havasu and the surrounding BLM shoreline lands. His operational area jurisdiction consists of 14 federal, state and local law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies from Arizona and California.

One of the lower Colorado River's most scenic and popular lakes – Lake Havasu – falls under Ranger Dodson's patrol area. Much of the lake's shoreline is public lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Lake Havasu Field Office is responsible for over 80 boat-in only campsites along the shoreline. Ranger Dodson's responsibilities not only include compliance with regulations pertaining to these "fee-use" sites but visitor and boating safety as well.

Ranger Dodson is considered by many as a subject matter expert on culture, use

and existing regulations that govern use on Lake Havasu and surrounding lands. He works cooperatively with all agencies on the water and even implemented a program utilizing U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers to assist him on the lake as certified boat operators. Ranger Dodson is a fully delegated federal officer and is cross-certified as a state peace officer, which allows him to enforce both state and federal laws.

As a certified emergency medical technician, Ranger Dodson assists local authorities with search and rescue as well as emergency medical response to single and multi-casualty boating or drowning incidents. Responding to many such incidents over the years has made Ranger Dodson even more conscientious in his efforts to make Lake Havasu a safer place to recreate.



Deputy  
**Timothy Pope**  
Siskiyou County Sheriff's  
Department  
California

At approximately 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 28, 2011, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department was notified of a rescue recovery operation occurring on Lake Shastina. Two subjects had capsized their boat in severe conditions. One of the victims had made it to a small island; the second victim had gone underwater and possibly drowned. Water Safety Deputy Timothy Pope was dispatched to the scene. Although the weather conditions were gale force winds with five- to six-foot waves, Deputy Pope, along with two medical personnel and another deputy, launched a boat to rescue the victim off the island and search for the second victim.

The temperature was 38 degrees and winds were clocked around 50 to 60 mph. The one victim that made it to the island was rescued at 7 p.m., but the other man could not be located.

The following morning the Sheriff's Dive Team was deployed to the lake to resume the search for the second victim. Weather conditions had degraded even further, with six-foot, white-capped waves and sustained winds of 50 to 60 mph. Even though the risk factor did not allow for divers to be in the water, Deputy Pope was once again back on the lake searching for the other victim. After an extensive search on the water, it was determined that the second victim had drowned (the body was recovered later). Deputy Pope put himself in harm's way to

save one victim and recover the remains of the second victim. His efficient and courageous actions have been in keeping with the highest standards of the law enforcement profession.



Park Ranger  
**Joseph Stadterman**  
Parks and Wildlife  
Colorado

Park Ranger Joseph Stadterman joined Colorado Parks and Wildlife three years ago and has been stationed at Lake Pueblo State Park. A large, urban park that boasts a popular reservoir with over 4500 surface acres of water and 60 miles of shoreline, Lake Pueblo is one of the few parks in Colorado to remain open to boating year round. Ranger Stadterman fills the important and sometimes daunting role of boating safety officer for this park that welcomes over 1.8 million people annually.

In three short years, Ranger Stadterman has become a critical and hard-working member of the park team. One of the reasons for his effectiveness is that his personal passion for boating has carried over to his work and he strives to ensure that every park visitor's stay is safe and enjoyable.

Ranger Stadterman is an innovative and energetic instructor for local boat safety classes held at Lake Pueblo State Park and has taught 49 students the last two summers. He also makes numerous trips to safety fairs and schools to promote safe boating in the local community. Ever the team player, Ranger Stadterman passes on his extensive boating knowledge and skill each year by taking the lead in coordinating and teaching the South Region boat academy for the division.

With visitor safety as a main priority, Stadterman is the park's top boating under the influence officer. The number of boating under the influence and safety violation citations has declined due to his proactive approach to these problems. Ranger Stadterman proposed and is currently implementing a comprehensive plan to re-map Lake Pueblo and place additional naming buoys at the entrances to over 15 coves. This important project will assist boaters with locations and current names of coves on the park to help assist in a more rapid response when they are in distress.



Conservation Enforcement Officer III  
**Albert Lagunte**  
Department of Land & Natural  
Resources.  
**Hawaii**

Hawaii Conservation Enforcement Officer III Albert Lagunte's committed service to the maritime and ocean recreation community, his passion to protect the fragile marine environment, and his expansive boating and ocean knowledge are unparalleled. Officer Lagunte has earned the title of a Waterman. In Hawaii's ocean culture, "Waterman" is a unique title that is earned through a lifetime of accomplishment in and around the marine environment and is bestowed by those who have also attained such ocean prowess. To sum it up, a Waterman is an individual who has developed a mastery of all oceanic endeavors.

Officer Lagunte is a lifelong resident and fixture of Oahu's North Shore, made famous by its world class surfing waves and extreme ocean conditions. He is also an accomplished carpenter who worked as a master boat builder and spent several years building the Surratt Custom Fishing Boats. He also worked as a commercial fisherman.

At midlife, Lagunte took greater notice of the rapidly dwindling marine resources in and around Hawaii's waters, noting that some anglers were engaging in wasteful practices. With a desire to do something proactive to help sustain the fisheries for future generations, in 1996 he enrolled in the training to become a commissioned Reserve Conservation Enforcement Officer for the State of Hawaii. He quickly became the "go to" officer on the North Shore for catching fishery violators.

In 2003 Lagunte gave up a lucrative carpentry trade to become a State Harbor Police Officer in order to better hone his law enforcement skills. In 2005 he became a full-time conservation and marine enforcement officer.

Officer Lagunte is a member of the state's only full-time dedicated Marine Enforcement Unit – a one-of-a-kind six-man team that pilots a variety of vessels around the entire island waters of Oahu and occasionally the outer islands.



Corporal  
**Mike Gladhart**  
Clearwater County Sheriff's  
Office  
**Idaho**

Cpl. Mike Gladhart began his law enforcement career in 2002 as a marine deputy for the Clearwater County Sheriff's Office. He was promoted to corporal in 2006 and currently serves as the marine supervisor for the county. Cpl. Gladhart has played a key role in developing, maintaining and overseeing the marine patrol division of the county's marine program including the dive/rescue team.

Cpl. Gladhart spends over 500 hours a year on the water, averaging over 1,000 boat safety inspections as well as enforcing alcohol violations, assisting with tows of disabled boaters and investigating boat accidents. He is also in charge of search and rescue to those boaters who find themselves in trouble.

Cpl. Gladhart's area of responsibility is primarily Dworshak Reservoir and the Clearwater River. Dworshak Reservoir is 54 miles long with 184 miles of shoreline with outstanding Kokanee salmon and smallmouth bass fishing. The Clearwater River is home to one of the largest steelhead and salmon hatcheries in the Pacific Northwest. Together, these two bodies of water bring in thousands of anglers, many of which are unfamiliar with local river conditions.

Cpl. Gladhart is passionate about teaching boating education and water safety. In 2006, he designed and built a personal watercraft (PWC) simulator for Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. This simulator is used for educational outreach events around the state. Every year he teaches hundreds of elementary school children about the importance of wearing life jackets. He teaches the Paddle Sports America class to seventh graders and Boat Idaho to the senior class. In 2009, Cpl. Gladhart started a life jacket exchange program for children. He raised money through donations to purchase 200 life jackets that were given to children in exchange for their old life jackets. This program was very successful and continues to grow each year.



Game Warden  
**Ron Breaux**  
Department of Wildlife  
**Nevada**

Ron Breaux is a retired deputy sheriff who served with the Washoe Sheriff's Office. He has extensive experience in accident investigations, supervising other law enforcement and training. He brought his decades of experience to the Nevada Department of Wildlife after a long, distinguished career in Reno, Nevada, to become the agency's first seasonal game warden in 2008.

Nevada's fairly new, innovate seasonal game warden program covers the pristine and world-renowned Lake Tahoe and consists of two seasonal wardens. Breaux, along with the other seasonal warden, patrols Lake Tahoe seven days a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day each year. Breaux is active in the height of the season with law enforcement, search and rescue, BUI enforcement and community outreach.

Before Breaux joined the team, NDOW had very spotty coverage on this internationally renowned body of water. Although NDOW is the lead boating safety agency, there were not enough dedicated staff patrolling the lake to really impact boating accidents, education and boating under the influence. With Breaux's consistent dedication, boaters on Tahoe have learned that NDOW is serious about safe, sober boating on the lake.

Lake Tahoe is covered by NDOW's boating education law, but compliance numbers before Breaux joined the team were dismal. Breaux has been front and center educating boaters on boating safety. Since joining the agency, Breaux has taken personal responsibility for ensuring boaters know the law and boating education participation is up almost 50 percent over the three years he has been on Lake Tahoe.

Since the inception of the program, law enforcement has achieved unprecedented visibility, reducing accidents and increased compliance rates, and now Lake Tahoe is a much safer body of water.





Deputy  
**Charles Douglass**  
Lane County Sheriff's Office  
Oregon

Deputy Charles Douglass began his career with the Lane County Sheriff's Office over a dozen years ago and has been with the Marine Patrol the past 3½ years. He has worked tirelessly to promote the safety of boaters through his work monitoring the waterways, educating the public, and enforcing boating laws.

Lane County is one of Oregon's largest counties and one of its key characteristics is having the greatest number of whitewater river obstructions – especially downed trees – than any other county in the state. One of Deputy Douglass's important roles is mitigating waterway obstructions. When an obstruction is reported, Deputy Douglass assesses the obstruction and determines whether it is a hazard to public safety. Whitewater river obstructions in particular can quickly and easily become death traps to boaters, so his expertise is critical to public safety.

Deputy Douglass also promotes boater safety through education, including educating fellow officers as well as the general public. In conjunction with the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Deputy Douglass completed his third year providing water safety education to over 1800 local students in the Eugene area, indirectly spreading the message through the schoolchildren to over 5,000 people. For their work, Deputy Douglass and his USACE Park Ranger counterparts were awarded a Letter of Commendation from the National Water Safety Congress.

His daily work on the water exemplifies Deputy Douglass's expertise in water safety as an enforcer as well as educator. He aggressively patrols the waters and takes enforcement action when appropriate, taking time to explain boating laws. Deputy Douglass issued 146 citations and 322 warnings for various boating violations during the period of September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011. He conducted 71 HIN inspections and 444 compliance checks. He also participated in Operation Dry Water and arrested two people for operating a boat while under the influence.



Sergeant  
**Fred Neiman**  
Clark County Sheriff's Office  
Washington

Sergeant Fred Neiman served as a marine deputy while volunteering as a reserve officer for the Clark County Sheriff's Office until he was hired full-time in 1988. Prior to taking a full-time position in the Marine Services Unit in 1996, he worked as a regular patrol deputy and demonstrated a commitment to boating safety by stopping at launch ramps to check boats for life jackets and registration when not responding to calls.

Neiman began working full-time as a marine deputy in 1996, a position he describes as his "dream job," serving for six years as the lead officer for the county's marine services unit.

A natural leader, Sergeant Neiman introduced water safety programs into the schools in Clark County and worked to develop partnerships with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons to enhance education outreach in his area. He was the motivational inspiration for Clark County to participate in the area's boat shows and safety fairs as well as to work cooperatively as partners with surrounding law enforcement agencies.

Sgt. Neiman's leadership in the sheriff's office has instilled a strong law enforcement ethic for the actions of the marine unit. He was the leader for the agency to receive grant funding needed to acquire a robotic boat for use at children's events to promote recreational boating safety and education. Under his leadership, the unit acquired two personal watercraft for patrols, a large patrol vessel for working on the Columbia River, and a smaller patrol vessel for shallow-water missions. He served as an instructor for six years at the Washington State Basic Marine Law Enforcement Training Academy. Sgt. Neiman was also active in the 1998-99 campaign to move legislation forward requiring children to wear life jackets on recreational vessels in the state.



Warden  
**Dustin L. Kirsch**  
Game and Fish Department  
Wyoming

In just two years, Mountain View Game Warden Dustin Kirsch has proven himself an outstanding Wyoming watercraft safety officer. In 2011 he led the state in boating under the influence (BUI) arrests. He singlehandedly apprehended more intoxicated boaters on Flaming Gorge Reservoir during the summer of 2011 than had been arrested at the reservoir in all other previous years combined.

Wyoming's largest water body, Flaming Gorge Reservoir presents special challenges to watercraft officers enforcing BUI laws. The reservoir is 91 miles long, 60 of which are in Wyoming. The Wyoming portion contains only one marina, two boat ramps, and no developed campsites. With scarce shoreline suitable for conducting field sobriety test maneuvers, Warden Kirsch often has to tow watercraft long distances and transport arrested suspects to a detention center. BUI enforcement is made additionally challenging by the fact that Warden Kirsch works alone with no available backup.

Warden Kirsch possesses the self-confidence and good judgment of a veteran game warden, and he utilizes these skills when dedicating extra time and effort necessary for effective BUI enforcement. He puts in long and varied hours to ensure safe waters for the boating public. Warden Kirsch is known for getting out on the water early to contact the morning fishing crowd, then staying late into the night to detect any impaired operators.

Warden Kirsch dedicated time to boating safety awareness and education while continuing to fulfill his game warden duties of responding to injured wildlife calls, poaching calls, search and rescue requests and landowner calls. When not patrolling the waters in his district, he spent much of his time last year educating the public on watercraft safety, BUI deterrence, and boating laws and regulations. Since Wyoming does not have mandatory boater education, such education outreach efforts and programs are very important to Wyoming's boater education campaign. ✱

# BOATING

# Briefs

## **Boost for boating – get on board!** *Direct mail program increases boat registrations in 15 states*

Results are in for the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation's (RBFF) State Boat Registration Marketing Program, a collaborative

agencies, with the participating state agencies receiving 100 percent of the revenue generated. RBFF is opening the program up to 25 state agencies in 2013. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact RBFF State Initiatives Director Stephanie Hussey at [shussey@rbff.org](mailto:shussey@rbff.org) or 703778.5152.

routinely works directly with Corps staff in organizing media campaigns and serving as a spokesperson for media interviews about boating and water safety. He also works with the Corps to organize special emphasis days to educate the public about boating and water safety. In addition, Richardson helped the Corps with creation of the You Have Been Ticketed campaign, which rewards youngsters "caught" wearing a life jacket with a coupon for a Wendy's Frosty treat.



## RECREATIONAL BOATING & FISHING FOUNDATION

effort to increase boat registrations among boaters across the country. RBFF, in partnership with state natural resource agencies, distributed 450,000 direct mail pieces this past spring, reminding boat owners with lapsed registrations to re-register their boats. Receiving an average 7.93 percent response rate, more than 32,000 boats were registered in 15 states this summer. The program generated more than \$1.16 million in total revenue for the participating states.

RBFF fully funded and implemented the program on behalf of state

## **Oklahoma Trooper honored by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

The outstanding accomplishments in boating and water safety education of Tony Richardson, an Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper, were recognized with the Commander's Certificate of Appreciation by the Tulsa District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Sept. 27.

Tpr. Richardson has provided guidance, creativity, and direction to lake stakeholders and USACE staff to improve safety and foster relationships among professionals within the water safety arena. He



*District Commander Col. Michael Teague presented the award to OHP Marine Enforcement Section Trooper Tony Richardson for his leadership in support of safe boating and water safety throughout the state. USACE photo/ Sara Goodey*



Richardson is the sole boating education instructor in the state, and he has personally taught the class to thousands of adults and children. It is noteworthy that of the individuals who have successfully completed the class, none has been involved in a boating accident to date.

#### US Coast Guard Auxiliary elects new national commodore

In August Coast Guard Auxiliary senior leaders elected Commodore Thomas C. Mallison of Bear Lake, Mich. as the organization's national commodore for a two-year term beginning November 1, 2012.

"The expanding number of operational, administrative and logistical missions that the Coast Guard Auxiliary is able to perform gives us ever-increasing opportunities for service," said Mallison. "Every member should be able to attain personal satisfaction within that array of missions."

Mallison has identified "training, communication, and members" as the watchwords that will help guide the



Auxiliary's focus during his tenure as national commodore.

Mallison joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1990 and has served in a wide variety of elected and staff offices at all levels of the organization. Mallison is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy with a bachelor of science in mathematics and science. He graduated with honors from the

U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and earned a doctorate of business administration. Mallison retired with 20 years of service in the U.S. Army where he served as both a commissioned officer and a non-commissioned officer.

#### BoatUS Foundation seeks unique ideas for safe, clean boating projects

After funding over \$1 million in local boating safety and clean water projects for the past 21 years, the BoatUS Foundation's Grassroots Grants Program is more than doubling its maximum grant size to \$10,000 for 2013. The Foundation is looking to fund projects that utilize innovative approaches to educate boaters on safe and clean boating topics.

Groups interested in applying for one or more Grassroots Grants may go to [www.BoatUS.com/Grants](http://www.BoatUS.com/Grants) to view the grant guidelines and begin their application. Applications must be submitted by midnight on December 17, 2012. In the spring of 2013, the strongest grant applications will be posted online for the public to vote.

(Continued on page 32)

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## BOATING

# Briefs



The groups with the most votes will receive funding and will have one year to complete the grant project.

To be the first to learn when voting for grant projects begins, "like" the BoatUS Foundation on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/BoatUSFoundation](http://www.Facebook.com/BoatUSFoundation).

### Interactive map promotes life jacket loaner sites

Finding a life jacket loaner location will soon be even easier. The BoatUS

only nationwide map to locate a life jacket loaner site.

"We know there are hundreds of other sites around the country that are not part of the Foundation's program. We can keep more people safe on the water by giving them the tools to access properly fitting life jackets wherever they are. No matter who is offering it – a local community group, government or business – we want to know about it so those in need can easily find a life jacket nearby," said BoatUS Foundation Outreach Manager Alanna Keating.

To have your life jacket loaner program listed on the map, visit [www.BoatUS.com/foundation/survey](http://www.BoatUS.com/foundation/survey) and

complete a short survey. Required information includes the name of the sponsoring group or organization, its contact information, and life jacket loaner location.

### PWIA takes senators boating

On Aug. 29, 2012, the Personal Watercraft Industry Association (PWIA) provided personal watercraft demonstrations during On the Dock of the Bay, a special waterfront event held during the Republican National Convention. Hosted by

Conventions 2012, the on-beach event was sponsored by several organizations and invited guests included Members of the Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses.

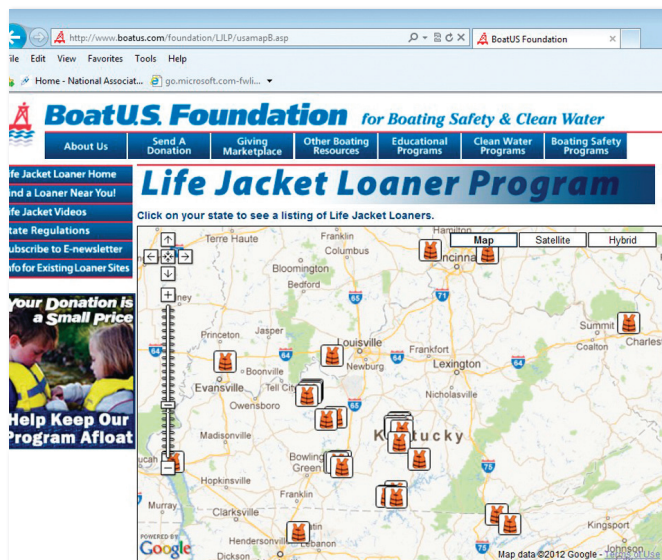


PWIA used this opportunity to share insight and important tips for enjoying a safe day on the water, information about the economics of the personal watercraft industry and an opportunity to meet with PWC manufacturers. PWIA also presented information about new models, advanced technology that has reduced noise levels by 70 percent over the past decade, and new hull designs that provide a sturdier ride.

PWIA executive director David Dickerson said, "We hope legislators and attendees left with a better understanding of the value of the personal watercraft industry to the U.S. economy and to family-oriented recreation."

### Coast Guard Auxiliary joins forces with Alliance for safe navigation

A number of boating safety-minded organizations have joined forces to inform boaters of the importance of maintaining current navigation information. Co-sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the newly formed Alliance for Safe Navigation ([www.allianceforsafenavigation.org](http://www.allianceforsafenavigation.org)) consists of industry leaders that all share a commitment to boating safety. The Alliance encourages mariners to recognize the large number of changes made to their charts and to keep their electronic and paper charts accurate, which is inexpensive and easy to do. "Recreational boaters, unlike commercial



Foundation is providing any organization with an established life jacket loaner program the chance to promote their loaner site on the Foundation's interactive Life Jacket Loaner Program map. The Foundation's map, viewed by thousands of boaters every day, is the



## BOATING

# Briefs



*Several boating safety organizations are working together to urge boaters to maintain current navigation information. NOAA photo*

mariners, are not required to carry nautical charts," explains Captain John Lowell, director of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey. "We are sponsoring this new nationwide educational effort because we want people to understand that NOAA's nautical charts are easy to find and easy to use. By using 'Print on Demand' paper charts or multi-functional electronic charts that are updated by NOAA cartographers, people have a better chance of avoiding potential groundings and other accidents."

Joining NOAA in the Alliance for Safe Navigation are the Boat Owners Association of the United States (Boat U.S.), Jeppesen Marine, the United States Power Squadrons (USPS), OceanGrafix and the Sea Tow Foundation for Boating Safety and Education.

### **BoatUS Foundation finding good "homes" for donated life jackets**

West Marine, the nation's largest specialty retailer of boating supplies and accessories teamed up with the nonprofit BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water to give away over 2,500 life jackets. West Marine donated the easy-to-wear, type-III vest-style life jackets while the BoatUS Foundation found good "homes" for these critical life-saving devices at camps, for use in programs targeting at-risk youth, and in community swimming and sailing programs.

Additionally, the National Safe Boating Council and several state boating agencies in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington and Florida received jackets.

"As part of our BlueFuture™ initiative, we encourage kids to get out on the water and enjoy boating," said Chuck Hawley, VP of Product Information for West Marine. "We hope this donation will enable more youth to explore the wonders of our country's beautiful lakes, oceans and rivers safely."



*The kids with the Traverse Area Community Sailing program in Traverse City, Mich., enjoy their new, comfortable life jackets thanks to the goodwill of the boating products retailer, West Marine. BoatUS photo*

"We looked at the wide variety of summer camp and sailing programs that get youth on the water, and saw a real need," said Lynne O'Hearn of the BoatUS Foundation. "We greatly appreciate West Marine's effort. If kids learn early that life jackets can be comfortable, they will embrace wearing them their entire lives."\*

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



coast guard

# COMMENTS

**Y**ou've heard about the new National Recreational Boating Survey multiple times now, as we've been striving for over six years to get this survey approved and implemented. The results of the 2011 data are in now, and our contractor is busy collecting the last of the 2012 data.

This survey is incredibly exciting for the National Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program. While fulfilling the legal responsibilities of the program, it also provides us all a way to effectively measure the success of our efforts. The Government Performance and Results Act mandates that federal agencies utilize proper measures of effectiveness for their programs and establish aggressive goals. Then, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) holds us accountable for implementing these measures and achieving the goals.

OMB performs periodic reviews of each of the federal programs. For the National RBS Program, the last review was called the Program Assessment and Rating Tool (PART) Review. Our final rating was only at the "adequate" level, primarily because we failed to utilize proper measures for our program. We've had no way to measure the number of boating deaths, injuries and casualties as compared to valid boating participation levels.

To resolve this concern, we worked with our partners to develop the new

## Exciting new RBS measures

survey. We awarded a grant to the National Marine Manufacturers Association's nonprofit foundation to develop the survey instrument and method of implementation, and the organization did an exceptional job. Representatives from numerous parts of the boating community participated in the team of topical experts to determine what data was needed to serve various aspects of boating. A team of survey scientists then determined which survey methods would best provide us with the most valid and defensible data. And with that, and years of effort to obtain OMB approval on the survey and contract for its implementation, the survey was implemented beginning in August 2011.

The sample size of the survey is perhaps the largest number of boaters participating in any boating survey. It covers not just boat owners and their families, but also boaters who rent or borrow boats, or who just ride along on someone else's boat. It utilizes phone calls to random households, mail-outs to registered boat owners, and a team of boaters who track their boating trips.

The survey will be implemented every two years in the future so that we can conduct trend analysis. With this capability, when the economy swings, or the weather has a drastic change, or other uncontrollable variables impact the usage of recreational boats, we can compare that number of exposure



## coast guard

# COMMENTS

hours (boat usage) to the number of deaths and injuries. And, we will be able to do that nationally, by region, and by state (beginning with the 2012 data).

The plan all along has been to be able to determine what programs work the best. Once we can determine that, then we can strive to duplicate those effective programs across regions or perhaps the country. The plan is also to be able to reduce costs by making our data available to those who wish to use it instead of having to pay for their own surveys. Finally, the plan was to reduce the times when the results of various surveys appear to conflict with each other.

The new National Recreational Boating Survey offers all of this. As a teaser, here are a few of the key results for 2011:

- Boaters experienced nearly 3 billion exposure hours in boating activity, with motorboat usage making up over 2 billion of those hours. Pontoon boats (separate from motorboats) had just over 301 million exposure hours; rowboats/inflatables/others 193 million exposure hours; kayaks 133 million exposure hours; PWC (separate from motorboats) 130 million exposure hours; canoes 90 million exposure hours; and sailboats 71 million exposure hours.

- Motor vehicles measure deaths per 100 million passenger miles, we will use the boating safety measure of deaths and casualties per 100 million boating exposure hours, even though a mile and an hour are not comparable. In boating, pontoon boats have the lowest number with 10.6 deaths per 100 million exposure hours in 2011. The next lowest is motorboats with 20.7 deaths, then PWC with 33.7 deaths, and so on. Overall, the national casualty average was 25.5 deaths per 100 million exposure hours.

- Some other interesting numbers: in 2011, there were over 73.5 million boating participants of all ages. There were 22.2 million boats in the United States – this includes 10.1 million motorboats, nearly 3.9 million kayaks, 2.5 million canoes, 1.7 million rowboats/inflatables, nearly 1.7 million PWC, about 854,000 pontoon boats, and 733,000 sailboats, along with other vessel types.

The results are fascinating, and they provide a much-needed way for us to better measure the effectiveness of our efforts. We can now establish target goals for our program that will match usage levels. With the 2012 data next year, we will be able to measure state-by-state rates and help determine which are the most effective. We will also be able to demonstrate the value of the program and the need to continue to push forward to enhance safety and the boating experience.

A wealth of data awaits you, so take the time to delve into this material to help you enhance your programs – be they intended to make boating safer, to plan for boating facilities, to plan for boat sales and services, and so much more.

In closing, let me say that your services are essential to the nation's boating experience. So, thanks for all that you do. I especially want to thank the boating officers out there. You provide a vital service to our nation. To those of you who have received the awards of being a boating officer of the year, at the national, regional and state levels, Bravo Zulu! Keep up the great work!

## Boating Officers of the Year

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

“Try not. Do, or do not.  
There is no try.” – Yoda

These words were spoken in a galaxy far, far, away on the planet Dagobah – a fictional planet in the Star Wars films. I readily admit that I am a bit of a geek. I realize that these words were spoken to a future Jedi Knight, but they could also be applicable to the men and women maritime law enforcement officers who are being honored as this year's boating officers of the year. To me, this says that successful individuals don't **TRY** to make things happen. They **DO MAKE** things happen.

Each year, I am in awe as I read the accomplishments of the selected boating officers of the year. Every profile is a testament to an individual officer's dedication to duty in the boating safety world. These officers are making recreational boating safer and more enjoyable for all; and we welcome the opportunity to recognize their efforts.

Our RBS community and the nation is fortunate that we have the cadre of professionals that make up this nation's maritime law enforcement effort dedicated to minimizing loss of life, personal injury, and property damage associated with recreational boating as well as ensuring that the boating public has a safe, secure, and enjoyable boating experience.

Despite the efforts of boating safety professionals, we still have plenty of

work to do on the waterways as evidenced by accidents highlighted in the news. Over the past summer, there were several boating safety stories featured on national news and entertainment programs, including an astronaut killed in a personal watercraft accident, the stepson of a popular music singer killed in a boating accident, and the capsizing of a boat that was more than likely overloaded (as of this writing the investigation findings are still pending). Though there were decreases in the number of accidents and injuries, the fatalities increased by 12.8 percent over the previous year.

*“Too many of our people today are probably shoving off for a spin in their powerboats with only the sketchiest of information concerning the proper operation of a motorboat, the Rules of the Road, overloading, lights, safety equipment, effects of weather, and so on.”*

I discovered this quote in *The Modern History of Recreational Boating Safety* by Adrian Kinnane, which was produced under a nonprofit organization grant awarded to the National Safe Boating Council. (I absolutely love this book, and it's one of the first places I now turn to when I need a “nugget” of information or a bit of history to make a point.) One would think this inference is about today's recreational boaters, but these words were spoken by Admiral Alfred C. Richmond, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard in 1956!

I find it interesting that a 56-year-old quote is still applicable today. We have made great strides in boating safety, yet we need to keep moving forward. It's going to take a collaborative national boating safety messaging from all the partners in our community, and I am confident that we will get there.

In a speech known as “The Man in the Arena,” President Theodore Roosevelt stated,

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

At the forefront of all of our initiatives and efforts are you, the dedicated men and women of the maritime law enforcement community who carry out these duties with dedication, enthusiasm. Congratulations to this year's boating officers of the year!



# Boat Ed® congratulates the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for winning the 2012 Innovations Award.

Consider the ways you innovate.  
You could win in 2013.



Phil Horning (left) and Capt. Richard Moore (middle) accepted the award from Cindy Kalkomey (right) of Boat Ed, which sponsors the Innovations Award.



Contact: Tammy Sapp  
tsapp@kalkomey.com  
800-830-2268







small craft advisory

Nov-Dec 2012 | Vol. 27 No. 6

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## 2013 Recreational Boating Safety Calendar

### January

**9**  
**National Recreational Boating Safety Coalition Winter Meeting**  
Washington, D.C.  
<http://www.NRBSCoalition@AOL.com>

**13-20**  
**United States Power Squadrons Annual Meeting**  
Jacksonville, Florida  
<http://www.usps.org>

**28-31**  
**NASBLA Comprehensive Boating Accident Investigation Course**  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[info@nasbla.org](mailto:info@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

### February

**25**  
**NASBLA Executive Board Meeting**  
Lexington, Kentucky  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[ron@nasbla.org](mailto:ron@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**25-March 1**  
**NASBLA Airboat Operators Course**  
Delacroix, Louisiana  
[www.nasbla.org/boat](http://www.nasbla.org/boat)  
[mark.dupont@nasbla.org](mailto:mark.dupont@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**26**  
**NASBLA BOAT Advisory Board Meeting**  
Lexington, Kentucky  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[john.fetterman@nasbla.org](mailto:john.fetterman@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

### 27-28

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

### March

**1**  
**NASBLA Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee Meeting**  
Lexington, Kentucky  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[deb@nasbla.org](mailto:deb@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**1**  
**NASBLA Enforcement & Training Committee Meeting**  
Lexington, Kentucky  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**1**  
**NASBLA Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee Meeting**  
Lexington, Kentucky  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[ron@nasbla.org](mailto:ron@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

### 13-15

**National Drowning Prevention Alliance 2013 Symposium**  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida  
<http://ndpa.org/home>

**22-23**  
**National Boating Federation Annual Meeting**  
San Antonio, Texas  
<http://www.n-b-f.org>

**23-24**  
**NASBLA Education & Outreach Committee Meeting**  
San Antonio, Texas  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)  
[pam@nasbla.org](mailto:pam@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

**24-27**  
**National Water Safety Congress National Safe Boating Council International Boating & Water Safety Summit**  
San Antonio, Texas  
[www.ibwss.org](http://www.ibwss.org)

### April

**15-17**  
**Homeland Security Outlook Maritime Security 2013 – East**  
St. Petersburg, Florida  
[www.maritimesecurity2013.com](http://www.maritimesecurity2013.com)  
[customerservice@hsoutlook.com](mailto:customerservice@hsoutlook.com)  
203.221.2664

### May

**5-8**  
**Western States Boating Administrators Annual Conference**  
Flagstaff, Arizona  
[pfiffner@ndow.org](mailto:pfiffner@ndow.org)

### June

**28-30**  
**Operation Dry Water**  
[www.operationdrywater.org](http://www.operationdrywater.org)

### August

**26-28**  
**Homeland Security Outlook Maritime Security 2013 – West**  
San Diego, California  
[www.maritimesecurity2013.com](http://www.maritimesecurity2013.com)  
[customerservice@hsoutlook.com](mailto:customerservice@hsoutlook.com)  
203.221.2664