September 2012 Issue

NYCOA NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is the Official Newsletter of NYS Conservation Police Officers.

President - Corey Schoonover

V. President - Robert Peinkofer

Secretary - Liza Bobseine

Treasurer - Larry Johnson

NYCOA Regional Representatives:

Region 1 - Don Damrath
Region 2 - Alan Brassard
Region 3 - Dave Clayton
Region 4 - Jim Hays
Region 5 - Steve Shaw
Region 6 - Steve Lakeman
Region 7 - Scott Sincebaugh
Region 8 - Richard Rauscher
Region 9 - James Hunt

Please send information for this newsletter to: debraa.peinkofer@roadrunner.com or Debra Peinkofer, 1475 Bowen Rd. Elma, NY 14059

Please send information for this newsletter to: debraa.peinkofer@roadrunner.com or Debra Peinkofer, 1475 Bowen Rd., Elma, NY 14059

Visit our new On-line Store @ www.store.nycoa.org/cart

Message from New NYCOA President Corey Schoonover

The year 2012 has been one of firsts and changes with NYCOA. After four very successful years at the helm, Scott Florence stepped down as president at the summer convention. I want to take this time to thank Scott for all he has done to make NYCOA what it is today. Through his leadership and hard work, Scott turned NYCOA over to me, as a very well-oiled machine, with membership at an all time high.

My name is Corey Schoonover, and I was voted in as your NYCOA President at this year's summer convention held in Watkins Glen, NY. Allow me to tell you a bit about myself.

I am an ECO assigned to R6, Herkimer County. I grew up in Otsego County, and after high school, I attended college in North Dakota, then transferred back to NY and attended Finger Lakes CC. From there, I worked as a New York State Corrections Officer for three years, spending time at Green Haven Maximum Prison and Fish Kill Correctional Facility. I was then called by the DEC and attended the 14th Basic Academy in 2002. After graduation, I was assigned to region 2 and worked and lived on Staten Island. I attended the 15th Basic Academy as a counselor and after graduation of the 15th Basic Academy, I transferred to R6, Lewis County. After a few years, I took my last transfer home to Herkimer County. There, I am a K9 handler for the division and have had my K9 partner Griz for the last 7 years. I now live in West Winfield, New York with my wife and two children.

As the region 6 NYCOA representative, I have been actively involved with NYCOA, and have served on the board of the Officer's Relief Fund for the last four years. A lot of great things have been going on over the last few years, and I am honored to be a part of such a great group of people. This year marked another very successful summer convention, where old friends could catch up, and new ones could be made, all the while enjoying the beauty of New York's Finger Lakes region. After all was said and done, NYCOA put just under $10,000 into the General Fund, which will go to furthering NYCOA's mission of helping New York's children become more involved in the outdoors.

A first for NYCOA was the presentation of our newest tradition of handing our Officer of the Year recipients a new, custom-engraved Remington 870 Shotgun. These guns were custom-made by Remington and are engraved with the wording of each of their awards. ECO Robert Peinkofer, and ECO Vern Bauer were both handed their guns by President Florence. At the convention's business meeting, membership voted to donate $1000 annually to The Wild Center, and their Junior Naturalist Program, located in Tupper Lake. This money will be donated in memory of the late ECO Doug Kerr. All of these things are made possible by NYCOA's fundraisers. Our annual Sportsman's Raffle was yet again a huge success. This year's Sportsman's Raffle put $14,500 into the General Fund. The Officer's Relief Fund received $26,000, tipping its balance to over a whopping $80,000 in just three short years. That's right, $80,000 is our balance in the NYCOA Officer's Relief Fund! It is a great feeling to have this fund available to make a difference and help one of our own families in a time of need.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PRESIDENT SCHOONOVER'S LETTER, CONTINUED:

Another first in 2012 was the 1st annual NYCOA golf tournament. All proceeds from this event went to the Hunt of a Lifetime Foundation. This foundation gives terminally ill children under the age of 21, a hunt or fishing trip of their choice. After all the planning and hard work by a large group of people, led by Vice President of NYCOA, Rob Peinkofer, NYCOA wrote a check to the Hunt of a Lifetime Foundation for $18,000. This money will be used to send at least three children from New York on their hunt or fish of a lifetime. Those of you that were involved in this event know just how much fun it was, but also how good if felt knowing that our association was really making a difference in the lives of others.

Looking down the road, I hope I can keep NYCOA's success going. I have a huge support group that will assist me in every decision and I have no doubt we can. NYCOA's summer convention in 2013, will be in Old Forge in region 6, my home region. It is shaping up to be a good one again, and I have been flooded with members willing to help. The Golf Tournament is being planned already for next year, and with our Sportsman's Raffle tickets selling like hot cakes, our relief fund should be very close to the board's goal of reaching $100,000 in 5 years. With a bit of luck, one year early! This would not be possible without the help and support of all of you.

I am very proud to be a part of such a great group of people and I plan on doing my best as your NYCOA President. Thank you and be safe.

ECO Corey Schoonover.
President - NYCOA

New Additions to Our NYCOA Family

Retired Lieutenant Ken Didion, and his wife Carol, welcomed their first grandchild into the world on July 14th! After a bit of convincing, Eleanor Davis Didion was born @ 6:46 AM Portland time. The proud parents are Jason and Natalie Didion, and they are enjoying baby Ellie! CONGRATULATIONS to all!!

ECO Russ Fetterman and his wife Elisa had their second child, Christopher Anthony on May 31st. He was 7lbs. & 3oz. and 20 inches long. He joins his big brother Russell in the Fetterman family. Welcome!

Michael Paul Colesante is the firstborn son of proud parents, ECO Mark Colesante and his wife Colleen. He was born on June 16th, 2012 and weighed in at 6 lb. and 8 oz. Best wishes to all!

Ricardo and Sarah Grisolini are the proud parents of baby Gavin Laine. He arrived on July 12th and weighed in at 8lbs. & 9 oz. and was 22 inches long. How exciting for the happy family!!

We'd also like to recognize ECO Jim Hays of Region 4 and ECO Steve Lakeman of Region 6 as our newest NYCOA representatives. Welcome aboard and thanks for volunteering! Thanks to ECO Kurt Zurmuhlen for your prior service. Best of luck to all!

Second Annual Special Needs Kids Fishing Event

On Saturday, June 2nd, 2012, the Second Annual Special Needs Kids Fishing Event was held at the 4-H Training Center in the Town of Milton, Saratoga County. Approximately 30 children in grades K-6 with physical and mental disabilities attended the event where many of them learned how to fish for the first time. Environmental Conservation Officers and Fish and Game Club volunteers assisted the kids with all aspects of fishing and many different species were taken including rainbow and brook trout. A free lunch was provided for the children and their families and each child was given a rod and reel to take home at the end of the day. The New York Conservation Officers Association, the Saratoga County 4-H and multiple Saratoga County Fish and Game Clubs sponsored the event.

Make A Wish Picnic
Saratoga County~Town of Corinth

On Sunday, July 29th, 2012, Environmental Conservation Officers Mark Klein, Jeff Dempster, Lieutenant Chris Ruckert, and John Ellithorpe attended the annual Northeastern New York Make a Wish Chapter Picnic at MacArthur Park in the Town of Corinth. Approximately fifty children and their families were in attendance. The picnic provides a variety of fun activities for children with life-threatening medical conditions. One of the activities many of the children enjoy is fishing for trout in the Daly Creek. The New York State Conservation Officers Association (NYCOA) provided the funding to stock the trout a few days in advance of the picnic, and retired Officer Ray Van Anden received an award from the Make A Wish Foundation for helping to create the event twenty years ago.

PROMOTIONS

Please join me in congratulating two more new supervisors in BECI. Lt. Dave Clarke is now supervising the BECI unit in Region 6, and Lt. Jim Boylan is supervising the BECI unit in Region 7. These two members distinguished themselves in a list of very talented candidates for promotion. I wish them well as they take on their new responsibilities.

Peter G. Fanelli
Director
NYS DEC Division of Law Enforcement

RETIREMENTS

Major Jill Kaufman of Albany and Captain Ron Stabak of Region 8 retired this September. We wish them well in their retirement. The division is grateful for their many years of fine service. Effective immediately, Lt. Tom Stoner will be the officer in charge of Region 8.

3rd Annual North Country Youth Turkey Hunt with an ECO ~April 2012

Environmental Conservation Officers from Northern New York, along with a few volunteers from the Northern New York Chapter of the NWTF, took 26 youths hunting during the Annual Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend. The event was hosted by the Watertown Sportsman's Club, sponsored by the Federated Sportsman's Clubs of Jefferson County, and made possible from funding from the New York Conservation Officers Association and the Northern New York NWTF chapter. Once again,the hunt was a two day event with the first being an instructional day and the second being the actual hunt day. The instructional day included some time in the class room covering basic information on wild turkeys, the rules and regulations pertaining to turkey hunting as well as covering the different types of calls, use of decoys, turkey hunting strategies, hunting preparation including scouting, and hunting safety. The day continued on the shooting range where some basic marksmanship skills were reviewed as well as shotgun patterning and some target practice. The following Saturday,the youths met their hunting mentors for a day of hunting. The morning started out well with good hunting conditions but a cold front moved across the state hampering the hunting activity. The day ended with 8 kids successfully harvesting a turkey and four others taking shots but were unable to connect. The hunt day concluded with a picnic style lunch and banquet back at the Watertown Sportsman's Club where all the participants received a certificate of participation from the Federation Sportsman's Club of Jefferson County.

ECOs that participated in this year's event were, John Murphy, Eric Roderick, Mark Malone, Scott Atwood, Tony Panipinto, Matt Garrigan, George Steele and Steven Bartoszewski.

1st Annual "Hunt of a Lifetime" Charity Golf Tournament is a Huge Success!

On July 9th, NYCOA held its first annual golf tournament to benefit the "Hunt of a Lifetime" program at the Bryncliff Resort and Conference Center in Varysburg, New York. The tournament was conceived and developed by NYCOA Vice President Bob Peinkofer and NYCOA Region 9 Representative Jim Hunt. Bob and Jim also served as Tournament Directors along with Don Damrath, NYCOA Region 1 Representative, and Don's brother David Damrath, Tops Markets Executive and major sponsor of the event. The tournament began at ten a.m. with 140 registered golfers taking to the course. After an enjoyable day of golf, contests, food and drink, the golfers retired to the clubhouse for a couple of hours of relaxation at the open bar before the banquet and auction. The banquet and auction were the highlight of the event with over 200 people in attendance. Through the generosity of our donors and sponsors the auction contained a tremendous variety of high quality and valuable items. Congratulations to all the successful bidders for those items and thank you for your participation and generosity.

The "Hunt of a Lifetime" Program was founded by Tina Pattison and is dedicated to assisting children with life threatening illnesses to realize their dreams of participating in the outdoor pursuits that they love. The New York Conservation Officers Association is very pleased and proud to have had the opportunity to conduct this tournament in order to benefit this very worthy cause. As a result of the generosity of all those who participated and all of the sponsors and donors, we will be presenting the "Hunt of a Lifetime" Program with a check for $18,000.00. To say that our First Annual "Hunt of a Lifetime" Charity Golf Tournament was a success is somewhat of an understatement. We hope that you will visit the "Hunt of a Lifetime" website to become familiar with their program and to support their cause. Thanks again to all those who participated in the tournament and to everyone who attended the banquet and auction. Your attendance and generosity are what made this event as successful as it was. We also want to especially thank our many sponsors who recognized the importance of this event and provided the funding and supplies that made it possible for us to succeed. Our sincerest gratitude to our biggest sponsor the Miller Coors Brewing Company. We greatly appreciate the support of all our sponsors. They are recognized on the following page.

Sincere thanks to the following additional sponsors of the "Hunt of a Lifetime" Golf Tournament:

In addition to Miller-Coors, the following is a list of our other major sponsors.
We greatly appreciate their support and hope that you will support them with your patronage:
Coca Cola of Buffalo, Jeff Drilling, Nestle Water, Polar Beverage, Buffalo Orthopaedic Group LLC, Anchor Marine, Lewis Homes, Merrill Lynch, NYS Troopers PBA, Bobcat of Buffalo, Wegmans Markets, Sonwil Distribution, Gander Mountain, Remington Arms, Eastern Hills Printing, United Uniform, Delacy Ford, VSP Marketing Graphic Group, Tops Markets, Uncle Bob's Self Storage, Quaker Boy Game Calls, Knight & Hale, Zawadzki Jewelers, Bank of America Foundation, Savage Arms, Paula Rose Photography, Good Expectations PT, OT, ST PLLC, Rico's Lawn Care Service Inc. - DBA Bison Blue Grass, Pepsi Corp., NYSCOPBA - NYS Correction Officers Union, West Seneca Police PBA, Swimco Pools of Lockport, K & K Guns, East Aurora Wireless, Red Barn Gun Shop, 84 Lumber, Luxury Limos, Jerry and Andrea Kinney, Subway of Elma, Tractor Supply Company, Hans Moeller Jewelers of Attica, Tim Hortons of Elma, Bison City Rod and Gun Club, Hunters Landing of Batavia, EMS - Ferolie, Cattaraugus County Association of Chiefs of Police, Hoy Funeral Home, State Farm Insurance, Voss Water, Bishop Disposal, The Streety Family of Elma, The Jagusiak Family, and Ken White of Harvest Moon.

Please keep the following people in your thoughts & prayers ~

ECO Tom Flaitz
Lt. Paul Adam
Captain Dorothy Thumm
ECO Jim Kerns
ECO Myles Shyllinger and family, who lost their son Adam this summer.

Taken from a letter from Jeff Jarvis:

September 5, 2012

Dear Friends and Family,

We thank you all for your patience relative to the passing of Bob and the ensuing interment plans in New York. We realize that much time has passed since the passing of Bob, so please allow us to explain the cause for the delay.

Bob was hospitalized mid-May due to his failure to eat and resulting weakness. He was hospitalized for eight days until his doctor advised that he was placing Bob on Hospice referral. We were advised that nothing more could be done and that he would be transferred to the Hospice facility as soon as practical. The Hospice facility was truly an absolutely beautiful, peaceful environment to live out one's life. We were advised that Pop had two to five days. However, he brought forth that Old Game Warden determination and decided not to go. He passed the five days to eight, and we thought, Oh My God! Tough Ole Bird! He fought for two more weeks but, unfortunately, was in decline by the day.

Bob passed on May 26, 2012 at Bethesda Assisted Living facility in Palm Bay, Florida. He lived to the grand age of 90. We were fortunate to be with Pop the morning he passed, holding his hand. The family is spread out across Wyoming, Arizona, Florida, New York and soon Germany and all members have expressed interest in attending the service for Bob.

In consideration of all, we have agreed to postpone Bob's service until May 11, 2013 at 10:00AM when we will have a grave-side service at St. Alexander's Church Cemetery in Morrisonville, New York. A reception will follow after the service in the church hall. This will allow all to make the plans necessary to travel to New York. A future notice will follow in the Obituary section of the Plattsburgh Press Republican during April.

We thank each and every one of you for your patience, thoughts, condolences and prayers and look forward to seeing you at Bob's service in the spring.

Personal regards and thanks,
The Jarvis Family

The Best Kept Secret in North America: My Trip to The North American Game Warden Museum

~ Taken from an article written by Lieutenant Tom J. Caifa of Schenectady, NY.~

When I saw the advertisement in the NAWEOA magazine for the North American Game Warden Museum's Visiting Officer Program I thought to myself, "Hmmm...what's this all about?" So, I read on: Spend a weekend at the International Peace Garden (an international no man's land between North Dakota and Manitoba), work at a museum that celebrates the game warden profession, mingle with visitors, talk about what you do, give a short presentation...I wanted in! After an email to Brenda Hevenor, the museum's manager, setting up the details, I bought my plane ticket a few weeks later (with the help of a $200 donation from the New York Conservation Officers Association – thanks again guys!), made my plans, and anxiously waited for July 20th to arrive.

Although I knew that the North American Game Warden Museum was only a small part of the International Peace Garden, I had no idea just how big the place was. It's a total of about 2400 acres. Besides the Game Warden Museum, there is also an International Music Camp and a Legion Athletic Camp here. Kids aged 8-18 come here from all over North America to stay for a week at a time. Many come from farther away than that. There is a very nice public campground at the Peace Garden as well.

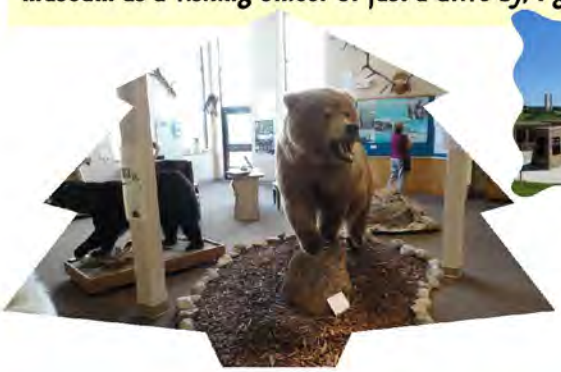
The North American Game Warden Museum is truly a sight to see. The main room where the displays are, each of which is something confiscated by game wardens, are housed is bright and open with high ceilings and an inviting look. A wide variety of confiscated animals, skins and other illegal items are on display here. These items come from fish & game law enforcement departments all over North America. Atop one large table sits a variety of educational handouts and giveaway items that relate to our profession, some of which were brought to the museum by other visiting officers. There is a very nice collection of historical and contemporary books, publications and photos that the general public is free to peruse. At the back of the museum is a decent sized conference room called the NAWEOA Room. This is the where I gave my presentations to the public. Just outside the museum is the memorial garden which commemorates our profession's fallen officers. Officer monuments (cairns) represent each jurisdiction in the US and Canada. The names of every officer killed in the line of duty adorn them. It's a moving experience to stand among the cairns and read the names. For game wardens, this is hallowed ground.

The Peace Garden is truly an amazing place. I could write a whole article on that alone and I probably still wouldn't do it justice. Their website is www.peacegarden.com. The Civilian Conservation Corps did a lot of work here back in the depression era and it shows. The picnic pavilions are works of art. There is an entire lake here that was dug by hand. It's not small by any means!

One thing that strikes me about the Peace Garden is that it's very...well, peaceful. There are no crowds here. There are plenty of open campsites and picnic areas. You really feel like you have the place all to yourself. Now I know what people mean when they say something is "the best kept secret" because this truly is one of those places. The campsites look great and there are tons of picnic areas. We pass so many small ponds that I lose count. I already wish my stay was longer.

Anyone who has badges, patches or other historical items they would like to donate to the museum should contact Brenda by email at nagwmuseum@hotmail.com. They would have a good home here.

My fellow wardens, take my advice: If you've never been here, plan a visit. Whether it's a camping vacation, a stint at the museum as a visiting officer or just a drive by, I guarantee that you will not only enjoy it, but you'll want to come back again.



NATIONAL HUNTING FISHING DAY ~ REGION 1

THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL HUNTING FISHING DAY IN REGION ONE WAS A SUCCESS DUE IN LARGE PART TO THE FISHING DERBY SPONSORED BY NYCOA. HERE, LT. DALLAS BENGEL HELPS TWO OF THIS YEARS PARTICIPANTS SHOW OFF A BRACE OF FINE TROUT STOCKED BY NYCOA FOR THE EVENT.

NEW YORK CONSERVATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

1475 Bowen Road
Elma, NY 14059

New NYCOA President
Corey Schoonover

Reminder from Marion Hoffman regarding Membership Dues :

Full Members $52 (pay by check or payroll deduction) Includes: IGW Magazine (4 issues) Outdoor News Publication (26 issues) NAWEOA membership Naweoa newsletter (2 issues) NYCOA newsletters . If you are on payroll deduction, you do not have to do anything.
Contributing Retirees (pay by check): $37 (includes NAWEOA membership NAWEOA newsletters (2 issues,) NYCOA newsletters.
$52 (includes NAWEOA membership NAWEOA newsletters (2 issues) NYCOA newsletters ,IGW Magazine (4 issues) Outdoor News Publication (26 issues)
All full and contributing retiree membership run out Dec. 31st (except for those full members that are on payroll deduction). Dues must be sent by January 1st.
Associates (pay by check) $52 (includes Outdoor News Publication (26 issues) NYCOA newsletters. (These folks are the only ones that have membership expiration dates at various times thru the year depending upon when they joined).
Thanks,

Marion Hoffman
959 Ashokan Rd.
Kingston, NY 12401

New York Conservation Officers Association Sept. 1, 2012
Dear Members,
Hello, my name is Emily Volker, of East Aurora, N.Y., granddaughter of retired Conservation Officer, Jim Volker. I would like to thank you for sponsoring me to go to Camp Rushford in Allegany County. I am grateful to you because of all the fun I had at Camp. Each day we did something different. We sang songs, had campfires,and played many fun games. We also learned a tremendous amount of new things about the outdoors. It definitely sparked an interest in me about the environment. All the staff at Camp were nice and caring. The staff also new a lot about the outdoors and if we had any questions they could answer them accurately. We also learned things about saving the environment for future years to come. They taught us about Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling. In addition we learned about many plants and animals. I also loved our canoe trip and especially liked that we did not have our electronics with us at camp. ALL IN ALL I HAD A SUPER TIME AT CAMP RUSHFORD AND WOULD LOVE TO GO AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!
Thank you again,
Emily Volker

This is a picture from Leah Middagh's Camp Rushford trip this summer. Leah is the daughter of Region 9's former secretary, Joanne Middagh.

NYCOA,
Thank you for sponsoring me to go to Camp Rushford this summer. I met a lot of new people and learned about the environment and what I can do at home to help. It was a great experience that created many memories; thanks for sponsoring me to let me go to camp!
Leah Middagh