

2013 Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer Awards



Annual Deputy of the Year Program

Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers (DWCOs), working with Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs), perform many specialized law enforcement duties in protecting, conserving and enhancing Pennsylvania's aquatic resources.

Deputies work long hours, often on weekends and holidays. As volunteers, they receive a small stipend to help with expenses, however, they are not otherwise compensated.

Any officer may nominate a deputy for this service-based recognition. Regional committees in the Commission's

Bureau of Law Enforcement and Regional Outreach and Education Coordinators review the nominations to choose one award recipient in each region. The six nominee award winners are presented with a dated plaque at their annual winter region meeting. The awards carry the distinction of the recipients knowing that their peers selected them.

The six region nominees are reviewed for a final selection of the Statewide Deputy of the Year Award winner. ☐

photo-Sergeant John C. Hopkins



DWCO Amil A. Zuzik, the Southwest Region nominee, received the 2013 Statewide Deputy of the Year Award. Pictured with DWCO Zuzik are Colonel Corey Britcher (left) and Captain Thomas F. Qualters Jr. (right).

photo-Sergeant Thomas J. Tarkowski



DWCO Jayson M. Hoovler (left) is the Northwest Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Hoovler is Captain Robert R. Nestor.

photo-Sergeant Thomas Nunamacher



DWCO George P. Afionis (right) is the Northcentral Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Afionis is Captain Gerald Barton.

photo-Anthony Quartracchio



DWCO Stanley R. Zivanovich Jr. (left) is the Southcentral Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Zivanovich is Captain Alan Robinson.



DWCO William H. Edwards (right) is the Southeast Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Edwards is Captain Raymond A. Bednarchik.

DWCO Peter J. Napoli Jr. is the Northeast Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. A photo was not available.

Years of Service Recognition

During the annual awards presentations, the Commission recognized the following DWCOs for their years of service.

Northwest Region

- 10 years: Jeffrey A. Snyder
- 15 years: Wendi D. Donachy
- 25 years: Donald J. Benczkowski and Philip A. Pompilio
- 30 years: Howard J. Egger

Northcentral Region

- 25 years: Jacqueline K. Carey and Neil H. Cook Jr.

Southeast Region

- 10 years: Theodore L. Bachman
- 30 years: Gordon F. Smith

Southwest Region

- 10 years: Keith J. Myers
- 20 years: Theodore E. Rusin
- 25 years: Leroy V. Ammon
- 30 years: Ernest J. Bedillion
- 35 years: Donald K. Anderson

Becoming a DWCO

DWCOs engage in successful work from a variety of backgrounds and choose to be DWCOs for many reasons. All DWCOs share a common commitment: to safeguard the public along our waterways and to protect, conserve and enhance Pennsylvania's aquatic resources and the environment. Many DWCOs use their training and experience to move on to other law enforcement occupations.

Anyone interested in learning more about DWCO positions should contact the nearest Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Regional Law Enforcement Office. These offices are listed on the Commission's website at www.fishandboat.com and in the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary*.



Always Wear Your Life Jacket

Personal Flotation Devices

Personal flotation devices (PFDs, life jackets, life preservers, life vests and throwable devices) are the most important piece of equipment on a boat; they are the best defense against drowning. Each person in the boat must have a wearable, United States Coast Guard-approved life jacket, **NO EXCEPTIONS!** It is highly advisable to wear life jackets at all times, especially in dangerous conditions.

Since boating conditions can change quickly and without warning (increasing your chance of unexpectedly falling into the water), boating without wearing a properly fitted life jacket is dangerous. Trying to put on a life jacket while in the water is difficult and nearly impossible in moving water.

Who must wear a life jacket?

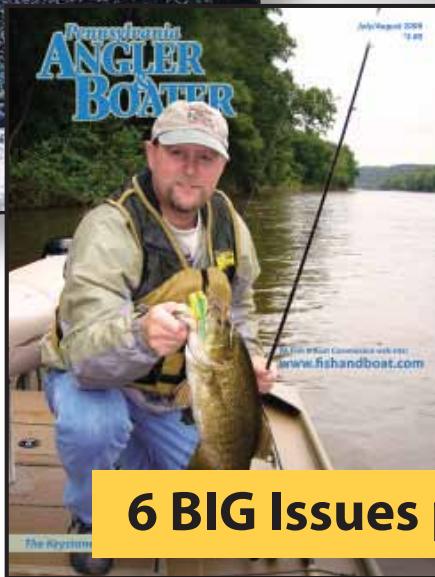
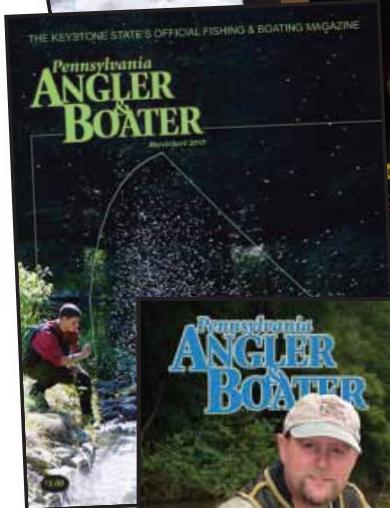
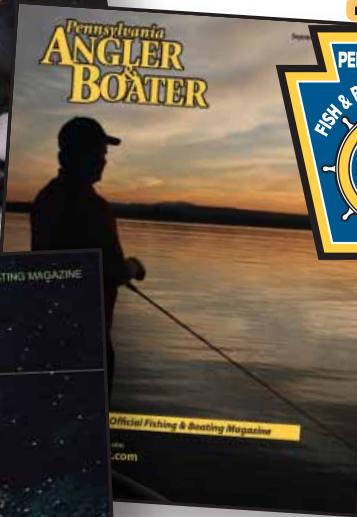
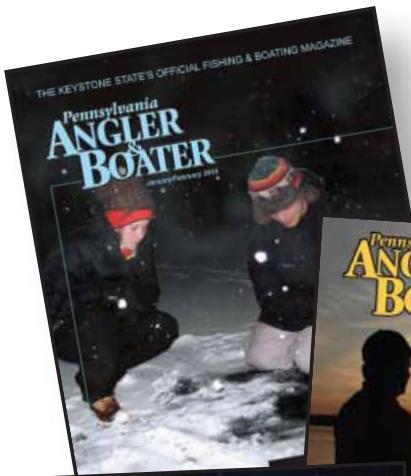
- Children 12 years of age and younger on Commonwealth waters when underway on any boat 20 feet or less in length and in all canoes and kayaks.

- On Pittsburgh District United States Army Corps of Engineers lakes (only), everyone in boats less than 16 feet in length and in all canoes and kayaks.
- All water skiers and anyone towed behind vessels, personal watercraft (PWC) operators and passengers and sailboarders (windsurfers). Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable for these activities.

Make sure the life jacket fits

For a life jacket to work properly, not only does it need to be on your body, it should fit properly as well. A properly fitting life jacket is more comfortable (meaning you are more likely to wear it) but more important, it functions better. Life jackets that are too large can ride up or even come off when you are in the water.

It's easy to check a conventional life jacket for proper fit—just put it on. The life jacket should fit you snugly with all zippers, straps, ties and snaps correctly secured. With a partner behind you, raise your arms like you are signaling a touchdown in a football game. Have the partner lift the life jacket by the shoulders. The life jacket should come no higher than your chin. If the life jacket covers your face or comes off, that's what would happen in the water. In this case, tighten the straps or use a smaller size. ☐



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