



20th WCO Class Graduation

by Spring Gearhart photos by Jeff Decker

Seven members of the 20th Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) class graduated from training during a commencement ceremony held August 12 in the Keystone Conference Center, Fort Indiantown Gap.

Colonel Thomas J. Kamerzel, Director Bureau of Law Enforcement, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, presided over the ceremony. The Honorable J. Michael Eakin, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, gave the oath of office. Executive Director John A. Arway, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, delivered the keynote address. Class president Michael E. Johnson spoke on behalf of the graduates. Commissioner Glade E. Squires addressed the class. Presentation of diplomas and recognition awards followed.

The Edward W. Manhart Academic Achievement Award was presented to Corey J. Girt for maintaining the highest grade point average during training. A recognition award was presented to Matthew A. Kauffman (firearms training). Congratulations to the 20th WCO class.

WCOs perform specialized duties in law enforcement, fisheries conservation, watercraft safety, education and public relations.



The Honorable J. Michael Eakin, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, gave the oath of office.

Graduates completed 21 weeks of municipal police officer training at the Pennsylvania State Police Training Academy in Hershey. This training included all aspects of police work, basic law, investigation techniques, first aid, CPR, firearms, patrol vehicle operation, crimes code and unarmed self-defense.

In addition, graduates completed conservation

Graduate	Assigned To
Corey J. Girt	Mifflin/North Huntingdon counties
Michael E. Johnson	Southern Bucks County
Matthew A. Kauffman	Southern Pike/ Northeastern Montgomery counties
Chad M. McKenrick	Northern Susquehanna/ Eastern Bradford counties
Chase D. Rhoades	Northern Montgomery County
Daniel J. Sharer	Southwestern Montgomery/ Western Philadelphia counties
Jeremy L. Yohe	Western Bradford/Sullivan counties

officer training at the Commission's H.R. Stackhouse School of Fishery Conservation and Watercraft Safety in Bellefonte. The conservation officer training curriculum included boat operation, boating-under-the-influence detection and apprehension, accident investigation, fish, reptile, and amphibian identification, water pollution investigation, public speaking, standard operating procedures, Pennsylvania fishing and boating laws and regulations, federal fish and wildlife law and field training. The WCO training program is 52 weeks long.

There are over 90 commissioned officers throughout the Commonwealth. To become a waterways conservation officer or for more information, contact the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission at 717-705-7861, visit the Commission's website at www.fishandboat.com, contact the State Civil Service Commission at 717-783-3058 or visit the State Civil Service Commission's website at www.scsc.state.pa.us. ☐



Pictured above (left to right) are Bureau of Law Enforcement Assistant to the Director Donald L. Lauver; 20th WCO Class graduates Matthew A. Kauffman, Michael E. Johnson, Chase D. Rhoades, Chad M. McKenrick, Jeremy L. Yohe, Daniel J. Sharer and Corey J. Girt; and PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway.



The Edward W. Manhart Academic Achievement Award was presented to Corey J. Girt for maintaining the highest grade point average during training. Pictured with WCO Girt are (left to right) Commissioner Robert A. Bachman, Commissioner Glade E. Squires and PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway.



A recognition award was presented to Matthew A. Kauffman for firearms training. Pictured with WCO Kauffman are (left to right) Commissioner Robert A. Bachman, Commissioner Glade E. Squires and PFBC Executive Director John A. Arway.



The Color Guard, Bureau of Law Enforcement, participated in the graduation ceremony.