

2018 Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer Awards



Annual Deputy of the Year Program

Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers (DWCOs) assist Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) in the performance of specialized law enforcement duties to carry out the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's mission of protecting, conserving and enhancing the Commonwealth's aquatic resources.

Deputies work long hours, usually on weekends and holidays, and at times by themselves. As volunteers, they

receive a small stipend to help with expenses; however, they are not otherwise compensated.

One DWCO is awarded the prestigious DWCO of the Year Award annually. Deputies are nominated by a WCO or other DWCOs in each law enforcement region. The Deputy of the Year is then selected from six nominees by a committee comprised of law enforcement and other supervisors at headquarters. The Deputy of the Year is given an engraved badge plaque to honor the achievement.

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

photo-Sergeant Jeffrey R. Sabo



DWCO James Yerger Jr. (right), the Southeast Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee, received the 2018 Statewide Deputy of the Year Award. Pictured with DWCO Yerger Jr. is Captain Raymond A. Bednarchik.

photo-Sergeant Robert V. Dunbar



DWCO David Twoey (center) is the Northcentral Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Twoey is Captain Alan Robinson (left) and Colonel Corey L. Britcher.

photo-Tina Archambault



DWCO Andrew Snyder (second from left) is the Southcentral Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Snyder (left to right) is Colonel Corey L. Britcher, WCO Darrin W. Kephart and Captain Anthony J. Quarracino Jr.

photo-Sergeant James Smolko



DWCO Donald Cataldi (left) is the Northwest Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Cataldi is Captain Thomas H. Edwards Jr.



DWCO Randolph Conray (retired) (right) is the Southwest Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Conray is Captain Thomas J. Crist.



DWCO Ross Piazza (retired) (center) is the Northeast Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Piazza is WCO John R. Cummings (left) and Captain Clyde N. Warner Jr.

Years of Service Recognition

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

Northwest Region

- 20 years: Wendi Donachy
- 30 years: Donald Benzkowski

Southwest Region

- 15 years: Keith Myers
- 25 years: Theodore Rusin
- 30 years: Leroy Ammon
- 40 years: Donald Anderson

Southcentral Region

- Lifetime Honorary Deputy Certificate:
Carl Books

Becoming a DWCO

DWCOs are recruited from all walks of life. All DWCOs share a common commitment: to safeguard the public along our waterways and to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources. Many DWCOs use their training and experience to move to other law enforcement occupations.

Anyone interested in learning more about the DWCO position should contact the nearest Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Law Enforcement Region 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**

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) and is a legal requirement, 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. For more information, go to www.fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingRegulations.