

# 2020 Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer Awards



## Statewide 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 and 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 annually awarded the prestigious Statewide Deputy of the Year Award. Deputies are nominated by a WCO or other DWCOs in each law enforcement region. The Statewide 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.

DWCO Daniel E. Reiber, the Northwest Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee, received the 2020 Statewide Deputy of the Year Award.

The Deputy of the Year Award Nominees are:  
DWCO Donald K. Anderson, Southwest Region  
DWCO David A. Martin, Northcentral Region  
DWCO Bradley H. Criswell, Southcentral Region  
DWCO Walter M. Gutzan, Northeast Region  
DWCO Paul V. Marchese, Southeast Region

## Years of Service Recognition

The Commission recognized the following DWCOs for their years of service.

### Northwest Region

30 years: Bradley W. Donor  
35 years: Donald J. Cataldi  
Deputy Retirement: Donald J. Benczkowski

### Southwest Region

35 years: John. B. Toki  
45 years: Charles W. Lutz Jr.

### Southcentral Region:

Deputy Retirement: Mark S. Briner

### Northeast Region

20 years: Theodore C. Smith Jr.  
25 years: Steven K. Mason

### Southeast Region:

20 years: Bradford C. Smith  
30 years: Denis E. Mora  
35 years: David F. Eichler



Southcentral Region retired DWCO Mark S. Briner was recognized for his 28 years of service to the anglers and boaters of Pennsylvania. Former DWCO Briner served Cumberland County. Northwest retired DWCO Donald J. Benczkowski was also recognized for his service (photo not available).

## 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](http://www.fishandboat.com) and in the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook*.