



Marine Police Officer Named State Executive Employee of the Year




BILLY POPE

L-r: Marine Police Division Director J.T. Jenkins, Kathleen Murphy, Officer Richard C. Miller, Maj. Bobby Huffaker and Assistant Conservation Commissioner Hobbie L. Sealy.

Marine Police Officer Richard C. Miller was honored to receive the State of Alabama's Executive Employee of the Year award during a recent State Employee Recognition Ceremony. Each state agency nominated an employee for the award and Miller was the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' nominee.

Officer Miller began working for the Department in 1996 and has always been an exemplary employee. Right from the start, he believed in taking a proactive, community-oriented approach to his job and he continues to apply this philosophy to all aspects of his duties to this day. Extremely dedicated to the Department and the Division, Officer Miller always maintains a positive, upbeat, can-do attitude even in the face of adversity.

Although life has presented many challenges for him, he has enhanced his education and outreach efforts on behalf of the Division and the Department. Through Officer Miller's efforts, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Marine Police Division are becoming well known in communities not usually reached. In addition to his outreach efforts, Officer Miller is also known throughout his area of the state as a person who is always available to help, in any capacity, any person, division, agency, or organization that may need assistance.

Officer Richard C. Miller approaches every undertaking with perseverance, dedication and a positive attitude that sends a constructive message to those he comes in contact with. He is a first-rate ambassador for both the Department and Division, and is an excellent role model for the public. 



Conservation Advisory Board Welcomes Two New Members

Brock Jones of Tuscaloosa and Grady Hartzog Jr. of Eufaula have been named to the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board by Gov. Bob Riley. The new members replace Johnny Johnson of Tuscaloosa and Louis Coles of Enterprise, whose six-year terms expired.

Jones, a landowner in Greene and Wilcox counties, serves as Vice President of Morgan Keegan and Company in Tuscaloosa. A 1989 graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law, Jones has served on numerous civic boards, including the Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitors Bureau, West Alabama Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross and Children's Hands On Museum.

Hartzog, a certified public accountant, recently finished a 12-year term on the board of the Forever Wild Land Trust. He serves as Director of Ducks Unlimited Canada, as well as the DU National Conservation Programs Committee in the United States and serves as a member of DU's Alabama State Council. Hartzog will be the incoming President of the Alabama Wildlife Federation, which presented him with the Governor's Wildlife Conservationist of the Year Award in 2002.

The Conservation Advisory Board is composed of 10 members appointed by the governor for alternating terms of six years, and three ex-officio members – the Governor, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, and the Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension system. The Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources serves as the ex-officio secretary of the board.

The board assists in formulating policies for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and examines all rules and regulations. By a two-thirds vote of the members present and with the governor's approval, the board can amend, change or repeal current rules and regulations or create and promulgate additional rules and regulations. The Board also assists in publicizing the department's programs and activities. **DA**



Accepting the award on behalf of the division were l-r: Fisheries Section Chief Stan Cook, Fisheries Section Assistant Chief Nick Nichols, and Dr. Paul Johnson, Director of the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center in Marion, Ala. They are pictured with Sam Hamilton, Southeast Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Honored by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has honored The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) with a Regional Director's Conservation Award.

The Regional Director's Conservation Awards are presented annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and highlight regional partner agencies, individuals and organizations for their significant contributions to the preservation, conservation and protection of plant and animal habitat and ecosystems. There are 10 states, including Alabama, in the Southeast region.

This year WFF received an award for its visionary leadership in aquatic conservation, establishing the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center (AABC) and for developing a comprehensive multi-year propagation plan for more than 130 imperiled aquatic mollusks in the Mobile Basin and Cumberlandian Region in northeast Alabama.

The AABC is the largest state non-game recovery program in the United States. Its mission is to promote the conservation and restoration of rare freshwater species in Alabama and in turn restore cleaner water to state waterways. Over 40 species of freshwater snails and 25 species of freshwater mussels native to Alabama are now considered extinct. Today more than 50 species are considered threatened or endangered.

Life history and habitat information developed at AABC is essential for aquatic habitat protection and restoration. The Center's hatchery progeny will be used to re-establish and expand the ranges of species most vulnerable to drought, spills, and other random events, including the effects of hurricanes and climate change. **DA**

Stewart Receives Quail Study Group Award



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Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Biologist Stan Stewart has received the 2009 Southeast Quail Study Group (SEQSG) Annual Award for his contributions to the knowledge and management of bobwhite quail in the Southeast.


Since starting his career with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) in 1981, Stewart has worked diligently toward the restoration of quail population and habitat improvement in Alabama.

Stewart was instrumental in the formation of the Alabama Quail Council and has worked closely with the Alabama Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research

Unit to stimulate applied quail research in the state. An active member of the SEQSG Forestry Committee since its inception in 1995, Stewart has also been a featured speaker at several quail workshops and landowner forums throughout Alabama.

In addition to his field work Stewart has written extensively about quail and land management. His 2005 publication, *Ecology and Management of the Bobwhite Quail in Alabama*, serves as guidebook for landowners who want an increased number of quail on their property.

Stewart holds a Masters Degree in Wildlife Science from Auburn University and a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Georgia. He is also certified by The Wildlife Society, a professional non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship.


The SEQSG, a collection of public and private organizations focused on bobwhite quail population and habitat restoration, has recently expanded its membership to include all states in the U.S. with bobwhite populations. The group created the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative in 2002, which has been instrumental in efforts to recover bobwhite quail populations in its U.S. range. For more information about SEQSG, visit www.seqsg.qu.org. 

DeSoto Campground Reopens

The campground at DeSoto State Park has reopened after a complete renovation. The improved campground has a total of 94 full hook-up sites, with two comfort stations centrally located.

Improvements include:

- 50/30 amp service
- New water hook-ups
- All sites with sewer
- All sites average 16 feet by 60 feet deep
- Large offsets for slide-outs and picnic tables
- 16 additional pull-thru sites
- Two new comfort stations with laundry facilities

A 20-site primitive campground is located about a mile from the improved campground. Two large group sites are also available. All size tents are welcome, but no RVs or campers are allowed in the primitive section. Picnic tables and grills are centrally located. 





Ladies Invited to Fall BOW Workshop


Registration for the next Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop will open July 15. The workshop, scheduled for October 2-4, 2009, is sponsored by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) and takes place at the 4-H Center near Columbiana in Shelby County.

BOW is held in the spring and fall each year. The workshop is a three-day adventure offering beginner-level skills training for an array of fun and exciting activities ranging from deer hunting to geocaching. BOW workshop activities include camping, backyard wildlife, map and compass, mountain biking, shooting sports, fishing, hunting, canoeing, nature crafts, archery, ATV handling, motor boat handling, bee keeping, and much more. Participants can also obtain their Hunter Education Certification and Boating Safety Certification during the weekend event.

BOW workshops are open to all females 18 years or older. Many past participants return to BOW and often bring someone with them to experience what they have discovered to be a fun-filled weekend of challenging activities in the beautiful outdoors. Attendees regularly include senior adults, mothers and daughters, co-workers and best friends.

Highly trained ADCNR staff and volunteers serve as instructors. Additionally, participants may bring their personal equipment to use in the various sessions.

The registration fee of \$199 covers all meals, dormitory lodging, program materials and instruction. Those interested in attending are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Enrollment is limited to 130 applicants, and classes fill up fast. All registrants will receive a confirmation including a class schedule and driving directions. To register, visit the Department of Conservation's Web site at http://www.outdooralabama.com/outdoor-adventures/Events_for_women/bow/.

For additional information, contact Sylvia Payne, ADCNR Information and Education Section at 1-800-262-3151 or Sylvia.Payne@dcnr.alabama.gov. 



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