

Garner Inducted into National Safe Boating Council Hall of Fame

Former Marine Police Division Director William “Bill” Garner was inducted into the National Safe Boating Council Boating Safety Hall of Fame at the 46th Annual National Association of State Boating Law Administrator conference awards ceremony in Portland, Oregon. Garner has been an active and involved member of boating safety for over 40 years, serving the industry in many different capacities and contributing to the growth and development of essential safe boating initiatives. Much of his life and career has been dedicated to law enforcement, marine safety, and towards improving the recreational boating experience.

Garner began his career in boating safety as an enforcement officer, continuing on to become the Boating Law Administrator for the


state of Alabama, a position he held for close to 30 years. While at this position, he became a key figure in boating safety within the National Association of State Boating Law Administrator organization. Garner has also been involved with a variety of other boating safety organizations such as the United States Coast Guard Boating Safety Advisory Committee and the Marine Engineering Council.

In addition to his involvement and commitment to boating safety organizations, Garner was instrumental in instituting an engine cut-off switch law in Alabama. He recommended legislation to require boat operator’s license and increased penalties for boating under the influence violations, both of which have resulted in a significant reduction of state boating fatalities.

The National Safe Boating Council Boating Safety Hall of Fame honors individuals who have shown exemplary leadership and



Garner, right, receives the award from National Safe Boating Council Chairman Ed Carter.

performed outstanding lasting service on behalf of the boating safety community. Those inducted into this prestigious Hall of Fame have contributed significantly to the advancement of safe boating across the continent. All are known as true champions of boating safety. 

Public Asked to Report Bald Eagle Nesting Activity


One of the greatest wildlife success stories in modern wildlife management is the restoration of nesting bald eagles to Alabama. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, 91 juvenile bald eagles were released from several locations in the state in an attempt to imprint nesting territories on these young birds. This program has been hugely successful and each year more bald eagle nests are seen in the state.

Annually, wildlife biologists from the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division monitor every known nest for nesting success by conducting aerial surveys in the winter and early spring. During the spring of 2005, 61 nests were monitored in Alabama. This was an increase of eight nests from 2004. In 2003, 47 nests were monitored.

Often, the first report of a new nest is by members of the public, usually hunters, people fishing, or birdwatch-

ers. These reports are extremely valuable in locating new eagle nests and assisting with overall monitoring efforts.

During the winter, it is not uncommon to see bald eagles on any large body of water in Alabama. Bald eagles nest in Alabama from late December to early June, but the presence of bald eagles during the winter does not necessarily mean that they are nesting. Reports should only be made if a bald eagle is seen in association with a nesting structure or is seen carrying large sticks or other nesting material to a specific location.

Anyone seeing a bald eagle nest or an eagle carrying nesting material in Alabama is encouraged to contact the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. Eagle nests should be reported to Keith Hudson, Nongame Wildlife Biologist, at 256-760-8233 or by email at hudsonmk@cs.com. 



Condrey Named Officer of the Year



TOMMY CAUTHEN

Officer Condrey is presented his award from Safari Club International Representative Phillip Jackson.

Conservation Enforcement Officer Donald T. Condrey was recently selected by Shikar Safari Club International as their 2005 Officer of the Year. The program recognizes exemplary performance in protection of wildlife, enforcement of wildlife laws, and implementation of conservation programs.

Officer Condrey, who works in Lauderdale County, began his career with the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries in 1993. He is known among his peers and supervisors as an officer with superior dedication to the detection and apprehension of game law violators. He has endangered his own safety and well-being many times to protect Alabama's natural resources.

As a firm believer in preventing future wildlife law violations by educating today's youth, Officer Condrey teaches hunter education classes and makes voluntary appearances at youth gatherings and hunts.

One of Officer Condrey's greatest strengths is his public relations skills. He always takes time to listen to the public and empathize with their concerns. He goes to extraordinary lengths to help every person who asks for assistance. **AA**

Wetumpka Man Wins Outdoor Alabama Jon Boat

Josh Hellums of Wetumpka is the winner of a jon boat given away by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at the Alabama National Fair. The giveaway was sponsored by *Outdoor Alabama* magazine, the official publication of the Department.

Joe's Motor Service, Inc. of Hartford, Alabama, donated the 14-foot Rhino jon boat. "We are thrilled to be able to give away a boat that was made in Alabama," said *Outdoor Alabama*

managing editor Kim Nix. "Joe's Motor Service was extremely generous."

Hellums was surprised and pleased to be the winner. He works at the Adullum House, a private home for children whose parents are incarcerated. Hellums said he had been planning to purchase a boat to take the kids fishing and so winning one was good timing. He and wife Naomi have two children, and they also plan to use the boat on family outings.

In addition to the boat, Hellums also received a one-year subscription to *Outdoor Alabama* magazine. A similar giveaway is planned for the 2006 Alabama National Fair. **AA**



BILLY POPE

Josh and Naomi Hellums with daughter Molly, son Jackson and their new jon boat.

Conservation Officer Draper Receives Anti-Litter Award

Sergeant Todd Draper, Conservation Enforcement Officer with the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, received the Law Enforcement Award from People Against a Littered State (PALS). The award was presented by PALS Chairman Dr. Donald Hines at the 2005 Alabama PALS Governor's Awards Program in Montgomery on November 16, 2005. PALS annually recognizes people and organizations who have significantly contributed to reducing litter in Alabama.

Draper, who works in Tuscaloosa County, has been instrumental in the arrest of several suspects in conjunction with illegal dumping. While performing the duties of a conservation enforcement officer, Draper made several cases of criminal littering in Tuscaloosa County earlier this year with the assistance of fellow Conservation Officer Lt. Clifton Robinson. **AA**



Sergeant Todd Draper, left, and Lt. Clifton Robinson.