

Timothy Joe Lindsey Awarded Conservation Enforcement Officer of the Year

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Enforcement Officer Timothy Joe Lindsey was awarded Conservation Enforcement Officer of the Year at the 2007 Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards banquet held by The Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF).


Lindsey is a four-year veteran of the ADCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division and excels in his professional capacity as a Conservation Enforcement Officer in Madison County in District 1. His efforts are focused on violators who represent the greatest danger to the public and who do the most damage to natural resources. Lindsey has an outstanding record of apprehending dangerous viola-

tors and is always prepared for trial, with any relevant evidence needed to try a case. His knowledge of the outdoors and desire to promote the highest ethics regarding the wildlife and fisheries of Alabama are equally impressive. Additionally, he is actively involved in organizing events aimed at getting children outdoors including introducing youth to fishing.

WFF Law Enforcement Chief Allan Andress describes Lindsey as a conscientious and exemplary officer. "Joe is one of our finest young officers and does an outstanding job," Andress said. "We are proud to have him represent the Department with his professionalism and commitment."

The AWF Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards (GCAA) are the most prestigious conservation honor in Alabama. Over the past 30 years, the AWF has presented these awards to individuals and organizations that make great contributions to the conservation of Alabama's wildlife and related natural resources.

The awards program was created to promote leadership by example and in turn increase conservation of the natural resources in the state of Alabama including its wildlife, forests, soils, water and air. The program is designed to bring about a greater knowledge and awareness of conservation practices and projects and to give proper recognition to those persons and organizations that make outstanding contributions to the natural resource welfare of their community and state.

The Alabama Wildlife Federation, established by sportsmen in 1935, is the state's oldest and largest citizens' conservation organization. The mission of the AWF is to promote conservation and wise use of Alabama's wildlife and related natural resources as a basis for economic and social prosperity. 



Left to right: Willard Bowers, Alabama Power Company; Hobbie Sealy, Conservation Department; Officer Timothy Joe Lindsey; and Riley Boykin Smith, Alabama Wildlife Federation.



Corky Pugh Named National Association President



BILLY POPE

On September 20, during its Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies named its new president, Corky Pugh, Director of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. Pugh has served in a wide range of leadership roles in Alabama's state government since the 1970s.

Pugh serves as chair of the Association's Education, Outreach and Diversity Committee, where he brings a passion for conservation education and marketing. As president, he plans to continue to champion these issues and many others throughout the year, including hunter and angler recruitment and retention, managing and communicating about invasive species, human/wildlife conflicts and strengthening fish and wildlife conservation partnerships.

"It is deeply humbling for me to lead the Association," says Pugh. "We as state agencies are indeed fortunate to

have this organization to represent our interests, to foster communications and good relationships, and to provide a forum for our continued conservation success together."

The Washington, D.C.-based Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is the collective voice of North America's fish and wildlife agencies at every level of government. The Association provides its member agencies and their senior staff with coordination services that range from migratory birds, fish habitat, and invasive species, to conservation education, leadership development, and international relations. The Association represents its state agency members on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key conservation and management policies, and works to ensure that all fish and wildlife entities work collaboratively on the most important issues.

Pugh has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Auburn University in Montgomery and his B.A. from the University of South Alabama. He is an outdoors enthusiast and avid hunter and angler.

Pugh will be President of the Association through September 2008.

Hooded Mergansers Chosen for Alabama Waterfowl Stamp

A pair of hooded mergansers painted by Jim Denney of Alexander City is the winner of the 2007 Alabama Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest. The winning artwork will adorn the 2008-2009 Alabama Waterfowl Stamp. Denney is a first-time participant in the contest and faced competition from 17 other paintings, including one from his brother John Denney, also of Alexander City.

First runner-up was a widgeon by Beverly Newton of Trinity, who was third runner-up in last year's competition. Second runner-up was a redhead by Larry Chandler of Hartselle. Third runner-up was Janette Stoker of Jackson, who painted a pair of flying mallards, and Ainsley McNeely of Mobile was fourth runner-up with a pair of redheads. Both Chandler and McNeely are former winners of the competition.

Entries were judged on suitability for reproduction as a stamp, originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy and general rendering. The designs were limited to living species of North American migratory ducks or geese,



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Left to right: Hal Earnest, artist Jim Denney, Bill Summerour, and Joane Grant.

and winning species from the past three years – Canada goose, canvasback and blue-winged teal – were not eligible subjects for the 2007 contest.

The artwork was publicly displayed and judged by a panel of experts in the fields of art, ornithology, and conservation. Representing the field of art was Joane Grant, who is with the Catholic School System in Montgomery. Hal Earnest, regional director for Ducks Unlimited in Alabama, represented the field of conservation. Representing the

field of ornithology was Bill Summerour, a former biology professor at Jacksonville State University who now lives in Silverhill, Ala.

This year's contest was particularly challenging for the judges because of the caliber of entries, said Summerour. "As a result, we ended up with a tie for first place, the only time this has happened in the history of the contest. Either of the two finalists, the hooded merganser or the American wigeon, would have made a beautiful duck stamp, but when the points were added up it was the hooded merganser the judges settled on as the winning entry," he said.

All licensed waterfowl hunters are required to be in possession of state and federal migratory waterfowl stamps signed in ink across the face. Like the federal stamps, state issued stamps are popular with collectors. The artwork competition for the Alabama Migratory Waterfowl Stamp design is held each year in February and is open to Alabama residents only. For more information on the contest visit www.outdooralabama.com.

2007 Alligator Seasons Successful



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The fortunate Alabama hunters who were drawn for alligator harvest permits had another rewarding year with an 84-percent success rate on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta.

The six-night 2007 season was conducted on consecutive August weekends in the Delta and yielded 84 alligators out of 100 permits.

The largest taken in the Delta was a 12-foot, 10-inch gator that

weighed 641 pounds and made John Sutton a celebrity in his hometown of Stockton. A 525-pounder taken by Michael Odom of Citronelle measured 12-5, while Cory Smith of Loxley had a 12-6 gator that weighed 492 pounds. All three gators were larger than the heaviest animal taken during the 2006 season.

“It was another successful year,” said Chuck Sharp, District V supervising wildlife biologist with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. “There were no injuries that we know of, and a success rate of 84 percent is very good.”


“All the comments we got from the hunters were very good and they were ready to do it again.”

For the first time, an alligator season was also held at Lake Eufaula with 40 permits issued and 14 hunters managed to bag gators. Although the success rate didn’t match the Delta, Lake Eufaula did produce the heaviest alligator of the year.

William Simmons of Headland weighed in a 675-pound gator that was 11 feet, 11 ½ inches and had a girth of 59 inches. Bob Schaffield of Birmingham had the longest alligator taken at Lake Eufaula at 12 feet, 8 inches and it weighed 540 pounds.

Bill Gray, District VI supervising wildlife biologist, said there were several factors that affected the three-night season at Lake Eufaula.

“We asked the hunters how many gators they saw,” Gray said. “Some saw as few as three and some as high as 55. They had trouble getting close and hooking them. A week before the season, people were out at night scouting and it may have had the alligators spooked a little. And the lake is down five feet. That might have put the gators out of reach and hindered navigation. They also had to be cautious about straying into Georgia water or the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge.

“But everybody loved it. The ones that got a gator, you’d have thought they had gone to Africa and killed a Cape buffalo. They really appreciated it.” 



BILLY POPE

Fish Stocking Applications Due February 1

All applications for fish stocking must be received at Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries' district offices by February 1, 2008.

The fee structure will be a minimum of \$70 for ponds one-half acre or smaller, plus incremental adjustments of \$35 for each additional one-quarter surface acre for ponds 5 surface acres or

smaller. For ponds larger than 5 surface acres, the fee will increase to \$140 per acre. Ponds stocked with bass only will cost one-half of the full stocking fee.

District office phone numbers can be found at www.outdooralabama.com, on page 5 of the 2007-2008 Alabama Hunting and Fishing Digest or by calling 800-262-3151.

Watch for Bighead and Silver Carp

Anglers are asked to be on the watch for bighead and silver carp. These invasive fish are spreading to lakes and rivers, particularly the Mississippi River and Great Lakes Regions. They feed on plankton and compete for food with native mussels, larval fishes and some adult fishes. They quickly dominate fisheries, impacting recreation and commercial fishing. Silver carp and hybrids can leap up to 10 feet out of the water when disturbed by watercraft, injuring people working or recreating on the water.

Bighead Carp



Silver Carp



DAVID RIECKS, UIUC/IL-IN SEA GRANT

How You Can Help

- Do not harvest bait from water infested with bighead and silver carp.
- Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash.
- Never release fish from one body of water into another.
- REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS** — if you catch one of these carp in Alabama, note the exact location and call the Fisheries Section of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division at 334-242-3471. Specimens are needed to confirm sightings; freeze fish in a sealed plastic bag; fish will be picked up by a fisheries biologist.

Holiday Shopping? Try Outdooralabama.com

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) can make your holiday shopping easier and more convenient by offering great gift ideas that can be purchased online at outdooralabama.com. If your list includes hunters, anglers, nature lovers, or folks who just love the outdoors, you can find something for them on the ADCNR Web site.

Here are a few ideas:



Outdoor Alabama Nature Shop — offers shirts, hats and backpacks with the Outdoor Alabama logo. Also offered are wildlife pins, ornaments, Audubon plush birds and a variety of books. Order early to beat the holiday rush.

Outdoor Alabama Magazine Gift Subscription — the gift the recipient will keep getting all year long. Holiday gift subscriptions begin with the December issue, which is a calendar and conservation directory. Subscribe online, by mailing the card in this magazine or calling toll-free 1-877-339-0508.



Lifetime License — for a gift that truly lasts a lifetime, how about a lifetime hunting or fishing license? The price depends on the person's age and the type of license chosen. See all the options at outdooralabama.com or call 334-242-3829.