

word means those little guys who *won't* ever learn). Aircraft help where farm crops must be protected from the depredations of wildlife. To the wildlife technician aircraft are a scientific tool of immense value. And last, but not least, those wildlife managers who fly are given the unusual opportunity of seeing vast problems not through academic, nor statistical nor administrative knot holes, but as if through the very eyes of the wild creatures we seek to perpetuate.

## WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT AS A PROFESSION

*By* GEORGE T. BROWN, *Administrative Officer, Law Enforcement Division  
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In beginning, let me say that law enforcement (all law enforcement) should be referred to as a profession. Since the days of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table, and even before, it has been a necessary and important part of the growth, welfare and progress of all community life. In reality this seems to be a comparatively simple subject matter. Actually about the only angles open for discussion are:

1. The wildlife enforcement programs that now exist in our respective states and the related conditions which have a tendency to keep them in a nonprofessional class.
2. A wildlife enforcement program as it must be in order that administrative personnel may be rightfully called professional people and what can be done to achieve this.

"Profession", this is the key word and means amo other things "an occupation to which one devotes or dedicates himself". Also, "a body of persons engaged in a calling."

The majority of the people engaged in the "calling" of wildlife enforcement are devoted and dedicated people who eat, sleep, and drink the conservation of our natural resources; however, there are those who will disagree with this statement and they will point out individuals and relate particular cases and incidents which they say will disprove it. To be honest, we must accept these disagreeing statements as being at least partially true as all too often examples and incidents brought about by the small number of enforcement personnel whose only interest in conservation is quitting time and payday, discredit and reflect upon us all.

We must constantly strive to see that such instances are eliminated or else the weight of adverse public opinion will eventually drag us under.

Gentlemen, I make no attempt to discuss the present enforcement programs in the various southeastern states other than on a general basis and along lines which I believe to be true in most cases. I do this simply because I believe that people by nature are not much different no matter where they be from.

One of the first things we should consider is the elimination of enforcement personnel who are constantly causing discredit and reflection to be cast upon us all. To be more specific, we must weed out the uneducated, untrained, immoral and dishonest persons who have by political and other maneuvers wormed their way into an organization or profession which we have chosen as a career and to which we are devoted and dedicated.

Second, we should tighten the reins on the over zealous officer who actually enjoys arresting people and who boastfully states that he enforces the law to the smallest letter. We should teach our people that it is not necessary for the Judge to decide every case. (Incidentally, this statement should make for interesting discussion in our question and answer session.)

I am not going to dwell any longer on the negative side of this topic. All, or most of you, have been in the field of wildlife enforcement longer than I and you know the main things which must be corrected. Are you going to take steps to make these corrections or adopt an attitude of "et someone else do it?"

If you do adopt an attitude of complacency, you cannot be rightfully called a professional wildlife enforcement administrator.

Looking forward now, let's think about means of developing and maintaining a progressive, professional, wildlife enforcement program. To have such we must obtain progressive, professional personnel to carry it on. To secure such people we must establish a merit system for selection and advancement of enforcement personnel and then stick with it.

### EDUCATION

Education should receive top priority in such a system. I do not necessarily mean that an applicant for an Officer's position must have a Ph.D., Pd.M., P.D.Q. or some special degree. A well-rounded educational background supported by good common sense is a hard combination to beat. A fair knowledge of fish, game and the outdoors in general is essential.

Let's face it, the present salary structures set up for enforcement personnel in most southeastern states will attract for the most part only the dregs of the college graduates. I make this statement knowing I will be crucified by some college graduates who have sacrificed monetary gain for the personal satisfaction and peace of mind they enjoy in wildlife enforcement work. I apologize to such people who are truly a devoted and dedicated class; however, I believe they are definitely in the minority.

A college degree requirement for an Officer's position looks good on the spec sheets and certainly should be helpful in getting salary brackets set at levels commensurate with ability, need, and I might add, other departments. I don't believe anyone can truthfully say that a beginning Enforcement Officer with the proper educational background is not worth as much to any state's game and fish program as a beginning Fish or Game Technician. In fact, he should be worth more because without him there would soon be no money to pay the technical personnel. I do not make this statement intending or trying to provoke an argument with other department divisions. There is probably entirely too much such bickering going on now. I say it simply because I believe it to be a simple, basic truth that has too long gone unrecognized.

Even in view of the fact that higher educational standards would enhance higher salaries, we should be careful that such requirements are not set so high that they tend to discourage and eliminate applicants who have other qualifications which would enable them to become excellent officers.

### PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

As to personal qualifications, these should certainly be given adequate consideration and first among such should be the ability to know and like people. An applicant who is not a good mixer and does not understand human behavior will be like a fish out of water in the enforcement field.

It has been said an enforcement officer should have:

1. The *intelligence* of a scholar.
2. A Prosecutor's *knowledge* of law and evidence.
3. A Judge's *acumen* and *logic*.
4. The *tact* of a diplomat.
5. A bulldog's *persistence*.
6. *Honesty* and *integrity*.
7. *Initiative* and *ability* to go ahead without leadership.
8. The even *temper* of a psychologist.

Add these qualities to the ability to know, understand, and like people and you will come up with a pretty fair professional officer.

If, and I realize this is a big "IF," an enforcement officer applicant possessing these educational and personal characteristics can be obtained, we will be well on the road to proper recognition as professional people.

### TRAINING

Once started on the right road we should leave no stone unturned in providing new employees with the proper training. This training should be in all phases of wildlife management because the Officer of today and even more so of tomorrow does and will devote less and less of his time to actual law enforcement.

There is almost no end to the areas where our Officers of today are called to serve. To mention a few, an Officer must be a fish biologist, a game biologist, a public relations expert, he should know first aid, he must be a lawyer, firearms instructor, and many, many other things. Only if we serve and serve efficiently in all phases can we be rightfully called professionals.

Toward this end we should encourage and, where possible, require Officers to enroll in training academies, special courses, in-service training programs, etc. We should never pass up an opportunity for our Officers to participate in specialized training which will further our aims.

There is a wonderful opportunity here for the southeastern states to pool their resources and establish a properly staffed and equipped training school which could be set up as basic training for enforcement employees. Often, states are limited or curtailed in the training field by the small number of people they employ each year. Establishment of an extensive training program costs a considerable amount of money and is just not practical for so few persons.

Supported by all southeastern states such a training school could establish a basic curricular consisting of arrest tactics, preparation and presentation of evidence, courtroom decorum, first aid, firearms instruction, etc.

This basic training could then be supplemented at the training base by individual states furnishing instructors and courses on their respective regulations, policies, etc.

I would like to see a committee appointed at this session to look into this possibility.

Another idea which I believe worthy is for member states to consider the exchange or loan of enforcement employees. This could be especially helpful in combating aggravated enforcement problems. Often we are handicapped by not having sufficient personnel capable of handling an undercover assignment and who are not already known in the problem area.

Agents from other states would definitely fit into these type situations and both states would benefit from such an exchange. You Enforcement Chiefs should think this one out as I believe it would enable us to apprehend some professional violators and, after all, if we are to be thought of as professional officers we should be able to outsmart the professional violator.

#### EQUIPMENT

You now have employees with proper educational background, proper personal characteristics, and proper training. You should begin with a complete modern and practical uniform and then see that it is worn. This should include adequate foul weather gear. Put officers in a department-owned car, properly marked and equipped with two-way radio. We need to get away from Volkswagons, pickup trucks, sports cars, cadillacs, etc.

If he needs a boat, motor, trailer, binoculars, etc., get them for him and then see that they are properly used and maintained.

Remember that tools are necessary to any profession, and the better the tools, the more professional will be the job.

#### CODE OF ETHICS

Last but by no means least, a Code of Ethics should be established and a personal conduct line drawn beyond which an officer should absolutely not be permitted to venture. The best-educated, best-trained, and best equipped Officer in the world is of little benefit to us if he does not have the confidence and trust of the community he serves. Here I am going to use a word which may or may not suit you depending upon which side of the fence you are on. Politicians, and I include the small two-bit ward healer, can be of use to you but only if the status of the Officer in the community is such that a large majority of the general public are acquainted with and in support of him and what he is trying to do. The citizens of a community learn to respect and trust the Doctors, lawyers, and men of God because they know them to be educated, well trained, and capable of curing an illness or furnishing a solution to a problem.

The wildlife law enforcement officer can also gain such respect and trust if he is properly educated, trained, equipped, and if he lives his personal life in a community in such a way that he is above reproach at all times. He should know and remember that the all-seeing public eye is upon him constantly. He should uphold the reputation of his profession and he should remember that high public esteem built over a long period of years can be impaired by one act of misconduct.

Finally, and I place this above everything else—

#### HE MUST BELIEVE IN THE JOB HE IS DOING

In closing, let me call to your attention the fact that I have not said very much about the raising of salaries as a means to professional improvement. I did this simply because I think we are already in complete agreement that enforcement personnel are underpaid. Also, because salary structures are usually set by someone higher up the line.

I give you one thought on this. Let's get away from trying to get a Fifteen Dollar or Twenty Dollar monthly increase. Ask for a beginning salary where a professional officer's salary should begin, at least Five Thousand per year.

Even while trying to bring salaries up to where we feel they should be we should ever remember that there are some things you cannot buy (although not many) and I sincerely believe that along with our attempts to establish salaries commensurate to other professional fields of endeavor, we must at the same time purge and improve our organizations.

We must screen applicants for enforcement positions closely and recruit only the properly educated and properly qualified personnel. We must give them adequate training and equipment and we must require them to maintain high standards of integrity. If, and again this is a big "IF," we are successful in doing these things, I sincerely believe that our efforts in the field of salaries will be properly rewarded as most organizations are willing to pay in proportion to services rendered.

Thank you.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

*By G. HUGHEL HARRISON, Assistant Attorney General  
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There are so many areas and facets of law enforcement that would be both of interest and beneficial were they presented that I must explain the particular subject areas which I have chosen. As a matter of expediency, I felt that perhaps the more interesting problems which we have encountered in Georgia Game and Fish law enforcement in the past year would probably be best. Some of these were totally new problems for us, and I feel would be totally new for all of you. Others are not new but are of a nature that has never been satisfactorily resolved.

I believe that all of the states represented here have basically similar if not almost identical statutes in most phases of Game and Fish enforcement. I am certain all of you have certain laws and regulations on fishing with nets, etc., and which provide for the confiscation of nets when found set in violation of law.

Georgia has such a statute, and early this spring, two of our Rangers found three nets set in a stream in violation of the statute. They followed the duty imposed by law by removing the nets and confiscating them to be destroyed. They later apprehended the owner of two of the nets and he was charged with having set nets in violation of the statute. At his trial, he was acquitted of the charge. He then demanded the return of the nets, and upon being refused, brought a bail trover action against the individual Ranger who had taken possession of the nets. The Game and Fish Commission then brought an equitable action to restrain the owner from pursuing this bail trover action any further. Filing a petition requesting such was easy—the search for authority to sustain the Game and Fish position was not quite as simple. However several cases were found, and the rule would seem to be that if the statute provides for the summary destruction by the discovering law