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CALL FOR PUBLICATIONS
The Park Law Enforcement Association (P.L.E.A.), an affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPAS), invites you to submit articles for consideration to PLEA: the Journal of the Park Law Enforcement Association. P.L.E.A. was established in 1984 to improve park law enforcement, natural and visitor resource protection services in park recreation and natural resource areas through professional development, thus ensuring "quality of life" leisure opportunities in local, state, and national park, recreation and natural resource settings. P.L.E.A. serves individuals and organizations interested in the advancement and support of park and natural resource law enforcement services. Membership includes park rangers, forest rangers, park police, park patrols, park security, game wardens, conservation officers, park and recreation board members, administrators, educators and other interested park, recreation and natural resource professionals. PLEA is published quarterly and attempts to provide timely information to the membership concerning the association and articles specifically aimed at the park and natural resource law enforcement audience, with the goal of providing educational information for our membership, facilitating an exchange of ideas, and to generally promote professionalism within the field.

Articles should be from three to ten double-spaced, wide-margined pages and should include a short biographical sketch, listing the author's agency affiliation. Photographs, charts and tables are highly desired. Upon publication, the author will receive a copy of the issue his article is printed in for his/her records. Please submit articles to the Editor for review and consideration. Thank you for your interest in PLEA. We look forward to receiving your articles.
With each year that passes, whichever jurisdiction hosts our annual P.L.E.A. Conference always goes that “extra mile” to make our stay special and this past year was no exception to that rule.

Our deep appreciation goes out to the state of Florida Department of Natural Resources and its Division of Law Enforcement along with the Florida Police Benevolent Association for your “Southern Comfort” hospitality and superb accommodations. Our thanks to Division Chief Joe Henderson, Assistant Chief Pat ImBimbo, Captains John MacLean and Dave Carter and P.B.A. President Charlie Maddox and all of the men and women of the Florida D.N.R. who provided us with our banquet entertainment and program Thursday evening.

We also wish to thank Chief Ranger Bill DeHart and Park Service personnel from Cape Canaveral National Seashore and Mr. Dick Pattin, Senior Engineer from N.A.S.A. as well as the Risk Management Section of Sea World in Orlando for making this a very special conference and one that all who attended will always remember.

From the start with a Reception/Hospitality Room sponsored by the Florida P.B.A. to finish with the launching of a Delta Rocket from Cape Kennedy, it was an exceptional experience for all 51 delegates.

Our program presenters Professor Betty Vander Smissen of Michigan State University and Professor Dan Murrell of the Humphreys School of Law at Memphis State University. Both did an admirable job of providing conference attendees with the fine points of Risk Management in the Recreational/Park setting. This coupled with a special on-site Institute at Sea World Orlando by their own Risk Management personnel proved to be a unique opportunity to mix business with pleasure.

Sandwiched in between all of this was one of the best exhibitor/vendor halls to date. Eleven of Floridas’ finest joined in to showcase their wares for the assembled multitude. Besides a delicious buffet and beverages provided by the vendors, each exhibitor also donated $100.00 to P.L.E.A. Board Officers and the Directors wish to express their appreciation and gratitude to all of our exhibitors for their generous support of P.L.E.A. and its mission.

In addition to all of this we held our Annual Board of Directors Meeting on Tuesday March 5 and our Annual General Membership Meeting on Friday March 8. Two new committees have been appointed for the ensuing year. Training and Membership with chairperson Bill Supernau of the National Park Service Training Center at FLETC and members Harry Carlisle, Peoria (Illinois) Park District, Newell Rand, Maryland National Capitol Parks Commission; John MacLean, Florida Department of Natural Resources; and Tom Hazelton, Linn County, Iowa. The other new committee formed is Grants and Foundations, Rick Green of Hamilton County, Ohio will chair this committee with members Dan Johnson, Oklahoma State Parks; Steve Sampier, Ft. Lauderdale Parks Department; Charlotte Bardon, Tennessee State Parks; and Dwight Pettifore, Durham, North Carolina Parks Department.

For those of you who could not be with us, we missed you and hope to see you at our mid-year meeting at the annual N.R.P.A. Congress (October 17-20, 1991) in Baltimore, Maryland. If you can not make it to Baltimore; then we invite you to join us for next years Annual P.L.E.A. Conference in March 1992 in Kansas City, Kansas with Ralph Hayes and Johnson County Kansas as our hosts. Hope that you all have a good and safe summer season.

Best Personal Regards

Art Gill
President, P.L.E.A.
EDITOR'S NOTE: He's sort of combination hiking coach and guardian angel looking after tourists climbing around in the Grand Canyon. His main job is operating a water pumping station, but Jerry Chavez also is a member of a rescue team that goes after hikers who are injured, lost or in trouble.

By Larry Margasak, The Associated Press

When the climb up the slopes of the Grand Canyon saps your strength, when the blisters sting with every step and you tell fellow hikers you can't go any farther, you might get a lecture from Jerry Chavez.

Chavez, wearing his National Park Service uniform, is likely to happen by on one of his frequent hikes and launch into a pep talk, exhorting you to try harder. If you're too weak to lift a pebble, he might even offer to carry some of your load.

And when the talking is done-unless you're injured or truly sick-chances are Jerry Chavez will have you back on the trail.

The 45-year-old Vietnam veteran, a muscular 150 pounds at 5 feet 7 inches, is a jack-of-all trades in the nation's most popular canyon.

His official duty is to operate the pumping station at Indian Gardens campground, which sends water to the South Rim. The campground is on the popular Bright Angel Trail, 4.7 miles from the top.

But you get the feeling that he much prefers some of his other tasks, including rappelling down the imposing canyon walls to participate in rescues or to repair the water pipe.

A member of the park's 20-member rescue team, Chavez won a National Park Service achievement award for helping save a hiker found nearly dead from heat stroke.

Chavez has given his pep talk to exhausted hikers perhaps hundreds of times during the five years he's lived in the canyon.

"I've given a lot of speeches to people who say, 'I can't make it,'" Chavez says in an interview in the modern Park Service residence at Indian Gardens, where he lives year-round.

"People have given up. I tell them, 'I can't carry you. There's no taxi service. I know you're sore, but you can make it.' I tell them, 'I know what the human body can do if you're strongwilled.' Then I say, 'We're only a mile from the top.' I'll carry their pack if they're hurting."

In case of a medical emergency, Chavez can summon medical help and an evacuation helicopter.

Chavez is a man at peace with his environment. He loves to be the first to hike out of the canyon after a snowfall, crunching the first boot imprints onto a trail. After the first snowfall this winter, he began hiking out at 2 a.m., just for the sheer enjoyment.

He used to keep in shape by running rim to rim, some 23 rugged miles, and has even run 100-mile endurance tests. But a back injury has limited him to fast-paced hikes, some on rarely used trails where Chavez claps his hands to scare off rattlesnakes.

He hates it when others abuse his environment.

Sometimes, I find myself getting irritated at people," Chavez says. "They walk on a revegetation area. And the thing I hate most is littering, including littering in the campground toilets."

But the "dumbest thing", he says, is "hiking without food or drinking water. It looks easy. But people suffer from dehydration and heat strokes."

Like the rangers on duty inside the park, Chavez works nine days then has five days off. He shares, with another pump operator, a Park Service house that has a modern kitchen, a wood-burning stove, a VCR, a stereo and two bedrooms. Supplies arrive by mule train.

He also has use of a Park Service house on the South Rim and has his own home in Leadville, Colo., where his wife, Jeri, lives with children Michael, 10, and Sara, 8. Chavez has another son, Abad, by a previous marriage.

Chavez has seen a lot of weird things in the canyon, including a guy hiking in a tuxedo and women in high-heel shoes. "There are flights here from Las Vegas and he looked like a high-roller," he says. "His tuxedo was dustier than hell, but he still had the bow tie on."

Last June, the water pipeline broke, and Chavez had to rappel down the rocks.

"I was on two ropes," Chavez says. "The rappel rope was anchored. Both ropes broke. I slammed onto a rock. The harness was twisted. I strained myself. I had back surgery twice."

After 1 1/2 months off work, Chavez was not only back on the job last fall but began learning to rappel from a helicopter in a new rescue training program.

The incident involving the heatstroke victim came three years ago. The three-member rescue team included Chavez and two rangers, one a nurse.

"When I saw the man, he looked like death," Chavez recalls. "We were talking to the clinic on the rim by radio. We had to carry him a mile up a steep embankment. His temperature was 109."

"We were running water from a creek and kept pouring it on him. When they flew him to Flagstaff, he still had a temperature of 105. The doctor called and said whoever worked on him saved his life. The three of us got National Park Service achievement awards. The guy walked out of the hospital as normal as can be."

Chavez complains about parents who, out of shape themselves, take small children with them to hike the canyon.

One winter day in 1989, Chavez was out for a run when he came upon parents with two kids and heavy packs.

"The kids were lying in the snow and crying," he recalls. "I told them, 'You're going to have to carry those kids out.' I asked if I could help, and the father said, 'No.' I could hear him yelling at the kids, who were about 2 or 3."

Chavez eventually got permission to carry the kids out. He carried the first child part of the way to the rim, leaving him with two rangers out on a training exercise. Then he went back for the second child, and made another trip to retrieve their packs.

He tells such parents, "You're going to turn your kids against camping."

Chavez wants to live in the canyon until he retires. When will that be?

"The day I can't perform because of physical problems is the day I shouldn't be here anymore," he says.
The Deer Dilemma

Article by Bill Stokes

As whitetails wreak havoc in suburbia, ecologists and animal lovers square off over what to do—shoot them or move them?

The deer appears suddenly out of the woodland shadows. It stands still, like a graceful brown ghost, its big eyes and ears doing a sensory sweep of the landscape. Buried deep within its genetic memory are images of dangerous predators: great saber-toothed cats from an age of towering glaciers and packs of huge wolves roaming misty swamps.

The deer has survived it all, including the advent of man with his inclination to exploit and destroy. And through it all, deer’s successful technique has been to adapt, to adjust its appetite and behavior to environmental changes.

Now, because of its adaptive nature, this particular deer, this graceful product of the ages, is about to die, and its contribution to the gene pool will end in a bizarre collision of mamalian species.

The deer lifts its head and, with a sudden gathering of sinewy muscle, leaps from the edge of the woods and bounds onto the asphalt. Tires scream as flesh and bone meet metal and plastic with a thud. Inside the car, a flood of adrenaline pumps through the driver’s system. Hands grip the steering wheel as if they would wring from it some erasure of reality, and sudden nausea rises like a surf. Outside the car, the deer’s body bounces off the grill, smashing it, and lands in a broken heap on the shoulder of the road, once-graceful legs twisted beneath it like broken broomsticks.

Thus each year do hundreds of Midwestern drivers run into the issue of the deer’s place in suburbia. But these encounters while shocking enough, are only the tip of an ecologic iceberg that has now drifted into the fast lane of suburban living. White-tailed deer have come to town and, in addition to causing vehicular violence, are destroying the remnants of nature that suburbanites and city dwellers have been trying to save for themselves in precious fringes surrounding their concrete-and-asphalt world. In many forest preserves and nature areas, too many deer are eating too many plants to the point where many species have been devastated beyond recovery.

The question now is this: Do we control the number of urban deer—which currently means killing many of them—before the creatures become even more of a traffic hazard and turn our parks and forest preserves into barren wastelands?

The question becomes even more urgent with the recent rise in the number of Lyme-disease cases. Beginning with a skin rash and progressing, if not properly diagnosed and treated, to headaches, arthritis and heart damage, the ailment is caused by a virus that is carried by deer and spread by a tick.

There has always been a special relationship between people and deer. Perhaps it has to do with the way the graceful creature lives with—yet apart from—us, retaining its wild beauty while sharing our increasingly structured way of life. It is an unlikely marriage of gentle grace and hard-edged “progress.” And while it works wonderfully well most of the time, problems arise periodically. The problem of the moment—too many deer in suburbia—is, of course, not unique to the Chicago area; exploding deer populations plague communities from New Jersey to California, and all of them are struggling to come up with a solution.

Contributing to the problem is the endearing image of the deer that Walt Disney fostered with his 1942 movie "Bambi." Strange that Disney was never able to do the same thing for rodents even with his ever popular Mickey and Minnie Mouse. As soon as we get too many mice—even one too many—we immediately set out to kill them without a second thought.

Not so with deer. When too many of them begin to cause trouble in an urban setting, any attempt to control their numbers by killing them almost invariably leads to controversy and turmoil. Take the events of last year involving the 550-acre Ryerson Conservation Area between Lincolnshire and Riverwoods in Lake County, upper-class bedroom communities where the prices for many homes range well above the $200,000 mark.

Deer had decimated the area’s plants, destroying, among other things a spectacular growth of trilliums, a large spring flower that once blanketed portions of Ryerson. The deer, in fact, had so outgrown and nearly exhausted their limited food supply that many were dying from malnutrition and starvation. When biologists estimated that the area could support only 12 instead of the 77 that the herd had grown to, the Lake County Forest Preserve District proposed cutting the herd down to 16 as an initial step toward the desired number. Marksmen were to be used to shoot 60 of the animals in baited areas.

Word of this plan bounced through the community like a great ball of fire. Quickly, a group—the Concerned Veterinarians and Citizens Committee to Save Ryerson Deer—was formed to oppose the shootings. The group included many area residents who for years had enjoyed the presence of the Ryerson deer, watching them meander through back yards and sometimes putting out hay or grain for them. The group sought a court injunction, and a letters-to-the-editor battle with a lot of name-calling ("heartless killers," "misguided activists") ensued. At the height of the fray, Ryerson wildlife biologist Dan Brouillard received a number of telephoned death threats.

Ultimately, the save-the-deer group was allowed to work with Lake County Forest Preserve crews to trap and relocate the deer. Some $52,000 was raised by the group—some of it through a "Save the Ryerson Deer Benefit" at Ditka’s City Lights, a Chicago smart-to-be-seen-in-night spot co-owned by Bears coach Mike Ditka. The event was promoted as a chance to "have fun, enjoy great food, exciting entertainment and celebrities," among them Coach Ditka’s wife, Diana; a former Bear Doug Buffone; and actress Robyn Douglass. Purchasers of the $20 tickets also received a 60-day membership in the Chicago VIP Privilege Club that entitled them to "fantastic discounts of up to 50 percent at 1,500 restaurants, stores, entertainment and service centers." It was, by all accounts, a gala affair that included performances and a fashion show for a standing-room-only crowd of 550.

Among the speakers at the event was Davida Terry, president of the deer advocacy group. A former Chicago TV producer who operates a public-relations business out of her Lincolnshire home, Terry says: "All of the people there cared deeply about the deer. They were from all over town, and they really got into the spirit of our project. In fact, a lot of them wanted to stay and party when the benefit was over."
Of the $52,000 the benefit raised, one-third went to pay attorneys’ fees, another third to hire veterinarians and professional animal handlers and the rest for publicity, promotion and other miscellaneous items. Twenty-one deer were trapped for relocation to a private preserve near Peoria. Of these, five died, and one was euthanized after it tested positive Lyme disease.

In the meantime, 39 animals were shot by marksmen hired by the Lake County Forest Preserve District. The marksmen used high-speed .22-caliber rifles, aiming for the head in an attempt to cause instantaneous death. The meat, 2,513 pounds of ground venison, was donated to charity. The cost to the county was estimated at $179 for each deer shot and $637 for each deer trapped. The latter figure does not include the costs of transporting the deer and other expenses incurred by the save-the-deer group.

For some time after the shooting and the trapping, the issue continued to boil as spokesmen for both views appeared before the Lake County Forest Preserve board in May and restated their cases. Among those who spoke on behalf of the deer advocates was Dr. Patricia Mueller, a Chicago psychiatrist who said, “When a community approves of a plan to shoot deer, it creates stress and fear for children who do not understand and may feel that they will be the next ones shot.” Her remarks received prolonged applause from the audience that filled the meeting room.

What happened at Ryerson is typical, according to ecologists and biologists, who note that each community tends to deal with the problem as if it alone were facing it. And in some respects, they are, says Jay McAninch, wildlife research biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, because “no two situations are the same.”

McAninch, who began studying urban deer problems in 1976 in New York State, says: “Professional game managers and governmental agencies have traditionally dealt with deer only in woods and rural areas of sparse human population. The back-yard urban deer is a new problem, and as a result, there has been a lot of misunderstanding and finger-pointing as the various levels of government define their roles. Some very hard choices have to be made, and everyone is going to have to compromise until the community decides on the level of deer numbers it can tolerate.” By the end of this year, a six-year study by the Illinois Department of Conservation directed by wildlife researcher James Withum and biologist Jon M. Jones will offer guidelines to Illinois communities with deer problems.

In examining 1,002 deer killed by cars in the Chicago area, Withum and Jones found that deer from herds that have grown too large for their areas, such as the one at the Ned Brown Forest Preserve near Elk Grove Village, suffered chronic malnutrition. From monitoring some 200 marked deer, the researchers also found that most of them stayed within the same areas instead of moving to new territory as deer naturally do when their numbers increase. This, of course, is the heart of the problem: Reproducing naturally but confined within their small areas by residential and industrial developments, the deer quickly exhaust their food supply. In the Busse Woods State Nature Preserve area of the Ned Brown Forest Preserve, for example, the study found that the animals had eaten many plants to extinction.

“The area was devastated,” says Ray Schwarz, superintendent of the Morton Arboretum. “They are a horrendous problem for us,” says Charles Lewis, administrator of the arboretum’s collections program. “We are like a museum in that our function is to find and display as many plants as possible that will grow in this climate. But the deer have destroyed hundreds of very valuable plants, many of which took us years to establish.”

To protect at least one specimen each of the rare plants, the arboretum has had to “cage” them with circular fences of woven wire. Repellants have also been tried, among them soap bars, which are moderately effective when strung on cords and hung around the plants.

At the 300-acre Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, the problem is just as great, as deer from adjoining Forest Preserves damage or destroy hedges, young plantings and saplings. “We have tried all kinds of home remedies, and none of them have worked,” says director Roy Taylor. “There’s really a need to reduce the deer numbers if balanced natural communities are to survive.”

The white-tailed deer has followed a long and winding trail to become the bane of Chicago-area communities. It has been a North American resident for some 2.6 million years, much longer than man, who got off the evolutionary bus on this continent some 11,000 to 24,000 years ago. Anthropologists estimate that before the white man arrived here, there were 40 million whitetails in North America. They were, of course, widely used by Indians for food and clothing and, once the white man arrived, for hides as trading stock with the new settlers.

Around 1850 there began such a deer slaughter by settlers, sportsmen and commercial hunters that by 1900 North American deer numbers were down to less than half a million. In 1874, when commercial deer hunting was at its zenith, venison was readily available in Chicago, at 12 cents a pound. Across the Midwest, this decimation meant that deer became a rare sight outside the remote northern woods of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. And even within those areas, extensive logging and burning further reduced their numbers.

At the turn of the century, however, the tide turned for the deer when a widespread concern over their greatly diminished numbers forced Congress to declare them an endangered species in 1966. The void left by the decimated plants has been filled by a thick growth of buckthorn, a hardy exotic that inhibits the regrowth of native species. Many elm trees, their barks peeled off by the deer, were also destroyed.

In the winter of 1984, when the size of the herd at the Ned Brown preserve was at its peak of 382, some of the deer were dying of starvation. Withum and Jones then began a pilot program at the Busse section of Ned Brown whereby the herd was reduced by 320 over three years. Most of the animals were shot, and the meat was donated to Chicago food depositories. By 1987 the herd was down to 90 and has been kept at that level. This year 30 more of the animals were shot to keep their number at 90.

The reduction of the deer herd, Schwarz says, has reduced the number of traffic accidents involving deer on roads adjacent to Busse Woods from 35 in 1984 to 5 in 1988. This contrasts with similar accidents in all of Cook County, which have climbed steadily from 137 in 1978 to 436 in 1988. According to Schwarz, herd reduction is needed for the estimated 6,000 deer in Cook County, most of them in the belt of forest preserves along the Des Plaines River.

In Du Page County, deer have become a serious threat to the Morton Arboretum. “They are a horrendous problem for us,” says Charles Lewis, administrator of the arboretum’s collections program. “We are like a museum in that our function is to find and display as many plants as possible that will grow in this climate. But the deer have destroyed hundreds of very valuable plants, many of which took us years to establish.”

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The purple-fringed orchid, for instance, an Illinois endangered species, was last seen in Busse Woods in 1979. The void left by the decimated plants has been filled by a thick growth of buckthorn, a hardy exotic that inhibits the regrowth of native species. Many elm trees, their barks peeled off by the deer, were also destroyed.
numbers led to the passage of federal and state laws designed to protect them from extinction. At the same time, second-growth timber and abandoned farms reverting to brush and trees began to provide deer with more food and cover. Ever the opportunists, deer then reproduced with such fervor that by the 1940’s there were so many of them they couldn’t find enough winter food.

In a move seen by some as cruel and by others as humane, many states then liberalized hunting regulations. The idea was that by allowing more deer to be killed, fewer of them would starve to death.

Meanwhile, the whitetail began a southern migration out of the North Woods. Following river valleys and moving from one woodlot to the next, they found that the farther south they went, the better the eating got, alfalfa and corn becoming their favored menu items. Lighter snowfalls also meant easier winter feeding. And the farm landscape lying close to ample woodlot and river-bottom areas proved ideal. Soon, much to farmers’ dismay, there were large herds of them feeding upon valuable hay and grain.

Again, bullets became a solution. But even as hunting helped save many farms, the deer continued to expand their territory, so that about the time that veterans of World War II were flocking to suburbia as a good place to raise kids, deer too, were discovering the same areas as excellent for raising fawns.

The first deer to wander down the Des Plaines River valley must have thought it had died and gone to deer heaven. What more could deer ask for—large wooded areas with plenty to eat, no hunters to worry about and human neighbors with an almost reverential awe of deer?

This four-footed suburbanite is a cud-chewing mammal that can run 36 miles-an-hour and jump over an 8-foot-fence. It breeds in November, and in Mayor June it bears twins or triplets, each fawn wearing about 300 white spots that disappear in the fall. Fawns stay with their mother through the year. Then, when she is ready to give birth again, she drives her yearlings away, forcing them to wander about until they find a territory of their own. These wandering yearlings account for the increase in deer-traffic incidents in the spring. But fall, the rut or breeding season, is the time of greatest deer movement—and the most hazardous time for both deer and motorists.

To some 10 million to 11 million hunters across the country, the deer is a wily and worthy quarry, and with only token opposition from some antihunting groups, they shoot an estimated 4 million to 5 million deer each fall. Passing down grandpa’s deer rifle to a youngster is an important ritual in many families, and deer hunting is one of the shooting sports that continues to grow.

To millions of others, the animal is delicate woodland creature, a classic symbol of nature’s beauty that is a delight to view and photograph. “People want to be able to see deer and to enjoy their presence,” Withum says. “Wildlife and preserve managers understand and appreciate that and it is part of their job to manage in a way that deer can continue to be part of the ecological community.”

Not everyone, however, agrees on how best to achieve ecological balance. Often aligned against the wildlife professional are those whom Dale McCullough, professor of wildlife biology at the University of California, Berkeley, calls “the protectionists”.

“The protectionist philosophy is young and naive, and hopefully will mature with age,” McCullough says. “It contains a belief in the benevolence of nature that is fostered by being removed—indeed, isolated—from urban-born and reared. Nature is what they see in parks and zoos, which is rather reminiscent of Bambi, and their knowledge of wildlife comes from public media books and movies.”

While McCullough hopes that protectionists will develop more realistic views and caution wildlife professionals not to write them off as a bunch of bleeding hearts, he sees conflict between the two sides as inevitable.

In the Ryerson case, Jerry Soesbe, director of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, says that in retrospect, the county might have done more to involve the public in its plans to reduce the deer herd. “I think we learned some things about how to handle a situation like this,” he says. “It isn’t that we tried to hide what we were doing but we probably could have been more effective in educating the public about the problem and the need to do something about it.”

Terry and others from Ryerson say the deer group say they felt shut out of the decision making process that resulted in the plan to shoot the deer. Speakers at the May meeting of the Lake County Forest Preserve Board expressed resentment over being left out of the deer decisions and vowed to work against the re-election of those who had favored shooting the deer.

Several board members replied that the decision had been made professionally and in good conscience and that state rules commanded that the good of the preserve put the deer’s welfare.

Many of those who object to shooting deer contend that there are other, less drastic means of reducing their numbers, “If we had been given more time, we could have trapped all 60 of the (excess) deer at Ryerson,” Terry says. “We simply were not told about the problem until it was too late.”

Wildlife biologists say, however, that trapping has been tried repeatedly but with limited effects. Not only is it very expensive, as demonstrated at Ryerson, but places to release the deer are hard to find. Many states, including Illinois, prohibit the release of deer on public land largely because no area needs any more deer and relocation may spread disease.

Trapping has been tried in a number of Wisconsin locations, but William Ishmael, a wildlife biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, says, “Once a deer population is high, to try to reduce it with trapping is like trying to bail out a battleship with a teacup. It just doesn’t work.”

In the Milwaukee suburb of River Hills, trapping has been used extensively. “It is costing the community a lot of money—$22,500 so far this year alone to trap just 122 deer—but it hasn’t reduced the numbers enough to make a lot of difference,” Ishmael says. Moreover, trapping has not saved the lives of all the trapped deer. Within a year of being released in a public area, more than half them were killed by hunters or vehicles, and some died from the stress of being captured and moved.

Trapping, however, can sometimes be effective under certain circumstances. One example is the program that has been in use for the last seven years at the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee. In 1982 a herd of more than 60 deer began to do serious damage to the vegetation at the center. “Shooting the deer was not the answer for us,” says director Robert Nichols, “because of safety and insurance considerations and because it might have offended many of the people that we depend on for financial support.”

Instead, to keep the herd at about 13, the center has been trapping about 10 to 20 deer each year and moving them to a public hunting area. The result has been improved vegetation at
the center. "In fact, we now have to mow some of the meadow areas to keep out woodland plants," Nichols says. "The deer used to do that for us. The reason trapping works here is that we have a relatively small area, only 185 acres. I don't think it would work on larger areas. Trapping costs more than shooting, but it is worth the extra expense for us."

At the University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison, a controversial shooting program has been in place for the last several years to keep deer numbers down to about 10 on the 1,280-acre facility. Several years ago, anonymous opponents of the shooting threatened to cut down a tree for each deer killed. A number of trees were indeed cut down, and this year more trees were destroyed, among them several rare species.

Director Greg Armstrong says: "What we are doing is both ecologically responsible and practical. We looked at alternatives and chose shooting because it...most closely matches the arboretum's philosophy of employing ecological principles. When communities cave in to the advocates of a specific species, such as deer, they do a great ecologic disservice. Man now has the ability to overpower nature, and so he must assume a new role as a responsible steward of the land and make decisions accordingly."

The urban deer problem is frequently compounded by residents who feed the deer. This had been a factor at Ryerson, at River Hills and in the Minneapolis suburb of North Oaks, where deer became a problem in the late 1970's. "(North Oaks) people were competing to see who could get the most deer to come to their feeders," says Peter Jordan, professor of wildlife at the University of Minnesota. "At the same time, people were complaining that the deer were devouring flowers and shrubbery." Feeding deer in the winter only encourages them to stay around, Jordan says, and then during the rest of the year they consume vegetation, often to the point of destruction.

Jordan recalls that North Oaks was forced to turn to shooting as a solution when it turned to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for help and was told that the department would not allow deer to be trapped and then released on state land but would issue permits to shoot deer.

At seven Minnesota state parks, carefully managed hunts have been used successfully to keep deer numbers in check. Shooting is also more acceptable in Minnesota because of the state's strong ties with hunting.

In a controlled deer hunt for archers held last fall in Illinois Rock Cut State Park near Rockford, 52 deer were taken on the 3,000-acre park, leaving a more manageable 251 in the park. The hunt, which regulated the number of hunters and the hours they could hunt, met with no community opposition, and another one is scheduled this fall.

"I think people understand what we are doing," says Herman Hier, regional wildlife management supervisor. "Obviously, we don't want to wipe out the deer herd. Seeing deer is an enjoyable part of a park visit. But if a farmer gets too many cows in a pasture, he has to do something about it, and people understand that that applies to deer, too."

For this fall's hunt, some permits will specify that only females can be taken as a more effective means of curbing the herd's reproductive capacity. The hunt is limited to archers because the park is within the village limits of Love's Park, which prohibits the use of firearms. "There is limited hunting opportunity in northern Illinois," Hier says, "and if we can use hunters safely to reduce deer overpopulations, I think we have an obligation to do so."

Not all hunters themselves are in favor of hunting deer to solve the urban deer problem. Writing in the Deer and Deer Hunting magazine, Byron Shissler says: "While the public may be educated to the need to remove 'tame' deer through shooting to control their numbers, it is unlikely they will, or should, accept it as a form of recreation or entertainment. Wildlife in America belongs to the people. We, as hunters, are depending on the majority's approval of our hunting traditions. Sportsmen and their organizations must be cautious that uncompromising, knee-jerk responses to complicated problems do not shift the present majority over to the anxiously awaiting, anti-hunting minority."

Shooting animals under any circumstance is considered immoral by some, an issue that was raised at Ryerson. "We thought it was morally wrong to shoot the deer when there were other things that could have been done to get some of them out of there," Terry says. "If they shoot deer, what is next? Groundhogs? Possum? Raccoon? People?"

In response, John Fitzpatrick, curator at the Field Museum of Natural History, says that killing the Ryerson deer is the rational choice. "Is it less immoral to kill the birds that would die from a lack of cover of food in the area decimated by deer?" he asks. "In the enlightened conservation ethics of the 1980's, it might be immoral not to kill the surplus deer."

Some of those who oppose killing deer suggest contraception as an alternative, with the contraceptive drug delivered through darts fired from tranquilizer guns. This method, however, has been even less successful than trapping and carries its own moral baggage.

On Angel Island, in San Francisco Bay, the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals attempted a sterilization program, but the effort ended in failure. "They were unable to catch enough does to make the program effective," McCullough says. Having also tried trapping without success-85 percent of the deer trapped and released on public land were found dead within a year-Angel Island is now using a shooting program, to which the community had not objected.

"To most people, reproductive intervention sounds like an extremely humane solution," McCullough says. "That may well be true. However, anyone who has caged and handled wild animals will realize the animal experiences a fear and panic process. Stress leading to shock that results in death, and other physiological, psychological traumas are major problems. We must always question at what point capture and (contraceptive) treatments become so traumatic that euthanasia is more humane. McCullough also notes that the tranquilizer guns used to deliver contraceptives have limited range and poor accuracy and that the technique yields uncertain results.

Jay Kirkpatrick, a researcher in bio-science at Eastern Montana College in Billings, says that while antifertility drugs are available, getting them to the animal is difficult. The method, he says, will be effective only for small herds in restricted areas and he sees the need to improve the systems and test new and better drugs.

Lyme Disease is another significant problem. The bug, of course, is the deer tick, which is a carrier of an illness that affects humans as well as other animals. First detected in 1975 near Lyme the tick has spread across the country and is now found in 43 states, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Its primary host is thought to be the white-tailed deer, but it is also...
carried by birds, rodents and other mammals, particularly in its early stages.

The tick was first found in Illinois in the northern half of the state, according to University of Illinois entomologist John Bouseman. Some 20 percent of the deer ticks collected by Bouseman recently in northwestern Illinois carried Lyme disease.

In about three-fourths of the cases, the earliest symptom in humans of Lyme disease is a red rash that spreads out in a circular pattern from the tick bite. Researchers say that it is necessary for the tick to feed for 12 to 24 hours to transmit the disease. The rash may be accompanied by low-grade fever, chills and headaches. Subsequent symptoms often involve a stiff neck and joint pain. This final stage, which occurs weeks or months after the onset of the disease, may affect the heart, nervous system or joints.

Most commonly, Lyme arthritis results, causing joints to become painful and swollen. This final stage is not reached, however, if the disease is treated early with antibiotics.

Dr. Jeff Nelson, of the infectious disease department at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center, says the risk of getting Lyme disease locally is very small. “The ticks are in small numbers, and here in Illinois, we have a chance to stay ahead of the disease with proper diagnosis and treatment,” Nelson says. Twelve cases of Lyme disease were reported in Illinois last year.

In the meantime, suburbia is still a deer crossing. Drive carefully.

### DEER PROBLEMS

**IN LAKE COUNTY (IL)**

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT**

**PART II**

by Jerry Sullivan

The white-tailed deer is the only large native mammal still living in the wild in northern Illinois. The big predators-black bear, timber wolf and puma-were wiped out more than a century ago. The other hoofed animals-elk and bison-survive only in captivity.

For the millions of us who live our lives entirely within the boundaries of a world created by humanity, the sight of a deer bounding through the woods is the most thrilling experience of nature we can expect to have. Lately, in the Chicago area, that experience is becoming a bit too common. Many of our forest preserves are under assault by deer herds grown so large that the preserves can no longer support them.

In my last column I described the damage that large numbers of deer can do to a natural area. With no effective checks on their numbers, deer can eat their favored food plants to extinction and almost eliminate the forest understory and the animals that depend on it for food and shelter.

In Cook County, the Ned Brown Preserve has suffered damage so heavy that it may take decades to recover-if indeed it ever does. In Lake County, the Ryerson Conservation Area, an old-growth sugar-maple forest along the Des Plaines River, is just beginning to show signs of damage from a deer herd that’s about five times the carrying capacity of the preserve. In hopes of halting the damage before it becomes too severe, the Lake County Forest Preserve District is seeking permission from the county board to shoot about 40 to 50 deer now living at Ryerson.

As expected, this proposal has elicited public outcry. Killing deer is not popular. Various alternatives have been suggested. In this column, I’m going to look at the possible courses of action, the lethal and nonlethal methods available for dealing with too many deer.

Feeding the deer is one suggestion that invariably pops up. It is based on the assumption that the deer will visit the feeders instead of eating the plants of the preserve. It does not work; it backfires. With a reliable food source to help them, more deer survive the normally hard winters and they reproduce bountifully. Feeding causes more deer. James Witham, who has been studying our deer herds for the Illinois Natural History Survey, thinks so little of feeding that he believes there should be county ordinances forbidding private citizens from putting out deer food in their backyards.

The two serious nonlethal methods are transportation and sterilization. Both have been tried at preserves around the country. The Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee has been transporting deer for seven years, and they have been able to maintain populations at reasonable levels. Schlitz Center is quite small-only 185 acres-and it is surrounded on three sides by suburbs. The fourth side is Lake Michigan.

The site manager of the center decided against shooting the animals. It seemed impossible to do it safely in such a small preserve; he didn’t like it personally, and he was afraid that many of the donors who are the center’s support would be offended by it.

During the first five years of the program, deer were captured with hypodermic darts loaded with tranquilizers. The deer were attracted by corn and apples put out at a feeding station. The trappers shot from a building 20 meters away.

The difficulty in darting deer is that the charge behind each shot must be precisely matched to the distance. Shoot to hard and you injure the animal. Shoot too soft and the needle falls out. This limitation of the technology explains the need for a gaited feeding station as the only certain way to get a deer to stand a known distance from you.

In 1986, the center switched to a trap of its own design. The animals enter in search of food and can’t get out. They walk directly into a transport box, which can be loaded on a truck; the whole operation requires only one human.

The deer are taken to areas outside Milwaukee County, areas where hunting is allowed. The trapping is all done in December and January. Food shortages are by then a spur to the deer. Hungry animals will come to bait. Well-fed animals often will not. Midwinter is also the time when the fawns born the previous spring grow old enough to go out on their own. The winter release also gives the animals 10 or 11 months to get acclimated before the next fall’s hunting season.

James Witham and Martin Jones, also from the Natural History Survey, also transported some deer they took from the Ned Brown Preserve. They moved 52 animals to U.S. Army land near Joliet. They only lost one deer to injury. Radio collars, which Jones monitored for several months, showed that many of the transported animals got along well in their new home.
recent appearance of Lyme disease in the Chicago area. Lyme
disease is a bacterial infection spread from deer to humans by the
bite of a tick that feeds on both of us. Lyme disease is unlikely
to be a few trap-happy animals that get captured over and over
again.

Of the 30 does sterilized, only 15 were adults likely to
breed that year. Cutting the population of breeding does by 15
animals would reduce the fawn crop by 20 to 25 deer, but the rest
of the herd could make up much of the deficit. Volunteers did most
of the work on this job, and housing and food were donated, but
the SPCA still spent $30,000 on a project that did nothing more
than slow down the natural growth rate in the herd.

The proposal calls for darting the deer with Telazol, a "non-
narcotic, non-barbiturate, injectable anesthetic" that is rapid in this part of the country because food shortages are common in
winter and deer are more likely to come to bait when they are
hungry, but 80 percent in one season "may not be possible,"
according to Leon Nielsen. An effort commensurate with the
level of difficulty would take "many, many, very many man-
hours."

According to Nielsen and to Martin Jones of the Natural
History Survey, stalking deer through the woods is a very
demanding, time-consuming process requiring great skill. You
couldn't hope to get 80 percent that way, especially when you are
operating with a dart gun that must be fired from a preset distance
and whose maximum effective range is about 50 yards.

So you need to set up feeding stations and place marksmen and
veternarians in blinds near them and have everybody wait for
many, many, very many hours.

At Schlitz Audubon Center, the darts had radios in
them, Telazol, the anesthetic the veterinarians want to inject at
Ryerson, takes four to five minutes to take effect. Dr. Steven
Nusbaum, a veterinarian who helped write the Ryerson proposal,
believes that the deer will not go far and that they can be tracked.
Leon Nielsen disagrees. He says that a panicked deer can go a long
way in four to five minutes, so the radio, even though it adds to
the expense, is necessary for tracking. Once captured and
sterilized, the deer would be injected with three million units of
penicillin "for prophylactic purposes," and then released.

Leon Nielsen suggests that to have any hope of getting
close to the 80 percent goal the veterinarians would need to scatter
at least ten traps around the 550-acre preserve. The traps would
be equipped with radio alarms that would notify headquarters
whenever an animal blundered in. With traps and dart guns and
many man-hours, you might have a chance to capture enough deer
to make a difference, but it would be a slim chance. Nielsen again;
"It is very difficult to trap 80 percent of any wild population in a
single season."

The sterilization option is longterm thinking, which we
ought to be doing. However, we also have a short-term problem
at Ryerson. Sterilized deer still eat and they may continue to do
so for many years. The Illinois Natural History Survey study
found that herds in the metropolitan area average much older than
It might take years for them to make a difference, and they will be aware of this and to monitor as closely as possible the effects of our actions. Sterilization is difficult—perhaps impossible—very expensive, and it does not address the current problem; it does not immediately reduce the deer herd at Ryerson.

The introduction of a suitable predator has been suggested as a way to let nature deal with the deer. Wolves and pumas are not likely to find Lake County congenial. Coyotes live around here. They may someday invade Ryerson on their own. Coyotes are effective predators on fawns, but they rarely take adult deer. It might take years for them to make a difference, and they will bring problems of their own. The first time somebody's Yorkie gets killed and eaten in the backyard, the outcry will be very loud. My own opinion is that we have to shoot some deer at Ryerson. Transportation is pointless, an expensive game that just moves the problem. Sterilization is a pointless, expensive game that just moves the problem. Sterilization at this point is an experimental procedure, but somebody should be making the experiments. Problems with excess deer are going to be even more common in the future and we need to develop a variety of strategies for dealing with them.

There are other questions about this sort of intervention. Both shooting and sterilization remove genes from the pool, for example, with effects that we really cannot predict. We need to be aware of this and to monitor as closely as possible the effects of our actions.

Excess deer are just one aspect of a more general problem. How do we sustain natural systems and therefore the variety of species they support in a world where nature has been isolated into tiny islands? Our experience so far suggests that increasing intervention may be necessary to prevent our natural areas from degenerating into weed yards supporting depauperate animal populations.

Most of our intervention seems entirely benign. We cut down invading buckthorn shrubs or poison purple-loosestrife plants; plant native prairie species or put out nest boxes to attract bluebirds. The Lake County Forest Preserve District has been a leader in developing and applying methods for carrying out this kind of intervention. As a result, they have many quality preserves where health populations of large numbers of native plants and animals still exist. Their proposal to shoot deer at Ryerson continues this leadership. They have identified a serious problem and they are making a serious attempt to deal with it. Superintendent of conservation Dan Brouillard and general superintendent Jerrold Soesbe deserve credit for their willingness to take political heat in support of a necessary action.

What is a Game Warden?
by Levon Grinde, Cando, North Dakota

Game Wardens are found everywhere—on land, on water, in the air, in cars, in trucks, on horses, or even behind rocks, and sometimes in your hair.

Game Wardens come in many different sizes, shapes and colors. They are female, male and human (believe it or not) just like everyone else. Mostly they are sunburned and big. How big they look depends on whether you are looking for one or one is looking for you.

Game Wardens are called many things—Conservation Officers, Game Protectors, Rangers, or Game or Fish Management Agents to name a few. Their main duty is to enforce all the laws and regulations pertaining to game and fish and our great outdoors. They also assist with many departmental activities such as making surveys (scientific methods used to determine that game is scarce). They conduct various investigations (the process used through which it is determined that there is no answer to the problem). They make creek and bag checks to determine harvests. The term harvests is always used to describe hunting and fishing to a ladies club. All this information is used by biologists to determine hunter success. The phrase was coined by positive thinkers.

Game Wardens are found everywhere—on land, on water, in the air, in cars, in trucks, on horses, or even behind rocks, and sometimes in your hair. In spite of the fact that "you can never find one when you want one" they are usually there when you do something wrong. The best way to get one is to pick up the telephone.

Some people think a Game Warden is one who "couldn't track a bull elephant in two feet of fresh snow". In real life they are expected to find a lost hunter in forty square miles of wilderness and in driving snowstorm, or to find a little boy "with big blue eyes" who strayed from a picnic area and is now lost in a huge marsh. In fiction they get help from all of the good guys, sportsmen, and nature buffs. In real life mostly all they get from the public is "I didn't see nuttin'". They often aid in the recovery of the body of a drowning victim. They swallow hard, and spend the rest of the week wondering why they ever took this kind of a job.

Game Wardens deliver summons, lectures, demonstrations, and other things. They are required to have the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of a lion, the disposition of a lamb, the patience of Job, and muscles of steel and are often accused of having a heart to match their muscles. They may also have to be a magician to live on what they are being paid. If they write a ticket, they are a monster. If they let you go they're a softy or not doing their job. They must be impartial, courteous and always remember the slogan "at your service". This is sometimes hard when some seedy character reminds them "I bought a license—I pay your salary".

Game Wardens see more sunsets, sunrises, rain snow and hot sun than most people. Their uniform changes with their work and with the seasons. When the snow gets deep they see the line move higher on trees and wonder how long it will last. They see the deer in their yards, with only the biggest and strongest able to move out of the way. They find a young doe, too.
They look into grateful eyes, and faintly, of all comes, when after some small kindness to a child, or to some hours. They many times from a distance hear “Thank you my Child, bless you.” Sometimes the most rewarding moment of trouble. Then back to the lookout, smiling, knowing full well work around the clock, Sunday and holidays. It always hurts just a little when a friend says “Hey tomorrow is Memorial Day, I’m off, let’s take the kids fishing” (that’s the day they put in eighteen hours).

Game Wardens spend more time in the dark, sitting on hills in remote areas than average people. They see the calmness of the stars that seem to draw near and track their silent path across the heavens. They almost feel the movement of the earth as the constellations swing across the sky. They hear the howling of the coyote and it raises their primeval instinct as the hair on the back of their neck raises. They wonder if the coyotes are exchanging the pleasantries of the day or are planning to make a kill. They spend a lot of time wondering where the mosquitoes, woodticks and chiggers fit into the scheme of things. Suddenly they see lights from a vehicle slowly winding its way along a trail in “old Jake’s” pasture. They watch awhile, then hurry over to find “Old Jake” who had stayed too long at the local watering hole and is now trying to find his way home across country. After finding no weapons in Jake’s vehicle, Jake is told to go on home and stay out of trouble. Then back to the lookout, smiling, knowing full well “Old Jake” will have enough trouble when he gets home at this late hour.

Lots of Game Wardens have homes. That’s where the spouse and the kids live. Some homes are covered with ivy, but most of them are covered with mortgages. But their credit is good. And this is very helpful because often salaries aren’t. Game Wardens raise lots of kids, some of whom belong to other people. To kids they are either a friend or a boogy man, depending on how the parents feel about it. Game Wardens like days off, camping and fishing, vacations and coffee. They don’t like spouse and the kids live. Some homes are covered with ivy, but most of them are covered with mortgages. But their credit is good. And this is very helpful because often salaries aren’t. Game Wardens raise lots of kids, some of whom belong to other people. To kids they are either a friend or a boogy man, depending on how the parents feel about it. Game Wardens like days off, camping and fishing, vacations and coffee. They don’t like weapons in Jake’s vehicle, Jake is told to go on home and stay out of trouble. Then back to the lookout, smiling, knowing full well “Old Jake” will have enough trouble when he gets home at this late hour.

Game Wardens sometimes get awards or medals for saving lives or other outstanding deeds. (Once in a while the widow gets the medal.) Sometimes the most rewarding moment of all comes, when after some small kindness to a child, or to some “creature without words” they look into grateful eyes, and faintly, from a distance hear “Thank you my Child, bless you.”

PAYING THE HIGH PRICE FOR POLLUTION

by Chris Porter
Reprinted with permission from Pennsylvania Angler, published by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission

With an oil company refinery in town, residents of the tiny borough of Rouseville in Venango County are accustomed to smelling unusual, unpleasant odors. But on August 8, 1988, as the sun was setting on a mild summer day, something unmistakably different was in the air. It caused headaches, dizziness and skin irritations, and several Rouseville residents reported suffering minor illnesses from the acrid fumes. If the thin, white film on the surface of Cherry Run hadn’t given away the source of the problem, then hundreds of dead fish tumbling down the creek would have. A pollution was in progress.

State police blocked a two-mile section of Route 227 along the stream as troopers and Rouseville volunteer firefighters temporarily evacuated some homes and businesses in the area. At the same time, investigators from the Fish Commission and Department of Environmental Resources (DER) began probing the cause of the incident. It would become, in the words of Venango County WCO Bob Steiner, “the best, most thorough investigation I’ve ever been involved in.”

Fish Commission and DER investigators worked virtually all night gathering evidence, which is considered essential in prosecuting pollution cases. They collected water samples from various sites along the stream, took notes from visual and other observations at the scene, counted dead fish, and documented their work with a series of photographs.

Also that night, Steiner began interviewing residents of nearby homes and talked to several drivers at the oil company truck terminal a little over a mile upstream from where Cherry Run empties into Oil Creek. Investigators eventually interviewed 20 to 25 persons as they attempted to build a case that they could win in court.

Common Substance

The next day, with some borough residents still complaining of headaches and dizziness, there was some concern that investigators were dealing with a highly toxic material that could cause lingering health problems and that might be tough to identify. Sophisticated tests completed August 10 at the DER laboratory in Harrisburg showed that the pollutant was an unexpectedly common substance, gasoline, but that from all indications, a sizable volume of it had gotten into the creek.

Evidence gathered later in the investigation showed that about 300 gallons had been dumped into the run, which is no wider than seven of eight feet in most sections. Mixed with such a small volume of water, the fuel extracted an awful toll. It killed and estimated 2,000 trout in a 1.2 million section of the creek, mostly wild brown trout, including some trophy fish over 20 inches long. The disaster also wiped out all other aquatic species in the stream, including minnows, crayfish and insects, leaving its lower reaches without any living creature.

Steiner said the fuel also killed some fish in Oil Creek as far as 200 yards down stream from the mouth of Cherry Run before water in the larger stream sufficiently diluted the pollutant.

Making this disaster even more tragic was the fact that Cherry Run is one of Pennsylvania’s prized Class A trout streams.
Class A designation means that a stream is a high-quality waterway capable of sustaining a viable population of wild trout and thus is not included in the Fish Commission stocking program.

Local anglers who had all but forgotten about Cherry Run when the Fish Commission quit stocking it several years ago were more than a little surprised to hear that it still held such a fine population of trout.

Major loss

There was a phenomenal number of wild brown trout in the creek. This was a major loss economically, environmentally, and recreationally, "said fisheries biologist John Arway, chief of the Fish Commission Division of Environmental Services at Bellefonte.

Some valuable assistance from state police criminal investigators at the nearby Seneca Barracks and from the oil company's own detective helped the Fish Commission and DER piece together convincing evidence pointing to a deliberate, criminal act as the cause of the pollution.

With the probe headed in that direction, DER summoned agents from the Environmental Crimes Section (ECS) of the state attorney general's office to oversee completion of the investigation and to handle the prosecution. Deputy State Attorney General Donna McClelland was assigned to prosecute the case for ECS, which generally gets involved only in major pollution cases involving criminal violations.

Oil company officials at first were hesitant to acknowledge that any of the firm's vehicles or personnel may have been involved in the dumping, but once they were convinced otherwise, the corporation's detective played a major role in the probe."

In two or three days, he got information that might have taken us six or eight weeks to get," Steiner said. "He obviously didn't hold anything back."

Principal suspect

The combined efforts of investigators eventually led to one of the company's drivers who was found not to have delivered all the gasoline on his route the day of the pollution. He became the principal suspect in the case. Investigators determined that the driver had acted entirely on his own and that the company could not be held liable. "We felt the company was in no way responsible so we left it out of the prosecution," Steiner said.

Investigators believed they had a thorough case against the driver. Among other things, they had a witness who had seen a company vehicle and the driver at the edge of the creek at about 8 p.m. when the dumping was thought to have occurred. They found where a truck had been driven to the edge of the creek behind the oil company terminal and where the diver apparently had emptied the fuel into the water. They later looked over part of a fleet of gasoline tank trucks at the terminal, finding one vehicle that had several telltale blades of grass and some soil on the hose used to pump fuel. That was an important bit of evidence needed to link the truck to the scene of the dumping.

Of course, they also found gasoline in the stream, and knew the fuel was the cause of a massive fish kill. They had photographic evidence from the scene, and they had witnesses who could testify how the pollutant had sickened them.

Arrest

ECS agents went to the driver's home in neighboring Warren County on October 13-more than two months after the dumping incident-and arrested him on four violations of the state Solid Waste Management Act plus a criminal charge of risking a catastrophe.

Violations of the solid waste act included the disposal of hazardous waste without permit, the most severe of the four violations, with a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail and a $100,000 fine, and unauthorized use of another's land as a disposal area.

The charge of risking a catastrophe stemmed from the defendant's alleged disregard for the health and safety of individuals living and working in the area surrounding Cherry Run. The dumping not only sickened several persons, but it could have caused a fire or explosion, authorities said.

Arraignment

Authorities transported the defendant about 50 miles from his home in Warren to Pleasantville in Venango County, where he was arraigned before District Justice Mary Nosko. Arraignment is a proceeding in which the justice reads the charges against the defendant and sets bond, which is intended to guarantee the person's appearance for further court dates. The defendant initially was jailed when he was unable to post $15,000 bond, but he later posted bond and was freed.

Two weeks later, the defendant appeared again before District Justice Nosko for a preliminary hearing. In this proceeding, the prosecution presents a portion of its evidence against the defendant and the justice rules whether the evidence is sufficient to hold the individual for a trial in a county court. The truck driver waived his right to the hearing, which defendants often do, and agreed to allow the case to proceed in Venango County Criminal Court.

Trial

When the case went before Venango County Judge H. William White on December 15, the Defendant testified that he had only recently gone to work as a driver for the oil company. He was unaware that any gas remained in the tank truck when he returned to his terminal on August 8, but then discovered that he had inadvertently failed to delivered about 200-300 gallons to customers on his route, he told Judge White.

The driver should have reported his error to company officials at this point, but instead he tried to cover his mistake by unloading the leftover fuel into the creek. He admitted to the judge that the discharge took only a few minutes.

The defendant pleaded guilty to charges of intentionally dumping gasoline and risking a catastrophe. According to terms of the plea bargain, the other three counts against him were dismissed.

Sentencing

It is ironic that something done so swiftly as this dumping will have such long-term consequences. On January 23, 1989, Judge White sentences the defendant to serve 11-1/2 to 23 months in Venango County Jail, and to serve a five-year probation after his jail term is completed. The Judge also ordered the defendant to pay a $7,700 fine plus court costs, to pay $7,479 to the Fish Commission as compensation for the massive fish kill, and to perform 50 hours of community service at Oil Creek State Park in Venango County.

All for a crime which took only minutes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
The Mission
The mission of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is to provide safe and enjoyable recreation opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources. The role of the State Park Police is to provide police services consistent with this mission.

The History
New York State Parks have been patrolled by one type of police force or another since the first historic site acquisition in 1850. The Park Police as we know them today have been on patrol since the early 1990's. In some state park regions, Park Rangers used to patrol the facilities, but in the early 1970's due to changing needs, park Rangers were replaced with Park Police. Today’s Park Police officers are highly trained specialists, dedicated to preserving the peace and tranquility associated with a park environment.

The Job
Members of the New York State Park Police are “police officers,” as defined by the Criminal Procedure Law. There are approximately 200 permanent officers and 300 part-time officers who have statewide jurisdiction. There are 11 separate and distinct state park regions from Albany to the Niagara Frontier; from Long Island to the Canadian border. State Park Police in each region are commanded by either a chief, captain or lieutenant. Park Patrol officers strive to keep all park facilities safe and secure for visitors. They patrol state parks, historic sites, boat launch areas, riverbanks, canal parks, campsites, performing arts centers and other similar areas. In addition to the regular police vehicle, Park Patrol officers utilize 4-wheel drive vehicles, motorcycles, snowmobiles and ATVs. Several park regions operate mounted patrols and an increasing number have instituted a marine patrol during the boating season.

Qualifications
Park Police officers are selected after passing a written Civil Service test, an oral examination and a psychological evaluation. An extensive background investigation of each candidate is conducted. Applicants must be United States citizens, residents of New York State, possess a valid and unrestricted driver’s license and be legally eligible to carry a firearm. Conviction of a felony bars candidates from the examination and appointment.

Training
Candidates selected for appointment must satisfactorily complete a basic school conducted by the Municipal Police Training Council within one year of their start of service. This consists of a minimum of 440 hours of classroom and field training. Additional specific training is given on an in-service basis, as required. Officers may receive certification in radar, breathalyzer, first aid, crowd control, criminal investigations, fingerprinting, cliff rescue, water rescue and other related fields. Interested persons may apply when the test is announced by the State Dept. of Civil Service. Information concerning employment may also be obtained from the Personnel Office of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12238, 518/474-0453.

BOOK REVIEW

by Sgt. Harry Carlile Jr.


Operating a police motor vehicle is a task most law enforcement officers do on their first day in the field. During their basic academy training most recruits receive some type of drivers training. This training usually comes in the form of a defensive driving class which has a “classroom only” type curriculum with no “hands-on” drivers training. While in the basic academy some officers are proficiency certified in a variety of areas such as firearms, defensive tactics, first-aid, etc. Why is there a difference in the types of training required in these two areas? Administrators give a variety of answers for this but one thing is clear, when you examine the time spent by an officer on different tasks-driving, for most officers, is #1. Trainers and law enforcement administrators would not think of sending an officer into the field without extensive weapons training and certification however they require that same officer to respond to an emergency, driving under “emergency conditions”. Yet, the officer driving this “3,000 lb. bullet” has had no hands on driving training or certification in emergency driving. Is this a rational comparison? Most courts which have heard police motor vehicle accident liability cases think that it is.

Law Enforcement Driving by University of Illinois Police Training Institute Associate Professor James Auten is the most complete work on law enforcement driving available. He is an excellent author who has researched and taught in the area of law enforcement driving for many years. His book begins by examining the general considerations of law enforcement driving. It then covers defensive driving, driving in adverse conditions, policy development, results of research, legal considerations, emergency conditions, making the pursuit decision, pursuit driving, the use of force, and specific officer training programs that any department can set up. It covers these topics with such depth and accuracy that it will probably become a “bible” for law enforcement driving.

The book is written throughout but nowhere is this more evident then in the policy development chapter. In this chapter Professor Auten thoroughly examines the law enforcement driving policy issue. He begins by defining law enforcement driving policy, he then looks at it’s development, it’s many forms and types. Next, he covers in depth, the important topics that need to be addressed in any law enforcement driving policy. Finally, in the appendix section, he lays out a model policy that can be tailored to your department.

The book is a complete manual for law enforcement driving. It is a must for the library of all law enforcement administrators, law enforcement agencies, and law enforcement training supervisors. It has 345 pages and is available from Charles Thomas Publishers-Springfield, IL for $56.75.

CAN YOU WRITE?
Share your knowledge, interests, concerns with others. PLEA needs your help in continuing this publication and contributing to the knowledge of other park law enforcement practitioners. This publication needs topics such as technology, law, books, and others addressed on a regular basis. The membership of P.L.E.A. wants to hear from YOU!!! Start writing NOW!!! The Editor.
BOOK REVIEW
by Sgt. Harry Carlile Jr.


According to the U.S. Department of Justice over 79% of all law enforcement agencies have less than 24 officers. Most of these agencies can't afford to have an officer whose only responsibility is law enforcement training. Realistically, whoever is responsible for training will also have other assigned duties. Law Enforcement In-Service Training Programs will provide these busy people with a solid foundation in law enforcement training. It will also provide valuable information to officers who are assigned to the training function on a full time basis.

The book begins with a thorough explanation of the "how to's" when it comes to developing and administering law enforcement training programs and includes such notable areas as: the importance of training goals and objectives; program evaluation; establishing a training policy, training strategies; obtaining management support for training, and much more. Given this strong foundation the book goes on to build the structure for a complete law enforcement training program. It thoroughly examines Field Training Officer Programs, Supervisor Training, Video Training, Computer Training, First-Aid Training, Street Survival Training, Firearms Training, Driving Training, Stress Management Training, and Physical Fitness Training.

The author takes each topic, thoroughly explains and/or defines it and then gives the trainer an idea where their training program in that specific area should be. It should not however, be considered the complete answer to the law enforcement training question. Law enforcement training is a very large and complex area and although the book is thorough on most topics some changes have occurred in specific areas since it was written. Officers in charge of training in specific areas should be thoroughly familiar with the area in which they are instructing.

Overall the book is an excellent sourcebook in the area of law enforcement training. It is a must for the library of all law enforcement agencies and their trainers. It has 287 pages and is available from Charles Thomas Publishers- Springfield, Ill. for $37.50.

Forest Service Halts Negotiations With Ecoterror Group

The Mountain States Legal Foundation has disclosed the decision of the U.S. Forest Service to abandon use of a 15-member "working group" which included a member of the radical environmental organization Earth First. The Forest Service decision was announced in a letter from Dale Robertson, Chief of the Forest Service, to Mountain States Legal Foundation President and Chief Legal Officer William Perry Pendley. Robertson's letter was in response to Pendley's demand that the Forest Service end negotiations with Earth First.

"The decision of the Forest Service is a major victory for the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and a decisive defeat for those who use violence, sabotage and terrorism to achieve political objectives," announced Pendley. "It is also a defeat for those apologists in government who capitulate—out of fear."

BOOK REVIEW
Publishers Dust Cover Review


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The fascination people have with reports about his adventures as a wildlife officer never ceases to amaze Dave Swendsen. That's why, a number of years ago, he decided to begin putting together his most exciting and unusual adventures. BADGE IN THE WILDERNESS is the result.

"Danger comes in many forms," says Swendsen. "It just seemed to me that such adventures are best told by someone who has climbed the mountain, waded the icy stream, or lain shivering in the swamp—someone who has worn the boots of a wildlife officer, someone who has been there. This book is my attempt to take you there."

As you will discover in these pages, he succeeds remarkably well. Swendsen takes you back to his rookie days to watch and listen in as he learns valuable lessons from his supervisors. "Little Ed would say quietly, but emphatically," Swendsen recalls, "that it was important for me to learn how to drive at night, hot behind the outlaw's car—with my lights out—a speed up to 70 miles per hour. (He also scared the hell out of me the first time we did that together)."

You'll travel along with Swendsen as he makes his first arrest, learns to deal with judges who are too lenient with wildlife violators, finds out when force is necessary and when it's not, and even accidentally gets an opportunity to appear in a movie.

Then Swendsen brings you along through his maturing years, his switch from state to federal service, and his encounters and confrontations with a wide range of citizens, including doctor, lawyer, and Indian chief. Along the way you learn Swendsen's high regard for young people and his belief in their importance for the future of the outdoors. You'll move from one part of the U.S. to another as you accompany Swendsen and his family on new assignments that include promotions and increasing responsibilities. Eventually you'll be at Swendsen's elbow as he gets involved with crackdowns and busts on national and international rings that smuggle illegal wildlife parts and products.

Then Swendsen gives you an in-depth look at the wildlife outlaw, including ways that he sometimes evades the law and ways he gets caught and brought to justice. Finally, Dave Swendsen tells you what he believes about the present and future places of wildlife officers in the outdoors. For any young man or woman considering a career as a wildlife officer (and for parents of such young people) this is a vital section of BADGE IN THE WILDERNESS.

********

DAVID H. SWENDSEN lived the adventures he recounts in these pages. In 30 years of service, first for Wisconsin and then with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, he carries the badge of a wildlife officer and battled the violators of our outdoor heritage. Now retired from federal service, he lives in Massachusetts and lectures at both the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) and the University of New Hampshire on a favorite subject of his: You and the Outdoor Law."
DRAWING WINNERS

Each year in conjunction with the P.L.E.A. Conference, a trade show is held to introduce conference attendees to a variety of law enforcement related items. On Thursday evening vendors hosted a free buffet for P.L.E.A. Conference attendees. During the course of this get together the vendors a drawing was held for merchandise contributed by the vendors. The following lucky attendees went home with a variety of valuable prizes.

Dave Petrika
Boca Raton Parks,
Boca Raton, FL
Florida State Flag

Ernest Jones
Pt. Lauderdale Parks
Pt. Lauderdale, FL
Blue Light

Maj. Newell Rand
Maryland National Capital Park Police
Riverdale, MD
MiniMag Light

Terry Caulliette
Florida State Parks
$125.00 Safariland Gift Certificate

Sgt. Stewart Foland
Johnson County Parks
Shawnee, KS
Portfolio

Capt. Jack Chamberlain
Florida State Parks
Clermont, FL
Blue Light

Cmdr. Norm Lapera
East Bay Region Park Police
Castro Vally, CA
Quick Cuff

Sgt. Harry Carlile
Peoria Park District
Peoria IL
Holster

Ed MacKinsky
Florida State Parks
Spot Light
KENTUCKY OFFICERS PREVENT SUICIDE

Quick and courageous actions by a pair of Kentucky Water Patrol Officers and a State Park Ranger prevented an attempted suicide at Cumberland Falls State Park near London, KY.

After receiving word that the 42 year old woman had left a note threatening suicide by jumping to her death at the park the three officers - Park Ranger Roger Logan and Kentucky Water patrol Officers Howard Barnett and Barry Shoemaker began searching the park for her.

Barnett contacted the Kentucky State Patrol and ran a license tag check on vehicles in the parking lot at the park, thus identifying the woman's vehicle.

Shoemaker spotted the woman on the beach, and as the officers approached her saw her apparently swallowing pills. She first pulled a large knife on the two men as they attempted to talk to her, and then leaped into the water. Shoemaker went into the swift, icy water of the Cumberland River after the woman as the current began to sweep her away, and successfully brought her back to shore. The officers wrapped the woman in their coats while an ambulance was summoned but a fire to keep her warm. Once the ambulance arrived, the officers assisted in carrying the woman to it, quite some distance.

NIAGARA OFFICERS RESCUE STRANDED BOAT ABOVE FALLS

Niagara Frontier State Park Police, as a unit, has received the United States Coast Guard Public Service Commendation, recognizing their unequalled courage while enforcing public law and in the rescue of those who have ventured, for whatever reason, into the unnavigable waters above Niagara falls.

A typical rescue operation involved Lt. William D. Patti and Officer Paul Randall, who threaded the reefs a bare mile above the falls to rescue a man, woman and her daughter who had run aground in the shallow, prohibited waters. Apparently the three, while out water skiing, went past warning signs and buoys marking the prohibited area. When working their way back upstream, they bumbled into the shallow reefs and lodged there after extensively damaging the lower unit on their 21-foot boat.

The two park police officers first attempted to work close enough to the stranded boat to pass a line to it, but were thwarted by the rocks and shallow water, in places less than a foot deep. They enlisted the aid of a private helicopter company, which led them through the twisting channel to the stranded pleasure boat. The officers then towed the boat to a local yacht club.

The operator of the boat was charged with reckless operation and failure to have visual distress signals. He also faced possible prosecution on charges of travelling into the danger zone if the U.S. Coast Guard opted to take action.

In another recent rescue, park police officers went to within 200 yards from the edge of the precipice to rescue two foolhardy "daredevils" who attempted to go over the falls in a barrel.

"It remains unquestioned," noted State Parks Regional Director Mario Pirastru, "each and every time our park police enter these waters, they are exemplifying a courage second to none. I am extremely pleased and proud that the U.S. Coast Guard sees fit to recognize their endeavors."

The Public Service Commendation is the highest award made to an organization or agency by the Coast Guard. Captain Joseph DeMarco, Commanding officer of the Niagara Frontier Regional State Park Police, accepted the award on behalf of the agency.

BILL ON PARK RANGERS GETS CUOMO'S VETO

Albany, NY -- Gov. Mario Cuomo has vetoed legislation that would have designated Suffolk County park rangers as police officers.

While Cuomo said Monday that he supported the objective of the legislation, he cited technical difficulties with the bill that he said could leave some park rangers in the county with uncertain legal status.

The legislation might even mean some rangers could be out of jobs, Cuomo said.
The Cherry Run case underscores how the Fish Commission works with other agencies to investigate and prosecute polluters.

"We get excellent cooperation from the State Police, and we work well with DER in these cases, too," Steiner said, also commending the ECS for its role in the Cherry Run probe. The oil company also deserves credit for conducting an internal investigation of the dumping, and for cleaning up fish that were killed by the pollution, he added.

Whether the dumping will have any lasting impact on Cherry Run remains to be seen. If the flow of the stream quickly carries away all of a pollutant, as is hoped in the Cherry run case, the waterway begins to recover almost immediately, Arway said. Fish, insects and other species in the stream move or are carried by downstream drift into pollution damaged sections, and will remain there when the habitat has recovered enough, he explained.

But as a rule, complete recovery is a process that is not going to happen over a few weeks or months, say Arway and Ray Hassey, water pollution biologist at the DER regional office in Meadville. "It takes a minimum of one to three years, as a guess," Hassey said.

The rate of recovery depends on factors including the type of pollutant, severity of contamination, presence of an ongoing pollution, and Mother Nature's ability to cleanse a waterway naturally. Streams were water flows more swiftly generally become habitable again faster than do flat, slow-moving waterways.

Hassey said DER plans to reexamine Cherry Run, to determine how well it is recuperating from the damage it suffered.

P.L.E.A. Logo Items

The Park Law Enforcement Association has begun offering t-shirts, caps, mugs, etc., which are embossed with the P.L.E.A. logo, to our membership. Items were on display at the National Conference in Florida and will again be available at our booth at the NRPA Congress. The next issue of PLEA will feature photos, descriptions, an order form and prices for members wishing to acquire these items.

If you can't wait, our secretary/treasurer, Bill Runnoe, has a limited number of shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts and caps on hand and will be happy to assist you. Bill is looking for ideas for items which the membership would like to acquire. If there is some item that you feel you just have to have with the P.L.E.A. logo talk to Bill and he will see if we can offer it.

P.L.E.A. President Art Gill Honored

Art Gill, President of the Park Law Enforcement Association and Supervisor of Rangers for the Lake County (IL) Forest Preserve District, has recently been honored by the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration at Western Illinois University. Art Gill, an alumni of Western Illinois University was recently presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award, presented in recognition of high professional achievement and distinguished service.

COPS OBJECT TO 'SQUALID' PARK

Burning garbage and the stench of waste from animals and homeless squatters have helped make Thompson Square Park a squalid hell that sickens police officers who work there, a suit to close the park charges. Police Officer Joseph Quinn said in court papers that constant haze and smell from burning tires, plastics and chemically treated wood engulf the area. He said a persistent stink emanates from the trash, urine, and feces left by animals and the more than 100 homeless people who live in the park.

QUESTIONABLE SIGNAGE?

SKI LIFT SIGN

GOING BEYOND THIS POINT MAY RESULT IN DEATH AND/OR LOSS OF SKIING PRIVILEGES

MEN'S ROOM SIGN

REST ROOM CLOSED EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

THINK ABOUT IT!

P.L.E.A. IS GROWING

The Park Law Enforcement Association is growing rapidly. Current membership rosters show we have over 580 members in forty-seven states, two Canadian Provinces, the Bahamas and Puerto Rico. Illinois is a State Affiliate and four additional states have officially advised us that they are forming. To help with our growth the Board of Directors recently appointed several Regional Representatives. These include:

NORTH EAST REGION
Major Newell Rand
Maryland National Capital Park Police

SOUTH EAST REGION
John McLean
Florida Department of Natural Resources

GREAT LAKES REGION
Tom Hazelton
Linn County Conservation District (IA)

Other regions are pending or have no current candidates. Help P.L.E.A. grow! Have you recruited any new members yet? Is your Agency a member? Has your State joined as an affiliate? Do you wish to assist the existing Regional Representatives or become one yourself? Contact Bill Supernauagh, NPS at FLETC for more details.
PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION  
* APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP *

NAME ___________________________  INDIVIDUAL ___________________________

TITLE ___________________________  AGENCY ___________________________

AGENCY/FIRM ______________________

ADDRESS (Street/POB) ___________________________

CITY ___________________  STATE _______  ZIP __________________

WORK PHONE __________________  NEW MEMBERSHIP _______  OR RENEWAL _______

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES  CURRENT MEMBERSHIP NUMBER __________________

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VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED ____________

ACCOUNT NUMBER ____________  VISA ______  MC _______

EXP. DATE ____________

ACCOUNT NAME ____________  SIGNATURE ____________

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (NRPA)

MAIL TO:  PAT CARTRIGHT  
NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION  
3101 PARK CENTER DRIVE  
ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22302  
(703)820-4940

AGENCY MEMBERSHIPS

Recently requests were made of the P.L.E.A. Board of Directors to establish Agency Memberships. The stated reason for this move was to assist agencies in joining officially. Many agencies have little trouble paying for an "agency membership" but balk at paying individual memberships, even though these memberships are in strictly professional organizations. By designing a new membership category many agencies were able to join en mass. Because of the inequities in agency size across the nation, benefits had to be strictly managed in this category. Thus the following benefits are offered to Agency Members: (1) Full membership privileges to the agency as in individual memberships, and (2) Reduced rates for official P.L.E.A. Functions (Conferences, Educational Events, etc., for all agency employees without the need for each employee to join P.L.E.A. individually. Because of the cost of printing and distributing PLEA only one copy of PLEA would be sent to Agency Members. Though the Board of Directors authorized reprinting and distribution by these members, P.L.E.A. membership is decidedly inexpensive when compared to other professional organizations. The Agency Membership allows agencies to financially support P.L.E.A. and receive benefits from that membership.

STATE AFFILIATES

State Affiliates are groups within a state which has organized along the guidelines established by the P.L.E.A. Board of Directors. State Affiliates receive one seat on the Board of Directors automatically and take an intimate role in developing the future of P.L.E.A. There is a $150.00 affiliation fee. If your state is not currently an affiliate contact the President of P.L.E.A. for details on how to start.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

(1) One vote per membership on all official P.L.E.A. issues.
(2) Four issues per year of PLEA: Journal of the Park Law Enforcement Association.
(3) Membership I.D. Card.
(4) P.L.E.A. Patch.
(5) P.L.E.A. Window Decal.
(6) Bi-Annual Park Law Enforcement Agency Directory.
(7) Reduced Rate for P.L.E.A. Sponsored Conferences and Educational Events.
(8) Access at a reduced rate (or free as available) of special P.L.E.A. sponsored publications.
(9) Eligible for election to the Board of Directors and appointment to various committees.
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED