



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# NEWS RELEASE

## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



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## Safari Club Georgia Chapter Honors Three from Georgia DNR Law Enforcement



**SOCIAL CIRCLE** – At their annual banquet on Saturday, the Safari Club Georgia Chapter presented awards to three Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Game Wardens. The banquet venue was Outdoor Adventures in Smyrna.

Corporal Bart Hendrix was honored as DNR Law Enforcement’s Investigative Game Warden of the Year; Corporal Mark Patterson was recognized for his work on the use of electronic surveillance in wildlife enforcement, and; Director of DNR’s Law Enforcement Division, Colonel Eddie Henderson, was awarded for being named President of the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs (NACLEC).

“I am very pleased the Safari Club Georgia Chapter has recognized the hard work of Corporals Hendrix and Patterson and I am truly honored to be included with them tonight,” said Henderson. “The Club is a great partner and we are so appreciative of their support for our Game Wardens year after year.”

Assigned to Cherokee County, Corporal Bart Hendrix completed a complex, 18-month deer poaching investigation in 2017. Four search warrants were executed and 68 arrests warrants were taken for various game and fish violations. A total of 116 wildlife related cases were made during the investigation and several of the violators are still awaiting trial.

Corporal Mark Patterson, who is assigned to Wilkes County, has worked diligently during the last few years to become well-versed in wildlife enforcement using video surveillance. He started a pilot program using cameras after placing one in an area where he believed illegal activity was occurring. Within two hours of the camera placement, he apprehended the offenders. The technology has also been very valuable in resolving landowner complaints of night hunting and hunting without permission. The cameras, many of them provided generously by the Safari Club Georgia Chapter, are currently in use across Georgia.

Since 2011, Colonel Eddie Henderson has been the director of the Law Enforcement Division, which currently has 204 Game Wardens and 19 non-POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) support personnel. At its Annual Conference in Sandy, UT in August, NACLEC elected him to serve a two-year term as its president. The mission of NACLEC is to work collaboratively with state, federal and international conservation law enforcement agencies, and diverse alliances and partnerships to protect people, sustainably conserve wildlife and other natural resources, and promote safe, diverse, and enjoyable outdoor experiences.

The most recognized mission of SCI is Hunter’s Rights or Hunting Rights. SCI is also an organization that significantly supports responsible Wildlife Management globally. In addition, SCI sponsors many Humanitarian Projects and Missions thru both the International Headquarters based in Tucson and the many local and international chapters. For more information, visit <http://georgiasafariclub.com/>.

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*The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division is committed to conserving our natural resources and protecting the people we serve through fair and vigorous law enforcement, quality education, and community involvement.*

*TRUST, FAIRNESS, PROFESSIONALISM*

**Law Enforcement Off the Pavement**