



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NEWS RELEASE

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Cpl. Bart Hendrix Wins Southern Boating Officer of the Year Award

Cherokee County Game Warden Now a Finalist for National Award



Cpl. Bart Hendrix

SOCIAL CIRCLE – The Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division is proud to announce that Corporal Bart Hendrix, a Game Warden assigned to Cherokee County, has been named Officer of The Year by the Southern States Boating Law Administrators Caucus (SSBLAC). This fall, he will represent Georgia as one of only three finalists nationwide for the “Butch Potts Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year” award to be presented by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) at its annual conference in Rapid City, South Dakota. SSBLAC, which represents 20 southern states and territories, is one of the three regional associations within NASBLA.

Cpl. Hendrix, who works on Allatoona Lake and the Etowah River during the summer, has been selected as the DNR Law Enforcement Region I (Northwest GA) Boating Officer of the Year four times for his outstanding efforts.

“It does not surprise me at all that Bart won the SSBLAC award. He has a solid work ethic, his track record speaks for itself and I believe he has good chance of winning the national award.” said DNR Law Enforcement Director Colonel Eddie Henderson. “Boaters on Allatoona and the Etowah are safer whenever Cpl. Hendrix is working.”

Hendrix’s numbers are quite impressive. In 2016, he dedicated 616 hours to boating enforcement and conducted 43 water patrols, resulting in 288 boat checks and 150 boat check assists. He made five BUI arrests and three VGCSA (drug) arrests and, due to his accurate case files, maintained a 100% BUI conviction rate. He worked five boat incidents, six drownings, and spent 62 hours on 11 Search and Rescue missions. As a member of the Critical Incident Reconstruction Team, he spent 53 hours investigating a fatal boat incident on Lake Lanier, and completing it in a timely manner, even though a language barrier existed and some witnesses had left the country.

Demonstrating his commitment to boating safety and enforcement, Hendrix conducted an 8-hour training class for the Canton Police Department in 2016, where officers were trained on boating laws and how to conduct boat stops. He also arranged for members of the Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office to ride-along on boating patrols to act as a force multiplier. For community awareness, he presented 27 boating safety Information & Education programs and conducted two boater education classes.

According to his supervisor, Sergeant Jason Roberson, one of the things that sets Cpl. Hendrix apart is his compassion. On one occasion, he worked an incident where a victim drowned in front of his wife and three children. Bart took the family away from the scene, bought their lunch, and spent the entire day with them, providing comfort and assurance in their time of despair. Later in the year, he arranged for the work section to buy the children’s school supplies and he personally delivered them. On another occasion, he arranged for Cabela’s to donate five hundred dollars of outdoor products for Christmas gifts for a needy child.

Upon hearing of Cpl. Hendrix’s SSBLAC win, DNR Commissioner Mark Williams said, “Cpl. Hendrix is a class act. He is committed to public safety and will represent Georgia DNR and our Law Enforcement Division well. I wish him the best at the national level.”

Cpl. Hendrix has been with Georgia DNR Law Enforcement for 11 years and resides in Cherokee County.

For more information on boating safety and education, visit <http://www.gadnrle.org>

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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.

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