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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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GA DNR Game Warden Wins National Boating Officer of the Year Award

Corporal Bart Hendrix Lands Top Honor

SOCIAL CIRCLE – For the second time in three years, a Georgia DNR Game Warden has been named the top boating law enforcement officer in the nation.



Cpl. Bart Hendrix

Last week, at its 58th annual conference in Rapid City, SD, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) presented Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Corporal Bart Hendrix, who is assigned to Cherokee County, with its highest award, Boating Officer of the Year, for his outstanding contributions to the field of boating law enforcement. In 2015, Georgia DNR Sgt. Jason Roberson, who is now Cpl. Hendrix's supervisor, received the same award.

Earlier this year, Hendrix was named Georgia DNR Law Enforcement's 2016 Boating Officer of the Year for his exceptional work on Allatoona Lake and the Etowah River. In July, he earned Boating Officer of the Year from the Southern States Boating Law Administrators Caucus (SSBLAC), a regional association within NASBLA, which represents 20 southern states and territories. That award made him one of only three finalists nationwide for the "Butch Potts Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" Award, as NASBLA's premier award is called.

"Cpl. Hendrix is a top notch Game Warden and he truly deserves this prestigious award," said DNR Law Enforcement Director Colonel Eddie Henderson. "When Bart is working on the water, without fail, he gives 100 percent to boating enforcement and public safety – all day, every day."

Hendrix had very impressive boating enforcement numbers this past year, logging 43 water patrols and 616 hours in the boat. He checked 288 vessels and assisted with 150 others. 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 worked 53 hours investigating a fatal boat incident on Lake Lanier, completing it in a timely manner, even with a language barrier and having to track down several witnesses that had left the country.

According to Sgt. Roberson, one quality that sets Cpl. Hendrix apart is his genuine concern for people. 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.

"I'm very proud of Cpl. Hendrix and his accomplishments this past year," stated DNR Commissioner Mark Williams. "He is another example of the well-trained and professional Game Wardens we have at Georgia DNR."

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

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