


Rigby Awarded Governor's Conservation Achievement Award

Sergeant Glenn Rigby of Theodore was awarded Conservation Enforcement Officer of the Year at the 2004 Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards banquet. The Alabama Wildlife Federation held the banquet, sponsored by the Alabama Power Company, on Friday, July 30, 2004, in Montgomery.

Sergeant Rigby has had an outstanding 23-year career with the Marine Resources Division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. He has shown a true dedication to the citizens and resources of Alabama, and his compassion and caring for his fellow man is well known throughout the community.

During his distinguished career, Sergeant Rigby has recovered survivors of air disasters, responded to numerous boat accidents, conducted CPR at accident scenes, and assisted with the recovery of a train wreck.

One of his most notable accomplishments this past year included rescuing five persons from the water when their shrimp boat caught on fire. Sergeant Rigby's quick thinking and superior boat handling were credited with saving the lives of the captain and crew of the ship, as well as a small child.

The Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards were created to promote leadership by example and in turn increase conservation of the natural resources in the state of Alabama including its wildlife, forests, soils, water and air. The program is designed to bring about a greater knowledge and awareness of conservation practices and projects and to give proper recognition to those persons and organizations that make outstanding contributions to the natural resource welfare of their community and state. 



ALABAMA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Left to right: Willard Bowers, Alabama Power Company; Conservation Commissioner Barnett Lawley; Sergeant Glenn Rigby; and Jyles Machen, outgoing president of the Alabama Wildlife Federation.



Left to right: Coach James Clifton Young, Hunter Reed, Alex Thompson, Caleb Swaim, Andrew Aycock, Tyler Fredrick and SCTP State Director Ellen O'Connor.



SCOTT ENGENSEF

Alabama Team Captures Gold in National Trapshooting Championships

It's a long way from Alabama's Bluff Creek Gun Club, with its dirt-floor clubhouse and outdoor plumbing, to the glitz of the Grand American World Trapshooting Championships in Vandalia, Ohio.


But the five high-school students of the Bluff Creek Seniors trap team ignored the pomp, lights and crowds to win a Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) national title. Competing in the Senior Experienced Division, the team posted an impressive score of 1,091 out of a possible 1,125, besting second- and third-place efforts by teams from Illinois and South Dakota, respectively.

"There was absolutely never any doubt in my mind that these guys had the talent to win this, and the further they advanced the better they got," said coach James King of Russellville. King is a former sergeant and marksmanship instructor for the U.S. Marine Corps.

The team consists of Caleb Swaim of Tusculmbia, Hunter Reed of Bruce

Pine, Andrew Aycock and Alex Thompson of Russellville, and Tyler Frederick of Haleyville. In the weeks leading up to the SCTP competition, they practiced, ate meals and spent time together up to four evenings per week at the Bluff Creek Gun Club.

By winning the championship, the team received a trophy and each shooter received a gold-medal belt buckle plus a \$1,000 scholarship savings bond.

Teams from 31 states competed in the SCTP championships. The event, held in conjunction with the 105th Anniversary Grand American World Trapshooting Championships, featured more than 200 scholastic teams and 1,100 young shooters. SCTP is a program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the trade association of the firearms industry. In all, NSSF awarded more than \$81,000 in scholarships savings bonds this year through SCTP. 

State Parks Renovation Update

Renovation projects at several state parks are ongoing. Here's a list of some that have recently been completed or are now underway.

- ▶ **Guntersville State Park:** the lodge, conference center and restaurant are currently closed for renovations. An official groundbreaking for the project took place on August 26. The project is expected to take 12 to 18 months. In the meantime, the cabins, chalets, golf course and campgrounds remain open.
- ▶ **Chewacla State Park:** 6 cabins at this park near Auburn have been renovated.
- ▶ **Oak Mountain State Park:** the golf course is currently closed and under reconstruction and is expected to open in October.
- ▶ **Lakepoint State Park:** phase one of the renovations there have begun. This includes building eight new cabins on the lake and renovation of the marina.
- ▶ **Gulf State Park:** improvements to public access areas are underway, which includes dune walkovers, improvement to the dune habitat and new restrooms. Renovation to 468 campground sites is also underway.
- ▶ **Wind Creek State Park:** Three new cabins and a new bathhouse opened recently.
- ▶ **Joe Wheeler State Park:** 44 additional transit slips with water, electrical and cable hookups were recently added in the lodge area to accommodate overnight boaters. Restrooms have been added to the Bass Trail boat launch near the lodge. 



CONSERVATION NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 >>>

Marine Police Dedicate New Maintenance Facility



BILLY POPE

Left to right: Jeffery Dickinson, Decarus Barnes, Randy Roten, and Kenny Chambliss, Conservation Commissioner Barnett Lawley, and William B. Garner.

The Alabama Marine Police recently dedicated the William B. Garner Alabama Marine Police Maintenance Facility in Montgomery. The new 6,000-square-foot building, located off of Fairground Road, will house boat maintenance personnel.

The maintenance crew moves to the building from an adjacent 1,800-square-foot building, which will now be used as storage. The new building contains many improvements: three

bays with 15-foot doors; a restoration bay; special boat lifts; increased storage for parts; and office space for workers.


Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner Barnett Lawley officially dedicated the facility to William B. Garner. A native of Etowah County, Garner began his service with the Marine Police Division in 1962. He moved up through the ranks and served as director of

the division for 27 years. "We are here to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to boating safety in the state of Alabama and the nation," Lawley said as he presented a certificate of appreciation to Garner.

During his career Garner was instrumental in drafting legislation to require a boat operator's license and increase penalties for operating under the influence of alcohol and drugs. This legislation has resulted in a reduction in boating fatalities in Alabama by over 40 percent. In 2000 Garner was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for boating safety by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators.

In receiving the building dedication honor, Garner expressed his appreciation for the people behind the scenes. "Regardless of how good a building is, it's the people who are the ones who get the job done," he said. "I am extremely proud of the laborers and mechanics for their hard work."

Personnel who work in the maintenance facility include Kenny Chambliss, Jeffery Dickinson, Randy Roten and Decarus Barnes.

Marine Police personnel are responsible for patrolling the waters of the state, enforcing boating laws, registering boats, licensing boat operators, search and rescue, boating education and investigating boating related theft. Approximately 60 officers are employed by the Marine Police Division. 

Crossbows, Turkey Decoys Now Legal

On September 9, 2004, the Alabama Legislative Council approved changes to the state's hunting laws that legalize the use of crossbows, turkey decoys and the use of scopes on muzzleloaders. The three proposals were recommended by the Conservation Advisory Board in May. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources held a public hearing regarding the issues in August and received more than 3,000 comments regarding the proposed regulations. An analysis of those comments indicates that 78 percent favor the crossbow regulation,

86 percent favor the muzzleloader regulation, and 77 percent favor the turkey decoy regulation.


Conservation Commissioner Barnett Lawley says these regulations allow new choices for hunters. "They are options and not mandates," he said. "That is why the overwhelming majority of hunters favor all the regulations so enthusiastically. Public input indicates that a vocal minority opposes the crossbow and turkey decoy regulations, and virtually none oppose the muzzleloader regulations."

Archery deer season opens October 15 in Alabama, with gun season

opening November 20 and closing on January 31, 2005. Crossbows will be legal for the entire season.

Turkey season in most counties opens March 15, 2005 and ends April 30, 2005. The use of non-mechanical turkey decoys is now legal during the spring season.

Scopes on muzzleloaders is now also legal. Alabama has a special muzzleloader season that runs from November 15-19, just prior to the regular gun season.

For more information on Alabama's hunting laws visit www.outdooralabama.com. 



Hunt Outdoor ALABAMA

...and you could both be winners.


Mentor a New Hunter and Win Prizes!

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is administering an exciting new mentoring campaign, "Hunt Outdoor Alabama — Share the Wonder." Designed to involve current hunters, the program opens the doors of opportunity to future hunters of all ages. Hunt Outdoor Alabama challenges you to pass along Alabama's rich hunting heritage.

It takes a hunter to make a hunter. Resident Alabama hunters sign up to indicate their willingness and intention to mentor a specific person this hunting season. Along with the satisfaction of introducing another person to the hunting experience, participants who complete the program are eligible for prizes such as hunting trips, weekend getaways, and more.

Register now! There is no cost involved, and on-line registration makes it easy. Hunters register at www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/huntoutdooralabama by filling out and submitting the brief mentor registration questionnaire before January 31, 2005. Each hunter is then sent an email with an assigned mentor identification number, guest registration instructions and a link to the guidelines of the Hunt Outdoor Alabama campaign.

After the hunting trip, the guest goes online with the mentor's ID number and submits a guest registration, which includes personal and survey information as requested by the on-screen questionnaire. The guest will also be asked to share details of the hunting experience. Guest registration must be completed by Friday, February 4, 2005. The mentor will receive notification when the guest has completed the registration.

Prize winners will be selected by random drawing from eligible participants on February 14, 2005. Winners will be notified by phone and/or email. 

More details and registration information are available at

www.outdooralabama.com



Access for today. Opportunities for tomorrow.

This project is supported by the 2004 Hunting Heritage Partnership, a grant program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. The Hunt Outdoor Alabama Campaign is also supported by numerous hunting organizations.

Outdoor ALABAMA TELEVISION

Watch *Outdoor Alabama* Fridays at 6:30 p.m. on The Outdoor Channel

Here's a peek at what you can see on upcoming shows.

- ▶ **October 15, 2004**
Tour the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail
- ▶ **October 22, 2004**
Deer Hunting with a Muzzleloader
- ▶ **October 29, 2004**
Go on a Squirrel Hunt with Some Excited Kids
- ▶ **November 5, 2004**
Learn about the Alabama Quail Trail
- ▶ **November 12, 2004**
Go Grouper Fishing on the Summer Breeze 2 Charter Boat
- ▶ **November 19, 2004**
Visit the Mann Museum in Montgomery, Alabama
- ▶ **November 26, 2004**
Introducing Kids to Firearms
- ▶ **December 3, 2004**
Learn How Trout Are Stocked in North Alabama
- ▶ **December 10, 2004**
Stimpson Wildlife Sanctuary
- ▶ **December 17, 2004**
Another Great Alabama Deer Hunt
- ▶ **December 24, 2004**
See How Archery is Being Introduced in Alabama Schools

Watch the show and e-mail us what you think at:
tv@outdooralabama.com