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Alabama Enforcement Officer Receives Prestigious Award

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) is proud to announce that Wildlife Conservation Officer Jonathan E. Stone was selected as the National Wild Turkey Federation's (NWTF) Officer of the Year by the Alabama NWTF Chapter. The NWTF honored America's top Conservation Officers during the Federation's 32nd Annual Convention and Sport Show Awards Banquet in Atlanta, February 23.

Stone has served with the Department over five years, first with the Marine Resources Division and then transferring to WFF in December 2003. Now serving in Winston County, Stone's supervisors praise his quick response times to all situations, his professional manner and even his writing ability. He has penned several columns in local newspapers educating the public about hunting, fishing and the outdoors in general. "Among his most outstanding qualities are his willingness to go the extra mile and get job done and his dedication to protecting our wildlife resources for future generations," said ADCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division Enforcement Chief Allan Andress. Stone also dedicates his time to present wildlife education and hunter safety demonstrations at area schools.

"Without the tremendous level of support for wild turkey conservation from wildlife officers, America's restoration efforts and wildlife management strategies would never have succeeded," said NWTF CEO Rob Keck. "We want to ensure they receive the thanks and recognition they so richly deserve." Keck also noted that in addition to enforcing wild turkey hunting regulations, officers help relocate turkeys to suitable habitat and promote hunting to the public.

The NWTF initiated the Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award in 2000 to highlight the contributions from wildlife officers across the country. Officers were nominated by their state's NWTF chapter and board of directors, often with input from the state wildlife agency. NWTF has spent 35 years shaping a legacy of wild turkey conservation and preservation of the hunting tradition.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through five divisions: Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR, visit www.outdooralabama.com.

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