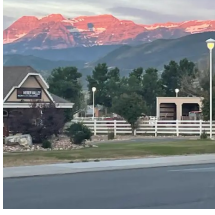


Stories in this newsletter



New Executive Assistant



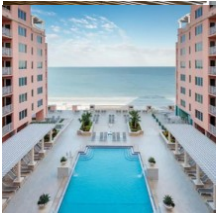
2023 IWC Conference Recap



Annual Report



2023 IWC Game Warden of the Year



2024 IWC Annual Conference



2024 IWC Game Warden of the Year



Suggestions for Upcoming Newsletters

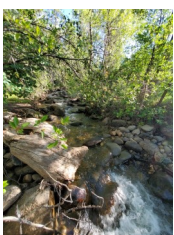


Contact Info

New Executive Assistant

Happy spring everyone! We want to start this newsletter out with an apology for the long pause in our newsletters. As many of you know, our longtime executive assistant, Candice Henderson, retired in August of 2022. Our new executive assistant, Dawn Nichols, stepped into the role upon Candy's retirement. Some of you met Dawn in Utah at last year's annual conference. She has been doing a great job learning the role and managing responsibilities, and we look forward to working with her for many years. The newsletter was put on hold while Dawn became acclimated to the position. With all of that said, we are pleased to present to you the April newsletter for International Wildlife Crimestoppers. We plan to have a quarterly newsletter moving forward.

2023 IWC Conference Recap



Last year's annual conference was held at the Zermatt Resort in Midway, UT July 17-20, 2023. The conference was attended by representatives from more than 15 states. Attendees were treated to an array of engaging activities and informative presentations showcasing Utah's diverse fish, wildlife, and outdoor pursuits.

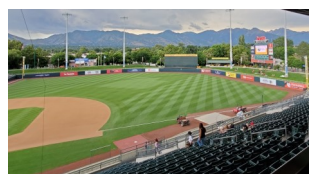
From case studies presented by Utah conservation officers to

demonstrations by K-9 units, the event offered rich experiences. Biologists shared studies on fish and wildlife travel patterns, underscoring the importance of data-driven conservation efforts, including the identification of wildlife crossing areas to mitigate human-animal conflicts. Ben Martin from Hunt Regs showcased the potential collaboration between his company's innovative app, conservation organizations, and state agencies, demonstrating practical uses of the app.



Amidst the picturesque backdrop of Strawberry Reservoir, attendees enjoyed a fishing excursion, reeling in prized Konokee salmon, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout. Culinary delights awaited at Wasatch Mountain State Park, where a wild game breakfast featuring elk, deer, and buffalo was enjoyed by all. Despite a thwarted attempt at a Salt Lake Bees

baseball game due to inclement weather, spirits remained high at the accompanying barbecue. The pinnacle of the conference was a celebratory dinner at the resort to announce the IWC Game Warden of the Year, sponsored by Guidefitter.



Annual Report

We are currently working on the IWC 2023 annual report, so be watching for that in the coming weeks. If you didn't get a chance to see the 2022 annual report, you can find a [copy of it on our website](#). If you have not been contributing to our annual report, please consider submitting a recap of your year. We're all interested in what our friends are accomplishing in

2023 IWC Game Warden of the Year

The IWC announced Game Warden Chad Robertson, of the Maine Warden Service, as the 2023 IWC Guidefitter Game Warden of the Year. This prestigious award honors a game warden who has made a distinct difference in people's lives and in conserving natural resources. In 2021, the IWC and award sponsor, Guidefitter, established the IWC Guidefitter Game Warden of the Year Award to recognize the accomplishments and deeds of individual game wardens across the United States and Canada.

Nominations for the award are sourced from across the industry, and nominees undergo a rigorous selection process. "Being a game warden is a calling that demands immense sacrifice, braving harsh conditions and time away from loved ones to protect our natural resources and more," said IWC board president Rick Olson. "Selecting the game warden of the year is challenging, as each nominee exemplifies above-and-beyond dedica-



tion, courage, and resilience to get the job done. Winning this title is a testament to the warden's exceptional service and a symbol of respect from their peers in the field."

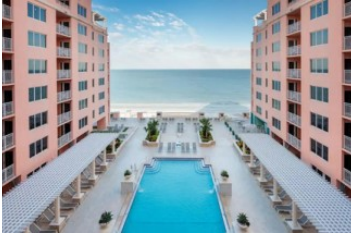
Warden Robertson was nominated jointly by Lieutenant Aaron Cross, Sergeant Chris Simmons, and Sergeant Tom McKinney of the Maine Warden Service. Their nomination highlighted Robertson's commitment to going above and beyond, his ability to see the broader picture to transform a great case into a phenomenal case, his attention to detail, and his willingness to help other wardens with his well-versed criminal procedure knowledge and mentoring of new wardens. Most notable

is his season-long investigation of a hunting over bait and poaching case that resulted in 15 summonses between five different people.

Additionally, Warden Robertson is part of the Maine Warden Service K9 unit, and his commitment to searches with his K9 partner Storm is unparalleled. Recently while searching for a missing person, Warden Robertson and Storm covered over twenty miles through the night, resting only for 30 minutes. The search was successful. They found the missing woman, who was cold, wet, and hungry but alive. "I am so honored and humbled to receive this award and am incredibly thankful for the support I've received from my fellow wardens, not only in Maine but across the broader network of fellow game officers and support personnel," said Warden Robertson. "I'm also thankful for the IWC and their tireless support for the industry. The IWC and its members are making a difference in helping us fight poachers everywhere to protect fish, wildlife, and habitat across North America."

Beyond the industry recognition, IWC and Guidefitter teamed up to award Warden Robertson \$1,000 for the exclusive purchase of outdoor gear through Guidefitter. Guidefitter provides game wardens, conservation officers, and other outdoor professionals access to hundreds of pro-purchase programs from leading outdoor brands. These brands appreciate the often thankless work of outdoor professionals like Warden Robertson and have partnered with Guidefitter to provide VIP benefits to these workers as a show of support. To learn more about Guidefitter, please visit [Guidefitter.com](https://www.guidefitter.com). If you are a game warden or other outdoor professional and want to learn more about outdoor industry benefits from Guidefitter partners, please visit [Guidefitter.com/insiders](https://www.guidefitter.com/insiders).

2024 IWC Annual Conference



We are excited to share this year's conference information with you. [Registration is open!](#) Please join us June 10-14, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort and Spa, 301 South Gulfview Blvd, Clearwater Beach, FL 33767. Attached is the flyer with information on hotel reservations and conference registration. A

[draft agenda](#) is also attached. Details, speakers, and seminars are still being developed and planned. Keep checking our website for updates and additional details.

2024 IWC Game Warden of the Year

We are soliciting nominations for the 2024 IWC Game Warden of the Year. The purpose of the IWC Game Warden of the Year award is to recognize the accomplishments and deeds of individual game wardens/conservation law enforcement officers.

Eligible recipients are any active **commissioned** game warden or one who had been active within the past year. The officer's agency must be a current member of IWC. The award recipient will be selected from nominees by the Awards Committee, appointed yearly by IWC's president.

The award will be presented at the International Wildlife Crimestoppers annual conference in Clearwater Beach, FL June 10-13, 2024. IWC will cover the recipient's lodging expenses for four (4) nights as well as their conference registration.

Additional information on the IWC Game Warden of the Year process can be reviewed here: [IWC GAME WARDEN OF THE YEAR](#)

Upcoming Newsletters

If you have ideas or submissions for future newsletters, please send them to Dawn at the email below. Suggestions for submissions include technology and cases that did not make it into your annual report, novel enforcement techniques, and emerging concerns in natural resources law enforcement. Pictures of your wardens in action are always appreciated.



2023 IWC Annual Conference Attendees
Zermatt Resort, Midway UT
July 17-20, 2023

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