

2007 (first edition) WASHINGTON GAME WARDEN MAGAZINE

President's letter-



WGA President: WDFW Officer Dan Chadwick

Welcome to the first issue of the Washington Game Warden Magazine. I would like to thank the many sponsors who have supported our association through their generous donations. Without you this magazine would not be possible.

Many of you reading this magazine already know what a Game Warden is and what a Game Warden does. For those of you that already know what we do, this magazine will help highlight the cases our officers are making around the state. For those of you that don't know what we do I encourage you to follow our magazine so you have a better understanding of who our officers are and what a challenging and rewarding job we have. I will give you a brief introduction.

Our association is called the Washington Game Warden Association, however our true work title is a **Washington State Fish and Wildlife Officer**. We are a group of men and women who have chosen a career in natural resource protection. Our primary role is enforcing fish and wildlife laws. We are also fully commissioned police officers attending the same police academy as other law enforcement officers around the state. This enables us to take care of general law enforcement duties while looking for poachers. The hiring process is in depth to say the least. In order to apply for a job as a fish and wildlife officer, all entry level candidates must have a four year college degree or two year degree with two years full time law enforcement experience. The next step is taking a written and physical fitness test. After passing that they move to the next phase which is an oral interview. After successfully making it through the interview they are finger printed and a background investigation begins. The officer candidate must then take a psychological and polygraph test to finish the process. It is only then that the officer is put on a hiring list and eventually offered a job as positions open up.

We have one of the most diverse jobs around one of the most complex and arguably one of the most dangerous. Where else can you be patrolling on the Pacific Ocean one minute and the next be running up in the hills to deal with an elk poaching. One minute walking along the banks of a

river checking fishermen and the next taking a guy to jail on an outstanding warrant. One minute teaching a hunter education class then off to work a decoy patrol. I could go on and on but I will stop and let this magazine show you what we do.

I encourage you to read our association goals on the inside cover. With the aid of this magazine and the funds generated by it we are hopeful we can continue to enhance and promote the professional status of fish and wildlife enforcement in this great State of ours. Again, welcome to the Washington Game Warden Magazine.