

Lt. Tim Coleman Wins International Hunter Education Association Award in Recognition of Success Against Health Obstacles

Lt. Tim Coleman of the DNR Law Enforcement Section recently won the prestigious Darrell Holt Memorial Award, presented by the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA). Lt. Coleman is the state coordinator for DNR's Hunter Education and Boating Education programs. The award was made in recognition of his courage in overcoming a life-threatening illness.

In May 2008, Lt. Coleman was attending the IHEA conference near St. Louis when he became ill. He was found unresponsive in his hotel room and was rushed to a hospital. "The doctors did not think I would make it to morning and called my family to fly out to be with me," Coleman said recently. "I had a massive septic infection that had affected my organs and was slowly shutting them down."

Coleman fought to survive, however, and spent the next five months in five different hospitals, including Cleveland Clinic, where he had a kidney removed. He was left virtually paralyzed in his extremities and was confined to a wheelchair for another month. Following several more months of physical therapy, he was able to get around on his own and returned to work in March 2009, nearly a year later.

The Holt Memorial Award is named for former Texas Hunter Education



Lt. Tim Coleman accepting award from DNR Director Frank Jezioro.

Coordinator Darrel Holt, who was diagnosed with leukemia in the early 1970s and was told he would succumb to the deadly disease within six months. He lived for 17 more years after a valiant fight, all the while undergoing experimental treatment and drugs. Despite his terminal illness, Holt established an outstanding program in Texas.

"This award recognizes the hunter education coordinator or administrator who is working or has worked under conditions that call for a determination to succeed despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles such as physical disabilities, accident, disease, or personal hardship," explained IHEA executive director Wayne East.

New State Length Record Blue Catfish

David Wayne Green of Wayne, W.Va., caught a new state record blue catfish. Green caught the 40.4-inch, 22.3-pound fish from Twelvepole Creek in Wayne County on August 5, 2009. His catch establishes a new West Virginia record for length.

The previous record for blue catfish was a 36.85-inch, 27.2-pound fish caught by Chad Bright from Krodel Lake in Mason County in 2008. Bright's fish still stands as the state weight record.

Anglers who believe that they have caught a state record fish should check the listing in the current DNR Fishing Regulations brochure. The brochure also outlines the procedure to follow for reporting a state record catch. This information is also available online at www.wvdnr.gov.



Zack Brown

DNR Charleston Offices Moved to South Charleston

The Charleston office of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has moved from the State Capitol Complex to three-story building in South Charleston. All state agencies housed in Building 3 of the Capitol Complex are being relocated so the nearly 60-year old building can be completely rehabilitated during the next few years.

The new address is 324 Fourth Avenue, South Charleston WV 25303. It is situated beside the South Charleston Library. All DNR telephone numbers, fax numbers, and e-mail addresses will remain the same.

DNR Director Frank Jezioro said the new location will be convenient and the agency's in-person services will be easily available to the public. Affected by the move are the Director's offices; the Administration, Law Enforcement, Parks and Recreation, and Wildlife Resources sections; and the Office of Land and Streams.

Jerry Jenkins

DNR Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response Team Receives Prestigious Award

The Division of Natural Resources Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response Team received a prestigious Certificate of Recognition Award from the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society. The award was presented in April 2009, during the 65th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference.

In accepting the award, District wildlife biologist Rich Rogers noted the outstanding assistance that other wildlife biologists and managers, along with conservation officers from across the state, have made in DNR's efforts to manage CWD.

The discovery of CWD in Hampshire County represents a significant threat to the state's white-tailed deer. While the disease does not cause an immediate widespread die-off of deer, if allowed to spread, CWD could cause long-term damage to the herd. Those who have tried to predict the outcome of the disease on a deer population have described the disease as a 30- to 50-year epizootic. Due to the uncertain



DNR Photo

Rich Rogers holds award he accepted on behalf of DNR CWD Response Team.

ramifications that CWD may have on the state's white-tailed deer resource, the Wildlife Resources Section implemented appropriate actions as described in its CWD Incident Response Plan.

Rich Rogers, Jim Crum, Al Niederberger and Travis Metcalf have been the primary wildlife professionals responsible for implementing this plan. The actions outlined in the plan are designed to accomplish the following goals:

- Determine the prevalence and the distribution of CWD through enhanced surveillance efforts.
- Communicate and coordinate with the public and other appropriate agencies on issues relating to CWD and the steps being taken to respond to this disease.
- Initiate appropriate management actions necessary to control the spread of this disease, prevent further introductions of the disease, and possibly eliminate the disease from the state.

"Without question, the outstanding, professional efforts of the CWD Response Team have contributed significantly to the success of our agency's surveillance and management programs," noted Paul Johansen, Assistant Chief in Charge of Game Management for the DNR Wildlife Resources Section. "Their dedication, commitment and just plain hard work have allowed our agency to effectively address this serious wildlife disease threat."

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