



ACEOA Newsletter

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

Issue 22

WWW.ACEOA.ORG

February 2025

Executive Director *Jo Ann Johnson*

2025 ACEOA State Officers

President *Joe Goddard*

Vice President *Ben Kiser*

Secretary/Treasurer *Jason McHenry*

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Blount, Colbert, Cullman, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Walker, Winston

DISTRICT II

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DISTRICT IV

Brad Gavins – Director

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DISTRICT V

Micky Tait – Director

Baldwin, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Marengo, Mobile, Monroe, Washington, Wilcox

MARINE RESOURCES

John Caraway – Director

STATE LANDS

Tom King – Director

STATE PARKS

Alex Prickett – Director

ACE Magazine

Gayle Morrow – Editor

For questions about your District Director, ACEOA, or membership contact:

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Cell 334.451.2042, Email edaceoa@gmail.com

From The President

By Joe Goddard, President ACEOA

As we close the chapter on another year, the Alabama Conservation Enforcement Officers Association (ACEOA) reflects on a year filled with accomplishments, community support, and new initiatives that will pave the way for future success. From hosting a record-breaking conference to sponsoring youth programs across the state, the ACEOA has remained committed to its mission of protecting Alabama's natural resources for future generations. Here is a look back at 2024 and a glimpse into the exciting future that lies ahead.

One of the highlights of the year was the 2024 ACEOA conference at the Gulf Shores State Park, where over 200 attendees gathered for a weekend of relaxation and competition. This year's conference exceeded expectations, bringing together members and their families from across the state. Planning for the 2026 conference is already underway, and we are excited about what the future holds. Stay tuned for announcements about the theme and venue for the 2026 conference.

Throughout the year, the ACEOA proudly sponsored numerous youth programs across the state. These initiatives have helped cultivate the next generation of leaders by providing them with the tools, knowledge, and resources to succeed. The ACEOA understands that investing in young people today leads to a brighter and more prosperous tomorrow, and we will continue to prioritize these programs in the coming years.

The success of the ACEOA would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of our board members. Our board meetings this year were productive and forward-thinking, with an emphasis on ensuring that the ACEOA remains an effective, responsive organization. Through these meetings, we have worked closely to strengthen our strategic goals, expand our network of supporters, and ensure that our programs continue to have a meaningful impact.

Looking ahead, the ACEOA is excited to introduce auto-renewal for memberships starting in 2025. This new system will ensure that our members can stay connected to the association without the hassle of renewing their membership manually each year. The auto-renewal feature is designed to streamline the process and help maintain your membership with PORAC legal defense fund.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the tireless work and dedication of our board Directors from each section and their associates. The ACEOA is a collective effort, and the passion and expertise that each member brings to the table is what drives the organization forward. From our directors, who provide strategic oversight, to the associate directors, who execute our programs on the ground, every individual plays a crucial role in advancing our mission.

I also would like to extend my gratitude to our Executive Director Jo Ann Johnson, Vice President Ben Kiser, and Treasurer Jason McHenry for their unwavering dedication and hard work throughout the year. Their commitment to the ACEOA has been invaluable, and we truly couldn't achieve all that we have without their leadership, support, and tireless efforts. Thank you for everything you do.

The ACEOA's continued success is a testament to the collaborative spirit that exists within our organization, and we are grateful to each and every person who has contributed to this year's achievements.

As we look toward the future, the ACEOA is more committed than ever to its mission of conserving Alabama's resources for future generations through education and outreach programs and supporting our officers through improved public relations and professional standards. With exciting initiatives on the horizon, including the 2026 conference and supporting youth programs the ACEOA is poised for even greater impact in the years to come. We thank our members, partners, and supporters for their ongoing commitment to making Alabama a better place for all.

Together, we will continue to build on the successes of the past year and create a brighter future for our state.

Joe Goddard



YEAR IN REVIEW

A look Back at 2024

By Jo Ann Johnson, Executive Director

As another year begins, it is the perfect opportunity to pause, reflect, and evaluate activities and accomplishments of the Alabama Conservation Enforcement Officers Association over the past twelve months. A year-end review is not only about celebrating victories but also acknowledging challenges, learning from setbacks, and setting a foundation for the year ahead.

An All-Time High for Outreach, Education, and Training

ACEOA hosted over 25 outreach and education events for youth across Alabama. ACEOA targets youth statewide to ensure future generations are brought up loving and respecting Alabama's natural resources, while learning and following proper legal procedures when it comes to hunting and fishing. ACEOA members, most of which are law enforcement officers in Wildlife and Fresh Water Fisheries, State Parks, State Lands, and Marine Resources, spent countless hours making these events happen. Alabama youth had fun learning about hunting small and large game and fishing Alabama's fresh waterways. Each event also saw one lucky winner of a lifetime hunting/fishing license. ACEOA financially supported each event and provided the volunteer manpower to ensure organization and coordination of each event. Each publication of our ACE Magazine highlights specific events throughout the year and the impact they have had on local communities as a result.

ACEOA also supported dozens of professional development training courses for Conservation Officers in 2024. Officers are consistently working to improve skills that will enhance their ability to protect not only Alabama's wildlife, but also its citizens. Critical training and refresher courses such as firearms and boater safety ensure that conservation enforcement officers are equipped with the latest knowledge and technological resources available. ACEOA is proud to support these events by providing training materials, meals, and refreshments.



Jo Ann Johnson, Executive Director

ACEOA Summer Conference – Honoring Conservation Enforcement Officers and Their Families

ACEOA hosted a weekend of recreation and relaxation for its officers who work so tirelessly throughout the year and the families that support them. ACEOA hosted the conference for the purpose of giving officers and their families the opportunity to take time out of their hectic schedules and honor one another for their hard work and commitment to the job. Over 200 attendees were present at the Lodge at Gulf State Park in beautiful Gulf Shores, Alabama where officers and family members connected for a weekend of fellowship and fun.

A Year of Remembrance

In 2024, we remember three very beloved individuals in the Conservation Enforcement family. Wildlife and

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Freshwater Fisheries Captain Marisa Futral, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Retired Officer and Wildlife Biologist, Joel Glover, and Melanie Rickles with the State Parks Division. These three souls gave years of their life in service to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. On behalf of the Board of Directors and ACEOA membership, we send our dearest condolences to the families and all who knew them.

Looking Ahead

As you know, in 2024, ACEOA added three new seats to its board of directors to include representation from the State Lands, State Parks, and Marine Resources Divisions of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. When the board met in November 2024 to pass the annual budget for 2025, it added several new outreach events for 2025, encompassing these divisions. ACEOA is excited to expand its reach and expose Alabama's youth to these new and exciting opportunities.

As your Executive Director, I am excited to continue serving the Association and its membership in 2025. I strive to secure new and unique funding opportunities while ensuring our financial position remains strong in our current partnerships. I continue to work with the board to enhance membership benefits and communication as well as keep our operations well within the guidelines of a healthy non-profit organization.

As we step into 2025, ACEOA is committed to embracing the opportunities to make it a year of growth, connection, and positive outcomes. By setting clear goals and fostering collaboration, we can build a foundation for success. Together, we can turn 2025 into a year of extraordinary achievements and lasting impact! This is the time to innovate, address challenges with resilience, and take meaningful steps toward a sustainable future for our organization. ■



SHOP OUR STORE



www.supportaceoa.org

Membership Challenge Coin

The coin was designed by the ACEOA board for the membership challenge. After the board had added the additional ACEOA board director positions to include a director seat for State Lands, State Parks, and Marine Resources, we wanted a logo to represent all the sections. On the logo, there is a picture to represent each section, Marine Resources (Dolphin), State Lands (Tree), State Parks (Canoe), Wildlife and Fisheries (deer and eagle).



ACEOA Awards Four Scholarships in 2024

ACEOA awards up to five \$1,000 educational scholarships intended to assist with tuition, books and/or living expenses associated with the high cost of going to college. Applicants who are children of non-ACEOA members **MUST** be majoring in conservation or a law enforcement field. Children of ACEOA members may apply regardless of their major. Visit the ACEOA website (aceoa.org) for more information or contact edaceoa@gmail.com.

We are happy to announce that four scholarships were awarded in 2024. Here are the lucky recipients! ACEOA congratulates these students and sends best wishes for their continued success.



Madlyn Sistrunk

Madlyn Sistrunk is a student at Southern Union State Community College in Opelika, Alabama. Her dad, Blair Sistrunk is a member of ACEOA. Madlyn plans to complete her Associates in Science and enter Radiology School.



Riley Johnson

Riley Johnson is a student at Coastal Alabama Community College. He plans to later transfer to a four-year university where he will pursue a BS degree in Computer Software Engineering.

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Matthew Gilliland

Matthew Gilliland is a student at the University of Alabama at Huntsville. He is pursuing a BS Degree in Computer Science. Matthew is the son of ACEOA member, Greg Gilliland.



Meg Wiginton

Meg Wiginton is a student at the University of Tennessee-Martin. She is pursuing a degree in Wildlife Biology.

ALABAMA CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ASSOCIATION

501c3 organization made up of active and retired conservation enforcement officers united to conserve Alabama's natural resources for future generations through education and outreach

Programs:

Equip Alabama Wardens

Youth Outdoor Educational Events

College Scholarships

Life time Hunting / Fishing Licenses

WWW.ACEOA.ORG

EDACEOA@GMAIL.COM

The Alabama Conservation Enforcement Officer Association is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

ACEOA 2025 Approved Budget

Income

Contributions.....	25,000.00
Grants – Sponsorships.....	30,000.00
Membership Dues.....	4,000.00
Sales - Merchandise.....	5,000.00
Magazine Sponsorships.....	490,000.00

Income Total **\$554,000.00**

Administrative Expenditures

Magazine Publishing Fees.....	360,000.00
Bank Fees.....	2,000.00
Business Meals.....	2,000.00
Contract and Professional Fees.....	10,000.00
Independent Contractor Labor.....	28,400.00
Marketing Supplies-Swag.....	5,000.00
Office Supplies.....	400.00
Postage.....	500.00
Professional Development/Training.....	20,000.00
Software.....	2,000.00
Taxes.....	30,000.00
Travel - Lodging and Mileage.....	2,000.00
Website Costs.....	500.00

Total Administrative Expenses **\$462,800.00**

EAW - Officer Equipment **\$15,000.00**

Outreach Expenses

Alabama Hunter Ed Instructor Banquet.....	1,000.00
Alabama Youth Coon Hunt.....	1,000.00
ALLEAPS Council.....	1,000.00
Anton Youth Deer Hunt.....	500.00
Archery in Schools Tournament.....	5,000.00
Ariton Youth Fish.....	800.00
Ariton Youth Hunt.....	800.00
Bankhead Youth Fish.....	1,000.00
Barbour Youth Fish.....	1,500.00
Barbour Youth Squirrel.....	2,000.00
Benevolent Support.....	5,000.00

Bibb Youth Coon.....	1,000.00
Boys & Girls Club Fish-Foley.....	1,000.00
Boys & Girls Club Fish-Sims/Theo.....	1,000.00
Bullock County Fishing Derby.....	500.00
Butler Youth Camp.....	1,400.00
Calhoun Youth Dove.....	2,000.00
Calhoun Youth Fish.....	2,000.00
CASA Sand Mountain Youth Fishing.....	1,500.00
Clay Hill Farms Youth Fish.....	1,000.00
Conecuh Jakes Event.....	1,500.00
Dale Youth Fish.....	1,000.00
DCNR Honor Guard.....	2,500.00
DCNR K9.....	3,500.00
DCNR LEO Training Assistance.....	5,000.00
DCNR United Way Fund Drive.....	500.00
DeKalb Youth Fish.....	1,500.00
Dive For Debris.....	800.00
Educational Scholarships.....	5,000.00
Fayette County 4H Fishing.....	100.00
Fayette County Hunter Ed.....	100.00
Fayette Troop 45 Fish Derby.....	500.00
Frazer UMC Family Outdoors Day.....	1,000.00
Henry County Youth Dove.....	2,000.00
Jacksonville Youth Fishing.....	1,000.00
Kidz Outdoors.....	2,500.00
Limestone Youth Dove.....	1,500.00
Making Memories Hunt (Old Brady).....	1,250.00
Mulberry Creek Hunting Club Youth Deer Hunt.....	1,000.00
Outdoor Ability Foundation.....	1,500.00
Pickens Disabled Hunt.....	1,000.00
Shelby County Youth Dove Hunt.....	2,500.00
Upper Delta Youth Squirrel Hunt.....	1,000.00
WFF Trapping Workshops.....	2,500.00
WFFLE D5 Training Range Rental.....	750.00
Wilcox County Fish.....	1,000.00
Winston County FAWN.....	1,000.00
Outreach Events Not Budgeted.....	2,000.00

Total Outreach Expense **\$76,200.00**

EXPENSE TOTAL **\$554,000.00**



Alabama Conservation Enforcement Officer's Association

8736 Hallwood Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

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Join Today!

The ACEOA is a non-profit organization founded by Alabama conservation officers and supported by concerned citizens. Although our mission is similar to that of the Alabama Department of Conservation, this association is not directly affiliated with any State agency. Members receive a subscription to ACE Magazine. Please take time to complete a membership application and submit to the address below. We appreciate your support in safeguarding Alabama natural resources.



Membership Application

Thank you for your contribution!

Alabama Conservation Enforcement Officer Association

DUES: Annual Member / \$25.00 Life Time Member / \$250.00

Conservation Officer Associate Auto Renew

Name: _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Personal Email: _____

(Officers - All information must be completed for PORAC Legal Defense Fund enrollment)**

Officers Only (Complete below)

Division:

State Parks State Lands Marine Resources Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

District: _____ County: _____

Mail check with this Application to:

ACEOA

8736 Hallwood Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117

Or join/renew online at www.aceoa.org