

Northeast Region 2009 Refuge Officer of the Year

Amanda Hardaswick was selected as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Region, 2009 Refuge Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Officer Hardaswick, currently assigned to the Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland, was honored by her peers and management for her proactive approach to refuge law enforcement at one of the most challenging stations in the region.

Nancy Morrissey, Deputy Refuge Manager, said Hardaswick is an exemplary officer who puts her heart and soul into her job. Morrissey noted that Hardaswick's passion for her work, wonderful attitude and excellent communication skills well serve the refuge. According to Gary Andres, Regional Chief for the Office of Refuge Law Enforcement for the Northeast Region, Officer Hardaswick is the first woman and youngest person to receive this award.

Officer Hardaswick started her career with the Service as a law enforcement intern through the Service's Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). She was assigned to the Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which consists of nine individual wildlife refuges.

As a double major at Unity College in Maine, Hardaswick received Bachelor of Science Degrees in Conservation Law Enforcement and Wildlife Conservation. She was assigned to the Patuxent Research Refuge in March 2008 after completing federal law enforcement training. She received her Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from Boston College in December 2009 while serving as a refuge law enforcement officer at Patuxent. Officer Hardaswick is originally from Oxford, Conn.