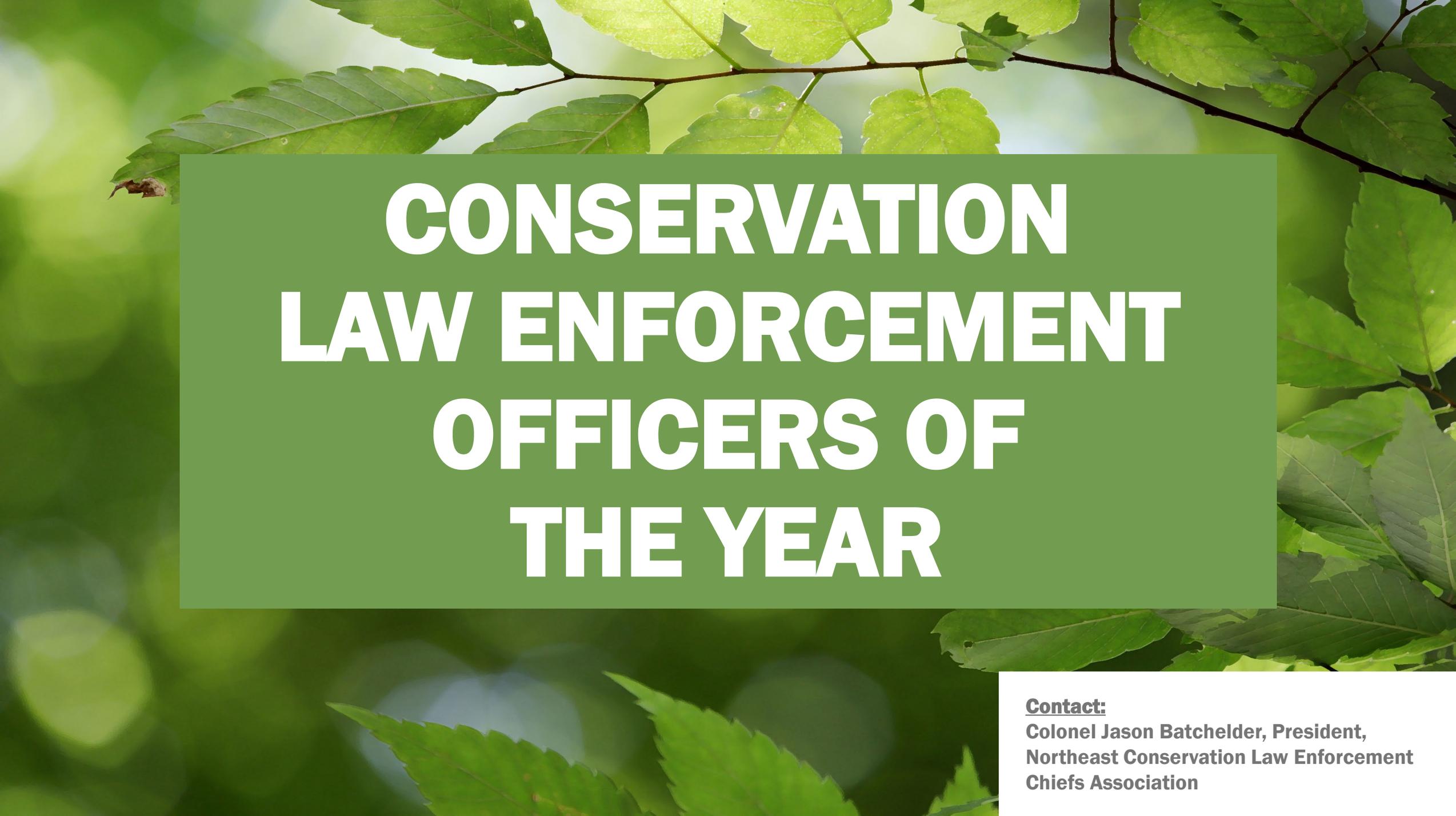


The background of the image consists of a close-up photograph of green leaves and thin brown branches. The leaves are vibrant green with visible veins and serrated edges. The lighting is bright, creating a soft, natural feel. A semi-transparent green rectangular box is overlaid in the center, containing the text.

**NEAFWA 2020
AWARDS PRESENTATION**



CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

Contact:

**Colonel Jason Batchelder, President,
Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement
Chiefs Association**

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

- **Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Waterways Conservation Officer Walter Buckman**
- **Pennsylvania Game Commission, Warden Jason Amory**
- **United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Special Agent Ryan Bessey**
- **United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Inspector Kathleen Holmes**
- **Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Environmental Police Officer Jeffrey Mercer**
- **Maine Warden Service, Game Warden Joey Lefebvre**
- **Delaware Natural Resource Police, Natural Resource Police Officer Nathaniel Valenti**
- **New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Officer Ryan Harp**
- **Maryland Natural Resource Police, Corporal Gina Taylor**
- **Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Conservation Police Officer Michael Curran**
- **NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, Special Agent Steven Niemi**
- **Maine Marine Patrol, Marine Patrol Officer Alex Hebert**
- **Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Warden Asa B. Sargent**
- **New Hampshire Fish and Game, Conservation Officer Eric Fluette**
- **New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Conservation Officer Timothy Machnica**
- **Virginia Conservation Police, Conservation Police Officer James M. Patrillo**
- **Mass Environmental Police, Environmental Police Officer Eamon Mullaly**



NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY AWARDS

Contacts:

**Tammy Colt, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, PA
Game Commission Southwest Region**

**Megan A. Linske, Ph.D., The Connecticut
Agricultural Experiment Station**

STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARD

Alison Kocek, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

The Northeast Section has been a longtime supporter of students attending this conference. Through 2019, we reviewed student presentations and recognized outstanding papers presented at the Northeast Conference by graduate and undergraduate students. At this time, we would like to recognize Alison Kocek of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry for delivering the Best Graduate Student Presentation for her paper titled, “Conservation of Tidal Marsh Sparrows in an Urban Setting.” Alison, keep up the good work.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION AWARD

Michael Fishman, Outgoing Officer

The Northeast Section also wishes to recognize our outgoing Past-President, Michael Fishman, and express our appreciation for his dedication to the Section. Thank you, Mike.

P.F. ENGLISH MEMORIAL AWARD

Conner Hughes, University of Massachusetts

The P.F. English Memorial Award is presented annually by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to an outstanding undergraduate senior student of wildlife biology or wildlife management within the region. Its purpose is to acknowledge and encourage students, and to perpetuate the name of the late P.F. English, an outstanding educator, sportsman, and inspiration to youth. I am pleased to present the PF English Memorial Award this year to Conner Hughes of the University of Massachusetts. Conner has a strong academic record in both wildlife and geographic information systems. He has used skills in both to obtain field experience, including work with endangered turtles, sea turtles, and salmon. He also volunteers for Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and organizes many outdoor activities for his student chapter of The Wildlife Society. Well done Conner.



JOHN PEARCE MEMORIAL AWARD

Thomas Decker, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The John Pearce Memorial Award is awarded by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to Society members in the Northeast for outstanding professional accomplishments in wildlife conservation in the Northeast. This year we are proud to present the John Pearce Memorial Award to Thomas Decker. Tom is a biologist who, throughout his extensive career, has served Mass Wildlife, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. His expertise in furbearer management led to the publication of *Trapping and Furbearer Management in North American Wildlife Conservation* and the development of *Trapping Matters Workshops*. He has served as an advisory board member and instructor for the very successful *Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow* program, and has mentored many students and new professionals along the way. Thank you, Tom for your many contributions.





ANGELO INCERPI FISHERIES CONSERVATION AWARD

Contact:

**Todd Richards, Assistant Director of
Fisheries, Massachusetts Division of
Fisheries & Wildlife**

ANGELO INCERPI CONSERVATION AWARD

Ron Essig

It is the privilege of the Northeast Fisheries Administrators Association to select Ron Essig as the 2020 recipient of the Angelo Incerpi Fisheries Conservation Award. Angelo Incerpi was a State of Vermont Fisheries biologist, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist, active participant on the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, chair of the New England Salmonid Health Committee, charter NEFAA member and former American Fisheries Society Section Representative.

The Angelo Incerpi Fisheries Conservation Award is given to an individual from the region who has made significant contributions that furthers Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies objectives by advancing the conservation and management of fisheries and their habitats and has provided guidance and initiative for actions that achieve these objectives within and outside the recipient's jurisdiction.

Ron is recognized for this award for a host of reasons. He has participated in NEFAA since its inception. Over the course of his career, he has had a tremendous influence on the conservation and management of fisheries and their habitats across the NEAFWA region. His leadership role in the American Fisheries Society provided guidance within and outside of the region. His administration of Sport Fish Restoration and other grants for more than 25 years has helped to guide the design and implementation of state fisheries projects around the northeast and last but by no means least, he served as an excellent mentor to countless fish and wildlife staff throughout their careers.

On behalf of the Northeast Fisheries Administrators, we would like to thank Ron for all he has done and congratulate him on this award.

Todd Richards,
Chair, Northeast Fisheries Administrators Association, Assistant Director of Fisheries, MassWildlife





WILLIAM T. HESSELTON AWARD

Contact:

**Mark Scott, Director of Wildlife, Vermont
Fish & Wildlife Department and Chairman
Northeast Wildlife Administrators
Association (NEWAA)**

WILLIAM T. HESSELTON AWARD

Charlie Todd

The Northeast Wildlife Administrators Association (NEWAA) is proud to present you, Charlie Todd, the 2020 William T. Hesselton Award. The William T. Hesselton award is the only award issued by the Northeast Wildlife Administrators, aka Wildlife Chiefs. This award is presented annually to an individual from the Northeast Section that has demonstrated initiative and made significant contributions that further the ideals of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program.

Bill Hesselton, a former Section Representative of the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society, New York state wildlife biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) employee, and charter NEWAA member was a dedicated biologist, a skilled researcher, an enthusiastic mentor, and a tireless advocate for the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program. Bill died 21 years ago.

I would have preferred presenting this award to you in person in April at the 2020 Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, however, the Covid-19 pandemic prevented that. I recall fondly and with the utmost admiration, your graduate days at the University of Maine. You always took time to spend with us undergraduates.

Charlie, you have spent your entire career working to conserve Maine's at-risk wildlife, first as a graduate student at the University of Maine in the late 1970s, and then as a biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Your legacy on bald eagle research and restoration will live on forever. Charlie, your leadership, and dedication played a significant role in the recovery of Bald Eagles in Maine, and arguably across the Northeast.

Maine also owes you a big thanks for the state's reintroduction and management of peregrine falcons. This included spearheading a hacking program for 15 years, surveying remote cliffs scattered across Maine, monitoring active nest sites, and working with landowners and state and federal agencies as peregrines took up residence on bridges, popular hiking trails, and in urban settings. Today, thanks to you, Maine is now home to about 35 nesting pairs of this once extirpated species.

While renowned for your expertise on raptors, Charlie, you are equally respected for your knowledge of endangered species policy and the conservation of Maine's at-risk wildlife. Your current role since 2012 to lead Maine's Endangered & Threatened Species has helped the state navigate numerous complexities needed to conserve and recovery some of the State's least understood and most vulnerable species. As with most things, your colleagues at Inland Fisheries and Wildlife value most your thoughtful, big picture approach, combined with an ability to consider differing viewpoints. Your colleagues admire your expertise, common sense, and respectful approach engaging more people in endangered species conservation than anyone else in Maine. It is evident that you are a rare professional who can cross lines and be accepted by everyone as credible.

Congratulations Charlie on an amazing career and a legacy for wildlife conservation.

Sincerely,

Mark Scott, Chairman, Northeast Wildlife Administrators Association





INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Contacts:

Nicole Meier

Katherine Herz

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Keith Shannon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Keith Shannon serves as the regional social media manager and digital strategist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He first joined the agency's communications and intergovernmental relations program in 2009 and has since become a leader within the natural resources information and education community, in the North Atlantic-Appalachian Region and nationally.

As governmental agencies increasingly rely on social media and other digital platforms to inform and educate people, it's essential to have someone knowledgeable as well as creative at that virtual helm. Keith adeptly oversees the Service's Conserving the Nature of the Northeast blog and a multitude of social media accounts, ranging from local field station Facebook accounts to the Regional Director's internal and external communication platforms. He is recognized for his use of analytics and as a leader in the Service's national digital strategists' community.

Keith, however, brings much more to his work than technical skill, communication strategy, and a head for social networking. He seeks opportunities to share his knowledge and build relationships. His colleagues and peers seek him out to become involved in projects because of his spirit of collaboration and genuine interest in achieving communication goals together. Keith is regularly invited to participate as a presenter at the NEAFWA annual conference, and regularly works directly with state I&E professionals on stories, social media strategies and analytics, and messaging.

Keith is a well-deserving recipient of the Information and Education Professional of the Year award for his exceptional support of our shared fish and wildlife conservation mission through communications.

