

John Gavitt

Date of birth: November 17, 1948

John currently lives in Winchester, Virginia. From 2006 – 2019, he was owner/manager of North River Retreat, an outdoor guiding business in Hampshire County, West Virginia. Activities on John's 437 acres included hunting, clay pigeon shooting, pond and river fishing; hiking, camping and lodging. John has recently retired and has donated the property to a local land trust.

John began his career in wildlife law enforcement in 1973, as a Wildlife Officer with the State of Florida. In 1976, he was hired as a Special Agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Law Enforcement. His early duty stations included the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Iowa. He then joined the Division's Branch of Special Operations and worked undercover for almost five years on investigations involving illegal wildlife commercialization.

In 1985, John was appointed as Agent in Charge of that elite undercover unit. He directed undercover operations until 1990, when he accepted a special appointment to the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. John traveled throughout the world on CITES enforcement matters until 1995, when he returned to the Fish and Wildlife Service. He directed Service law enforcement operations in Alaska until his retirement in September 2000.

After retiring from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and until April 2006, John worked as a consultant for WildAid, a non-governmental conservation organization. His responsibilities included conducting wildlife law enforcement training and/or developing in-depth enforcement assessments in Cambodia, Thailand, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands and areas of Micronesia. He also developed a training manual on investigations for enforcement officers in developing countries and assisted WildAid with its organizational and policy development.