

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
10/1/12 – 10/14/12**

DISTRICT 1

CO Marvin Gerlach was the first to arrive on the scene of a car versus truck accident on US 2/41. The elderly driver of the car did not see the pickup that was stopped behind a propane truck attempting to make a left turn and drove into the rear of the pickup at highway speed. CO Gerlach rendered first aid until ambulances arrived and then assisted with traffic control. The condition of the occupants of the car is unknown at this time.

CO Brian Bacon finished the investigation of an illegal bear being taken during the wrong hunt period. A confession was obtained from the suspect who admitted to taking the bear during the second Carney hunt period and using a third period tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho checked two subjects parked next to a closed locked gate. They claimed to be target practicing with a .17 caliber rifle and a shotgun. As they were leaving, CO Aho observed several small caliber fresh bullet strikes on the padlock that was locking the gate. He interviewed the subjects and eventually one admitted to shooting the lock with his rifle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund received a complaint of someone burying nails along a US Forest Service road. CO Wicklund contacted the local US Forest Service officer and a suspect was developed. The officer also recovered over 60 nails buried all along the road. The officers interviewed the suspect who confessed to burying the nails to deter ORVs from operating near his hunting area.

CO Marvin Gerlach assisted several agencies on a lost hunter complaint. A subject had shot a buck with his bow late in the day. His wife and small children went with him to track the deer after dark. After a while, the families' only flashlight died while tracking the deer. The subject had spotty cell phone coverage at his location but was able to contact Menominee County Dispatch and give a general location. A siren was activated at the hunters' vehicle and the family walked out of the woods on their own, following the sound of the siren. All members of the family were in good condition; the children thought the adventure was "pretty cool".

CO Marvin Gerlach responded to assist emergency crews with a bow hunter who had fallen approximately 20 feet out of a tree holding his deer stand. A limb broke that the subject was standing on as he attempted to climb into his stand. No safety belt was located at the scene. The subject suffered severe internal injuries as a result of the fall. His condition is unknown at this time.

CO Grant Emery contacted two slow rolling hunters in Gogebic County. A check of their vehicle revealed uncased guns and open beer. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Robert Crisp contacted a subject who was bow hunting in an illegal blind over an illegal bait. Tickets were issued for those violations and warnings were given for an illegal ORV trail and cutting of trees on state land without a permit.

CO Robert Crisp was on patrol when he contacted a driver who was shining for deer. The driver was intoxicated, his license was suspended and there were outstanding warrants for his arrest. CO Crisp arrested the driver and lodged him in the Alger County Jail.

CO Kevin Postma was conducting surveillance of several anglers on Nunn's Creek in Mackinac County. After watching the subjects fish for some time he proceeded to make contact. Upon checking several fishing licenses he noted that two subjects who were fishing earlier no longer had fishing poles. When asked, the two claimed that they were never fishing. The CO explained that he had watched them for quite some time and the hiding of their fishing poles in the weeds wasn't going to work. Tickets issued for fishing without licenses.

DISTRICT 3

On opening day of archery season, CO Jon Sklba checked on an illegal blind and bait pile on state land he had found earlier. The subject had also made his own food plot in front of the blind. Upon contacting the subject in the blind, he found him he was in possession of a .308 rifle. The subject promptly informed CO Sklba he was hunting squirrels, not deer. After a brief discussion, the subject admitted to hunting deer with a firearm during the closed season. A warrant is being sought and his rifle has been seized.

After checking two illegal tree stands and bait piles in the Pigeon River Country State Forest for two years, CO Eric Bottorff finally made contact. The subjects had been driving their ORVs behind closed trail roads to access their hunting locations about a mile off the main road. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt worked the Boyne River in plain clothes and fished alongside other anglers. CO Erratt was next to a fly-fisherman when he foul-hooked a salmon in the tail and then retained it. While he was walking up to his vehicle with the salmon, CO Erratt identified herself and issued the subject a ticket and confiscated the salmon.

CO Andrea Erratt assisted local law enforcement with a large group of snaggers at the Bear River. Enforcement action was taken and CO Erratt donated numerous seized salmon to four needy families in the area.

CO Matt Theunick responded to a late night unattended fire on state land that had been a party site. A cell phone was found on the ground at the scene and CO Theunick is following up with contacting the teenage cell phone owner, and her parents.

CO Matt Theunick caught a young man tearing up state land in his truck, doing donuts and spinning out. The truck also didn't have plates or insurance. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Speigl received a tip from the Report-All-Poaching (RAP) hotline about a person who shot a deer with a rifle during the archery season. CO Speigl responded and found a shell casing from a .270 and other evidence supporting the information. CO Speigl was able to locate the suspect and obtained a confession. The deer, a four point buck, was seized and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Sean Kehoe responded to a complaint of a subject hunting after hours and located the suspect vehicle. CO Kehoe noted the time as being approximately 11:30 p.m. Due to the darkness and not knowing where the subject was hunting, the CO decided to sit on the vehicle and wait for the subject to return. After about three and a half hours had passed, CO Kehoe observed the subject return to his vehicle carrying an arrow. CO Kehoe contacted the subject and found the subject could not produce a hunting license and initially lied that he had purchased one. Eventually the subject told the truth and admitted to not having purchased a hunting license. The subject then took CO Kehoe out to where he had been hunting. CO Kehoe located a bow which had been left out in the woods. The subject had also been trespassing where he was hunting after hours. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sean Kehoe received a litter complaint and responded to the area. CO Kehoe took photos of the litter and then went to an address he had found in the trash. CO Kehoe interviewed a female at the address who admitted that she and her husband were in the process of cleaning out a new house they had purchased. She advised CO Kehoe that her husband had taken the trash to a landfill and even produced photos of the trash on the trailer before her husband had left with it. CO Kehoe observed that the trash in her photos matched some of the trash in the photos he had taken. CO Kehoe advised the female he would need to talk with her husband when he returned and left a contact number. A short time later the husband contacted CO Kehoe and admitted that he dumped the trash instead of taking it to a landfill. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling along rural locations in Manistee County when he observed a deer hanging in a tree at a campsite. CO Converse checked the kill tag which showed that the subject had just purchased the license. The deer appeared to have been taken earlier that morning so CO Converse contacted the hunter about whether or not he had a license when he shot the deer. The subject admitted that he had killed the deer and later that day decided to purchase the license in case he was checked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was on foot patrol along a closed portion of the Betsie River when he encountered three subjects fishing with illegal gear and attempting to snag salmon. As CO Converse observed the subjects, he noted that all three were snorting some substance. The subjects were contacted and issued tickets for the illegal fish. The suspected drugs were seized and will be sent to the lab. One of the subjects was arrested and lodged on an outstanding warrant.

CO Steve Converse worked late hours and split shifts on several days during the past two weeks. His hard work and dedication paid off as he managed to issue 60 tickets related to the illegal taking of salmon during that time period.

CO Angela Greenway received a complaint in September that described a bait feeder that was hanging near a house that a person had recently purchased. A recent visit to the location resulted in a contact with a person who was hunting over the bait without a hunting license. The subject informed CO Greenway that she had ticketed his father for the same violation.

CO Angela Greenway was working on the Pere Marquette River when she encountered four subjects using illegal fishing gear. As she observed their activities, they managed to foul hook and land three salmon. Tickets were issued and the illegal fish seized.

CO Angela Greenway and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth were watching from a concealed location when they observed several subjects attempting to catch salmon with spawn bags and legal methods. As time went by and more salmon moved in, the group gave up fishing legally and attempted to snag while fishing with unbaited treble hooks. Four subjects were ticketed for attempting to foul hook salmon.

CO Angela Greenway and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth were on foot patrol on the Pere Marquette River and observed several subjects being loud and obnoxious. The COs walked over to the location just in time to see one subject throwing large rocks into a deep pool in the river to scare salmon out to where his friends could attempt to snag them. Before contact was made, the COs watched one subject hook and keep an illegally hooked salmon and throw it up on the bank. As Sgt. Hackworth approached the group, one subject grabbed the illegal salmon on shore and threw it back into the water. All subjects were contacted with several tickets issued to address the fishing violations.

While working a fish patrol at Tippy Dam, CO Carla Soper observed a subject attempt to snag salmon below the coffer dam. Contact was made and after obtaining the subject's identification she discovered it was a subject she had arrested for taking two deer illegally two years ago. CO Soper had recently received information from licensing that this subject had made deer tag purchases while ineligible. The illegally obtained deer licenses were seized and tickets were issued for the snagging and license purchases.

CO Jeff Ginn received an illegal burning complaint of a subject burning a boat. CO Ginn contacted the subject who admitted to loading the boat up with household refuse

and lighting it on fire. The subject was ticketed for the illegal disposal of solid waste by burning.

CO Jeff Ginn received a complaint from a business in the City of Newaygo. The employees came back to work and discovered a dead buck on the lawn of the business. CO Ginn tracked the blood back to a neighboring residence and located the subject who shot the deer the evening before the archery opener. The subject used a crossbow and was hunting under the full moon. The crossbow and deer were seized with a ticket issued for the illegal taking.

COs Jeff Ginn and Mike Wells received a RAP complaint of a subject harvesting a buck the night before the opening day of the archery season. The COs patrolled to the area and worked through the night tracking the deer and eventually located the small buck. Contact was made with the subject and a confession was obtained. The subject stated that he just wanted to get a jump on the neighbors. The bow and deer were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel received a complaint of a subject who had already taken four bucks during the youth archery season. A follow-up investigation revealed that two of the bucks were taken illegally without licenses. A friend of the subject provided his archery tag to use on one of the bucks, which was used again on the second buck. Both subjects were ticketed for the deer violations and the deer were seized.

CO Brian Lebel was patrolling in Osceola County when he observed a vehicle shining after 11 p.m. CO Lebel followed the vehicle for several miles and observed lights shining out both sides of the vehicle. Upon stopping the vehicle, CO Lebel located two uncased crossbows and 13 bolts with broadheads. One of the subject's 12 year old sons was holding a spotlight while the other subject had attached a high powered flashlight to his crossbow. One of the subjects was previously arrested by CO Lebel for shining and shooting deer. The other subject had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Both crossbows were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller was conducting stationary surveillance on a closed stream in Lake County when he observed a subject trespassing onto private property and fishing the closed section of the Baldwin River. CO Mueller contacted the subject and found he was fishing with weight suspended below the hook attempting to snag salmon. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Bobbi Lively watched two subjects fishing at the Foote Site Dam. One subject was observed attempting to snag fish. CO Lively contacted the pair and found that both were fishing without licenses. While taking enforcement action, COs Jon Warner and Mark Papineau arrived. They had just received a complaint about the two subjects attempting to snag fish.

CO Bobbi Lively located four separate illegal blinds with illegal bait in a particular area. CO Lively contacted two hunters at two of the blinds, one of whom was also carrying a firearm while bow hunting. The two subjects, along with another subject at camp, were responsible for all four illegal hunt locations.

CO Bobbi Lively checked a hunter using bait in a closed area and hunting from an illegal tree stand without a kill tag after riding his ORV in a closed area to get to the stand. The subject had also cut down trees to create shooting lanes at the hunt location.

While working at dusk, Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez observed a vehicle stop in the road and back up. He then watched the passenger door open. When Sgt. Gutierrez got behind the vehicle, he watched the passenger put a compound bow into the back seat. After stopping the vehicle, the passenger still had the arrows with broadheads sitting by his leg. Both subjects confessed to road hunting for deer. Neither subject had a hunting license. Tickets were issued.

CO Mark Papineau followed vehicle tracks around a berm on state land. He was able to locate the vehicle and, after a search of the area, contacted an individual hunting over a large bait pile. While checking the subject's license, it was determined that the hunter was a juvenile hunting alone under the apprentice program. The juvenile hunter's father was eventually located hunting approximately 200 yards away. A ticket was issued.

While patrolling state land, CO Mark Papineau observed a vehicle parked on a closed forest trail. When he approached the vehicle, CO Papineau discovered the bed of the pickup truck was full of sugar beets. Officer Papineau had received a report of excessive bait piles in the area the previous year; however, he was unable to make contact with the responsible parties. After a thorough search on foot, CO Papineau was able to locate a subject deer hunting from a tree stand. The subject was also hunting over a pickup truck load of sugar beets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Warren MacNeill responded to a complaint of subjects fishing in a closed trout stream. He was able to locate the subjects and issued tickets for fishing in a closed stream.

CO Jason McCullough received a complaint of a subject who went into a local license agent to buy his deer license and made comments about already shooting a deer. Without a name to go on, CO McCullough was able to locate the individual in the license system based on the time the license was purchased, a physical description, and his general geographic location. CO McCullough contacted the person he believed to be the suspect and interviewed him. Jason's thoroughness paid off; the subject was the correct individual and he confessed to shooting the deer without a license.

CO Brian Olsen apprehended a subject who was road hunting for grouse. The subject had a loaded, uncased .410 shotgun right next to him in the front seat of his truck. The

subject was from Ohio and stated he didn't know it was illegal. CO Olsen educated him on Michigan laws.

Following up on information of a subject hunting deer without a license, COs Jason McCullough and Steve Lockwood located the subject coming out of the woods. The subject had a hunting license but he had an uncased bow and warrants for his arrest.

CO Steve Lockwood apprehended two separate groups of late waterfowl hunters who were hunting on the same flooding at the same time. Though the groups were unrelated, they both hunted well after hours and none of them had plugged shotguns. Tickets were issued.

While investigating an incident for a fail to pay at a gas station, county deputies went to the residence of the suspect. When the officers arrived, they found an untagged deer hanging. CO Steve Lockwood responded and interviewed the subject who confessed to shooting the deer without a hunting license. A ticket was issued.

Two weeks after the incident happened, CO Steve Lockwood received information that an adult subject had shot a nine point buck from his vehicle at night with the aid of a light during the youth season. CO Lockwood interviewed the subject who confessed to everything. Charges are being sought.

CO Steve Lockwood investigated a RAP complaint of a subject who shot a turkey from his vehicle. The complainant was able to get a license plate number for the CO, who located the subject and interviewed him. The subject confessed to shooting the turkey from his vehicle and not having a turkey license.

CO Steve Lockwood located a truck with blood in the bed parked near some woods in Clare County. CO Lockwood sat on the vehicle and waited for the driver to return. Shortly after dark, the subject returned carrying a crossbow and only a DMU 486 hunting license. After a short interview, the subject confessed to already shooting one deer and tagging it with a DMU 486 license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

CO Nick Atkin received a complaint of a subject placing an overlimit of deer bait in front of his elevated blind. The CO was able to locate the illegal bait pile and the suspect. During the conversation, the suspect stated he thought 10 gallons was the legal limit for baiting deer. The CO asked the suspect how many gallons he thought he put out, the suspect stated, "approximately 25-30 gallons." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was checking waterfowl hunters when he witnessed an Argo operating illegally through the marsh. The CO contacted the operator and found that he was not wearing a helmet and the ORV was unlicensed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was checking waterfowl hunters on the Saginaw Bay when he checked a vessel with four occupants. Upon further investigation, the owner could not provide a single personal flotation device (PFD) and the boat had not been registered since 1980. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Scott Brown and Robert Hobkirk received a RAP complaint reference a possible tagging violation. During the investigation the COs determined that an 18 year old hunter shot a nine point buck and tagged it with his 15 year old cousin's kill tag during the youth hunt. Enforcement action was taken for taking the deer out of season.

CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of a subject operating an ORV on state land after driving around a barricade. The ORV tracks were followed for approximately one mile along the Saginaw Bay shoreline, going in and out of the water. The subject was eventually located at the end of the trail. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of subjects who were hunting outside of their assigned zone in a managed waterfowl area. Four subjects were located approximately 100 yards from where they were supposed to be. The subjects were also in possession of alcohol and too many shot shells.

CO Jason A. Smith observed a vehicle pull into a state game area (SGA) parking lot after dark and shut off the headlights before disappearing on foot into the dark. CO Smith waited the subject out and contacted him when he returned to the vehicle. A search of the vehicle ultimately resulted in the seizure of an oversized duffle bag full of marijuana. Charges are pending.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint from a local rehabilitator regarding a lady and her husband who were keeping a wild fox squirrel in their home. When the CO contacted the subjects a live fox squirrel was located in a cage. The squirrel was released and the couple was ticketed for possessing a wild animal without a license.

While working on the opening day of the South Zone waterfowl season, CO Ken Lowell received a complaint on Duck Lake regarding safety zone violations. The CO contacted the three hunters in their boat. Not only were the men hunting too close to a house, but after checking the hunters' gear the CO found that two of the men did not have plugs in their guns, one hunter was using lead shot and all the hunters were without federal waterfowl stamps. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Larn R. Strawn received a complaint of persons trespassing and shooting an eight point buck with a firearm on the property of a local business. Upon arrival and inspecting the crime scene, the CO recognized the potential for a good track for a police K-9. The CO contacted an MSP K-9 trooper and CO Strawn, the trooper and his K-9 partner tracked the deer. During the track, the K-9 discovered a camouflage coat dropped by the fleeing suspect. The CO found 12 gauge shotgun slugs and a cell phone in the pockets of the coat. The success of the track, uncovering evidence and leading to a suspect residence ultimately gave the CO the upper hand in

the subsequent investigation. The CO interviewed the two suspects and obtained a full confession. Enforcement action was taken and the firearms were seized.

While patrolling Isabella County, CO Larn R. Strawn received a complaint of persons trespassing and hunting waterfowl on the Mt. Pleasant water treatment facility ponds. While investigating the complaint the CO contacted three waterfowl hunters who were hunting the ponds after they shot 20 minutes late at a flock of Mallards searching for a good roosting spot. Enforcement action was taken.

While crossing several properties tracking a poaching suspect, CO Larn R. Strawn noted a large illegal bait pile and several deer carcasses near a hunting blind. The CO took photos and recorded a GPS coordinate of the illegal activity for future follow up. A few days later the CO contacted the property owner and inquired about the observations he made on the property. The follow up interview quickly turned into a confession for illegal baiting and taking an overlimit of deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While reading an area paper, CO Dan Lee saw a picture of a youth with his two bucks from the early youth firearm deer season. The CO tracked down the family and contacted the youngster's father. The father admitted to being with his son when he shot the two bucks during the youth hunt. Charges are being sought through the local prosecutor's office.

Several residents of a trailer park contacted CO Dan Lee to complain about a subject quickly dragging a deer through the park the previous night. The CO responded to the location and followed drag marks across a private farm field, across railroad tracks and into an adjacent piece of property where a hunter was located in a tree stand. When the CO asked to see the hunter's deer tags he showed all of his unused tags. When the CO asked about the drag marks the hunter stated he had gotten a deer here the night before. The CO asked which one of the tags the hunter produced was supposed to go on the deer. The man admitted to not tagging the deer. Tickets were issued for the deer and the trespassing issue was addressed.

On the opening day of the duck season, CO Dan Lee contacted two hunters in a boat. The boat was unregistered, there were no lifejackets, both hunters had unplugged guns and they had left their game area permit in their truck. Enforcement action was taken.

On the archery deer opener, CO Quincy Gowenlock was checking on an early bait pile that he found a week before baiting was legal. Upon arrival the CO found the hunter in a tree stand over the bait. As the subject began climbing down the tree the CO saw that the bottom of a pistol holster extending past his jacket. When he reached the ground he informed the CO that he was carrying a pistol. The CO took control of the pistol and informed the subject of his numerous violations. He had early bait, no name on his stand, used screw in pegs and was carrying a concealed weapon without a permit. The subject advised he was from the UP and gets scared in the woods at dark and he only had the pistol for protection. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a complaint of an illegal burn from two months ago that occurred in Isabella County. The property owner was told to call the CO when he got back into town and failed to do so. Upon arrival the CO observed burn barrels in the backyard which were burning and the previous pile from two months ago was now just ashes and still smoking. The CO contacted the same female subject, who this time admitted to setting fire to the garbage pile two months ago. When asked who started the fires this time, she advised her boyfriend set them. The female gave the CO her boyfriend's phone number and advised that he just drove past the house. When the CO made the call he was advised that he was 50 miles away and his truck was up on a hoist receiving a new transmission and he stuck to his story. The female was issued a ticket and a warrant was issued for the boyfriend's arrest for a similar violation.

While on patrol CO Joel Lundberg located a blood trail. He followed the trail to a residence and found an untagged deer. After a lengthy interview the suspect confessed to not tagging the deer. The CO then was able to search the garage through a consent search and found another untagged deer. The father and son team each admitted to shooting a deer and forgetting to tag them. The CO then asked to see each of their deer tags. Both advised that they also forgotten to buy their licenses this year. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood were first on the scene of a serious car/bicycle accident. First aid was rendered until the ambulance and other medical personnel arrived on scene. The injured bicyclist is in critical condition.

DISTRICT 7

CO Chris Simpson and Sgt. John Jurcich were on patrol scouting for the waterfowl opener and checking deer hunters in eastern Muskegon County when they checked two hunters slowly moving along a two track road. The hunters were returning to their camp and the smell of the interior of the vehicle led to a passenger surrendering the marijuana he had been smoking prior to beginning his afternoon hunt. Enforcement action taken.

CO Greg Patten and Lt. Tim Robson were on patrol in Muskegon County when they located a vehicle parked near Cedar Creek a closed trout stream. After checking the stream which contained spawning salmon, they contacted an angler in possession of a salmon who stated his grandfather told him the stream was a good place to go fishing. Officers ticketed the angler for taking fish from the closed stream.

CO Greg Patten was called to a dispute between waterfowl hunters as one was reported to have set a blind 15 feet lakeward of another blind on Muskegon Lake. When he arrived, CO Patten determined this to be true and had to attempt to settle the issue of sportsmanship and sharing the resource between the two hunters. Several COs reported conflicts related to very low water levels and confined hunting areas.

CO BJ Goulette, while on patrol, observed two small game hunters leaving their vehicle and walking into a cornfield to begin hunting. As he left his patrol vehicle on foot to

make contact and check licenses, he observed one subject remove his hunter orange cap and replace it with a camouflage cap as he entered the woods to hunt squirrels. Contact was made with the hunters and a ticket was issued for failing to wear hunter orange.

CO BJ Goulette observed two young hunters paddling a canoe along a lakeshore. When he contacted the pair, he learned they were in possession of firearms and they were 14 years old. They advised the CO that the adult hunters who were with them were across the lake. CO Goulette had the young hunters return to the blind and he contacted the adults at that location. A warning was issued for allowing the youths to leave adult supervision and a ticket was issued for waterfowl stamp violations.

COs BJ Goulette and Ivan Perez contacted a subject camping at a second location in the Grand Haven SGA. At his first location, trash and litter were left behind and the COs had been seeking this individual who appears to be living in the game area. During this contact COs ticketed the subject for litter and advised they would be further monitoring his activity.

CO Ivan Perez handled a RAP complaint which reported a hunter taking a deer without a license in Ottawa County the prior evening. CO Perez responded to the location and contacted the hunter and located the deer in a garage. The CO learned the hunter had recently purchased a \$1300 compound bow but failed to acquire a \$15 hunting license. CO Perez seized the illegally taken deer and took enforcement action for the hunter taking the deer without a license.

CO Ivan Perez responded to a RAP complaint along the Grand River of a large number of carp and suckers dumped near the access site by bow anglers. While at the location, two persons began to walk from the river with fishing rods but turned away when they saw CO Perez. They returned without fishing rods and were stopped by the CO. Further investigation led to locating the rods, one of which had large treble hooks affixed to the line. A ticket was issued for possession of the illegal gear along the stream and a warning for license violations.

CO Dave Rodgers and Sgt John Jurcich conducted waterfowl and salmon patrols in Kent County on opening day. After conducting surveillance on two locations during the morning, they contacted three waterfowl hunters leaving a small lake. The hunters were in possession of seven wood ducks and one hunter had no licenses at all and an unplugged firearm, and he had taken one duck during the morning. Another hunter had no waterfowl stamp and an unplugged firearm and a third hunter had no waterfowl stamp. CO Rodgers ticketed each of the hunters for the numerous violations.

CO Dave Rodgers responded to a call of a subject failing to tag a buck. When he arrived, he met with the hunter who showed him the untagged five point and then proceeded to tell him about the spike buck he had taken a few days prior. The hunter only held one tag which could be used for a buck and was in violation of antler point restrictions. CO Rodgers took enforcement action for the hunter illegally taking a deer.

CO Chris Holmes received a complaint of three subjects trespassing and snagging salmon in Van Buren County. When the CO arrived in the area the complainant told him the subjects had just left. CO Holmes decided to set up surveillance on the area with a spotting scope and see if the subjects were walking in the woods. An hour later CO Holmes walked into the woods and saw three subjects hunkered down, hiding near the river. The CO identified himself as the subjects began to flee the area on foot. After a brief foot pursuit, CO Holmes detained the three subjects. The subjects were trespassing, fishing without licenses, and in possession of a snagged salmon. The CO also saw that one of the subjects had thrown a marijuana smoking device and jar of marijuana, which the CO recovered. Two of the three subjects had outstanding warrants for drug possession and also local warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ivan Perez responded to a report of an untagged deer near Allendale in Ottawa County. Arriving to find hunters starting to process the animal, CO Perez established that the doe had never been tagged. After stories of the animal being taken in Kent County, a final confession led to the taking of the deer at the Todd Farm in Allegan County. The hunter admitted his intent to reuse the archery tag on another deer.

COs Steve Mooney and Jeff Robinette were working salmon runs in Van Buren County when they received a RAP complaint of snagging on the Paw Paw River. Both COs responded and observed a group of three men and a juvenile snagging. The subjects had snagged 36 pounds of salmon. All of the subjects admitted to snagging and were ticketed, except the juvenile, who was warned for his behavior.

CO Brad Brewer checked a group of waterfowl hunters leaving a lake in St. Joseph County who had one loaded gun in the boat; one hunter had an extra firearm, there were a number of unsigned federal duck stamps and the boat was operated without navigation lights. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8

CO Brian Fish responded to a trespass complaint from the lease holder of a lakeside parcel of land. The caller was angry that another boat of hunters had anchored in his favorite hunting spot on the lake near the land he had leased. It was found that the lease specifically limited the right to prosecute for trespass to the landowner, not the lessee. CO Fish spoke with the landowner in Indiana and found that the landowner did not know if he owned the bottomland, did not know where the deed was stored and did not want to prosecute anyone.

While conducting a shining patrol, CO Kyle Bader stopped a vehicle shining a remote road. The driver had an uncased bow in the back seat. He said it was in there because he was hunting earlier in the day. The excuse he gave for the loaded and uncased .22 rifle on the back seat was that he was shooting cats in his yard. The rifle safety was in the "fire" position. He was advised of legal issues with shooting cats and issued tickets for the uncased weapon and shining with weapons in possession.

CO Kyle Bader contacted a bow hunter on his way out of the woods. The hunter had not purchased any deer tags in 2012. Further investigation revealed that the hunter had killed an antlerless deer a few days earlier. The hunter was on parole and one of the conditions was that he could not possess any weapons. The hunter was issued tickets for hunting without a license and taking a deer without a license. The deer was seized and information was forwarded to his probation officer.

CO Kyle Bader stopped a vehicle shining on a remote road in Branch County. The driver had a bow in the back of his vehicle. CO Bader was going to release the driver with a warning for shining with a weapon in possession, but with a little interrogation, the driver admitted that he had killed a doe during the prior week and failed to tag it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader contacted a hunter as he was leaving the woods. He had not purchased any deer tags in 2012. The hunter told CO Bader that he was just out getting his tree stand up and checking his shooting lanes. He had his bow and arrows along to make sure that there wouldn't be any limbs that interfere with his draw or shots. The hunter was issued a ticket for hunting without a license.

CO Derek Miller checked a lake known for waterfowl activity and heard shots off in the distance. CO Miller found duck hunters in two boats; one of the groups had fired after the close of hunting hours. CO Miller waited on shore for the groups to come back to the launch before making contact. One of the groups was legal but had mentioned that there were late shots with hunters around the lake. CO Miller contacted the second group and found several violations. The hunters shot late, had unsigned stamps, were in possession of loaded guns while underway, one didn't have a state waterfowl stamp, and the boat was unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss contacted a subject next to the railroad tracks coming out of a hunting blind. After talking to the subject it was discovered that he was not hunting; however he had been hanging marijuana plants in his blind to dry. A subsequent search of the area located several marijuana plants growing in the woods. A search of the residence revealed several bags and jars containing marijuana as well as four illegal muskrats and a mink. All total over 600 grams of marijuana were seized and charges are being sought.

CO Rich Nickols, while checking anglers on the Looking Glass River, observed two subjects removing a pike from a line. The 22 inch pike had swallowed the hook and was dead so it could not be released alive. While speaking with the subject, CO Nickols could hear a fish flopping in a cooler stashed in the weeds. CO Nickols found two pike in a cooler belonging to one of the subjects and three pike in a cooler belonging to the other subject. All the pike were under legal size. Tickets were issued for the overlimit and undersized pike.

On the waterfowl opener, CO Rich Nickols received a RAP complaint that a subject had shot a deer with a shotgun. The complainant was hunting and heard the shot and went

to investigate. He saw two people with a deer and recognized one of them. The complainant spoke with the subject he knew who said his buddy had shot a buck with a bow but they had to finish it with a gun. CO Nickols responded and found evidence of the deer being shot but the subjects and deer were gone. CO Nickols stopped at a nearby party store to see if anyone had stopped to show off a deer. While at the party store, a subject asked CO Nickols a couple questions. Three hours later and after several phone calls and name searches, CO Nickols discovered that the subject he spoke to at the party store was one of the subjects in the poaching and was there buying his license after the fact. Ultimately the deer was recovered and evidence seized, pending a warrant request for taking deer with a firearm during archery season and without a license.

CO Pete Purdy was first on scene to an attempted party store robbery. The subject attempted to purchase beer, and the cashier refused because the subject was intoxicated. The subject then lifted his shirt and showed a holstered handgun and demanded the beer. The clerk again refused and the subject walked out the door. CO Purdy arrived on scene and ordered the subject to the ground. The intoxicated and belligerent subject refused at first, but then complied. Once on the ground the subject made several hand motions toward the firearm. Once back-up arrived on scene, CO Purdy handcuffed the subject. He was lodged at the Livingston County Jail. He also failed a breathalyzer.

CO Pete Purdy contacted two archery hunters using a boat to access their bow hunting spot. The vessel was operating one hour after sunset without navigation lights and they had only one PFD between them. One subject didn't have his deer kill tags in his possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy was checking an area for waterfowl hunters along a dirt road and observed a pickup truck intentionally spin out in a reckless manner on the road when it made a turn. CO Purdy stopped the vehicle and found an uncased and strung bow inside the vehicle. The driver was unable to provide current automobile insurance information. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster and Sgt. Troy Bahlau responded to a complaint received by Sgt. Bahlau of a trespass. Upon contact, two subjects were found hunting without deer licenses. A foot patrol of the area also revealed excessive bait. Further contact was made with a third subject who admitted to the trespass. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Kris Kiel received a complaint from a farmer in Macomb County of damage to his soybean field from a vehicle. The vehicle tracks crossed one half mile of beans and terminated at a tree blind with early deer bait. COs Kiel and Todd Szyska took turns checking the blind for activity. CO Kiel caught up to the subject in the blind on the opening evening of archery season. The subject was trespassing, baited early, and had

placed more than two gallons of bait. Over one half of an acre of beans had been run over and charges will likely follow.

While checking anglers in the evening hours, CO Todd Szyska encountered anglers attempting to cast for and catch walleyes. However, one of the subjects did not have a fishing license; he claimed he had never bought one in his life. After running the subject's information through the license system, it was determined that he was telling the truth and had never purchased one. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska received a complaint on the eve of duck season revolving around duck hunting issues at St. Johns Marsh. COs Szyska and Kris Kiel arrived on scene opening day of duck season and checked several duck hunting parties. Violations included hunting with an unplugged shotgun, hunting without the proper licenses, and not signing their federal migratory hunting stamps. After the hunters had all been contacted, another group came up to COs; they informed the officers that they had ticketed the right individuals but that there were more problems, including placing decoys out overnight on publicly surrounded waters, shooting early, and overlimit issues. The COs informed the complainants that further investigation would continue. On the second day of duck season Officers Szyska and Kiel again returned to the complaint area and conducted surveillance. The decoys were placed out overnight and early shooting occurred. After watching all of the incidents unfold, the COs walked out into the flooded corn and took enforcement action.

CO Ken Kovach responded to a waterfowl hunting complaint prior to the hunting season. The complaint was on the Genesee / Oakland County line. CO Kovach was able to make it to the complaint as the violators were packing up. He was able to get confessions from both subjects for hunting two days before the season and recovered the ducks the subjects had taken. The subjects said they thought the season opened on October 1st. One subject did not have any hunting licenses and the other subject had a warrant for his arrest. Warrants will be sought.

While checking waterfowl hunters in the Lapeer SGA just before the end of legal hunting hours, CO Al Schwiderson contacted a subject with an unplugged shotgun. The subject stated it was a borrowed firearm and that he'd been hunting for over 10 years. Enforcement action was taken.

While responding to a complaint in Macomb County, COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel observed a subject dressed in green carrying a long gun in a field. The COs attempted to contact the subject, who put his firearm down but barricaded himself in his barn and refused to come out. The COs called in back-up. In the meantime as the COs tried talking the subject out, the subject was yelling profane anti-government and anti-law enforcement language at the COs. Shortly after back-up arrived the subject came out. After talking with the subject, it was determined that he had some previous bad experiences with other law enforcement agencies. The subject admitted to hunting woodchucks on his own property without wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben Lasher and Ken Kovach worked a joint patrol on Harsens Island in the waterfowl managed area, and contacted a pair of adults with a juvenile. After the juvenile told CO Lasher he had not hunted due to being sick, CO Lasher discovered an overlimit of hen mallards. The juvenile's father stated it was the juvenile's bird. CO Kovach interviewed the second adult subject and he admitted to the overlimit. This subject was also in possession of too many shells. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher pulled into the parking area on St. Johns Marsh and observed two vehicles parked side by side. As he approached, he saw that there were four subjects in one vehicle and none in the other. The CO contacted the subjects and found all four were juveniles including one 16 year old female. CO Lasher found an uncased bow, a double edged folding knife, and drug paraphernalia in one of the vehicles. The subjects admitted to smoking marijuana. Enforcement action was taken and the 16 year-old's mother was contacted and came to the scene. All subjects were driven home by the mother.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a report of a deer carcass with a kill tag attached dumped in a parking lot at the Erie SGA. CO Ennett ran a license check on the kill tag and went to the residence to contact the owner of the tag. Upon arrival, CO Ennett learned that the deer, which was shot by a juvenile, had been stolen by a person known to the hunter's family, along with other sporting items from a shed. The thief had dumped the deer just before he was arrested by the officers investigating the burglary. No one knew what happened to the deer until CO Ennett appeared at the residence. The deer and the tag were both returned to the family.

CO Dan Walzak was checking waterfowl hunters on the Detroit River when he observed a vessel with two hunters making their way in some very shallow water. CO Walzak contacted the hunters and was told that they were looking for a shotgun that they had dropped in the water earlier. After seeing two uncased shotguns in the vessel, CO Walzak asked if the firearms were loaded. After pausing for a moment, the operator answered "yes". A check of the firearms confirmed that they were both fully loaded. Enforcement action was taken.

Patrolling the Pointe Mouillee SGA, CO Dan Walzak checked a subject who was in the game area during closed hours, and who stated he'd been scouting for a place to hunt deer. The subject also stated that he was with a friend and they got separated, so for the last hour he had been trying to locate him. CO Walzak saw a tree stand on the ground behind the subject's vehicle, and asked if the stand belonged to him, and the subject replied that it did not. In addition, the subject stated that he had never seen the stand before. When the second subject arrived, CO Walzak asked about the stand and he said that they were out on the game area to retrieve the stand for his friend's father. This was totally denied by the first subject. Unknown to the first subject, the second individual decided to try and steal a tree stand for a third party. The tree stand was seized and enforcement action was taken.

On opening morning of archery deer season, CO Mike Drexler received a complaint of an individual who shot a deer with a rifle. After searching the area for a vehicle, the subject was contacted at his residence where he admitted to taking a 10 point buck with a rifle during archery season. The subject tagged the deer with his fishing license because he hadn't purchased a deer hunting license. CO Drexler confiscated the rifle and the deer and submitted a warrant request to the Prosecutor's office. A three count warrant was issued.

CO Brandon Kieft was sitting along a major road in Oakland County when he observed a subject operate an ORV across the road and down the side street at a high rate of speed. After conducting a traffic stop on the ORV, it was discovered that the subject was in violation of the following: failure to wear a helmet, operating an ORV on the roadway, and failure to license the ORV. The 17 year old subject was issued a ticket for operating without a helmet and given verbal warnings for the other violations.

COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively followed up on a complaint of subjects hunting Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) property. The COs contacted an archery hunter who was hunting from a ladder stand inside the fenced property. The subject was afield without a hunting license in his possession and also admitted to cutting trees and branches on the state land. When questioned, the subject couldn't provide a name or any other information from any MDOT representative granting permission to hunt the property. Tickets were issued for recreational trespass and for being afield without a hunting license in possession.

CO Ben Shively contacted a hunter who had placed bait prior to October 1st. When CO Shively contacted the hunter he located an additional pile of bait exceeding 10 gallons of corn, sugar beets, and carrots. The hunter also had transported his crossbow on his ORV with no case, had no helmet, and was on federal probation and had been consuming alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively investigated information from Bald Mountain Recreation Area staff of a subject placing shelled corn in a pond one week prior to the opening of the waterfowl season. CO Shively arrived at the area on opening weekend and observed a group of six subjects hunting the pond. CO Shively watched the hunters for over an hour and then contacted the group. CO Shively located the suspect and interviewed him on the placing of the bait. The subject stated that no one else knew about the bait and he'd placed it because his dad was coming up to hunt. The subject was issued a ticket for hunting waterfowl over bait.