

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
9/19/11 – 10/2/11**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO David Miller watched as a husband and wife road hunting team stick a shotgun out of the window of their vehicle at his grouse decoy. He stopped them before they shot and issued the wife a ticket for possessing a loaded gun in a motor vehicle.

Sgt. Steven Burton conducted an early morning goose hunter check at the Arnheim goose fields. One hunter was in possession of an unplugged gun; the other failed to buy his Federal waterfowl stamp. Both were ticketed.

CO Ryan Aho observed subjects fishing on the Dead River and walked over to make contact. One of the subjects had broken off his line, dropped his pole and walked away from it. He initially denied fishing, but when CO Aho advised him that he had watched him fishing, he admitted to fishing without a license. A ticket was issued.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Pete Wright contacted a waterfowl hunter who had shot a grebe and was operating an unregistered motorized boat (canoe with trolling motor). Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Pete Wright ran across a couple of subjects' road hunting from an ORV. The passenger was in possession of a loaded and uncased shotgun. A ticket was issued.

CO Jason Wicklund contacted a bow hunter who had placed bait out prior to October 1st. The hunter had tried to hide his apples under the leaves and ferns, and had also put a false address on his tree stand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery contacted an angler along a local trout stream, and after checking a nice brown trout the angler had caught, asked to see the subject's fishing license. The non-resident had failed to purchase a fishing license and was ticketed for the violation.

CO Jason Wicklund was fueling his patrol truck in Iron River when he observed a sports car pass a vehicle at a high rate of speed on a busy downtown street. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was ticketed for careless driving. The passenger of the vehicle was arrested on a three count felony warrant for burglary.

CO Jason Wicklund observed ORV tracks going around a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) gate and decided to investigate. The CO came across a group of individuals cutting trees and building a road to access their hunting blinds on USFS property. The CO contacted the local USFS Law Enforcement Officer who met the CO and addressed the issues with group. Enforcement action was taken for unlicensed ORV, maintaining an unauthorized road on USFS lands, and unauthorized use of USFS lands with a motorized vehicle.

CO Jason Wicklund received a call from an individual who was confronted by an angry hunter at his residence. The hunter was upset because the complainant had put his stand in the suspect's spot on public land. Later in the evening, the complainant found his stand had been taken down and his trail camera was tampered with. Charges of hunter harassment will be sought through the county Prosecutor's office.

CO Jason Wicklund contacted the operator of a vehicle driving down the wrong side of the road, "looking for grouse". After a brief discussion on proper driving etiquette, the CO addressed the open beers and uncased guns violations.

CO Dave Painter stopped a vehicle in which the passenger was hanging out the passenger window with a loaded shotgun in an attempt to shoot a grouse. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 2**

COs Reid Roeske and Jared Ferguson responded to a report of an overdue duck hunter on Big Bay DeNoc. Once at the scene, they found 30 mile per hour winds had pulled the water out and lowered the level enough to strand the boat and hunter on St. Vital's Island. Though the hunter was prepared to spend the night, he appreciated the COs coming to his aid. The hunter retrieved his boat the following day.

COs Mike Evink and Jeff Panich contacted subjects attempting to snag on area rivers. The subjects said they were only "tight lining". However, they were using 3/4" hooks with a two ounce sinker below the hook and were using several strong jerking motions with each cast. Tickets were issued and the COs explained what tight lining was versus the snagging they clearly already knew.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon responded to a complaint of a wolf being found dead in south Alger County. He took the wolf to a veterinary clinic where it was X-rayed. Waterfowl sized shot pellets were recovered from the animal. The wolf had a GPS collar on it and by tracking the path of the wolf, CO Fitzgibbon found that it had traveled close to a field where he knew goose hunting took place. He later determined the identities of the hunters who were on that field the day the wolf was shot. The investigation continues.

CO John Wenzel was patrolling in the Rapid River area when he observed a large fire. When he checked it, he found a motel owner was remodeling and was burning everything taken from the rooms. A refrigerator and siding were the most visible items in a fire that was approximately 75 feet in diameter. The owner was arrested for improper disposal of solid waste.

Sgt. Darryl Shann contacted two hound bear hunters who were grading roads in the Hiawatha National Forest. They were advised that grading the roads was prohibited by the USFS and that the information and pictures would be turned over to the Forest Service law enforcement officer the following Monday. Later that evening, CO Robert

Crisp came upon them, again grading the road on Forest Service property. CO Crisp followed them back to their camp where he found a cub bear that had been taken earlier in the week. The cub was stored in a barrel and was approximately thirty inches long. The subject stated he thought it was about 150 pounds when he shot. Enforcement action was taken on all counts.

CO Robert Crisp investigated a litter complaint in Alger County that included a truckload of household trash and two tires. The CO checked the pile and found a few bills and an old vehicle registration. When contacted, the named individual confessed to dumping the trash. He was charged with littering.

Sgt Gerald Thayer, COs Kevin Postma, Jeff Panich and Kyle Publiski conducted a group patrol involving uniformed and undercover officers on a local trout stream that has a history of snagging and various other illegal activities. Several subjects were caught and issued tickets for fishing in a closed trout stream and license violations. One subject snagged a salmon and upon dragging the fish in immediately proceeded to cut the fish open for the eggs. After squeezing some of the eggs he then decided that they were no good and threw the fish into the weeds wasting both the fish and the eggs. The subject then went to another spot and began snagging again. Before any further fish were snagged the subject was contacted and arrested.

CO Kevin Postma located an illegal blind on public land several months ago. A check of the illegal blind revealed a bear hunter who was not wearing any hunter orange along with the blind violations. The hunter complained that the CO was bothering him during prime time. The subject was then educated as to the violations present, ticketed for one of the violations and directed to remove the blind.

CO Derek Miller and Sgt. Gerald Thayer were conducting a waterfowl patrol on a local lake when they came across some abandoned duck decoys. They located two subjects with loaded guns hunting from a boat underway and using lead shot, which they unsuccessfully attempted to hide from the COs. Tickets were issued.

CO Derek Miller and Sgt. Gerald Thayer were conducting a patrol on public lands when they encountered a suspicious vehicle moving at a very slow speed. Upon contact they found two subjects with a loaded shotgun, open alcohol and marijuana. Enforcement action taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was conducting surveillance on the Carp River when he observed a subject teaching two others how to fish. The subject boldly claimed how great of a fisherman he was and never goes home empty handed, as he began to snag several fish, completely unaware of the nearby CO. Upon contact the subject received a ticket for snagging, retaining foul hooked fish and possession/use of illegally weighted hooks on a trout stream.

CO Jeff Panich was out early working duck hunters on a local lake in Mackinac County. The morning brought in a heavy fog in which visibility was very poor. Shots rang out in

the fog from some nearby hunters. Suspicious that the hunters were not able to ID what they were shooting the CO proceeded to make contact. At that point the hunters were empty handed. The CO pulled back and watched as the hunters proceeded to shoot. As the fog cleared the CO came back and checked them again only to find that the two subjects were overlimit by several ducks. The hunters commented that they thought since they were already checked once they were good to shoot whatever they wanted without worry. Both subjects were issued tickets for overlimit of ducks and the illegal ducks were seized.

COs Jeff Panich and Kyle Publiski received a complaint about a group of duck hunters shooting at everything that was flying, including protected birds. The CO's investigation revealed that the duck hunters were in possession of an extra shotgun, unplugged guns and shot at least one protected species that was located and seized. Enforcement action taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Andrea Albert assisted with a manhunt for a subject who had made a statement to his wife threatening to kill his children while they were at school. The subject showed up at the school, but later fled south into a wooded area near the Kalkaska and Antrim County line. He was eventually caught and arrested by officers from a multi-agency task force which had responded to the incident.

CO Steve Speigl responded to a complaint of shots fired near a residence in Central Lake. The caller knew the suspect, but did not give permission to shoot a doe in his front yard. The suspect initially denied involvement in the incident, but CO Speigl was able to track and recover the animal, noting that the bullet flight travelled within 10 feet of the house. The deer was donated to a local food shelter, and a warrant for hunting within the safety of another and for failing to retrieve and tag the deer is being sought from the local Prosecutor's Office.

COs Carl VanderWall, Duane Budreau and Sgt. Mike Borkovich continue to work the Bear River in Emmet County for salmon snagging violations, including keeping foul-hooked fish, fishing without a license, using illegal devices such as M 60 snaghooks and spears as well as taking overlimits of salmon. Littering has also become a problem along the shoreline. Several tickets and multiple warnings were issued to the anglers, who continued to snag fish on the Bear River, some having been ticketed multiple times for the same unlawful activities.

While working deer shiners in a rural area of Emmet County, COs Carl VanderWall and Duane Budreau stopped a vehicle whose occupants were shining deer and discovered a loaded rifle inside of the car. The two young men, ages 15 and 16, are being investigated by the COs, who will contact the parents.

CO Andrea Erratt attempted to stop two ORV riders who were unlawfully operating their machines on a public highway. One of the operators stopped as signaled, while the

other attempted to flee and elude the CO. After a chase and successful capture, the rider who initially stopped was issued a ticket for operating an ORV upon a public highway. The second subject who failed to stop when signaled was ticketed for failing to stop upon signal of a law enforcement officer, operating a motor vehicle while operator's license is suspended, operating an unlicensed ORV and operating an ORV on a public highway.

CO Andrea Erratt ticketed a subject and warned two others in his hunting party who had also shot at the birds for the illegal killing of two pied-billed grebes they had shot while hunting waterfowl. The men had misidentified the birds as, "some type of diver ducks" but were otherwise legally hunting for ducks and geese, having taken several of the birds earlier that day.

CO Mike Feagan patrolled the Black Mountain Recreation Area and found multiple ORVs operating in wetlands and on power lines. Both are signed against ORV use. Seven tickets were issued for operating ORVs in closed areas, and one for operating an ORV while license suspended.

CO Jon Sklba responded to a snagging complaint and after observing the snagger, made a traffic stop on the subject in his vehicle as he was leaving. Several snagged fish were located and seized. The subject was ticketed for third offense snagging.

CO Eric Bottorff responded to a complaint of an illegal tree stand near the border of the Pigeon River State Forest and located the stand and a hunter using an illegal deer bait that was well over the two gallon limit and placed weeks before October 1. The subject was ticketed.

After several hours of surveillance at the Cheboygan Dam, CO Mike Feagan issued three tickets for possessing foul hooked fish and fishing with weight suspended below the hook. A salmon was seized, and one subject was lodged on an outstanding warrant.

COs Matt Theunick and Eric Bottorff worked salmon runs on feeder streams and closed trout streams in the Cheboygan area, which resulted in four tickets issued for salmon snagging-related violations, including one subject who saw the CO patrol truck coming toward him and hurriedly attempted to cut his line to remove his illegal snagging gear. The homemade configuration, which consisted of a large nut suspended below a treble hook, became lodged in the subjects thumb when he attempted to cut the line. A ticket was issued for the fishing gear violation.

COs Jon Sklba and Bill Webster followed up on a complaint of hunters using deer bait in a closed deer management unit in Presque Isle County, and located several illegal baits, illegal hunting stands, and ORV use in a closed area. COs were able to follow a trail of deer blood for a long distance back to a residence. Tickets were issued for hunting over deer bait in a closed area and hunting from an illegal stand on state land. Warnings were given for the illegal ORV operation and additional illegal stands.

CO Mark DePew watched two bow hunters exit the woods and pack up their hunting gear. CO DePew contacted them after they drove off and both hunters denied hunting, but eventually admitted to hunting without licenses. One of the hunters was also in possession of marijuana. Tickets were issued for hunting without a license.

CO Mark DePew was working on the Boyne River and watched an angler snag two salmon while his girlfriend acted as a lookout. CO DePew contacted the subject and found he was using a large treble hook with weight attached directly to the hook.

CO Kelly Ross investigated a hunter who had shot an elk in the closed area during the recent elk hunt. The hunter was approximately a half mile inside the closed area when he shot the animal. The hunter was issued a ticket for his violation.

COs Bill Webster and John Sklba responded to a complaint of an illegal deer bait in Presque Isle County and located a large bait pile, a blind without a name and address on it, and screw in steps. The two COs found an ORV trail which led onto private property and to a gut pile. Officers Webster and Sklba walked for two miles until they located a hunting camp; and after talking with the owners they admitted to shooting a nine point buck over the bait pile. Tickets were issued for the violations.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Brian Lebel of Mecosta County received information that a subject had shot a large eight point buck with a rifle in mid September in Osceola County. With the assistance of Sgt. Michael Bomay the subject was located at his father's house down the road from the subject's residence. A lengthy interview was conducted and the subject denied shooting any deer. During the interview Sgt. Bomay observed what appeared to be fresh jerky sitting on the table. The COs could smell a smoker coming from behind the house. The subject blamed the outdoor wood furnace for the smell of smoke. It was not until the COs located the smoker containing fresh venison jerky hidden behind a shed that the subject confessed to shooting the large buck behind his house with a rifle. The antlers, meat, and a rifle were seized as evidence and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel of Mecosta County had received multiple complaints over the years of a father and his young sons shooting many deer over their limit. CO Lebel saw two deer hanging on opening morning of the youth season at their residence. The check revealed that one of the antlerless deer had a tag on it that had been purchased just minutes before CO Lebel's arrival. The father admitted to buying the license after the son had shot the deer and didn't want to waste his son's buck tag. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Lebel of Mecosta County and Troy VanGelderren of Oceana County were partnered up for a night flight in Mecosta County when they encountered a vehicle shining after 11:00 p.m. The COs stopped the vehicle and observed the spotlight still

plugged in. The driver stated it was just a charger and could not be removed from the port. CO Lebel had the driver pull the power cord until a spotlight was visible from under the passenger seat. CO Lebel then observed the backseat passenger had a crossbow cocking rope near his person. Upon exiting the vehicle the subject in the back seat had a crossbow bolt at his feet. The crossbow was located and hidden in the rear cargo area of the van underneath two children pretending to be sleeping. The crossbow was seized and tickets were issued.

CO Troy VanGelderren was observing anglers on a local stream attempting to snag salmon. CO VanGelderren overheard one angler say to the other "...this spot is awesome; we should build a fire...". The other angler said, "... we can't - this is private property...". When CO VanGelderren approached the anglers at the road and inquired if they knew they were trespassing, both subjects stated no. Enforcement action was taken.

COs from District 7 conducted a group river patrol and issued multiple tickets for snagging. One individual was observed pulling two stringers with fish downstream. When the subject was contacted at the road he was acting nervous and only in possession of one stringer with one fish. COs Mike Wells of Newaygo County and Troy VanGelderren, Oceana County, located eight additional fish in the bed of his truck. A short walk downstream revealed five additional fish for a total of 13 fish. The angler was issued a ticket for possession of an overlimit of salmon and the fish were seized and weighed for restitution.

Lt. Dave Shaw gathered information on what was believed to be a baited field for waterfowl. Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Sam Koscinski of Wexford County worked together and conducted surveillance of the field holding a lot of geese. Surveillance of the field was conducted during the duration of the hunt. Hunters shot at several geese but none were taken. Five hunters were observed hunting, calling and flagging geese until dark which was 25 minutes after legal hunting hours. When the hunters were contacted one quickly attempted to unload his firearm. All five hunters were issued tickets for hunting after hours. One subject was also using an unplugged firearm, and two verbal warnings were given for unsigned Federal stamps.

Acting Sgt. Brian Brosky was checking anglers fishing along a river when rapid gun fire was heard nearby. The bullets began to zip through the trees near the anglers and one angler was struck in the face with a bullet. Acting Sgt. Brosky advised the anglers to take cover, advised dispatch to call Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and ran in the direction of the shooting. Sgt. Brosky was able to catch up with the individual responsible for the shooting as he was loading the .22 caliber rifle into his vehicle and getting ready to leave the area. Sgt. Brosky advised the subject of the angler being struck downstream and took enforcement action, including issuing a ticket for reckless discharge of a firearm causing injury.

CO Steve Converse was conducting surveillance of two individuals on a creek when he observed them catching fish with their hands. One subject would catch a salmon by the

tail and take it to the second subject who would hook the fish in the mouth with a lure using pliers. The fish would then be released and fought on the fishing pole, landed and placed on a stringer. CO Converse observed this take place four additional times before making contact with the two individuals who claimed all four fish were hooked in the mouth and were more than willing to show the Officer. CO Converse advised the subjects that he had been watching their fishing practice and issued tickets.

CO Carla Soper was working an evening patrol at Tippy Dam when she observed an angler attempting to snag salmon. CO Soper contacted the individual and inquired if he had been ticketed for snagging in the past. The angler hesitated and said "once". A check of the license system revealed the angler had 10 prior convictions with the DNR including three snagging violations. The last conviction included over \$1800 in fines and costs. Enforcement action was taken again.

CO Carla Soper of Manistee County responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of subjects in possession of an overlimit of salmon. Upon contacting the individuals it was determined that both subjects were non-residents and in possession of 20 fish. Tickets were issued for possession of an overlimit.

CO Carla Soper was checking anglers on a small tributary in Manistee County when she observed three anglers trespassing and snagging salmon. CO Soper seized 146 pounds of salmon and issued tickets to the anglers, who couldn't understand what they were doing wrong.

CO Carla Soper observed multiple anglers snagging fish, fishing with illegal devices and keeping foul-hooked fish. CO Soper contacted one individual who yelled out to the rest of his fishing group that the DNR is here. When CO Soper issued the angler a ticket for snagging fish and checked for DNR priors, the individual returned with three priors for snagging fish. When CO Soper was explaining the ticket the angler asked if the CO could put in a good word for him with the judge.

CO Justin Vanderlinde of Benzie County received a complaint about a possible cougar that was observed dead along the roadway. CO Vanderlinde responded to the scene to observe a dead red fox. CO Vanderlinde contacted the complainant and advised him of his findings.

CO Justin Vanderlinde observed an angler snag and keep a salmon. CO Vanderlinde contacted the angler and issued him a ticket. The angler recognized the CO and advised him that he was issued a ticket for snagging nine years ago from the same CO in the same spot on the same day (Sunday). As CO Vanderlinde was issuing the ticket, the angler couldn't resist calling his friend who was with him nine years ago to tell him. His friend told him to stop fishing on Sundays in Benzie County.

CO Sam Koscinski of Wexford County was working on a complaint he had received approximately one year prior but had been unable to catch the subject. While checking the area CO Koscinski observed a pickup truck with several subjects around it. It

appeared they had loaded something into the bed of the truck. CO Koscinski made contact and discovered a loaded 7 mm rifle between the two front passengers. The subjects did not have any illegal game but were getting ready for the youth hunt the following day. Enforcement action taken.

CO Sam Koscinski observed two waterfowl hunters in a motorboat on the Manistee River. Both hunters had their firearms in the ready position as they motored downstream. CO Koscinski contacted the hunters and discovered his suspicions were correct as both hunters' firearms were loaded. Enforcement action taken.

CO Sam Koscinski was conducting a follow up investigation on an individual who had purchased several apprentice licenses before purchasing a regular hunting license. The individual stated that he thought he might have taken hunter safety in high school but wasn't sure as he graduated in 1993. CO Koscinski was able to confirm that the individual never took hunter safety.

CO Sean Kehoe was checking anglers on the Boardman River when he observed a juvenile angler attempting to land a fish. CO Kehoe observed that the fish was hooked in the dorsal fin and not in the mouth. As the fish got closer to the shoreline the juvenile's father grabbed a gaff hook and stabbed the fish in the side and landed it. CO Kehoe contacted the father son team and advised the father it was illegal to possess a gaff hook along a trout stream. CO Kehoe further explained that the fish was foul hooked and thus illegal to keep. The father advised CO Kehoe that they had to keep it because the first time the son had hooked the fish he had stabbed the fish in the eye with the gaff attempting to land it but the fish got off. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 5**

COs Chris Bowen and Chuck McPherson responded to a complaint of waterfowl hunters shooting in a safety zone. Upon arrival, the COs found an overlimit of hen mallards, two hunters without waterfowl licenses, and one hunter who had an unplugged firearm.

CO Bobbi Lively contacted waterfowl hunters who had just shot. The shot had taken a grebe by a hunter who did not possess a waterfowl hunting license. Another hunter in the blind also failed to purchase a waterfowl hunting license.

COs Bobbi Lively, Jon Warner, and John Huspen all worked a bait complaint that turned into a deer being taken out of season with a firearm when they located blood, hair and bags of meat marked "V Steaks". The suspect, a convicted felon, may also face charges of a felon in possession of a firearm.

CO Chuck McPherson located an illegal blind on state land earlier in September that had been baited for deer. After checking it several times, he finally made contact with the hunter who drove up on his ORV in an area of state land closed to ORV use. The

hunter also had an uncased bow on the ORV and was driving with a suspended operator's license.

Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez responded to a trespass/hunter harassment complaint on opening day of bow season. The complainant felt the duck hunters hunting the neighboring property were harassing him with their shooting. He also claimed they were trespassing but didn't know where the property line was. It turned out they were on their own property legally hunting waterfowl; however, the complainant was bow hunting for deer without a license over an illegal bait pile.

CO Warren MacNeill caught a repeat offender snagging salmon. CO MacNeill has ticketed her several times in the past for the same offense. This time, she neglected to buy a fishing license as well.

CO Brian Olsen teamed up with COs Nick Atkin and Seth Rhodea to investigate a complaint in Losco County of hunting waterfowl over bait. The COs located the baited pond on opening morning and found two subjects hunting over it and using lead shot. Members of this same camp have been ticketed for hunting waterfowl over bait in the past.

CO Steve Lockwood received a tip from a deputy who, upon stopping a vehicle, was told by the driver that he was going deer hunting. CO Lockwood was able to locate the camp which he had ticketed in the past for various violations. When the CO arrived at the camp, he found two gunshot deer hanging and the subjects were still out hunting. The subjects indicated they thought there was an early deer season in Gladwin County.

CO Steve Lockwood responded to a complaint of a deer hanging at a camp on state land in Gladwin County. When he arrived at the camp, the deer had already been taken to the processor. The father of the juvenile who shot the deer was allowing the minor to hunt unsupervised during what he thought there was an early deer season in Gladwin County.

COs Steve Lockwood and Jason McCullough located a 15 year old hunter during the youth deer hunting weekend who was gun hunting without supervision and without wearing hunter orange. The youth had actually driven the car to his hunting location without benefit of a driver's license. When the COs arrived at the subject's residence to speak to his parents, they located an eight point buck that had been shot by another 15 year old hunter without a hunting license. They educated the parents and youthful hunters on supervision and license requirements.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Vicki Goss was completing follow-up of a complaint when she found a subject dressing out a deer in his garage. The subject was not the suspect from the earlier complaint, but admitted to shooting the doe the night before. The CO found the tag was purchased and validated just before her arrival. Further investigation found the tag

belonged to the shooter's mother. Enforcement action was taken on the individual hunting without a license and the mother for allowing another to use her tag.

CO Vicki Goss followed up on a RAP complaint of an individual who placed bait on HAP land during the early antlerless season prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>. The CO found two hunters in their tree stands hunting over the early bait. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joel Lundberg and Jay Person contacted the occupants of a vehicle headlighting a field shortly after dark. After further investigation it was discovered that the passenger was throwing away parts of a deer in the ditch. A check of the occupant's residence revealed a deer that had not been tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Quincy Gowenlock and Jeremy Payne received a RAP complaint in regard to a sixth grade student in school bragging about shooting a buck with his father prior to the youth hunt. The COs eventually contacted the suspect's mother, who, when questioned, stated that her son did not shoot a deer. When the COs showed her a fresh deer leg bone that was found near her dog's kennel she began to change her story. She advised that her son shot a doe. Further investigation revealed that neither her son nor her husband had a license for the early hunt. The COs seized the venison from her freezer and the shotgun which was used. During the interview with the father he stated that he set his son up in a ground blind behind the garage and told him not to shoot any bucks, only does. He then went into the garage and began working on his car. About an hour later, he heard a shot and found that his son had shot a four point buck. He then processed the deer. The youth was also hunting over an illegal bait pile. Enforcement action was taken on the father for the numerous violations.

On the waterfowl opener in the middle zone, COs Quincy Gowenlock and Jeremy Payne encountered three subjects coming in off of Coldwater Lake. Upon inspection the COs found two unplugged shotguns, one subject was in possession of two loaded shotguns and two of the three hunters had license violations. Tickets were issued.

CO Dan Lee was contacted by a local landowner who found bait on his property which was placed there by a neighboring landowner. The suspect had not only placed the bait before October 1<sup>st</sup> on another's property, he had also mowed several strips of the field over 100 yards long. The suspect was contacted and admitted to placing the bait. He didn't think the landowner would mind if he mowed the strips because he never sees deer on his on land, only in the field. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee received a RAP complaint about illegal stands on state land. The complainant showed the CO several permanent stands and stands with screw in steps. On October 1<sup>st</sup> the CO was able to locate one hunter in a stand with the screw in steps. The hunter, when told about the law restricting the use of such devices, asked when that law went into effect. The CO advised about 20 years ago. Enforcement action was taken.

A trespassing complaint was handled by CO Daniel Lee on opening day of the archery season. The landowner, who was hunting on his own posted property, contacted a man with a crossbow who was also on the complainant's property. The trespasser indicated that he was trying to reach a bit of land along I-75, MDOT property, which borders the complainant's property. The CO explained to the trespasser that not only was he trespassing on private property but he was attempting to hunt on restricted highway property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn Strawn received a complaint of persons trespassing and killing a deer. The property owner explained they had arrived home at dusk and discovered a dead deer blocking the middle of their driveway. The property owner moved the deer to the side of the driveway and continued up the long driveway to their house. After parking the car they walked back down the driveway to investigate; however, in the short time that passed someone had arrived and stealthily dragged the deer, loaded it into a vehicle and sped away. Upon arriving and examining the scene, the CO was able to locate a blood trail as well as footprints. The CO was able to follow the blood and tracks several hundred yards through a swamp and wood lot to a farm field. While investigating the evidence in the field the CO discovered a gut pile, pick up truck, hunting blind and a hunter. The hunter admitted to killing the deer and trespassing onto the property to recover it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn Strawn received a text picture of a man posing with a trophy buck. The picture was accompanied by a request for the CO to look into the incident. The text came from a local property owner who witnessed the man posing with the deer just after field dressing it during the youth hunt. The man posing with the deer was accompanied by two other adult males both of whom were carrying long guns. The witness said no youth hunters were present and none had been seen in the area the entire weekend. The CO located the site where the deer had been field dressed and was able to follow signs of blood and tracks from the hunters to an initial kill site and a large unlawful bait pile. The CO also located additional bait sites and multiple trail cameras on the property. CO Strawn obtained a warrant to further search the property and to seize evidence including the trail cameras. The recovered cameras and photographs revealed evidence of the buck being killed at the large bait pile and no youth hunters were involved. A subsequent interview ultimately resulted in the recovery of the trophy buck and a confession where the suspect admitted they just could not bear the thought of a youth getting that buck because it was the biggest they had ever seen on their property. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Isabella County, CO Larn Strawn contacted an archery deer hunter returning to his vehicle after an evening hunt. The deer hunter did not have a license to hunt deer. The hunter searched his person and truck with no success and admitted that he was not sure if he purchased a license this year. While the hunter searched for his license the CO conducted a records check and discovered the hunter has a history of purchasing licenses after the season opens. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted a group of hunters on state land during the youth deer hunt. Upon talking with several of the adults it was learned that two of the youths out hunting were unsupervised and there was bait located at another youth's hunting location. After locating the unsupervised youths and the illegal bait, the parents and kids were verbally educated on their violations and allowed to return to hunting with proper supervision.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted several people in a trailer camped on state land to address camping violations. Upon knocking on the door of the camper the CO detected the odor of marijuana and questioned the campers about it. All three admitted to just smoking some marijuana and turned over the rest of their supply to the CO, including marijuana they had just picked out in the woods. The campers agreed to show the CO where they had picked the marijuana, and upon locating the spot, several plants were seized and later turned over to the local drug team. Enforcement action was taken on the campers for their use of marijuana.

CO Nick Atkin was contacted by a local deputy who had witnessed hunters actively putting out bait early. The CO responded and located the hunters dumping deer bait out prior to October 1st. The tree stand the subjects were baiting was located on state land with no name or address attached. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was patrolling state land when he contacted four people operating ORVs in a closed area. The ORV was not licensed, and being operated with more passengers than designed for, and they were not wearing helmets or eye protection. A tree stand belonging to one of the ORV riders was located with no name or address attached. They had placed multiple screws in tree steps into the tree, and the stand was baited prior to October 1st. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Olsen, Seth Rhodea and Nick Atkin worked a complaint of people hunting ducks over bait. Multiple hunters were contacted hunting over the bait on opening day. The hunters were also using toxic shot, had failed to sign their Federal waterfowl stamp and did not have their hunting licenses in their possession while hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was traveling down M-13 in Bay County when he observed a pickup truck pulling a trailer in front of him. Further investigation of the trailer revealed an antlered deer tied to an ORV. Due to the fact that it was the evening before the youth and 100 percent disabled deer hunt, and it was the youth early antlerless season, the CO stopped the vehicle. CO Foerster found that the father allowed the youth to shoot the antlered deer during their hunt earlier that afternoon (during the antlerless season). The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling the Bay/Tuscola County Line when he observed several individuals fishing the Quanicasse River. The CO stopped and observed the anglers from a distance before making contact. During the approach, CO Foerster observed one of the anglers cut the line allowing the hook and line to drop into the river leaving the rod and reel without tackle. After further investigation, it was determined

that the angler cut the line due to the fact that she did not have a fishing license. A second angler lied about his age to avoid a ticket before admitting that he was 17 years of age. Enforcement action was taken with both anglers.

CO Scott Brown and local deputies responded to a barricaded gunman situation south of Bay Port. The gunman had felony warrants out of Lapeer County and told the deputies that "today was a good day to die" before retreating back into the house. About five hours later he came out on his own.

CO Robert Hobkirk patrolled Lake Huron/Saginaw Bay with local deputies searching for a helicopter that had left Richmond en route to Alpena. The helicopter was overdue and its location was unknown. While searching near Charity Island, the Officers received news that crash debris was located in Alcona County with no survivors.

CO Joshua Wright was on patrol in Tuscola County when he observed what appeared to be marijuana growing behind a residence near a shed. He contacted the home owner and asked him if he was growing marijuana by his shed. The person lowered their head and said yes. The CO asked if anyone who lived there had a medical card to grow it and he said no. Officer Wright obtained a consent search of the residence. When the Officers left they had a total of thirty plants, about a quarter pound of processed marijuana and eight firearms. The subjects are being charged for manufacturing marijuana and felony firearms.

CO Joshua Wright received an anonymous RAP complaint about a subject who shot a deer with a rifle on opening day of bow season. When Officer Wright arrived at the subject's house he found an eight point buck hanging in a pole barn with a tag on it. He checked to see if the deer had been shot with a rifle and determined that it was not. Further inspection of the hunting license revealed that the subject had bought the license that evening. The subject ended up admitting that he shot the deer then bought his license. He stated that he thought the hunting licenses were a joke and he has taken deer in years past without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was patrolling an area of state land where he had a lot of ORV activity on state land when he heard an ORV in the area. The operator of the ORV shut the machine off but Officer Wright was able to locate him. When the CO found him he was taking a break drinking a beer. The person was quite surprised when the CO arrived on foot. The operator had a suspended license, no helmet, was operating in a closed area and had an open container of alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Ken Cerny contacted a deer hunter on state land with a tree stand with no name, and uncased firearm in a motor vehicle. When CO Cerny checked his license and identification he discovered that the hunter was a non-resident who had told the license agent that he was enrolled full time in a college in Michigan. The hunter was not currently attending college in Michigan. CO Cerny gave a warning for the tree stand

and uncased gun violations and issued the hunter a ticket for making false statement to obtain a small game license.

CO Andy Bauer responded to a call regarding possible ginseng poaching at Warren Dunes State Park . A park officer contacted a subject at his vehicle who was waiting for the rest of his party. The subject appeared nervous and evasive as to the whereabouts of the others. During the investigation the rest of the party was located and 44 ginseng roots were seized and the three ginseng pickers were ticketed.

CO Andy Bauer was working a hydro dam on the St. Joseph river in Berrien County and observed a boat anchored above the buoys placed there to keep the vessels a safe distance from the dam. The operator then pulled his anchor and drove his boat even closer to the dam and to the water rushing over. CO Bauer didn't have a patrol boat with him, but immediately made contact with a local charter boat Captain who drove CO Bauer to the suspect boat and made contact with the boat's operator. The angler said that he knew he had anchored above the buoys and that he drove very close to the dam to retrieve an expensive lure that had gotten snagged in the rocks near the dam.

CO Chuck Towns was contacted by the Holland Department of Public Works which identified a strong odor of hog manure coming from the north branch of the Macatawa Creek. A large manure spill was located and the information was turned over to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), who responded immediately. The sewage dump was traced back to a nearby hog farm. Charges are pending for the illegal spill.

CO Patrick McManus reported an increase in illegal ORV activity in the Allegan State Game Area (SGA) after the recent rains. Three tickets were issued for the illegal activity, including two large trucks and one ORV.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers witnessed a subject attempting to catch salmon illegally with a large landing net on a closed section of a trout stream in Allegan County. Contact was made with the subject and his young daughter. It was discovered that the subject had operated his vehicle to get to the stream without a valid driver's license, was intoxicated, and had no fishing license. The CO waited for the subject's wife and father-in-law to pick up the subject and his young daughter. He was ticketed for the illegal fishing activity.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers and Sgt. Zach Doss responded to a complaint during the early antlerless deer season in Allegan County of a juvenile and his father claiming a nearby neighbor had taken the deer the juvenile had shot when it entered his property. Contact was made with the neighbor who did not have the deer. It was also determined that the complainant had past history of trespassing onto the neighbor's property. Contact was made with the complainant again and it was determined that the juvenile had purchased his hunting license after he had shot at the deer just before calling in the complaint. It was also determined that the father was a convicted felon. A ticket was issued to the father for aid/abet for hunting without a license and the firearm was confiscated. No deer was found.

CO Gary Raak patrolled to Middleville SGA for illegal ORV activity. Contact was made with subjects operating a four wheel ATV through closed areas into fields shining deer. The juvenile subject on the back of the ATV had an uncased loaded shotgun. The adult driver of the ATV was ticketed for shining with a loaded firearm and warnings were given for the illegal operation.

CO Chris Holmes responded to a shots fired complaint in northern Kalamazoo County. An illegally shot four point buck was found and a blood trail was located and followed to a local residence. Contact was made with the subject at a nearby residence who claimed he was shooting at raccoons. After a lengthy interview a confession was obtained for taking the deer illegally and hunting within the safety zone.

## **DISTRICT 8**

Following up on early baiting complaint, CO Jason J. Smith located two subjects hunting over the illegally placed bait. Both subjects suggested that they were anxious to hunt so they placed the bait early to get a jump on the season. Enforcement action was taken.

Acting on a tip, CO Brad Brewer contacted a subject who shot an eight point buck during the early antlerless only season. CO Brewer's investigation led him to pictures of the illegal buck and the head of the eight point behind an outbuilding at the subject's residence. Further investigation revealed an antlerless whitetail without a tag that was illegally killed by the subject's friend. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Todd Thorn and Rich Nickols contacted two individuals who were observed illegally snagging salmon. Upon further investigation the COs located 46 pounds of illegally caught fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn observed a vehicle operator drive through a stream on state land to retrieve his tree stand. Upon further investigation an uncased rifle was located inside the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince responded to a trespass complaint on the opening day of archery season. Two subjects were dragging a deer across the complainant's property. The deer was not properly tagged nor did either subject possess a valid kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger assisted local law enforcement agencies in the search for a two year old child missing from a local residence. The child was found unharmed on the property. Also on the property an illegal marijuana growing operation was located. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Bigger and Jeff Walker contacted construction workers who had reported that someone in a blue vehicle has stolen some iron beams from their construction site and the local police were unable to respond. The COs located the vehicle in question at the

recycle center. Upon further investigation it was revealed that the subjects in the blue vehicle were wanted by the local police on four outstanding warrants. The violations noted by the COs included driving an unregistered and uninsured vehicle, driving on a suspended license, possession of heroin, and possession of stolen goods. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Troy Bahlau and CO Todd Thorn contacted a subject hunting from a tree stand on state land. The subject was in a tree stand that did not have a name and address affixed, the subject had used screw in tree steps, and the subject left all of his litter at the base of the tree. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Dan Walzak contacted a subject sitting in his vehicle with hunting clothes in the passenger seat. CO Walzak asked the subject if he had been out hunting and the subject stated that he had not been hunting and that he didn't even have a license. Further discussion revealed that the subject had brought his minor son out to hunt deer. The problem was that the subject's 16 year old son was 300-400 yards away hunting by himself. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler stopped to check shore anglers along the Detroit River. The first angler he contacted was in possession of three undersized smallmouth bass. During the contact, the angler's friend walked up and CO Drexler checked his bucket, which had an undersized bass. The second angler was also fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken

While checking anglers after dark along the Huron River, CO Mike Drexler contacted a couple in a parking lot. CO Drexler asked if they had any weapons and the male replied, "Only the one I caught". CO Drexler asked if they were fishing and if they had caught anything and the male said he was fishing and the only thing he caught was a gun. The male stated he was fishing about an hour earlier and caught a "gun". CO Drexler accompanied the two back to their party and located a loaded and cocked semi-automatic pistol that the angler did catch while fishing. The firearm was turned over to the township police for investigation.

COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively responded to a complaint involving a group of four subjects baiting deer prior to October 1st. As they approached the location described by the complainant, the COs saw a truck leaving the scene that matched the complainant's description of the vehicle. They conducted a traffic stop and observed empty bait bags in the bed of the truck. The individuals eventually admitted to baiting prior to October 1st and placing over the two gallon limit of bait. One of the subjects had been ticketed by COs on two other occasions, one of which was for excessive baiting during deer season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was on patrol when he observed a jacked up golf cart operating along the side of the road outside the village of Holly. CO Shively conducted a traffic stop on

the golf cart and contacted the operator, who thought it was ok to just run up to the store because the golf cart had brake lights. After educating the operator on the laws, CO Shively asked for his driver's license. The subject stated he did not have one; he only had a State I.D. card. A check of the subject revealed that he had been suspended or revoked for over 20 years. The subject was ticketed for operating an ORV with a suspended/revoked license and his friends were called to trailer the golf cart.

CO Mark Papineau was checking anglers when he came across a subject with three fish in a bucket. The subject stated he was keeping the fish to put in his aquarium. The CO explained keeping fish in an aquarium that were caught in public waters is illegal. The CO inspected the three fish and found one of them was a grossly undersized smallmouth bass. When questioned on it, the subject stated that a legal sized bass would not fit in his aquarium. Enforcement action was taken.

On the last day of the early antlerless season, CO John Borkovich received a call of a subject who shot a six point buck. The CO responded and interviewed the subject who was in possession of a deer carcass without a head. After some discussion, the subject admitted it was a buck and took the CO into his barn and recovered the head. Enforcement action was taken.

A few weeks ago, CO Linda Scheidler and Sgt. Tom Wanless recovered an abandoned canoe on Holloway Reservoir. The COs had attempted to locate the owner by parading the canoe upstream a few miles, knocking on doors along the shore and posting notes in public places regarding the missing canoe. After three weeks there were still no leads. CO Scheidler was starting the process of condemnation when she received a phone call from someone who had read the "CO Weekly Reports" about the canoe that was found. The individual identified the canoe and its equipment perfectly. He informed the CO that it was on shore behind his house and must have slid down into the water. The canoe was released to its owner.

CO Todd Szyska received a complaint of shots fired. He responded and spoke with a female at the residence who told the CO her husband wasn't home and she didn't know where he went. The CO got consent to search the area behind the residence. CO Kris Kiel heard the call and responded as well. While walking the property, the COs located several bait piles. Some appeared to have been dumped prior to October first. The COs re-contacted the female and asked her to contact her husband. The subject stated his uncle was hunting and shot three times that morning at a turkey and got it. The COs had the subjects show them where they were hunting and where the turkey was taken. It did not appear to have been taken over bait. The property owner admitted to baiting early and putting too much bait out. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich observed fresh tracks going through a standing crop of corn on a local farmer's property where he has had previous trespass complaints. He followed the tracks through the corn taking photos of the damage and the tire tracks and measured the tire width to establish the style of vehicle. The tracks came back out to the road so the CO followed the trail on the road of cornstalks. The trail led to another

field causing even more damage then continued back out on the road. The CO continued to follow the trail of cornstalks to a residence a few miles away where he found a pile of cornstalks in the driveway. The CO contacted the homeowner who did not know who left the cornstalks there. He gave the CO a list of names of people who stopped at his house and who had a vehicle matching the tire width. After developing a good suspect, CO Borkovich contacted the individual at his residence. There was a vehicle in the driveway with the same tire pattern and measurements that CO Borkovich encountered in the fields. There were also cornstalks hanging from the undercarriage. The CO interviewed the subject who admitted to the trespass and damage. He and his passenger stated they did it for fun because there was nothing to do. Total damage for the crops is well over \$2000.

CO Al Schwiderson received a complaint of subjects talking at a local business about other subjects shooting more than one deer during the youth hunt. CO Schwiderson went to the processor and looked at their books and found two subjects who each brought in two deer. The CO followed up with the young hunters and their fathers. In one case, the dad stated that his son hit two deer with one shot and the other father stated he was not clear that a youth could only shoot one deer in the early season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Walzak contacted two individuals getting ready to launch a boat at Pointe Mouillee SGA and asked what they were planning on doing. The vessel owner replied that they were just going to check out the marsh and make sure that the boat was in running order because next weekend was the duck opener. CO Walzak asked if he was having problems with the motor and the owner replied that he just got it out of the garage and implied that the boat had not been ran since last waterfowl season. CO Walzak had observed the vehicle and trailer in the area the past two weekends and also noted a large quantity of marsh grass and other camouflage material in the back of the pick up. Noting that they had sufficient safety equipment for the boat, CO Walzak left and re-entered the area from another location. Scanning the marsh, he located the two subjects and, from a distance, watched as they used the marsh grass to dress up a permanently constructed blind on the game area. He contacted the subjects as they were leaving and the vessel operator claimed that somebody at the game area told him that it was okay to build the blind and also admitted that he had been out for the last three weekends working on it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler was checking anglers along the Huron River. When he asked to see one angler's license, the subject acted surprised and stated that he didn't know he needed a license to fish. A check of the license system revealed the subject had purchased fishing licenses in the past. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was patrolling Highland Recreation Area when he observed a subject walking away from a truck carrying the tailgate onto state land. As CO Shively pulled up to the truck he heard five quick shots coming from where the subject was walking, which is closed to hunting and target shooting. CO Shively walked onto the state land and saw three subjects target shooting into a pallet that was being held up by a reclining

chair that the subjects had also brought onto state land. The subjects were just getting ready to start shooting the tailgate when CO Shively stopped them. The subjects assured the CO that they were going to pick up the destroyed pallet and chair when they were done. CO Shively assured them that they were going to pick up all debris and trash they brought onto state land. All three subjects were ticketed for target shooting within a recreation area and the area was cleaned up.

CO Ben Shively contacted a hunter who had placed two stands on state land with no name and address on them, had used screw in tree steps, placed bait prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> that also greatly exceeded the two gallon bait regulation, and littering. The subject stated that he usually hunts up north and didn't know the above things were violations. CO Shively explained that the regulations also applied in northern Michigan. The subject was ticketed for placing bait prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> and using screw in tree steps on state land. The subject was given verbal warnings on the other violations and the excessive bait was removed.

CO Ben Shively followed up on a complaint of bait being placed before October 1<sup>st</sup> at a trail camera in a closed hunting area in Highland Recreation Area. CO Shively checked the area and discovered a subject hunting from a tree stand over a large pile of shelled corn. The subject stated he had seen signs but didn't think he was in a closed area since he had entered from a side road. The subject stated he parked and walked in that morning with his stand, but CO Shively had come through the area 30 minutes before and had not seen any vehicles parked along the road. The subject was ticketed for placing bait prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> and hunting in a closed area.