

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Report  
10/21/2018 – 11/3/2018**

**DISTRICT 1**

While checking a trapper near Negaunee in Marquette County, Conservation Officer (CO) Brett DeLonge received a complaint of another trapper who had a wolf caught in a foot hold trap near the Palmer area. CO DeLonge and DNR biologists met with the trapper and located the wolf after dark. The aggressive 80-pound male gray wolf was safely and successfully sedated, collared, and released.

While on patrol in Marquette County, CO Josh Boudreaux encountered an individual hunting in a blind. Upon contact, the individual stated he wasn't hunting, he was simply watching wildlife over the bait he had just placed out. When CO Boudreaux asked about the cocked crossbow in the blind he stated, "Well, I was hoping a rabbit might come by." CO Boudreaux asked for his hunting license, which he stated was at his mom's house, just up the road. Upon further questioning it was determined the individual didn't have a hunting license. The man, who was not wearing hunter orange, was adamant that he was hunting rabbits. Enforcement action was taken for hunting small game without a license and without hunter orange.

Corporal (Cpl.) Dave Painter, COs Jeremy Sergey and Jared Ferguson instructed a hunter safety class and field day in Crystal Falls. Students were taught several skills such as the safe handling of firearms when crossing a fence, proper muzzle control, and how to verify that a firearm is cleared of ammunition. The students were also given a one-hour presentation on various hunting laws and regulations.

CO Jeremy Sergey received a report that an individual had shot a deer with a rifle during archery season. CO Sergey and a sergeant from the Menominee County Sheriff's Department located the suspect at a restaurant and after a short conversation the suspect told CO Sergey where the deer was but claimed it was shot with a crossbow. CO Sergey and the sergeant went back to the camp along with the suspect and located an untagged 9-point buck near a large pile of apples and corn. An examination of the deer revealed it was in fact shot with a bolt. CO Sergey asked the suspect why he hadn't tagged the deer and field dressed it. The suspect said he didn't want to miss his dinner reservation. Citations were issued for failing to immediately attach/validate a tag to a deer and for exceeding the two-gallon bait limit.

CO Jeremy Sergey, along with three other members of the DNR, answered various questions about hunting laws, disease control, and future management plans for the DNR on the television show "Ask the DNR."

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint in northern Dickinson County involving two individuals who were feuding over placement of blinds on state land. During the

investigation, CO Jared Ferguson found the blinds were permanent and had been there for 15 years without being removed. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint of a wolf that had been accidentally trapped in a leg hold trap. CO Ferguson assisted the trapper in releasing the animal.

While following a set of ORV tracks, CO Jared Ferguson and Sgt. Brian Bacon contacted two individuals exiting a wood line. They stated they were baiting a blind for their grandfather who was 86-years old. CO Ferguson followed the two back to the blind and found a permanent stand in the swamp, which has been there for years. Further investigation found one of the individuals had been cited the previous year for an illegal blind by Sgt. Bacon. Enforcement action taken

CO Jeremy Sergey received information that an individual had been camping near the Menominee River for a month and had been keeping over limits of walleye on a regular basis. CO Sergey contacted the suspect and after an interview the suspect admitted to possessing too many walleye. Ultimately, CO Sergey determined the individual possessed 52 walleye, 37 over his legal limit. A citation was issued, and CO Sergey seized all his fish.

CO Doug Hermanson worked an area in Baraga County where he had heard a rifle shot the previous day. CO Hermanson located a deer blind close to where the shot was heard and inside the blind, he was able to see a spent rifle casing. CO Hermanson was able to develop a suspect and obtained photos of an untagged seven-point buck. CO Hermanson tracked down the subject and conducted an interview regarding the rifle shot he heard and the untagged seven-point buck. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Cody Smith assisted Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) Tribal Police with an individual who was reported acting "crazy". CO Smith arrived on scene along with MSP to assist. It appeared the individual was under the influence of narcotics and was taken into custody by KBIC Tribal Police and taken to the hospital for medical attention.

CO Cody Smith responded to an accident involving a car in the ditch with an unknown status of the occupants. CO Smith and an MSP trooper headed to the scene and as they made their way east it went from clear skies and transitioned to rain and finally snow where the accident scene was. The car had lost control, spun through the oncoming lane of traffic and came to rest in the opposite ditch. The occupants were okay and had already called for a tow.

CO Doug Hermanson investigated a complaint from a large Commercial Forest Act landowner regarding a permanent blind found in an active logging area in Keweenaw County. The blind was surrounded by debris from a previous blind that had been torn down and left scattered about. Ribbons marking the area for an upcoming timber harvest had been removed. A hunter was found bringing bait to the blind. He intended to hunt it but didn't own or place it. The owner was identified, and enforcement action

was taken.

CO Hermanson responded to two separate complaints of dogs being caught in leg hold traps while walking with their owners in different parts of Houghton County. An inspection determined that both traps were legally set. Direction was provided to the trappers to minimize accidental catches of dogs and reminders of leash laws were given to the dog owners.

CO Zach Painter was on patrol in Gogebic county near Wakefield and noticed black smoke in the air. CO Painter located the source of the smoke which was two subjects burning a shed. CO Painter identified the two subjects and confirmed that one of them had a misdemeanor warrant out of Gogebic County. CO Painter placed the subject into custody and lodged him at the Gogebic County jail. The fire was put out and CO Painter informed both subjects on the correct way to dispose of the shed.

CO Zach Painter was at his residence when he received a call from USFS Officer Josh Lopac requesting assistance with a medical call in Ontonagon County. CO Painter and Officer Lopac located the man on an old Forest Service road. The man was diabetic and had very little energy after he had gotten his vehicle stuck on a berm and could not dig himself out. The officers transported the subject to the nearest good road where he was given further medical attention.

## **DISTRICT 2**

COs Robert Freeborn and Christopher Lynch responded to a complaint of a possible illegal deer taken this archery season. Upon further investigation it was determined that a hunter had used a family member's license to tag a deer, taken without a license. It was also determined that this practice had been done in the past with other family members. Enforcement action was taken on all parties involved.

CO Robert Freeborn and USFS Officer Dave Tembruell were on routine patrol when CO Freeborn received a complaint of a possible large stash of marijuana plants dumped in the woods. The officers were able to locate the large pile a short distance off a two track. CO Freeborn contacted Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team and the plants were turned over. Investigation is ongoing.

CO Stephen Butzin observed a vehicle traveling toward him down a county road in Garden Township at a slow rate of speed. Believing that the occupants of the vehicle could possibly be road hunting, he turned his patrol vehicle around and caught up to the vehicle. CO Butzin observed that the vehicle did not have a license plate. When he activated his emergency lights and siren, the vehicle began to accelerate away from him and after a brief pursuit the vehicle came to a stop. CO Butzin ordered the occupants out and detained them until backup was able to arrive. Further investigation found the driver of the vehicle to be operating while under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Delta County Jail. The driver currently faces charges of felony flee and elude, operating a motor vehicle with a high blood alcohol

content, possession of a firearm while intoxicated, operate a motor vehicle without a registration, operate a motor vehicle without insurance, operate a motor vehicle with open intoxicants, and refusal to submit to a Preliminary Breath Test.

CO Justin Vinson taught at a Becoming an Outdoor Women (BOW) workshop on steelhead fishing at the mouth of the Two Hearted River. CO Vinson shared some of his experiences steelhead fishing and gave a presentation about general hook and line regulations that apply to steelhead fishing.

CO Colton Gelinis assisted with a Snowmobile Safety Class in Sault Ste. Marie. Although the number of students was lower than years past, all were eager to learn and are excited for the upcoming snowmobile season.

CO Colton Gelinis, CPLs. Kevin Postma, and John Busken all participated in a Hunter Safety field day in Sault Ste. Marie. Although the weather was bad, all students were able to fire a rifle, shotgun, and participate in a hunting scenario.

CO Tom Oberg received a complaint from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding a construction company that had parked large equipment on the bottom lands of Lake Superior without obtaining a permit. CO Oberg was able to make contact with the owner of the company and a citation was issued for placing equipment on bottom lands without a permit.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Chad Baldwin was checking archery hunters on state land just after dark when a vehicle pulled up asking if anyone had seen a dog running around throughout the day. The hunters reported that they heard a dog barking and although it was windy that evening CO Baldwin and the others could faintly hear the barking off in the distance. CO Baldwin joined the family and searched the various hiking trails in the area, but the barking seemed to stop, and the search was called off for the night. CO Baldwin joined the family again the next day as they split up in search of their pet, but after hiking miles of trails, shoreline, and woods there was still no sign of the 40-pound Vizsla. CO Baldwin visited several homes in the vicinity to spread the word about the missing dog, but there still has been no sightings in the area.

CO Chad Baldwin and Sgt. William Webster attended a hunter's safety class in Harbor Springs. The COs spoke to approximately 35 students and some parents about the job of a conservation officer, common complaints received, laws, and safety practices. The COs also answered questions and attended the field day activities.

CO Chad Baldwin received a complaint from the Wilderness State Park Ranger that an individual was trapping on a developed trail within the park. Some hikers were on the trail when they noticed a fox caught in a trap and notified the ranger. CO Baldwin arrived at the state park and had the trapper show him his trap line. Although the area

the trapper was utilizing was open to trapping, it is prohibited to place a trap within 50 feet of a developed trail. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt made a presentation to a Criminal Justice class at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey. The professor is a former Cheboygan County Assistant Prosecutor who had worked with CO Erratt in Cheboygan. CO Erratt discussed a conservation officer's duties and responsibilities, how to become a CO, and what to expect and how to prepare for a police academy.

CO Andrea Erratt made a presentation to a snowmobile safety class at the East Jordan Snowmobile Club. CO Erratt explained DNR laws pertaining to snowmobiles, what conservation officers are patrolling for on trails and roads, and safe operation of snowmobiles.

CO Andrea Erratt observed a large column of black smoke and a huge fire behind a house. When CO Erratt pulled into the driveway, she observed several people emptying numerous bags and boxes of trash out of a garage. A man standing near the fire said they were burning the previous homeowners' belongings left at the house he had just purchased including furniture, clothes, shoes, books, and aerosol cans. While CO Erratt was explaining to the new homeowner that it was illegal to burn everything in the pile, a can exploded out of the fire and just missed his head as it flew across the yard. CO Erratt ticketed the man for burning improper materials. He told CO Erratt that he should get a dumpster to dispose of the junk left behind by the hoarders and CO Erratt agreed.

Sgt. William Webster was patrolling the Jordan Valley when he came across a male driver who had attempted to get his vehicle muddy but got more than he bargained for. The driver was able to get muddy but also buried his vehicle to his doors in the mud. Sgt. Webster ran a file on the vehicle and found that the plate on the vehicle belonged to a different vehicle and the driver had let his insurance expire. Sgt. Webster had the vehicle towed and issued several citations.

Sgt. William Webster attended the Northern Michigan Snowmobile Trails council meeting in Gaylord. Many snowmobile clubs were in attendance along with local sheriff departments. Sgt. Webster did a law presentation about enforcement efforts on the trails. A hot topic from the clubs was their concern about loud exhaust and losing trails.

CO Kyle Cherry assisted MSP in locating a suspect in Otsego County. The suspect had a felony warrant and fled on foot into the woods from an MSP trooper. The suspect was ultimately located and arrested by an MSP canine unit.

While out patrolling, Sgt. Mark DePew observed a large plume of smoke coming from the Vanderbilt area. Sgt. DePew located the source of the smoke, noting a subject was burning a very large amount of plastic, tires, and other household items. Upon contact with the subject, he stated, "I knew you were going to show up." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sidney Collins assisted the Montmorency County Deputies with a domestic assault. A couple got into a heated argument which resulted in the woman physically assaulting her husband. Following the investigation, the woman was arrested and lodged in the county jail.

CO Sidney Collins received a complaint of a lost hunter in the Lewiston area. The elderly hunter was grouse hunting with his son and a friend. The group got separated right as dusk was setting in. With temperatures dropping quickly, it was important to find the elderly hunter. CO Collins was able to find the man and his dog without incident and reunite him with his hunting party.

CO Sidney Collins released two bobcats in foothold traps that were accidentally trapped. The bobcats were released without incident.

CO Jonathan Sklba observed two vehicles racing side-by-side down the roadway. The pair reached speeds over 100 mph, taking up both lanes of travel. CO Sklba was eventually able to contact both vehicles and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jonathan Sklba participated in a flight targeted towards contacting shiners. The patrol was successful with hunters being contacted. CO Paul Fox and CO Sidney Collins contacted a subject that had a warrant from southern Michigan.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Amanda Lake attended the Cedar Rod and Gun Club membership dinner as an invited guest. This event allowed CO Lake the opportunity to meet with the community and answer numerous questions regarding current events such as CWD and the 2019 baiting ban. CO Lake was grateful for the opportunity to be involved in the community.

COs Patrick McManus and Amanda Lake, along with National Park rangers from the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore, worked together during the week-long special deer hunt on North Manitou Island. The hunt ended up being a success, in that over 80 hunters harvested almost 50 total deer, with very little safety or regulatory issues reported.

COs Rich Stowe and Rebecca Hubers patrolled for afterhours shining activity. While on patrol, they encountered a vehicle shining after 11:00 pm and upon stopping the vehicle found that the driver had a cocked crossbow in the front passenger seat and bolts with hunting tips on the passenger floor. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was driving through Baldwin in Lake County when he observed a vehicle with an expired registration displayed. CO Killingbeck ran the plate through his in-car LEIN and discovered that the license plate had been expired since March 2018. Upon stopping the vehicle, CO Killingbeck determined the driver had no insurance on the vehicle and had never been issued a driver's license. A file check on the driver returned an outstanding warrant for shoplifting. CO Killingbeck arrested and

lodged the subject in the Lake County Jail on several charges and for the outstanding warrant.

CO Josiah Killingbeck assisted the Lake County Sheriff's Department in an investigation where a bow hunter confronted a subject in an ORV who was trespassing on the bow hunter's private property. The ORV trespasser pulled a handgun on the property owner and threatened great bodily harm. The property owner, who was a military veteran, disarmed the trespasser. The trespasser then took his ORV and struck the property owner causing serious injuries to the victim. CO Killingbeck assisted the victim with providing first aid and the Sheriff's Department with the investigation. CO Killingbeck, using resources available through the Station 20 dispatch center, was able to assist in identifying the suspect. Several hours later the suspect was located and taken into custody.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Mike Hearn assisted the Kalkaska County Sheriff's Department with a breaking and entering and malicious destruction of property complaint at the Mich-Con gas plant in Kalkaska County. Three individuals fled the scene when they were confronted by a witness after breaking into the gas plant and doing significant damage inside. CO Hearn and Kalkaska County Sheriff Sgt. Kevin Schaub tracked the suspects to a residence in the area. Subsequent interviews were conducted, and the suspects were apprehended on the various felony charges.

CO Mike Hearn received a complaint about an individual hunting in Kalkaska County without a license and breaking multiple state land use rules in the process. CO Hearn scouted the remote hunting area and located the suspect's blind. After multiple days of surveillance, the suspect was finally contacted. He did not have a hunting license and was also intoxicated at the time. He was arrested without incident.

CO Mike Hearn was working a late night along the Boardman River in Grand Traverse County checking fishing activity. While out on foot, CO Hearn heard a vehicle revving its engine nearby. CO Hearn returned to his patrol vehicle and responded to a nearby illegal hill climb. A Jeep was observed making multiple attempts at climbing the sandy hill. A traffic stop was conducted, and the four occupants were all found to be in possession of open intoxicants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen received a call from the Crawford County Sheriff Department who noticed what looked to be a processed deer carcass at a residence where they had arrested a subject with an outstanding bench warrant. Upon further investigation, CO Huspen and Crawford County Sheriff Sgt. Gammicchia located a crossbow in a bedroom with the window screen removed. The window was facing an excessive bait pile in the back yard. While checking the backyard, CO Huspen also noticed motion lights pointed at the bait pile. CO Huspen and Sgt. Gammicchia located a blood trail and the area in which the deer had expired. The bloody crossbow bolt, broadhead, and gut pile were all located in multiple garbage bags throughout the property. No kill tag

was located during their search. CO Huspen obtained written statements from all parties involved and charges are being sought through the Crawford County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Jeff Panich responded to an in-progress complaint of a turkey shot out of season in Alcona County. The eyewitness observed an individual shoot a turkey out the window of his vehicle with a firearm in a residential area. The suspect quickly loaded the turkey into the vehicle and drove away. The witness was able to follow the suspect to his residence and direct the COs to the location. COs Casey Pullum and James Garrett responded to the residence and assisted with the investigation. The COs located the vehicle in the driveway that matched the description given by the witness. A dead turkey was still in plain view in the bed of the truck. Further investigation by the COs also led to an uncased shotgun on the passenger seat of the truck. After conducting interviews at the residence, it was determined that the suspect had taken the turkey out of season and was also in possession of marijuana. Evidence was seized, and charges are being sought through the Alcona County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Ethan Gainforth received a complaint of a camper that was dumped on state land in Clare County. The information provided was that the camper was filled with large amounts of trash from the suspect's residence. After interviewing the suspect, with assistance from CO Steve Lockwood, a confession was obtained for the large littering violation. Enforcement action was taken, and the suspect will be required to remove the camper from state land as part of the judgement.

CO Mark Papineau investigated numerous complaints about a subject who had reportedly shot a 5-point buck without a hunting license. According to reports, the subject shot the deer and tagged it with another person's license since he had not purchased one himself. The subject also bragged about the deer on social media, which was the leading cause of one of the complaints. CO Papineau conducted an interview of the subject and obtained a full confession. Charges are being sought through the Clare County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Phil Hudson and Ben McAteer were working a late-night patrol when they received a complaint of trespassers that appeared to be tracking a deer through private property. The COs met with the landowner and she pointed out the last location that she had seen the flashlights on her property. After about an hour of searching, CO Hudson thought he saw a small light in the woods. CO McAteer used his night vision binoculars and started walking through the woods where CO Hudson last observed the small light. It wasn't long before CO McAteer pushed the trespassers out of the woods and into the arms of the awaiting deputies on the other side of the woodlot. Citations were issued for the trespass violations and one subject was lodged in the Arenac County Jail for possession of illegal drugs.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO John Byars responded to an in-progress recreational trespassing complaint in Saginaw County. CO Byars arrived on scene and contacted the landowner who relayed he had been having trouble with trespassing and that he wanted to prosecute. CO Byars then located the suspect on the landowner's property. While speaking with the suspect, the CO noticed a bloody bolt in his crossbow which was missing a broadhead. CO Byars questioned the suspect and determined he had harvested a deer. After searching the wood lot, CO Byars located the deer which was a buck. The suspect admitted to not having a license and killing the buck. A citation was issued for recreational trespassing and taking a deer with no license in possession. The buck was seized and later donated to needy families.

CO Josh Russell received information from CO Cary Foster that a subject living in the Greenville area had shot a buck without a license. CO Russell enlisted the help of CO Mike Haas and both COs went to the suspect's residence to interview him. During the interview, the suspect denied shooting any deer and told the COs that his girlfriend killed it. After further investigation, the suspect's story began to un-ravel and he finally admitted to shooting the buck. A subsequent file check revealed the suspect had three prior violations for the same thing. The suspect was issued a citation for his violation and his archery equipment was confiscated.

In central Isabella County, CO Mike Haas located a deer at a meat processor with a tag that had been purchased only an hour before the deer had been brought to the processor. COs Haas and Josh Russell met with the subject who had harvested the deer and discovered there were numerous issues concerning the harvest of the deer. The subject had an illegal bait pile, hunted and shot the buck without a license and was violating multiple probation conditions concerning weapons, alcohol, drugs, and driving violations. The subject was arrested for the numerous probation and hunting violations.

CO Mike Haas received an in-progress trespassing complaint in Midland County. CO Haas arrived at the complaint area and met with the landowner and trespasser. The complainant had located the man tracking a deer through his property after being told days prior to stay off the private property. After a lengthy interview with the suspect and after inspecting his hunting tags, CO Haas determined the suspect had committed multiple violations. The suspect had trespassed on the complainant's property numerous times on foot and on his ORV, harvested two antlerless deer without having the proper licenses, harvested two antlered deer without having a valid deer license, and had a family member purchase and loan a deer tag to him. Multiple charges are pending with the Midland County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Mike Haas located a hunter who had harvested a large antlered deer in southern Isabella County. While speaking with the hunter, CO Haas suspected the hunter did not have a deer license prior to shooting the deer. After discussing the events of the subject's hunt, CO Haas pointed out some inconsistencies in the story and expressed his suspicion. After some time, the man eventually admitted to hunting without a valid deer license and only purchasing his deer license after shooting and collecting the deer.

The deer was seized and charges for taking a deer without a license are pending with the Isabella County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Mike Haas and Josh Russell contacted a hunter in eastern Isabella County who they suspected had shot a buck without a deer license and had bought a license after harvesting the deer. The man was surprised to see the COs at his house and attempted to describe his hunt. The time frames of the subject's day did not add up and the COs pointed out the numerous issues concerning his story. The subject admitted to hunting all season without a license and buying a license after shooting a deer. The subject also stated he had been getting away with hunting without licenses for years, so he was due to be caught. The antlered deer was seized, and the man was cited for taking a deer without a license.

CO Dan Robinson was given an anonymous complaint that a subject had an untagged deer at his residence in Midland County. With assistance from the RAP dispatchers, CO Robinson discovered the subject did not have a hunting license for 2018 and had not purchased one since 2014. An interview was conducted and at first the subject said that he left the tag up north at his hunting property after shooting the deer with a crossbow. During the interview, CO Robinson asked again about the tag, and the subject admitted that he did not have one. The subject went on to admit to shooting several deer off the same property for the last few years, even after CO Robinson reminded him that he had not purchased tags since 2014. A citation was issued to the individual for shooting an over limit of bucks, he could be facing fines and charges amounting to \$2,500.00, possible jail time, and revocation of his hunting privilege for up to five years. The antlered deer was seized for evidence.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Chris Holmes obtained information that a subject shot an 8-point buck without a license. During the interview, the subject admitted to the offense of an additional buck shot illegally four years prior. The 8-point buck was seized and a warrant request will be submitted to the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor.

CO Chris Holmes has obtained arrest warrants for a subject he contacted in a Kalamazoo City park. The subject was found to be smoking marijuana, in possession of crack cocaine, and consuming open intoxicants in his vehicle.

CO Tyler Cole received a complaint about a subject shooting a 9-point buck without a license. COs Cole and Travis Dragomer attempted contact with the subject, however only contact with the subject's brother, father, uncle, and cousins was made that night. The following morning, CO Cole was able to contact the subject and obtained a confession of shooting the 9-point without a license and buying a license after the fact. Further investigation showed that the subject had been ticketed for fishing in a closed stream three weeks prior by CO Cole. The subject had not taken care of the violation and a warrant had been issued for the subject. The subject was taken into custody for the warrant and charges will be sought for the hunting violation.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, CO Greg Patten received a complaint of a subject who was deer hunting with a bow from a motor vehicle. CO Patten contacted multiple people in the area and developed a suspect. The first suspect rolled his vehicle over in Oceana County the day before CO Patten obtained his name. CO Patten checked the SRMS police reports for Oceana County Sheriff and found that the subject who rolled his vehicle had a bow and arrows in his possession. Two of the arrows matched an arrow found at the scene. CO Patten contacted more people in the area of the shooting and learned a second suspect's name. CO Patten interviewed the second suspect who confessed to hunting turkeys from the vehicle with a bow. Neither suspect had any type of hunting license. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> a two-count warrant for hunting from a vehicle and hunting without a license was authorized by the Muskegon County Prosecutor's office for the subject who was trying to shoot a turkey.

COs Jeremy Cantrell and Kyle McQueer interviewed a subject that CO Cantrell interviewed days earlier while on a traffic stop. CO Cantrell noticed two deer hanging from the trunk of a car and conducted a traffic stop. CO Cantrell noticed one of the tags was bought the same day just a couple hours prior to the traffic stop. A few days later, COs Cantrell and McQueer interviewed the suspect in question. The suspect shot at a 4-point and "missed." A 5-point then walked into view and the suspect shot that one. While tracking the second buck, the suspect found the first buck dead. The suspect then called the other suspect in question to go buy a deer tag to tag the second deer they shot due to the fact the first suspect had only one deer tag for this season. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Mike Drexler responded to a complaint of two subjects hunting with firearms on state land without wearing hunter orange. CO Drexler arrived at the location and after he was unable to locate the subject on foot patrol of the area, he sat on the vehicle for several hours. Eventually one subject exited the marsh and was unable to produce his hunting licenses. CO Drexler and two MSP troopers escorted the hunter back to his friend who was standing over a freshly killed four-point buck that was taken with a shotgun. The subjects admitted to taking the deer with a shotgun. CO Drexler also found the deer was untagged. The shotgun was seized and the deer was given to a family requesting the meat. The case will be forwarded to the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office for charges.

CO Mike Drexler followed up on an illegal dumping complaint with a park ranger from the Pinckney Recreation Area. CO Drexler and a park ranger searched through a dump truck amount of illegally dumped trash and building debris to locate several pieces of evidence pointing to a suspect. CO Drexler contacted the subject at his residence and the subject admitted to the waste being his from a burned down garage on his property. A citation was issued and the subject was advised he would need to clean the site or be charged restitution for the clean-up.

CO Brandon Hartleben was checking hunters in Waterloo State Recreation Area when he observed several groups pulling decoys at Mud Lake just after legal shooting hours for waterfowl. CO Hartleben waited at the launch for the last group to come in. Upon making contact with the last group, CO Hartleben quickly learned that there were no PFDs aboard the vessel. Further checks revealed that one subject did not purchase a state waterfowl license and neither subject had signed their federal migratory bird stamp across its face. Enforcement action taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben was travelling eastbound on I-94 to a complaint interview when he was passed by a Ford Escape travelling at a high rate of speed. Once the vehicle passed CO Hartleben's patrol truck it continued to accelerate. CO Hartleben attempted to follow the vehicle and pace it but was unable to gain any ground because his patrol truck was unable to keep up with the suspect vehicle. CO Hartleben was able to keep eyes on the vehicle as it travelled down the interstate and was eventually able to catch up with it as it got bogged down in traffic. CO Hartleben was then able to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle. When contacted, the female operator was very apologetic when confronted with the fact that she was travelling at over 100 mph. She went on to state that she had no idea how fast she was going. Enforcement action taken.

CO Andrew Monnich was working fields for waterfowl hunters when he observed an ORV operating at a high rate of speed down a closed county road. CO Monnich was able to catch up to the ORV and stop it. The driver instantly stated they do this every night and it's okay. CO Monnich advised the individuals of the ORV laws and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough received information detailing some hunters shooting waterfowl well before legal shooting hours on a secluded pond. After responding to the area, CO McCullough was able to find the subjects as they were finishing up for the morning. After some conversation and some looking around CO McCullough located an over limit of ducks that had been thrown into the weeds. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough received a complaint from a couple of mountain bikers of some hunters walking around in full camouflage with firearms shooting at birds, squirrels, and various other critters at a local recreation area. Several days later COs McCullough and Todd Thorn were checking the recreation area and located the suspect's vehicle. As COs McCullough and Thorn were checking the vehicle, one of the suspect's appeared on a trail several hundred yards away. COs Thorn and McCullough watched one suspect, then the other, appear and then disappear back into the woods. COs McCullough and Thorn were able to sneak down the trail and contact both subjects wearing full camouflage. In addition to not wearing any orange, both subjects had neglected to take a hunter safety course. CO Thorn explained to the hunters the importance of taking a hunter safety course prior to going hunting. Citations were issued.

CO Jeff Goss received a complaint about someone hunting on Consumers Power Property and using bait. The complainant was able to show the CO the stand set up,

bait, and trail camera. Later that night CO Goss was contacted by the complainant that there was a vehicle parked on the property. CO Goss was unable to respond prior to dark so he contacted a local MSP trooper to see if he could identify the suspect when he got back to the vehicle. Once CO Goss arrived on scene, he interviewed the suspect who had already lied to the trooper as to what he was doing on the property. After a short while the man led CO Goss and the trooper to the location in which he had hidden his bow. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss was conducting a processor inspection when he located a deer with a suspicious tag. Upon interviewing the suspect, it was discovered that the man did not shoot the deer even though his tag was on the deer. The man explained that his buddy shot the deer and then offered the deer to him if he put his tag on it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Wellman conducted a processor inspection and came across a 12-point buck that had a tag attached to it that looked suspicious. CO Wellman looked further into the deer tag and located the hunter who shot the deer. The next day, COs Wellman and Josh Jackson conducted an interview. After a short conversation with the suspect, he admitted to not having a buck tag when he killed the deer. He shot the deer and then went out and bought a tag after the fact. A report will be sent to the Branch County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Josh Jackson was on patrol when a local officer called out a foot pursuit. The officer spotted a subject who had multiple warrants for his arrest. CO Jackson and several MSP troopers rushed to the scene where the wanted man bunkered down in a large house. A search warrant was executed, and the subject was arrested. Overall there were three people in custody after resisting officers, harboring a fugitive, and arrest warrants.

CO Chris Maher located two tree stands on state land in Jackson County. Neither stand was properly tagged with the owner's name and address and both stands had large bait piles by them. During his investigation, CO Maher talked to two local hunters who stated they told the subjects that Jackson County was no longer open to baiting and the individuals still proceeded to bait. A few days later CO Maher contacted both hunters in their stands. Initially during questioning the subjects told CO Maher that they did not place the bait and that it was someone from Detroit. After further questioning both subjects admitted that it was their tree stands and they did in fact place the bait there. CO Maher helped the suspects remove the bait and one of the individuals was found to have a bench warrant for failure to appear. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher received a RAP complaint of an individual who was baiting on state land in Jackson County which is currently closed to baiting. CO Maher conducted a foot patrol and located the hunter. Upon investigation CO Maher also found the individual had constructed a permanent blind on state land, was baiting in a county closed to baiting, and riding an ORV on state land in an area closed to ORV activity. Enforcement action was taken, and multiple warnings were given.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on patrol, received a call from a contact who observed a hunter in his tree stand well after legal hunting hours. The contact also stated that the hunter kept shining a nearby corn field every 20 minutes or so with a flashlight. The CO hurried to the location and observed the hunter continuing to shine the corn field. CO Reynolds walked into the property observing the hunter continue the shining activity. He then observed the hunter walking down a lane next to the cornfield continuing to shine the light into the field and woods. When CO Reynolds made contact the hunter still had an arrow nocked nearly three hours after legal hunting hours. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Katie Stawara and Sgt. Rich Nickols investigated a complaint of a possible illegal turkey shot while deer hunting. An interview was conducted, and a confession obtained. The suspect admitted to shooting a hen turkey on his way out of the woods while deer hunting and purchasing a license after the fact. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Katie Stawara and Sgt. Rich Nickols stopped at a local deer processor where they discovered a kill tag validated on the same date as which it was purchased. An interview revealed the suspect had purchased the tag for the deer after his friend shot it. Further investigation provided that the shooter not only allowed his friend to tag the deer, but his wife previously brought in another deer that was also tagged with another's kill tag. Both tagging violations were addressed, and enforcement action taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Jessie Curtis participated with an MSP Trooper with a Blue-Plate Lunch at Lynch Elementary School in Lapeer County. The officers ate lunch with the kids and explained what the duties of a conservation officer and trooper are. CO Curtis also shared with the kids how to approach a CO while out hunting and some other hunter's education information.

While checking waterfowl hunters in St. Johns Marsh, CO Joseph Deppen and Sgt. Todd Szyska conducted surveillance on a group of waterfowl hunters setting up early. The COs noted the hunters loaded their firearms more than an hour before legal hunting hours had started. The waterfowl hunters shot at passing ducks but were unable to hit any of the birds. COs met the hunters as they were exiting the marsh and during a check of their equipment, multiple violations were found with one of the two hunters. The hunter had a loaded firearm on a dike, no base license, no waterfowl license, no federal stamp, and an unplugged shotgun. The waterfowl hunter was advised of his multiple violations and enforcement action was taken.

While finishing up a waterfowl patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen was flagged down by people standing in a busy intersection. CO Deppen noticed a male slumped over the wheel of a vehicle. CO Deppen activated his emergency lights and approached the vehicle. The driver was unresponsive, and his vehicle started rolling into the intersection with a heavy flow of traffic traveling perpendicular to the vehicle. All

the doors were locked and CO Deppen had to break a window to gain entry as the vehicle rolled forward and was not stopping after hitting a traffic sign. CO Deppen was then able to reach into the vehicle and place the vehicle in park as medical personnel were arriving on scene. Paramedics and the fire department extricated the driver who was placed into an ambulance and was assessed. The driver was transported to the hospital from the scene. The vehicle was towed, and the scene was turned over to the local agencies on scene.

While checking hunting on Lake St. Clair, CO Joseph Deppen noticed a single vessel with a boat blind hunting offshore. As night was falling the vessel did not leave its mooring point and was lost from the CO's sight. CO Deppen searched the local area and found a lone truck and trailer. The vessel came back to the launch about an hour after hunting hours had ended. Upon contact, CO Deppen noticed an expired registration, two shotguns still loaded in a motorized boat, and various marine violations. The waterfowl hunters were educated and enforcement action was taken.

While on a wildlife patrol, CO Joseph Deppen responded to a RAP complaint regarding a hunter who was operating an ORV on state land. CO Deppen located the ORV and after searching the area, he located the hunter on state land. The hunter said, "I don't have a license, and someone has been adding bait to my bait pile". CO Deppen had the hunter exit his tree stand and addressed the multiple violations. The hunter's violations were numerous, and included hunting deer without a license, hunting over an excess of two gallons of bait, no name and address on his tree stand, screw in tree steps on state land, operated his ORV in a prohibited area, committed ORV Trespass, failed to register his ORV, was operating an ORV without a helmet, had operated the ORV on a roadway and was operating his ORV on a suspended driver's license. The hunter was educated on current laws and enforcement action was taken.

COs Raymond Gardner and Jessie Curtis contacted a subject from a possible illegal turkey complaint in Lapeer County. Upon contacting the subject, CO Gardner asked if he shot a turkey during the fall season. The subject told him that he did. CO Gardner then asked him if he purchased his license before shooting the turkey. The subject told CO Gardner that he did not. He said that he thought he bought one and realized afterward that he didn't. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner received a complaint about a deer that had been taken without a license in Lapeer County and contacted the subject at his residence. During the interview the subject denied killing the deer without a license. CO Gardner told the subject that he posted a photo on Facebook about the deer a day before buying his license. The subject then told CO Gardner that he bought his deer license before going hunting. After the interview CO Gardner went to Walmart and reviewed the security footage and confirmed the subject purchased his deer license after he killed the deer. CO Gardner contacted the subject again and told him about the security footage. The subject continued to deny the evidence against him. A report is being submitted to the prosecutor's office requesting charges for taking a deer without a license.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey conducted an inspection on a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in Macomb County. The COs discovered multiple violations including wildlife being housed with domestic animals, deer fawns not released by the deadline, wildlife in captivity without a permit, missing and improper record keeping and other violations. A report will be submitted to the prosecutor.