

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
10/29/12 – 11/11/12**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Mark Leadman worked a late shooting complaint located at a road intersection with a power line right-of-way running diagonally through the intersection. At dusk Officer Leadman watched a vehicle stop at the intersection, the driver got out and got a beer from the bed of the truck, then got back into the cab and sat at the intersection drinking his beer until well after dark. When the vehicle left CO Leadman followed it to a nearby residence where he contacted the driver and his young grandson. Besides the open intoxicants, two uncased shotguns were found. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon was checking illegal stands found during archery season when he came upon a vehicle near one of the locations. Contact with the driver revealed he was the owner of the nearby illegal stand. He stated he was coming out to see how much bait his brother had put out for him. CO Bacon had already found an excess of two gallons of bait at the spot. An uncased crossbow and rifle were found in the back seat of the truck. Enforcement action was taken.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Brett Gustafson had an odd conversation with a subject in a deer camp. The hunter told the CO that he would never find his hunting location and therefore wouldn't be able to issue a ticket for his illegal deer blinds and stands. By day's end, the CO located the hunter in his deer stand and informed him that he also found his blinds. The subject had built his blinds and stands in a permanent manner on state land. He also failed to put his name/address on them and utilized illegal screw-in steps at his tree stands. The subject was ordered to remove his illegal blinds and stands and was issued a ticket for the illegal stand and screw-in steps.

CO Robert Crisp met two anglers coming off Lake Superior. During the contact, CO Crisp observed blood near the tailgate and the license plate of their pickup. When questioned, the owner of the vehicle confessed to shooting a deer earlier in the week. CO Crisp followed them to their residence and once there, contacted the suspect's uncle. The uncle stated that he had shot a deer, but when he processed it, he threw away the kill tag. A check of the license system found the uncle had not purchased a license. When questioned, a full confession was obtained. The initial suspect was ticketed for failure to tag his deer that was legally taken and the uncle was ticketed for taking an illegal deer. The firearm involved was seized, as was the frozen meat from their freezer.

CO Mike Evink responded to a complaint of a dog caught in a trap. When he arrived, he found the trap did not have an identification tag attached. Several other traps without tags were found in the area. CO Evink left his business card at the location and

the following day the owner of the traps called him. The traps were returned and the owner was ticketed for failure to tag his traps.

### **DISTRICT 3**

Responding to a shining and shooting complaint, CO Jon Sklba heard a gunshot when he got to the complaint area. He then observed a vehicle casting a spotlight in a partially harvested crop field. The vehicle turned and left in a different direction upon seeing CO Sklba's patrol truck. CO Sklba stopped the vehicle later and contacted the lone occupant. The occupant stated they were shining for deer but when the CO attempted to shine his flashlight into the vehicle, the subject slapped the CO's hand and flashlight down and drove off. CO Sklba pursued the subject and the vehicle stopped again. Again, upon approaching the driver and attempting to shine his flashlight into the vehicle the driver slapped his hand downward. The subject was then arrested and lodged in the county jail. A loaded rifle magazine was found in the front seat of the vehicle, but no rifle. The following morning several COs checked the crop field and found seven deer that had been freshly shot and left to rot in the field, including a seven point buck. A subsequent search warrant resulted in rifles, ammunition and several deer heads being seized. The investigation continues and warrants are being sought.

CO Andrea Erratt received a litter complaint involving a large amount of housing material dumped on state land, including tile and carpeting. A name found in the trash pile led CO Erratt to a subject who advised his son was supposed to take the trash to the dump. A ticket was issued to the son and the site ordered to be cleaned up, which has already been done.

CO Matt Theunick, Sgt. Greg Drogowski and Lt. Jim Gorno worked on a case stemming from four separate complaints about a person blocking access on a state land trail road, posting state land as private, and possible hunter harassment. Not being able to prove hunter harassment, the obstructed trail road and posting of state land as private was evident. The subject received several tickets for state land use violations.

CO Nick Torsky received a complaint of hunter harassment where a vehicle had been parked within 20 feet of a tree stand. When CO Torsky arrived he discovered that the complainant had driven his ORV in prohibited areas without registration, and was hunting over bait in a prohibited county. When the driver of the vehicle returned it was determined that the parking was done without malice and that he did not see the blind when he parked there. The complainant was ticketed for operating an unregistered ORV and warned for his other violations.

CO Nick Torsky received a complaint of a person trying to sell a fox and raccoon on eBay. When he arrived at the suspect's house he found a raccoon wearing a pink harness chained to a dog house. CO Torsky contacted the homeowner who provided paperwork showing that she had gotten the fox from a captive breeder, but the raccoon had been taken from the wild. She tried to sell it when she learned it was illegal to have. She was ticketed for possessing wild animals in captivity and the raccoon was seized.

CO Bill Webster contacted a crossbow hunter in the woods and detected the odor of marijuana. The hunter eventually admitted to recently having smoked a joint; CO Webster explained that is against the law to hunt with any kind of weapon while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Mark DePew reported that two individuals he arrested earlier this year for illegally taking a bobcat were fined \$1,100 for their violations.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

While on patrol, CO Sam Koscinski located a hunting blind that was rigged with electricity. CO Koscinski ran surveillance on the blind after dark on several occasions and on one of the checks observed a light beam being cast from the blind. A check of the blind found it to be occupied by a subject in possession of a crossbow and a spotlight. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Sam Koscinski and Holly Pennoni investigated information concerning a subject that may have killed an overlimit of bucks. A check of the suspect's residence turned up an untagged buck in the garage. Further investigation revealed that the subject had harvested one previous buck that was legally tagged. A ticket was written for the tagging violation and the subject had to validate his remaining buck tag, thus ending a successful season.

CO Brian Brosky followed up on a complaint involving a subject who was bragging about killing a deer with no license. CO Brosky visited the suspect's residence and was shown a deer hanging in a garage that had been hit by a vehicle. The subject admitted to lying about killing the deer and was ticketed for possession of a road-killed deer without a permit.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling in rural Manistee County when he encountered two subjects in a pickup truck on a U S Forest Service (USFS) two-track. While speaking with the subjects, CO Converse detected the odor of burnt marijuana. A short discussion about the situation resulted in the confiscation of a small amount of suspected marijuana and an uncased shotgun behind the seat. The vehicle operator was ticketed for transporting an uncased firearm and possession of marijuana.

CO Angela Greenway responded to a complaint of a subject who had placed an excessive amount of bait and was hunting without permission on a neighbor's property. CO Greenway determined the identity of the subject trespassing and met him at the location of the bait. The subject explained that he did not know he was on the neighbor's property but could not explain how he had missed the numerous "No Trespassing" signs near his blind and bait. The subject was ticketed for the baiting violation and ordered to remove the bait and hunting blind.

CO Angela Greenway and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth responded to a complaint of a deer lying in a field with its back broken from a gunshot wound. The COs located the deer and took up a surveillance position. Two subjects were observed sneaking out to the deer to dispatch it. One of the subjects placed the deer on his shoulders and began running up to a nearby house. When the two subjects got near the house, the COs contacted them. After confessions were obtained, the deer and a rifle were seized. Tickets were issued for the illegal possession of the deer.

CO Carla Soper responded to a complaint of excessive baiting and an illegal hunting blind on USFS lands. CO Soper located a mowed path leading from the USFS trail and followed it to a ladder stand that was occupied with a subject using a crossbow. The subject was sitting over the illegal bait and had not brought any licenses or identification with him. CO Soper requested that the subject climb down and provide his name. The subject was also asked if he had any weapons on him. The subject stated that he had forgotten to mention that he possessed a handgun under his coat. CO Soper obtained the firearm and ascertained that the subject had moved out of state over a year ago and had let his CCW lapse. The handgun was seized and the case is being reviewed by the local prosecutor.

CO Carla Soper responded to a complaint of a subject carelessly discharging a firearm onto his neighbor's property. Once on the scene, CO Soper found that the suspect had been target shooting using only a piece of thin sheet metal as a target without any backstop. The bullets had been flying onto the neighbor's property near his hunting blind. CO Soper checked the subject through LEIN and found that he had a Personal Protection Order that prohibited him from possessing firearms. Troopers from the MSP assisted on the scene allowing CO Soper to further search the shooting location. CO Soper was able to locate a bait pile on the suspect's property that was grossly over the baiting limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carla Soper responded to a complaint where a subject trespassed to retrieve a deer. CO Soper stopped at the suspect's residence to discuss the situation with him and check his deer. As they were talking in the front yard, CO Soper observed two large marijuana plants growing in the flower bed and asked why they were there. The subject stated that he was going to attempt to obtain a medical marijuana card, but thought he would try growing some first. CO Soper passed on the information to the local narcotics team for follow-up.

COs Jeff Ginn, Brian Lebel, Troy VanGelderren, Mike Wells and Sgt. Michael Bomay conducted a night time flight sponsored by Mecosta County Quality Deer Management club and were able to locate several subjects shining during the November shining ban. Enforcement action was taken on all vehicles stopped.

CO Mike Wells was riding with the pilot during the night flight when he observed a dim light being cast along a roadway with no vehicle lights visible. CO Wells directed Sgt. Michael Bomay and CO Troy VanGelderren to the area where they were able to locate an Amish horse buggy with two hound dogs attached to the buggy shining for raccoons

along the roadway. The two occupants had harvested several raccoons and failed to purchase any licenses. The raccoons were seized and a ticket was issued for the license violation.

Sgt. Michael Bomay and CO Brian Lebel received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of a gunshot deer found on private property. The COs developed a suspect on the adjoining property which contained a bait pile directly behind the residence. While interviewing the suspect, CO Lebel was able to get an admission that the subject had earlier harvested a spike buck with a crossbow and had used his restricted combination license. The COs pressed for more information concerning the gunshot doe that they had originally been called on after observing several loaded firearms near windows in the residence. The subject finally admitted to shooting the doe from the residence with a light attached to the firearm. The subject was also a convicted felon and thus unable to possess firearms. The firearms were seized and enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeff Ginn and Brian Lebel teamed up for an evening patrol and located a vehicle headlighting a field known to have big bucks. The two occupants possessed an uncased bow. CO Lebel had issued the passenger of the vehicle a ticket earlier in the month for shining with an uncased crossbow. The bow was seized and a ticket was issued for shining with a weapon in possession.

CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint of a deer shot with a firearm. CO Wells responded to the area and was able to locate a suspect. CO Wells interviewed the suspect and was initially informed that he just retrieved the illegal deer and was not responsible for shooting it. The subject further stated that he was sick of all the poaching going on in the area. CO Wells continued the interview and eventually got the subject to admit that he indeed had shot the deer with a firearm during the bow season. The deer and firearm were seized and the subject issued a ticket for taking a deer out of season.

CO Mike Wells investigated a complaint of a subject hunting school property with no licenses and had possibly just harvested a buck. Further investigation revealed that the subject may have taken two bucks from the property utilizing his father's licenses. The father was interviewed and confirmed that he loaned his licenses and was ticketed for the violation. Upon interviewing the original suspect, it was determined that he had harvested a third buck, this one never being tagged. The suspect's archery equipment was seized and he was ticketed for taking an overlimit of deer.

CO Mike Wells was conducting an inspection of a deer processor when he located a large eight point buck tagged with an archery license that was purchased the same day as the inspection. CO Wells interviewed the owner of the tag and determined that the subject had purchased two archery tags for his stepfather who was on probation. Further investigation revealed that the stepfather had harvested two bucks without purchasing any licenses. Tickets were issued to the stepfather for taking deer without a license and to the stepson for loaning a license to another. The crossbow and trophy

buck was seized from the stepfather. CO Well followed up with the Newaygo County Probation Department and advised them of the violations.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Warren MacNeill was contacted by a detective with the Michigan State Police (MSP) regarding a manhunt being conducted along the Au Sable River. He was told that a rescue rig pulling an airboat had been stolen out of a township fire hall. The truck and empty trailer had been located in a ditch close to the Au Sable River. A search party comprised of MSP troopers and local deputies were combing the woods surrounding the location of the truck. CO MacNeill responded to the area and located the subject walking down the edge of the road. Officer MacNeill arrested the subject and held him until troopers arrived.

CO Warren MacNeill was in the area of a fall hayride that had been hit by a truck and was among the first to respond to the scene. Several victims in need of medical assistance were laying on the road and hay wagon. CO MacNeill assisted in securing the scene, providing first aid, and loading ambulances.

CO Warren MacNeill received a request for assistance in searching for a lost elderly man suffering from dementia who had not been seen in a few days. Deputies were searching the federal land around his home in an attempt to locate his vehicle. With all deputies in the woods, CO MacNeill went to the Community Center and located the missing subject's vehicle along with about 10 others. After interviewing the neighbors to the Community Center, CO MacNeill was able to determine the 'missing' subject was actually on a casino bus tour.

While on patrol, COs Mark Papineau and Brian Olsen observed several ORVs being operated illegally on state land. As the COs approached, the ORVs exited state land and began drag racing down the county road. When the ORVs pulled into a nearby subdivision, the COs stopped the subjects, who admitted to operating illegally on state land until they saw several hunters. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jon Warner and Warren MacNeill were following up on bait complaints and located two subjects in possession of an untagged deer, hours after it had been shot. A ticket was issued.

CO Jason McCullough received a complaint of a subject who had shot a buck with a .22 rifle while he was squirrel hunting. When the CO contacted the subject and checked the deer, the subject tried to conceal the bullet hole by sticking an arrow through the wound after the deer was field dressed. After being shown the evidence, the subject confessed to his actions and was charged with taking the deer during the closed season.

CO Jason McCullough received a tip regarding a lady who had reportedly shot a trophy buck without a hunting license and tagged it with her husband's license. During the

investigation, it was discovered that she had been doing this for several years. A ticket was issued.

CO Steve Lockwood stopped a vehicle from which a subject was shining and found an untagged six-point buck in the back of the vehicle. The subject claimed it was his friend's deer. The CO contacted the friend who admitted to shooting the deer without a license. A ticket was issued and the driver of the vehicle was charged with shining in November.

Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez contacted a subject who was in possession of a buck that had been tagged with his wife's license and the tag had not been validated several days after it was shot. After talking to both subjects and getting two different stories, the husband finally admitted to shooting the deer and using his wife's tag so he could keep hunting. A ticket was issued for borrowing a license.

Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez checked a hunter coming out of the woods with two trophy bucks in the back of his truck, neither of which had been tagged. The subject stated he didn't want to tag them because he had shot both deer that night while crossbow hunting and he didn't want his season to be over in one night. A ticket was issued for failing to tag the deer.

## **DISTRICT 6**

Sgt. Tony Soave and CO Nick Atkin were on patrol when they located an untagged deer hanging behind a pole barn. Upon further investigation, the COs found the tags the suspect had were illegally obtained. The COs also located a second deer that was tagged with an illegally purchased tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of an overlimit of deer and tagging violations. Three bucks were found upon arriving at the suspect's residence, one of which did not have a tag, another had a tag that wasn't validated, and the third was properly tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea along with the MSP responded to a trespassing complaint and a possible altercation taking place on the complainant's property. Upon arriving, it was discovered that a hunter had shot a deer and trespassed while he tracked it onto the neighboring property, disrupting several other hunters. The situation had calmed down upon the officers' arrival and the trespassing hunter was ticketed.

CO Bob Hobkirk was contacted by a local deputy regarding a complaint that he received of three individuals hunting along M-25 near some houses. CO Hobkirk located the hunters after they had left the area and the investigation resulted in a subject being ticketed for borrowing his wife's antlerless deer license and another subject ticketed for hunting with no license.

While on patrol in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell located a large amount of black smoke coming from a residence. Upon contacting the owners a large fire was located next to the residence. They were burning chairs, desks, and sofas that had been stored in the basement for years. Enforcement action was taken.

In 2011 CO Dan Lee handled a complaint from a farmer who had a new neighbor knock down some of his crops and place bait in his fields. At that time, the CO addressed the trespass, crop damage and bait issues with the neighbor. This fall another farmer called to complain that the same subject was doing the same thing on his property. When the CO responded, the fields had been worked and the evidence of the trespass was gone but the suspect had a large illegal bait pile on his own property. Another ticket was issued.

CO Dan Lee received a RAP complaint of a rumor that a subject was bragging about a deer he shot behind his house. The CO checked the property and found a large bait pile and a recent gut pile. The subject had only purchased a firearm deer license for the year. He was not home so the CO tried to locate him at work. The CO then received a call that the suspect heard the CO was snooping around and was headed home to get rid of the evidence. The CO met the subject at his house and found an untagged deer with a gunshot wound.

CO Quincy Gowenlock stopped to assist a disabled vehicle. Upon contact, the CO found out that the elderly driver had hit a deer and his car was inoperable. The driver had been sitting in sub-freezing temperatures for over an hour with no heat. The CO helped him into the patrol truck to warm up. The CO then called for a wrecker and transported the elderly male to his residence, where the man repeatedly thanked the CO for stopping to check on him.

COs Quincy Gowenlock, Ken Lowell, Jeremy Payne and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly conducted a decoy patrol in Gratiot County. None of the vehicles shot at the deer but five of the vehicles decided to shine the field in attempt to locate deer. Tickets for shining in November were issued.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a call from CO Lively in Oscoda County with information of a poached deer in Gratiot County. CO Gowenlock responded to the complainant's residence where an eight point buck was located in the field. The complainant advised that he was home the previous night around 11:30 p.m. when he heard a shot. He looked out his window and saw a truck stopped in the road and a subject in his field. He quickly got dressed and jumped into his truck to see what was going on. The suspect vehicle sped off and the complainant followed them and obtained a plate number. The CO then contacted the suspects who told the CO that his wife had the car that night. The CO then asked the suspect if he really expected him to believe that his wife was out poaching while he was sitting at home. The suspect hung his head and confessed to being with his brother and shooting the deer. The brother was contacted an hour later and he admitted to shooting the deer. The 50 cal. muzzle

loader was confiscated and both were issued tickets for taking a deer out of season and recreational trespass.

COs Joel Lundberg and Jay Person were on patrol when they heard a gunshot just before dark. The COs responded to the area of the shot, and were able to track down a freshly killed deer hanging in a backyard. A quick interview with the homeowner, and a confession was given. The homeowner said he shot the five point buck with his rifle because he needed meat for the freezer. Enforcement action was taken

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly received a RAP complaint of a deer shot with a firearm before the season opened. Upon contact with the suspect, he advised that the deer was injured. He went on to say he knew he should not have shot it, but decided to shoot it twice with his rifle because it was suffering. Upon inspection of the deer, the Sgt. found two fresh bullet holes. One went right through the deer paralyzing it and the other shattered its femur just above the knee. The Sgt. then found a third hole that went right into the skull, that was not made from a bullet. The Sgt. then asked the suspect where the rest of the arrow was. The suspect walked about 15 yards away and picked up the rest of the arrow from under a log. The subject looked at the Sgt. and said, "You got me, I'm guilty". The rifle and the deer were seized and the subject was issued a ticket for taking a deer with a firearm before the season.

COs Jeremy Payne, Quincy Gowenlock, Steven Lockwood and Jason McCullough have been working on a case where six subjects were charged with the illegal taking of bobcats in four different counties. The illegal taking, which included hunting and trapping was traced back to 2004, and occurred in Montcalm, Isabella, Roscommon and Clare Counties. The six subjects each lost their hunting privileges for four years, their firearms were condemned, and they paid fines and restitution totaling \$8,300.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Cary Foster received information relating to shots fired after dark and an ORV leaving a field at a location in Ionia County. CO Foster went to the scene to investigate with CO Steve Orange and upon arriving located two untagged deer in a barn near the location. Further investigation revealed one deer was taken with a bow but never tagged; and a second deer had recently been shot by a hunter with a Hunt from Standing Vehicle Permit and taken illegally with a 30-06 rifle. During the investigation, CO Orange also found a subject in possession of marijuana during a search of the hunter's vehicle. The COs took enforcement action for taking deer by illegal method, deer tagging violations and possession of marijuana.

CO Cary Foster was checking area streams when he located body gripping traps illegally set on dry land. The traps were tagged and the owner, who was located, advised he had not reviewed the trapping regulations as carefully as he should have. The trapper was very cooperative and removed approximately 15 similarly set traps but was ticketed for setting prior to the open season and warned on other violations.

COs Steve Orange and Ivan Perez each conducted interviews relating to an adult taking an antlered deer during the youth hunt in September. The COs learned a father had taken a seven year old hunting during the youth hunt weekend. Interviews established that the unlicensed adult shot an antlered deer with a 12 gauge shotgun originally supplied to the seven year old for the excursion. It also appears that hunter orange garments were not worn as required by law. The adult will be facing charges for the illegal taking of a deer.

CO Steve Orange and Sgt. John Jurcich conducted an investigation into the taking of a trophy bull elk in northern New Mexico by a Michigan resident. The COs working with New Mexico officials used computer records and social websites to resolve a Michigan resident claiming residency in New Mexico, obtained a bull tag in an area closed to non-resident hunting, as well as paid only resident fees. Hunters in that state reported suspicious activity and possible wanton waste of meat near the hunting location starting the investigation. The case was jointly investigated and solved within five days of the harvest, with charges pending for the taking of this trophy 6x7 bull pending in New Mexico.

CO Steve Orange responded to a complaint of shining and shooting activity in Kent County. Additional surveillance and investigation led to the apprehension of two subjects shining with a shotgun and 22 rifle intending on shooting rabbits. Two rabbits had been taken and the subjects were ticketed for use of the artificial light and illegal taking of game.

CO Greg Patten encountered two adults and a minor just beginning an evening deer hunt. Further investigation found the youth, who was said to be hunting in the morning, did not have a license. Each adult admitted to consuming six beers during the day prior to their evening hunt. CO Patten spent some time explaining to the group potential law violations and acceptable behaviors for those mentoring youth hunters.

CO Ivan Perez, while investigating one complaint, learned of another hunter possibly attempting to take deer with a firearm at dusk. Patrolling on foot into the area, CO Perez located a 16 year old, alone, with a muzzleloading rifle seated on a second story stairwell waiting for deer. After completing the investigation and contacting parents, CO Perez will be sending reports to the Ottawa County Juvenile Court.

Sgt. John Jurcich received information of a possible buck taken illegally the previous evening in Oceana County. Working with CO Chris Simpson the COs went to the residence to conduct an investigation. Upon arrival they could hear several subjects talking in a pole building. CO Simpson knocked at the entry door and an occupant announced, "It's open". The COs stepped into the building and found three persons standing next to a skinned out eight point buck, with a bullet wound to the neck. It was quickly established the deer had been taken the night before with a 30-06 rifle by the property owner. The deer and rifle were seized and enforcement action was taken by CO Simpson.

While on patrol for waterfowl hunting activity CO Mike Mshar and Sgt. Jeff Rabbers contacted two subjects along the lakeshore. One subject appeared to be quite nervous and attempted to leave the area. After contact was made CO Mshar located an electronic Goose calling device hidden behind a tree, discarded by the subject when he attempted to leave.

CO Paul Higashi responded to a complaint of a subject in possession of a deer shot with a firearm. When the subject was contacted he stated he had no deer and had been out small game hunting. The subject's hands were covered in blood, which he claimed came from a squirrel he had killed. After a lengthy conversation, access was obtained to search his outbuilding, which resulted in the confiscation of a doe shot with a .30-.30 rifle. A confession was obtained and the rifle and deer were confiscated and enforcement action taken for the violation.

CO Andy Bauer received a trespassing complaint from a bow hunter who stated that he observed a subject with both a bow and a gun enter onto his property. CO Bauer responded and contacted the subject, who was carrying a muzzleloader and a bow, and had shot the muzzleloader at an animal. CO Bauer discovered that the subject had trespassed, was carrying the firearm during the five day quiet period, did not have any hunting licenses and wasn't wearing any hunter orange. The subject also had an outstanding warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Bauer issued a trespass ticket to a subject on the complaint of a landowner who had had numerous problems in the past with trespass by unknown subjects. This particular time, the landowner discovered a subject who had gutted a deer on the landowner's property and was in the process of dragging the animal off the property when he was discovered by the landowner.

CO Patrick McManus responded to a complaint of shot fired early in the morning in an area where there have been numerous problems in the past; including trespassing and illegal harvesting of deer. Upon his arrival he noted an individual with a bow in his hands who was unresponsive. After CO McManus determined the subject was not in need of medical care, he discovered the subject was hunting without a license, and possessed methamphetamine drug paraphernalia. The subject stated he was hunting with two other individuals who were still in the woods. With the assistance of local deputies, CO McManus located the individuals, who admitted to not only hunting without deer licenses, but also using a firearm. There were no deer shot on the property, but the subjects stated they did attempt to shoot at a deer. Also, after interviewing all three subjects, it was determined that there was an active meth lab on the property. The West Michigan Enforcement Team (WEMET) was contacted and followed up with the meth lab while CO McManus issued tickets for the numerous DNR violations.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Rich Nickols while on patrol stopped at a deer processor to see how business had been going. CO Nickols inspected a kill tag of an antlered deer on the floor of the shop

and saw it was purchased at 10 p.m. and validated the same day it was purchased. CO Nickols interviewed the subject who said he shot the deer and when he went to tag it, realized he only had an antlerless permit. The subject said he thought he was doing the right thing by buying the buck license after the fact. CO Nickols seized the deer and took it to another deer processor that donates deer to local food banks. While dropping off the deer, CO Nickols checked a few tags in the cooler and found another deer that had a tag purchased after legal hunting hours the day it was validated. Warrants are being sought in both cases.

CO Rich Nickols stopped by a couple taxidermists during the past week to check on business after the EHD outbreak. At each of the taxidermists CO Nickols located a set of antlers where the kill tag was purchased after the date of kill listed on the DNR specimen tag. One of the kill tags was purchased five days later. The antlers were seized and follow up interviews and likely warrant requests will be done sometime in the near future.

While looking for trappers on the first day of the water trapping season, CO Rich Nickols located a couple of subjects setting traps on a pond. While walking out to contact them, CO Nickols checked some of their sets and found them to be untagged. CO Nickols located a tag on one trap but it did not belong to either subject. When questioned, the subject setting the traps said he had bought his stuff at garage sales and off Craigslist. Furthermore, the subject said he never tags his traps because when people see he is not from the area they steal his traps. A ticket was issued for the untagged traps.

While leaving a field on a shining patrol shortly after midnight, CO Rich Nickols observed a vehicle traveling down the road and shine a flashlight out of the driver's window. He stopped the vehicle and questioned the 18 year old driver and his three passengers. The group was en route to meet some other people to go raccoon hunting, but couldn't help looking at a few deer on their way. A quiver full of arrows was in the passenger compartment of the truck and a bow was encased in the bed of the truck. The driver was educated on the laws regarding shining, specifically being illegal during November, after 11:00 p.m., and with a bow in the vehicle.

CO Kyle Bader swore to a four count warrant for trespass, hunt without a license, violation of the safety zone, and possess a firearm while bow hunting. The violations occurred during the 2011 bow season. The subject was in possession of an active meth lab and was charged by Branch County Sheriff's Department. The drug investigation and charges were the reason for the delay on the hunting charges.

CO Kyle Bader received a RAP complaint for northern Calhoun County of a subject shooting a deer with a firearm and trespassing to retrieve it. CO Bader met the complainant and a deputy on scene and started collecting evidence from the complainant's property. CO Bader started interviewing the subject and located evidence that a deer had been killed. CO Jeff Goss arrived on scene and assisted with interviewing both subjects. The deputy advised of an address down the road where relatives of the subjects lived, so COs Bader and Goss went to that location. CO Bader

interviewed the resident while CO Goss located the gunshot deer in a barn on the property. The original subjects confessed to possessing an untagged deer and trespassing. Tickets were issued and the deer was seized.

CO Kyle Bader received information from CO Jeff Goss that a subject in Branch County had killed a large buck before he purchased a license. CO Bader interviewed the subject and obtained a confession for not only killing the original buck before purchasing a license, but also for killing a separate buck and never tagging it, and trespassing on the neighbor's property to retrieve them both. A ticket was issued and the large rack was seized.

CO Derek Miller was on patrol checking hunters in the game area. CO Miller contacted two bow hunters to check licenses and see how their hunt was going. The subjects gladly showed their licenses and decided to tell CO Miller about some of their hunting success for the year, including pictures. CO Miller then realized that they had only used one tag, and killed two deer. CO Miller got a confession for failing to tag a six point deer earlier in the season. Tickets were issued and antlers were seized.

CO Derek Miller was working a trespass complaint in Washtenaw County when he was called to assist with a lost hunter on the countyline. CO Miller was assisted by two MSP troopers. CO Miller was able to work with the central dispatch to triangulate the hunter's position and use satellite imagery to get an idea where he was. CO Miller and the troopers walked cross country and after a mile and a half located the hunter in a thick swamp. The hunter went off the trail and immediately became confused. The hunter was dehydrated and cold, but was able to walk out after warming up and drinking some water.

CO Derek Miller was patrolling the game area when he located a subject at his truck. The subject had a loaded uncased firearm in his vehicle, a quantity of marijuana and a smoking pipe. The subject stated he had two friends who were also out hunting. CO Miller had the subject call his friends out of the woods to make contact, and one subject came out of the woods carrying a crossbow. The other subject was carrying a shotgun, saw CO Miller's patrol truck and walked into the corn field. CO Miller walked down the road and located the subject lying in the field, carrying the shotgun, and with no hunting license. The second subject also admitted to having a quantity of marijuana in the vehicle and an uncased crossbow. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Mendez responded to a complaint of four deer hanging in a garage that were illegal. CO Mendez interviewed the subject and it was discovered that there were actually seven deer hanging in the garage. Further investigation revealed that the subject was also a convicted felon. Warrants are being requested.

CO Daniel Prince responded to a complaint of after hours deer hunting. The complainant heard four shotgun shots an hour after legal bow hunting time ended. CO Prince met the complainant the following day and located two illegal tree stands over a very large amount of corn. CO Prince was able to contact the hunter who admitted to

hunting deer illegally over an excess amount of bait. The subject also had no deer archery hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster and Sgt. Troy Bahlau conducted a processor inspection and discovered a suspicious tag on a deer. An interview with the subject revealed the antlerless deer was taken prior to buying his hunting license for the year. The subject admitted to hunting throughout the entire archery season but waited until after he had taken a deer to secure a hunting license so he could take it to the processor. Charges are pending.

CO Shane Webster responded to a complaint made by an individual who stated he'd heard a shot fired and later ran into a subject who was hunting. The subject told the complainant he'd made a bad hit on a deer with his bow and had retrieved a firearm to put the deer down. The man called the information into the RAP hotline and CO Webster contacted CO Damon Owens, knowing he had received several complaints from the area. CO Owens was able to point CO Webster in the direction of a possible suspect. Contact with the subjects revealed an eight point buck hanging in a barn without a tag, with a clear bullet wound, as well as an initial archery wound. CO Webster discovered the subject had taken another deer earlier in the season; however, he was still in possession of both of his combination licenses and had been back out hunting since taking the buck that morning. A full confession was obtained, the eight point was seized, and charges are pending.

## **DISTRICT 9**

Sgt. Tom Wanless contacted a complainant on a complaint of a subject trespassing and hunting on the complainant's property. The subject put out too much bait, set up a tree stand, a pop-up blind and a trail camera. The complainant recovered and removed the camera and the pop-up blind. Reviewing the pictures on the camera, the CO observed pictures of the subject dumping the illegal bait. Sgt. Wanless and the complainant went out to the baited area and the subject was in the tree stand. The subject claimed he was given permission from the complainant's tenant, who did not have permission to hunt the property himself. The subject traded a firearm for the alleged hunting lease. The subject also had two warrants for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Ennett and Lacelle Rabon conducted a patrol along the Huron River in Flat Rock in response to reported snagging. CO Ennett ticketed one individual for retaining a foul-hooked fish. The angler asked to be given just a warning, as he was new to fishing and unaware of the rules. CO Ennett pointed out that the angler possessed two years' worth of fishing licenses, so he wasn't that new. CO Rabon had checked the angler for a fishing license and had given the group he was fishing with a lesson on what was considered a legal versus illegally caught fish.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a RAP complaint of a group of hunters who reportedly shot at swans. CO Ennett was able to locate the group and sneak in close enough to watch their activities until the end of legal hunting hours. At one point he was peppered

with shot from one of the hunters shooting at something. The hunters were checked after hunting hours were over and one of them still had a loaded gun. He was ticketed for being afield with a loaded firearm after legal hunting hours. The hunters denied shooting any swans and there were none found.

CO Mark Ennett checked a trio of waterfowl hunters that paddled in to the boat ramp at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (SGA). Their small electric engine had malfunctioned and the boat had not been registered since 2006; the owner also did not have enough personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board the vessel. One of the hunters had no Michigan waterfowl hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler was on patrol when he observed an ORV operating along a set of railroad tracks. As the CO caught up to the ORV, he observed a small child riding on the back of the ORV as a passenger. After stopping the ORV, CO Drexler learned that the operator's six year old daughter was the passenger. Neither occupant was wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Mike Drexler were working a late night patrol when they contacted two shore anglers on Lake St. Clair. When the COs asked if they had any fish one angler stated they did not while the other angler said they did. The first angler, who had several prior DNR violations, eventually walked the COs to where the two fish were, stating he caught a walleye and a pike. The pike was actually a Muskellunge that was almost one foot short of the legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler was investigating a subject who was trespassing on private commercial property. The subject was utilizing the bright factory lights to hunt deer after hours. With CO Kris Kiel and Sgt. Arthur Green, the COs set up surveillance on the property after dark and contacted the suspect as he exited almost three hours after legal hunting hours had ended. In addition to recreational trespass, the subject was trespassing on railroad property, hunting deer after legal hunting hours, and hunt deer with aid of artificial light. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Drexler, Kris Kiel and Sgt. Arthur Green were on patrol in Wayne County when they observed a light cast across airport property after dark. The COs contacted the driver of the vehicle who was using a high powered LED flashlight to look for deer. The driver stated he was a hunter and admitted to knowing that shining was illegal in November. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft followed up on a complaint of two males loading an untagged deer into a truck. CO Kieft checked the license plate number on the vehicle through LEIN and discovered that the registered owner had not purchased any hunting licenses in a number of years. After locating the subject's tree stand and finding a bloody arrow, CO Kieft went to the subject's residence to interview him. While talking with the man, CO Kieft located the seven point buck in the backyard of the residence. CO Kieft also observed a suspicious venting system coming out of the basement area on the backside of the house. After getting a closer look, CO Kieft could smell the odor of

marijuana coming from the vent. The homeowner admitted to growing 12 marijuana plants in the house, so the narcotics team was called to the scene. CO Kieft and local deputies seized the deer, arrested the subject, and removed approximately 100 marijuana plants from the house.

CO Brandon Kieft assisted local authorities and the MSP on a complaint of two bucks shot with a firearm during the archery season. CO Kieft interviewed one of the subjects who admitted to killing the deer with a .308 caliber rifle and taking an overlimit of antlered deer this season. The other subject admitted to loaning the first subject a deer license to tag one of the bucks. A bullet was recovered from the deer and the rifle was seized along with the two bucks. Warrants will be sought for the violations.

CO Ben Shively responded to an anonymous RAP complaint of a subject hunting behind a residence over a truck load of bait. CO Shively walked the property and located a subject hunting in a tree stand. CO Shively asked the subject for his hunting license and he stated he'd left it in the truck. After getting the subject's information the subject stated that he did not have a license. CO Shively checked the area where the subject was hunting and located approximately 15 gallons of soybeans spread on the ground. The subject was ticketed for archery hunting without a license and for exceeding the two gallon limit for bait.

CO Ben Shively was working a shining patrol and was headed to an area of frequent complaints when he passed a vehicle going the opposite direction. After passing the CO, the vehicle stopped and a spotlight came out and began working both sides of the road. CO Shively turned around and made a traffic stop after watching the vehicle work two additional fields. The subject stated that he has been stopped numerous times by county, state, and DNR for shining in November and all they do is check if there are guns and let him go. The subject was ticketed for shining in November.

CO Kris Kiel set up surveillance on three waterfowl hunters on Lake St. Clair in a lay-out rig. The CO watched the first hunter shoot three ducks. The second hunter shot seven ducks. The tender boat waited 30 minutes before attempting to pick up the second hunter's seven dead birds. When they did, only two were retrieved due to the fact that the waves had carried the other floating birds away. At this time, CO Szyska came over to help with surveillance while CO Drexler checked area launches for the subjects' vehicle. The third hunter shot four birds before being relieved by the first hunter again. This time, the first hunter shot five more ducks for a total of eight. The third hunter took over again and shot two more ducks for a total of six, but continued to shoot and miss more ducks. CO Drexler found the subjects' vehicle at a private residence on a canal. When the hunters were packing up their equipment, the COs waited for them in the canal. The COs found 21 ducks, three over the limit. Also, lead shot was located in the lay-out boat. Tickets were written for overlimits of ducks, fail to make a reasonable attempt to retrieve dead waterfowl and include in the daily bag limit, possession of lead shot, and no navigation lights. The ducks were seized.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel received a complaint from a passer-by that stated they had just called the sheriff's department about a subject killing a goose with a rifle at a condominium complex in Mount Clemens. The complainant advised that the subject had lied to the deputies about killing the goose when they questioned him on it. Further, when the deputies left, the subject placed the goose in a white garbage bag and drove off in his dark vehicle. The COs arrived on scene and located the subject's condo unit. Officer Kiel found the scene of the crime (pile of goose feathers and blood). The COs then buzzed the door bell at the complex several times and no one would answer. When the COs walked back to their patrol units a black mini van matching the description rolled past the COs and tried to park at the far end of the complex. COs Szyska and Kiel stopped the suspect and questioned him about the goose. The subject confessed that he had shot and killed the goose because it was chasing his fiancé's toy dog. The subject had used a .45 caliber high power air gun with BSA optics to shoot the waterfowl. The subject then took the goose to a local meat market and went to the bar. After getting the weapon from the subject, CO Szyska went to the meat market and retrieved the Canada goose. The subject did not have a small game license, state waterfowl stamp, federal migratory stamp, HIP survey, etc. The subject used other than non toxic shot and a weapon that shoots a single projectile to kill the waterfowl. The subject also violated the safety zone of eight other residences, and carelessly discharged a firearm. The subject's weapon was seized. The multiple count warrant will be sought for the violations.

CO Linda Scheidler was traveling in her patrol vehicle during the archery deer season when she saw a man with bloody clothes walking from his barn to his house. She pulled into the driveway and asked to take a look at the deer he had harvested. Upon examining the entrance wound, it appeared to have been shot with a gun. The subject decided to look in his garage for the arrow he insisted he had extracted, and when he reappeared, confessed to seeing the eight point buck in his back yard and shooting it with the varmint shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler received a RAP complaint of an 11 year old who shot a deer without adult supervision. The child's father, who had been a deer game breeder in the past, told the CO he had just returned from an out-of-state trip when he learned the news himself. He said the deer was hanging in the barn. The subject allowed the CO to speak to the child, who admitted he saw the deer limping across the field and lay down. The juvenile said he was able to walk up to it so he returned to the house, got his rifle, and put it out of its misery. He told CO Scheidler he used the mechanical lift on the ATV to get the deer to the barn. Upon inspection of the deer, the CO saw the father's tag on the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received information from an informant of possible illegal trapping activity in St. Johns Marsh. The CO was able to locate several dry land sets for coyote and raccoon, along with muskrat traps which were set out of season. One of the muskrat traps had a muskrat in it. While conducting his investigation, the CO observed a small boat with three subjects approaching. CO Lasher hid in the cattails and waited for the subjects to check the traps, which they did. The male subject stated he was

confused on the season dates for muskrats. The traps also did not have identification tags on them. A marine safety inspection was conducted and there were no life jackets in the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a late night patrol to address shining complaints, CO Ken Kovach observed a vehicle slow rolling and shining a field. After following for a short distance the CO stopped the vehicle and contacted the two occupants. Though they both had hunting experience, they thought they could shine through the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month. The following evening CO Kovach observed another vehicle shining several fields. The CO followed the vehicle for several miles as they continued to shine fields. At one point the subjects shined a field, continued down the road, turned around and came back to shine the same field. The CO observed a large buck in the field they were shining. The subjects drove down the road again stopped for a few minutes, then came back and shined the same field; however, the buck was gone. The CO stopped the vehicle a short distance later and found two subjects with bows. One of the bows was on the passenger's lap uncased. CO Kovach interviewed the subjects and they admitted they had full intentions of shooting the buck. Enforcement action was taken in both cases.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Det. Erlandson reports that on 10-18-2012, Mr. Germain Macias was sentenced in the 10th Circuit Court in Battle Creek for violation of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act PA 451 of 1994, part 31 Water Resources Protection. Mr. Macias had plead guilty at an earlier date in front of Judge Allen Garbrecht for dumping oil from an old home oil storage tank into the storm sewer where it travelled into the Kalamazoo River and migrated 18 miles.

Mr. Macias received the following sentence: 4 years' probation, restitution to the city of Battle Creek for \$149,586.97 for clean-up of the oil from the river, and additional fees of \$1453.00. Macias also has to secure employment.

The case stems from a PEASE report in February 2012 of a sheen on the Kalamazoo River. Det. Erlandson responded promptly and with the assistance of DEQ Kalamazoo District Supervisor Mr. Fred Sellers and identified a suspect. Det. Erlandson was able to overcome a language barrier with Mr. Macias with the assistance of Mr. Sellers and conducted interviews and obtained confessions. Mr. Macias is being held by a federal agency for illegal immigration, it is unlikely the City of Battle Creek will receive the restitution.