

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
11/26/12 – 12/9/12**

DISTRICT 1

CO Marvin Gerlach contacted a subject whose hunting privileges had been revoked until January 1, 2013, due to a conviction of taking deer out of season by CO Gerlach in 2009. He had purchased six licenses in the last two years. Enforcement was action taken.

COs Marvin Gerlach and Trey Luce investigated a nonresident subject in possession of an antlerless deer that he claimed to have shot two days prior. Unfortunately, the subject had not purchased a doe tag, had borrowed a license from his sister-in-law (Michigan resident) and had not validated the tag he borrowed. The deer and rifle were seized. Contact was also made with the sister-in-law. Enforcement action was taken with all involved.

CO Brian Bacon responded to the complaint of a subject retrieving a deer from private property without permission of the owner. CO Bacon located the hunter back at his residence by following the ORV tracks. The subject stated he did not know who owned the land, but admitted that he should have made an effort to contact the landowner. A check of the hunter's blind on his property also revealed a large bait pile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho has been working a case in which a fisher had been left in a leghold trap for an extended period. After dispatching the fisher, CO Aho contacted the trapper, who happened to be out of town for the past few weeks. Enforcement action was taken for violating the Upper Peninsula 48 hour trap check law.

CO Elton Luce is conducting taxidermy inspections within his area which have resulted in verbal warnings. He received a complaint of several bags or boxes of deer parts thrown on state land. Officer Luce was able to identify a suspect, and after a short interview, obtained a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy worked a complaint of an unlicensed taxidermist. The subject had taken illegal fur bearing animals along with not having their taxidermy license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Mike Hammill was on routine patrol when he became aware that a subject was overdue to come out of the woods. Concerned for the man's safety, a foot patrol was conducted to find him. The subject was finally located still in his tree stand hunting. It was also discovered that the subject was hunting with too much bait. The two tons of sugar beets was a far cry from the two gallon limit. Enforcement action taken.

CO Kyle Publiski was checking an area where he knew of an illegal deer blind and illegal bait, among other violations. When contacted, the subject was also using a crossbow, contrary to regulations in the U.P. It became apparent that this hunter couldn't find anything that he was doing right. He was in violation of two ORV regulations, two state land regulations and two game laws. Tickets were issued.

CO Jeff Panich responded to a 911 call for help when two 10 year old boys wandered onto the ice of a local lake in the St. Ignace area. The boys made it out to the middle of the lake where they fell through the ice and couldn't get out. The ice was much too thin for responding officers to walk out to them so the fire department utilized a small flat bottomed boat to work their way to the chilled subjects. Thanks to the combined effort of many agencies the boys were finally reached and brought to shore where they were warmed and released to their parents.

At 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, CO John Wenzel and Sgt. Darryl Shann responded to a complaint of a lost hunter in Schoolcraft County north of Manistique. The hunter had called 911 with his cell phone and they were able to get a GPS reading. The COs hiked into the location from the east and local deputies hiked in from the west. The area was a marsh, with marsh grasses and cranberry bushes and several inches of water with snow and ice on top. Total hiking time was approximately five hours, with total distance of over two miles. The hunter was located and led back to the patrol truck where Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was waiting. He was treated for hypothermia and exhaustion. The hunter had been staying at his family's camp to the west of where he was found.

CO John Wenzel and Sgt. Darryl Shann came up behind a pickup truck loaded with goose decoys on a back woods road. The fresh track in the snow showed the vehicle had been driving slow and had stopped in several locations prior to the contact. Upon contact, the vehicle's passenger appeared to be handling something in the truck. Once stopped, the COs found the passenger had been attempting to unload a tube fed .22 caliber rifle. He was unsuccessful in his attempts. The gun was seized and an arrest was made for possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

DISTRICT 3

COs Matt Theunick and Mike Feagan received a call from grouse hunters in the Pigeon River Country (PRC) that they found a bobcat alive in a foothold trap. The COs were able to successfully release the bobcat and locate the trapper. The trapper had been trying to trap coyotes, but had failed to check his traps for several days, contrary to the Lower Peninsula 24 hour trap check law. A ticket was issued.

CO Matt Theunick handled an elk complaint in the PRC in which a bow hunter observed a suspicious vehicle with a set of elk antlers in the bed of the truck. CO Theunick tracked down the vehicle and driver, and found an elk head and antlers from an elk taken from a North Dakota game ranch.

CO Jon Sklba responded to a shooting complaint on the Black Lake shoreline. The subject stated he was shooting at a dead tree limb attempting to shoot it off the tree, with a 12 gauge slug. The CO then observed a dead mink hanging from the tree and questioned the subject, who admitted shooting it, stating it was a nuisance. CO Sklba issued a ticket and explained the reckless use of a firearm, illegal take of a mink (shooting), and lack of a fur harvester license violations to the subject.

CO Andrea Albert investigated a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of a hunter taking an overlimit of bucks after he'd bragged that he'd shot three bucks. The subject had picked up a car-killed eight point without a permit and claimed he shot it during bow season. He then shot two more bucks during firearm season and used a friend's license to tag one of them so he could take one more buck. Both hunters were ticketed for the violations.

COs Andrea Albert and Steve Speigl investigated a complaint of a deer that had an arrow in it lying alongside a road in Antrim County. Follow up by the COs led to evidence of four deer being shot. When the suspect was interviewed the COs learned he had only one antlerless license. Warrants are being sought for violations including an overlimit of deer, failing to tag deer and hunting within a safety zone.

CO Steve Speigl responded to a trespass complaint in Antrim County. CO Speigl was provided with trail camera pictures and video of the trespasser, who denied being over the property line until he was shown the video. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Rebecca Hopkins investigated a report of a sub legal buck that was taken in Leelanau County. CO Hopkins went to the suspect's residence and when he returned, contacted him in his vehicle. Located in the vehicle was a tote with an untagged spike buck inside. The subject stated that he did not know how the deer got into the tote, or how the tote ended up inside his vehicle. A ticket was issued for possession of an illegal deer.

CO Sean Kehoe received a complaint of deer carcasses being dumped at the Arbutus Lake boat launch. On site, CO Kehoe located deer carcasses, garbage bags, butchering papers, gloves and other evidence that the carcasses had been processed, and then dumped. CO Kehoe also discovered a kill tag on one of the carcasses. CO Kehoe was able to track down the owner of the kill tag and issued the subject a ticket for littering.

CO Sam Koscinski reports a disposition on a case from last spring involving a subject who was fishing a local trout lake before the trout opener. When contacted in the spring, the subject advised CO Koscinski to go ahead and write him a ticket because he will simply have it dismissed, like a previous ticket he was issued a few years prior for the same offense, at the same location. The subject then failed to show up in court, had

a warrant issued for his arrest, was picked up on the warrant and was subsequently ordered to pay \$960 in fines and costs for fishing closed waters.

CO Steve Converse made several tagging violation and illegal deer cases after inspecting local deer processors. One case involved a subject taking a deer on an illegally purchased archery tag. Another case was made after following up on an unvalidated tag. In this case, CO Converse visited the residence of a subject who had failed to validate her tag and discovered that not only had the person allowed her husband to use her tag for the deer he had taken, there was also an untagged deer hanging in the garage that was taken by her husband. A third illegal deer case was detected by noting that the tag was purchased after the close of hunting hours and validated for the same day. A fourth case was made while following up on another unvalidated tag. In this case the subject had taken a deer without a license and later decided due to warm weather he would have to purchase a license in order to get the deer processed because he did not have enough time to do it himself.

CO Troy VanGelderren overheard dispatch reporting a helicopter crash in the Tanner Swamp, known as an expansive wooded wetland area. CO VanGelderren responded due to his knowledge of this large area with few roads. CO VanGelderren was able to take the coordinates obtained when a crash survivor called in with his cell phone and convert them to his GPS. The CO was able to get as close as he thought to the crash scene on a two-track and then traveled into the swamp with fading light. Officer VanGelderren had to cross two streams, the last of which was over his waist, to get to where he believed the crash site to be. As the CO searched, he continued to yell out to the survivor. Dispatch contacted CO VanGelderren and informed him that the survivor phoned, stating he could hear the CO's calls. CO VanGelderren located the crash scene in heavy cover and treated the survivor for his injuries as he directed rescue efforts. The passenger was removed from the swamp successfully and airlifted to a Grand Rapids hospital. Unfortunately, the pilot of the helicopter was deceased at the scene.

DISTRICT 5

CO Jason McCullough observed a hunter who tried to empty his gun and hide his ammo when he spotted the CO. The subject did not have a hunting license and, after a short interview, confessed to shooting a six point buck without a license in Hillsdale County earlier in the season. COs Dan Walzak and Kyle Bader assisted in seizing the deer as evidence. The investigation is ongoing.

COs Jason McCullough and Steve Lockwood received information of a bobcat that had been illegally trapped during the closed season. An interview with the suspect led to a confession of trapping in the closed season. The illegally killed bobcat was recovered and a ticket was issued.

While investigating a complaint, CO Jason McCullough heard the complainant talking about hunting. Being suspicious of his remarks, CO McCullough checked to see if the individual had purchased any hunting licenses. After verifying that the subject had not

purchased any licenses, CO McCullough returned the next day and caught the subject hunting. A ticket was issued.

COs Brian Olsen and Mark Papineau located a vehicle in a field well after dark. When the hunters came out of the field, the COs checked the vehicle, which revealed an untagged antlerless deer and the hunters without antlerless licenses. A ticket was issued to the individual responsible for shooting the deer.

CO Steve Lockwood responded to a complaint of a shot after dark and located a subject leaving the area, which led to a lighted bait pile and an untagged deer hanging in a barn. A ticket was issued to the subject, although he was not the source of the original shot reported.

DISTRICT 6

CO Seth Rhodea contacted a subject in a vehicle after watching him slow rolling down a dirt road, making frequent stops. Two cased and unloaded shotguns were found in the vehicle and the third firearm found was a .223 caliber rifle lying on top of its case on the floor in the back of the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was responding to a call where someone had attempted to run over a couple of people. While CO Wright was en route to the scene, the suspect left and headed to his house. CO Wright was the first to arrive at the suspect's house, and while waiting for backup, the subject arrived home and rammed the CO's patrol vehicle and then sped off. CO Wright gave pursuit, along with a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper, until the subject failed to stop at a stop sign and struck another vehicle with a father and his two children inside. The subject was arrested and is facing eight felony charges and seven misdemeanor charges. The family was treated at the hospital and released.

CO Bob Hobkirk received a complaint from an individual who had information that hunters had taken two deer from their vehicle earlier in the day. The complainant called CO Hobkirk in the afternoon because the suspect vehicle was once again cruising around the neighborhood. Officer Hobkirk located the vehicle and when contact was made, two untagged antlerless deer were in the bed of the truck. The three occupants of the vehicle admitted to shooting both deer from the vehicle. Of the three subjects, only one was in possession of a deer license. The deer and firearms were seized and numerous charges will be sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Chad Foerster received a RAP complaint regarding a subject hunting from his vehicle. CO Foerster located the hunter in his vehicle and watched him for some time from a distance. When contact was made, the CO found the hunter inside the vehicle actively hunting deer with a loaded/uncased rifle on his lap. The subject was hunting without a license, using a rifle in the shotgun zone, using a .22 caliber rimfire rifle to hunt deer, no hunter orange and several other violations. The hunter stated that he owned the property and he could do as he pleased. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn R. Strawn checked a truck parked deep in the woods and discovered an empty rifle case across the front seat and hunter orange vest in the back. Considering the nasty weather, the CO ruled out small game and began to search the area for the hunter. Within a few minutes the CO was able to track down a man hunting deer with a muzzleloader and not wearing any hunter orange. During the subsequent investigation the CO also determined the hunter had an outstanding arrest warrant from another county. The hunter was arrested and taken to jail for the warrant and for hunting deer with a muzzleloader during the closed season.

CO Quincy Gowenlock was on patrol near the wildlife refuge in the Maple River State Game Area (SGA) when he observed subjects on the dike. The CO then observed one of them walk off and into the refuge. The other subject crossed over into an area open to hunting and laid out a string of decoys and then walked into the refuge. As the CO continued to watch he observed them set up along the dike and begin to hunt. The CO contacted the hunters and asked them what they were doing hunting. The adult advised that the decoys were not in the refuge and they were two inches from the sign, which he advised was legal. The CO then informed him that he saw them in the refuge. The adult hunter did not have a Federal waterfowl stamp and his son did not have a small game license or a plug in his gun. The father advised the CO that his son was only 15 and those laws did not apply to him until he was 16. The CO advised him that he was incorrect and explained the law. Tickets were issued.

While patrolling in Gratiot County, CO Quincy Gowenlock was monitoring a pursuit where two deputies were chasing a vehicle. The CO then heard the distress call from one of the deputies advising that he was just rammed by the suspect and pushed off the road. A request for immediate assistance came from the solo deputy. The CO responded and joined the pursuit 45 miles through three counties, ending in Saginaw County. Sgt. Ron Kimmerly was monitoring the chase in Saginaw County and was able to block a portion of the road in front of the suspect. When the suspect went around the Sgt., the vehicle lost control and went into a ditch. The suspect was then taken into custody. He was booked into the Gratiot County Jail for felonious assault against a peace officer, felony flee and elude and felony destruction of property.

CO Dan Lee, while checking the Crow Island SGA, contacted a hunter who was lost. He said that his partner had dropped him off and told him to walk through the woods with the sun on his right. After running into several other hunters he left the area and got turned around. After dark the partner returned shouting about how he had shot two deer, a buck and a doe. The CO introduced himself and checked the hunter. He did not have an antlerless license for the area and his shotgun was still loaded. Turns out this hunter had been arrested by the CO twice before for hunting late. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jay Person was called to a complaint of subjects hunting and cutting trees on private property. Upon arrival, the CO found where the suspects had numerous tree stands and box blinds on the property and had removed approximately two to four truckloads of wood. The chain gate across the drive was removed and paths to the

blinds had been raked as to approach quietly. The subjects claimed they thought it was their grandfather's property. The investigation continues into how many deer were taken off the property while trespassing as well as a total number of trees that were stolen.

DISTRICT 7

CO Cary Foster was conducting taxidermy inspections in Ionia County when he discovered a business that was failing to maintain records and not tagging specimens as required by law. The business was ticketed for the violation and a re-inspection is pending. While conducting those inspections, CO Foster discovered a buck that had been tagged with an antlerless tag and another deer tagged with a license purchased on 11/17/12 but validated for 11/15/12. Interviews conducted after the inspections have led to confessions to a loaned license and improper tagging and another deer taken without a license, with the license purchased after the fact to allow the animal to be brought into the taxidermy studio.

COs Greg Patten and Chris Simpson responded to 911 call of a suicidal subject who had cut himself with a box cutter and ran into a wooded area to avoid detection. He was located by the COs who rendered first aid while awaiting the arrival of EMS and other police personnel.

CO Chris Simpson was requested by Muskegon Central Dispatch to respond to the scene of a tree stand fall. Arriving with fire personnel, they found a hunter who had fallen 22 feet while hunting with a rifle and had broken his shoulder and femur during the fall. The 911 dispatch center was able to provide GPS location information to rescuers based on the cell phone call placed by the victim.

CO Ivan Perez assisted local authorities with an investigation involving the shooting of a deer with a bow in a city park. Police arrived at the scene to investigate the shooting of the deer and found a receipt for the purchase of arrows from a nearby store lying on the ground. Review of the store security camera led to the identification of a possible suspect in the shooting. This lead turned attention to yet another subject who was the actual shooter, who took advantage of street lights in the area to shoot the deer after dark. The story concludes with yet another person who provided a tag to place on the illegally taken animal. Multiple charges on multiple suspects are being sought in this case.

CO Ivan Perez was on patrol when he saw an angler along the Grand River in Ottawa County. As he approached the angler who was heading rapidly for the water, CO Perez quickly caught up in time to retrieve two eight inch bass that had been thrown into the river. The angler commented that he was just letting them go; CO Perez commented, "Then I guess you were catching them two at a time." The angler was ticketed for possessing undersized bass.

CO BJ Goulette and Sgt. John Jurcich responded to a RAP complaint of shots fired just before and after dark along a stream near Holland. Three hunters were tracking a deer that had been struck with an arrow. While no guns were found and the shots appeared to be from another source, an inspection of the hunters' remaining tags led to a confession of taking a deer in Mason County earlier in the season and failing to tag that deer. Enforcement action will be taken.

CO Dave Rodgers compiled information and conducted interviews relating to the dumping of a large amount of trash in the Rouge River SGA after locating a responsible rental property owner. CO Rodgers will be seeking enhanced littering charges and cleanup costs to Wildlife Division related to this incident.

CO Mike McGee investigated a subject who took a deer and claimed to have a license. Unfortunately, CO McGee discovered that the license was bought the last day of deer season; the deer had been taken over 10 days prior. Warrants are being sought for the violations.

CO Simpson was watching several anglers fishing from shore on Muskegon Lake when one angler became aware he was being watched. The angler went to his vehicle and began to drive away. It was established this person had neither a fishing license, nor a driver's license as he attempted to leave the scene, causing CO Simpson to take enforcement action.

CO BJ Goulette conducted an investigation into a whole deer imported from the State of Missouri, a positive CWD state. It was verified that the animal was imported whole and a head was being retained for taxidermy. CO Goulette ticketed the hunter for the illegal importation. The subject admitted being aware of the issue in Missouri but not thinking ahead to the illegal importation to Michigan.

CO Steve Orange investigated a complaint originally handled by sheriff's deputies of a minor who had taken a deer illegally. After several interviews, CO Orange established an adult subject had actually taken seven deer in three counties. Three deer were taken without licenses and tagged with tags from other persons who illegally provided tags. Enforcement action is pending on the hunter and others who loaned tags.

CO Steve Orange located a deer at a processing facility that was tagged with a license purchased and validated on November 15th. During the interviews, this deer was initially claimed as taken by a minor but further questioning found a grandfather had taken the deer without a license, while another family member purchased a license and tagged the deer. Enforcement action is pending for a deer taken without a license and loaning of licenses. A juvenile was warned during the investigation for tagging violations and for hunting without proper supervision.

CO Mike Mshar contacted a subject in the Allegan SGA who was attempting to discard a squirrel carcass he found in his yard. CO Mshar observed a large bloody tarp in the back of the subject's vehicle and advised him that it was illegal to dump on state land,

and gave him a warning. As the subject was leaving the area the CO located two freshly dumped deer carcasses. CO Mshar caught up with the subject and enforcement action was taken.

CO Patrick McManus checked a group of successful deer hunters as they arrived at the deer check station in Plainwell. One of the hunters, who was in his early 20's, stated he harvested the doe that was being turned in to check, but upon closer inspection, CO McManus saw that the date of birth printed on the hunting license would put the hunter's age in the late 50's. The younger hunter had used his father's antlerless deer license because he did not possess any more licenses to harvest deer this year. CO McManus also contacted the father in this matter, and went over the laws regarding lending licenses to others, even if they're family members.

While performing an inspection at a local meat processor, CO Patrick McManus discovered a large set of antlers buried in a stand-up freezer. Although the antlers were properly tagged with the correct license, CO McManus suspected the license was bought after the deer was harvested. Upon a lengthy interview with the hunter, a confession was obtained and the deer was turned over to the processor for donation.

CO Patrick McManus received a complaint from Allegan County central dispatch regarding a subject who witnessed a vehicle that stopped near a group of deer in a field and fire a weapon from inside the vehicle, killing one of the deer. After an hour, CO McManus located the vehicle in the area and upon searching the passenger compartment discovered two uncased firearms and further evidence of shooting the deer from within the vehicle itself. After interviewing the two subjects involved, a full confession was made; the deer was seized from a nearby barn, and both firearms were seized. Several charges are being sought for each suspect for their actions in the incident.

CO Chris Holmes re-interviewed a subject who had taken a deer without a license earlier in the week. While investigating the hunting area, the CO found the remains of two antlerless deer on an adjoining property. Officer Holmes could smell something odd in the area and while searching a junk pile found two deer carcasses hidden under old carpet. The CO presented the evidence to the subject and obtained a full confession of the deer being killed without a license. Officer Holmes also obtained information on two other deer killed and not tagged. Enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 8

CO Kyle Bader took a complaint in Hillsdale County of a subject trespassing to retrieve a deer. The landowner showed the CO where the subject was hunting and then showed him the blood trail coming across the property line. The deer died 100 yards onto the landowner's property. CO Bader collected evidence and interviewed the subject. He admitted to dragging the deer off the property without contacting the landowner. He said he didn't think it was on their property far enough to bother calling. The subject was issued a ticket for recreational trespass.

CO Kyle Bader followed up on information he received from CO Jason McCullough in District 5. After a short phone interview, a subject admitted to shooting a five point opening day and using his father's tag on the buck because he didn't have one of his own. The subject lives in Wayne County. CO Walzak seized the antlers and CO Bader took law enforcement action on the tagging violation.

COs Derek Miller, Jason Smith, and Mike Drexler worked a group patrol in a complaint area known for shining and shooting deer. The COs worked into the early morning hours before spotting the first vehicle shining. The vehicle then made a U turn in front of CO Smith and shot a single round out of the vehicle in the direction of COs Miller and Drexler. During a traffic stop on the vehicle the CO located an uncased .223 and a spotlight. The driver of the vehicle was also in possession of small amounts of marijuana. Enforcement action taken and weapon was seized.

The same night the three COs located another vehicle shining and COs Drexler and Miller followed the vehicle at a distance noting their movements. The COs made a traffic stop on the vehicle and located a loaded uncased 30-06 in the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle already had shining and shooting charges, along with an illegal deer pending in the Wayne County court. Additional action was taken and now the subject has court pending in Washtenaw County.

COs Derek Miller and Jason Smith responded to a complaint of shots fired at a lighted bait pile behind a residence. Upon arrival the COs couldn't get anyone to answer the door but then found the bait pile and fresh blood. CO Miller returned the next night to interview the owner of the house. A full confession was given for shooting the deer at the bait pile without a license. Enforcement action taken.

COs Derek Miller and Jason Smith worked the Chelsea game area and located a subject packing his fishing gear. The subject could not find his license, so his information was run through dispatch. The subject was suspended indefinitely and not able to drive. A search of the vehicle turned up small amounts of marijuana in several different locations in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Derek Miller responded to a complaint of litter and carcasses being dumped in an area in Lenawee County. He stopped several vehicles after dark in an attempt to check hunters and try and locate someone dumping carcasses. On his patrol he saw a vehicle traveling slowly down a dirt road and then shut its lights off. CO Miller figured the subject was either shining, loading a deer, or dumping carcasses, so he stopped the vehicle. After a short interview and the fact that one subject had blood on his hands, the subjects admitted to dumping deer carcasses on the property without permission. The carcasses were picked up, along with a small amount of trash, and a ticket issued.

CO Jason Smith had received a complaint that a couple of individuals had been bragging at a local bar that they never buy licenses and that they can do whatever they want on their own property. CO Smith, along with CO Mike Drexler, decided to check the area where these guys hunt. The COs managed to contact the hunters, who were

trespassing, had no hunting licenses, were intoxicated and were in possession of loaded firearms after hours. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jason Smith was tucked away in a hiding spot while working a late night shining patrol with COs Derek Miller and Mike Drexler. CO Smith observed a truck slowly moving down a dirt road when all of a sudden it stopped and started shining a field. CO Smith was trying to get a better view when a shot from a rifle came from the truck. The vehicle began to speed off and CO Smith was able to stop it before it got away. The driver was shining in November, shining with a firearm in possession, attempting to take game after hours and admitted to smoking marijuana. Enforcement action taken.

CO Dan Bigger worked a 250+ acre decommissioned POC facility case where the owner had requested to leave the fence up for the facility. CO Bigger was able to determine that the facility had deer back inside the fence and that the owner had been hunting inside the enclosure. Several deer were chased to pens inside the enclosure where hunters were waiting and deer were shot. CO Bigger was able to interview the property owner and gained a full confession along with the names of the other participants. CO Bigger traveled to Houghton Lake and was able to recover the deer that had been shot. CO Bigger contacted Wildlife Division and verified that the POC had been up to date on all required TB testing and other requirements prior to the decommissioning in 2009. With all the records good, CO Bigger and Lt. Sherry Chandler met with the property owner and walked the facility to enforce the fence law compliance set to be completed and re-inspected.

CO Shane Webster investigated a suspicious tag recovered from a processor inspection. With assistance from CO Chris Holmes, contact with the subject was made and a confession was obtained of taking a deer without a license. The individual took a deer during the second day of the two day antlerless season and purchased his antlerless tag well after hunting hours ended. A report with charges is to be submitted to the Prosecutor's Office.

CO Todd Thorn and MSP troopers responded to a complaint of shots fired where a round hit a house, narrowly missing a woman who was standing in her doorway. The round was retrieved and a subject was located. The subject admitted to having shot at a deer with the house in the background. The subject was not wearing any hunter orange and was also within the safety zone of two houses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn received a complaint of a deer being shot with a shotgun two days after firearm deer season. A license plate was given by the complainant, and the subject along with the deer were located. The man confessed to having shot the deer with a 16 gauge shotgun. Enforcement action was taken and the deer was seized.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler, Sgt. Tom Wanless and Lt. David Malloch worked a hunter harassment complaint. The complainant had exclusive permission to hunt a parcel of property; however another subject in the area thought he also had permission to hunt the property and was leaving notes on the complainant's hunting blinds. The subject was also riding his ATV on the property while the complainant was hunting. The subject was contacted and he apologized multiple times. He thought he had permission because the alleged property owner gave him permission years ago. He re-contacted the alleged owner who informed him she had not owned that property for years.

On the last day of firearm deer season a night group patrol was worked in St. Clair County by COs Ben Lasher, Ken Kovach, Kris Kiel, and Todd Szyska. CO Kovach had been receiving complaints of subjects shining and shooting on private property farm fields. The COs set up in the area and monitored the road system for illegal activity. Around 7:00 p.m., CO Lasher noted a slow moving pickup truck entering the area. The vehicle rounded the corner of the road and began casting a spotlight on the field. Shortly after, two gunshots were heard by the officers. COs Kovach and Szyska stopped the vehicle, which was occupied by two subjects. The passenger still had the spotlight turned on, pointed at the interior roof of the vehicle and the driver had tossed the 12 gauge semi-automatic shotgun into the back seat. The subjects stated that a deer had run out in front of the truck and they stopped and shot at it in the field. When LEIN files were run on the subjects it was discovered the passenger had three outstanding warrants for his arrest; and a local deputy transported him to jail. Both subjects were written tickets for the offenses and the weapon was confiscated.

While checking perch boats coming into the Harley Ensign Boat Launch, CO Todd Szyska observed a van all stickered up with duck hunting decals. While looking into the window of the van, CO Szyska observed empty decoy bags and an empty gun case. Noting that duck hunting season was over in the South Zone, CO Szyska camped out in the area and set up surveillance and was later joined by CO Kris Kiel. Around 2:00 p.m. a subject in a duck boat drove through the cut into the Clinton River. With aid of binoculars CO Szyska observed the subject had duck decoys all over the boat, as well as a gun case. The subject came into the launch and when asked about his hunt, advised CO Szyska that it was not very good and he could not get a shot off. CO Szyska showed him in the duck guide that the season had been over for a few days. CO Kris Kiel help search the subject's vessel and no ducks were found. Enforcement action was taken for hunting ducks during the closed season.

CO Ben Lasher received a RAP complaint of a subject without a license who shot a deer on Thanksgiving Day. The subject was interviewed at his residence and confessed to taking the doe without the license and with a .30-30 rifle in the shotgun only zone. Warrants are being sought.

CO Ken Kovach stopped an ORV that was illegally operating on the roadway in St. Clair County. The ATV also did not have an ORV license. CO Kovach ran the subject's

information through the dispatch center and found the subject had a warrant out of Chippewa County and a suspended driver's license. The warrant was valid; however, Chippewa County could not pick up. CO Kovach took enforcement action for the multiple violations.

CO Al Schwiderson contacted a subject who purchased a hunting license while revoked. The subject told the CO he purchased the license and when he got home he read the paperwork and realized he could not have the license so he allegedly threw it out. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett located and researched the ownership of a boat hull that was dumped at a parking lot of the Erie SGA. All equipment had been removed along with the registration information but, they forgot about the HIN. The most recent owner listed was a nearby Marine sales office. The owner claimed he had "no idea" how one of his old boat hulls had gotten dumped less than a mile away from the shop. The owner was allowed to remove the boat hull in lieu of enforcement action.

Sgt. Arthur Green and CO Brandon Kieft received a complaint of a possible safety zone violation during the firearm deer season. The COs were checking the area when they noted that the hunter had not returned to his vehicle long after hunting hours. They contacted the hunter leaving a barn area which he had been using as his hunting blind. The hunter was only 110 yards from an occupied dwelling and hunting over an excessive amount of bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft followed up on an antlerless deer that had been brought into a meat processor without a hunting license. CO Kieft tracked down the person who dropped off the deer and interviewed him. He stated that his father had actually shot the deer and he was just trying to help out by dropping it off. After interviewing the father, it was determined that he did not have a license to possess the deer. A ticket was issued for fail to immediate attach kill tag.

CO Brandon Kieft was called to assist local deputies on a case involving assault, resisting and obstructing police, attempted escape from police custody, a marijuana growing operation, and possession of two deer shot illegally. CO Kieft interviewed the parties involved in the deer poaching portion of this case and determined that both deer were shot without hunting licenses. The homeowner possessing the deer was also currently revoked from hunting due to a prior DNR violation. The deer, crossbow, and processed venison were all seized. Warrants will be sought through the Prosecutor's Office.

CO Ben Shively assisted Illinois Conservation Police with the interview of a subject and recovery of a shoulder mounted eight point deer taken in Illinois. The deer had been shot by a convicted felon in 2011 and given to a subject who had moved to Michigan to practice taxidermy. A statement was given to CO Shively by the subject on how the felon had given him the eight point deer and the mount was seized. Numerous warrants on the felon will be sought by Illinois Conservation Police.

CO Ben Shively followed up on a RAP complaint from park staff of two subjects waterfowl hunting on Prince Lake in Bald Mountain Recreation Area during the closed season. CO Shively checked the RSS history of the registered owner and found that the subject had purchased a 2012 combination deer license and two archery licenses. CO Shively interviewed the subject who was adamant that the waterfowl season closed on December 8th. When CO Shively showed the subject the Waterfowl hunting digest with the season dates the subject put his head down. When questioned about purchasing the archery licenses four months after purchasing his combination licenses, the subject stated he wanted to shoot a doe with his bow. The subject was ticketed for hunting waterfowl during the closed season and purchasing an overlimit of antlered deer licenses. The second waterfowl hunter was interviewed and ticketed for hunting waterfowl during the closed season.

CO Ben Shively was checking Highland Recreation Area and checked three hunters walking down the road. The hunters stated they were taking part in a deer drive and were headed back to their vehicles. When asked, all of the subjects presented CO Shively with valid state land antlerless licenses or firearm licenses except one hunter who could only produce a private land antlerless license. The subject stated that he left his combination license at home. CO Shively took the hunter's information and advised him he would meet him at his residence later that night to see his combination license. CO Shively met the subject at his residence and was given a validated restricted combination license. The subject stated that he had shot a six point and put his restricted deer license on it, but found he had put the wrong license on it and took it off and put the right license on it. CO Shively advised that his restricted license was not valid because it had already been validated. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was checking Highland Recreation Area when he located a van parked in an area closed to hunting. CO Shively checked the vehicle and located bait in the van and a tarp with dried blood in the back of the van. CO Shively watched the vehicle and contacted a female hunter returning to it after the end of hunting hours. The subject stated that she did not know that the area was closed, and that the blood on the tarp was from a buck her boyfriend had shot. CO Shively interviewed the father and boyfriend and found that the female hunter had shot a button buck earlier in the season and had not tagged the deer. The CO then followed the hunter and boyfriend to their residence and checked the remains of the deer at the residence. CO Shively issued tickets for hunting in a closed area and failing to attach kill tag to deer.

CO Ken Kovach and Sgt. Tom Wanless finally tracked down a subject who allegedly purchased a hunting license while revoked. The subject stated he lost his wallet and someone else must have purchased the hunting license. Sgt. Wanless was able to get video surveillance from the retail agent of a subject matching the description of the subject. Charges are pending.

CO Linda Scheidler received a RAP complaint in September of early baiting. She periodically checked the area until she found a hunter in late November, who said he leases the property with two others. She asked the hunter who was hunting each blind

she had located, and when she asked about the blind that was baited prior to October 1st, he told her his name. Follow-up contact with the subject produced a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska was in Macomb County when he observed a vehicle parked on the side of the road near a culvert on Consumers Energy property. The CO stopped and talked with a subject sitting in the passenger seat. The subject produced his trapping license and stated his son was checking the tubes for trapping locations. The son came back and got into the driver's seat and produced his trapping license but did not have a valid driver's license. He stated he was helping his dad out by driving, but did not set any traps. The CO informed the subject he would be seeking a warrant for DWLS. After clearing the scene, CO Szyska talked with CO Kris Kiel at court and both COs went back to the scene and located three leghold traps on Consumers Energy property. Recreational trespassing is an additional charge on the warrant.

CO Ken Kovach found resolution in a case he had been working for over a week. He received a complaint that a subject shot a 12 point buck on opening day while trespassing and without a license. The complaint also pointed out that a second subject tried to enter the buck into a contest. CO Kovach interviewed both subjects and found that one subject shot the buck while hunting on property where he did not have permission. Upon inspection of the deer, CO Kovach also found the tag was not validated. Enforcement action was taken.