



# Illinois Conservation Police Bi-Weekly Report



*Vision Statement: As vigilant guardians we will protect the citizens and natural resources of Illinois.*

**DATE: November 1, 2015**

(Weeks of October 14 – October 28, 2015)

*This report represents some events the OLE handled over the last couple of weeks; however, it does not include all actions taken by the Office of Law Enforcement.*

This report represents the county that the event took place within, not the assigned county of the Conservation Police Officer.

## **REGION 1 – Captain Laura Petreikis**

### **District 1 – Sgt. T. Petreikis**

**(Counties: Carroll, Henry, JoDaviess, Lee, Mercer, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson & Whiteside)**

#### **CARROLL COUNTY**

CPO Palumbo issued written warnings to Iowa duck hunters for failing to maintain separate bag limits while hunting in the Big Slough area on Pool 13 of the Mississippi River.

#### **HENRY COUNTY**

CPO Posateri investigated a hunting accident where a hunter was removing a tree stand from Johnson Sauk Trail SRA. The hunter had removed the straps from the top of the stand and as he came back down the stand pulled away from the tree. The hunter sustained a broken ankle.

CPO Posateri had a complaint of a non-native snake found in a washer at a Kewanee residence. The Animal Control officer captured the snake, and then returned it to the owner who came to the Police Department to claim it after seeing a comment about a found snake on Facebook. The CPO met with the owner to inspect the enclosure to make sure it was now escape proof as required by the Illinois Herptile Act. The snake owner said it had been missing for 3 weeks and it escaped by pushing the lid off. The owner was issued a written warning for the violation and the aquarium is now properly secured.

#### **JODAVIESS COUNTY**

CPO Hoogerwerf issued a ticket to a Galena woman for unlawfully operating an ATV in the Iris & Jack Witkowsky Wildlife Area.

#### **LEE COUNTY**

Thick swollen necks and the start of the rut were the cause of two deer locked together in rural Dixon. Despite hours of fighting the deer had reached a point of exhaustion and could not separate. Both deer would perish if assistance was

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not given. A concerned citizen called the police. CPO Beltran was dispatched with a Stihl pole pruner to separate them. Lee County Sheriff's deputies and Dixon Police were on scene to assist. After 20 minutes and several dangerous roundhouse kicks by the deer, CPO Beltran was able to get close enough of to the fighting deer to calm them. There was a risk of an officer getting gored or cold cocked by a kick, so the pole pruner was extended and used to cut the antlers free. Both deer survived and were released without additional injury. Special thanks to Lee County Sgt. McGrail, Lee County Deputy Scott, and Dixon Officer Lehman for their assistance.

#### WHITESIDE COUNTY

A 40 year old man from Fulton and his 20 year old friend from Chadwick were a few dollars short when paying for camping. This prompted CPO Beltran and CPO Jones to contact them based upon a complaint from the camp host at Morrison Rockwood State Park. A short investigation resulted in the discovery of cannabis and drug paraphernalia. The man from Fulton was taken to jail and was then short money to get out.

### **District 6 - Sgt. Hank Frazier**

**(Counties: Boone, Bureau, DeKalb, LaSalle, Putnam & Winnebago)**

#### DEKALB COUNTY

CPO ALT taught a Hunter Safety Course in Genoa.

#### LASALLE COUNTY

CPO Wire closed out two Operating Under the Influence (OUI) cases. Both boaters pleaded guilty and were fined \$855. They both were given 1 year of supervision and ordered to seek alcohol treatment.

CPO Kaufman, Jansen, and CPOT Stanbary were patrolling Starved Rock State Park during Fall Colors weekend. About midafternoon CPO Kaufman saw a white panel van driving through the park. The van caught his eye because an individual was holding on to the outside of the driver's door while riding a skateboard. A traffic stop was made on the van. Due to van's windows painted black, the driver and passengers were asked to exit the vehicle. As the passengers exited CPO Jansen smelled an odor of cannabis. During a search of the vehicle, cannabis, pipe, grinder, open can of alcohol and stun gun were found. Twelve citations were issued to the four individuals in the van. One of the passengers was arrested on two outstanding warrants.

CPO Jansen conducted several patrols on the Starved Rock Trails. Several citations were issued for entering a restricted area, possession of alcohol in a prohibited area, and four subjects were arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of cannabis < 2.5 grams.

CPO Jansen received a complaint of a man trespassing on several sections of private property. CPO Jansen was able to locate the subject who was in possession of one ginseng root. A citation was issued for trespassing to harvest ginseng.

CPO Filipiak was on numerous foot patrols at Matthiessen State Park and Starved Rock State Park, numerous violations were discovered: Five individuals were issued citations for climbing the sides of the canyon walls; three individuals were issued citations for possession of alcohol on the trails.

CPO Filipiak received a complaint from a landowner of individuals who had abandoned their vehicles on their duck club property which were stuck in the mud. The individuals where trying to access the Illinois river on a saturated man made road to go fishing. The individuals were located and issued seven tickets for criminal trespassing.

CPO Wright and CPO Stanbary had just met to start their patrol at Starved Rock when three subjects exited the trails from an area restricted for hiking. The subjects were stopped. It was found they all possessed cannabis and drug paraphernalia. One subject was a juvenile and was referred to LaSalle County Juvenile services. The other two were

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each issued three citations each, fingerprinted and released on I bonds.

#### PUTNAM COUNTY

CPO Finn and CPOT Stanbary encountered a Henry man hunting over bait. They checked all of his stands and found baited areas near three of the four stands. The man received two citations for hunting by use or aid of bait and illegal attempt to take of whitetail deer. The man also received warnings for the same violations for the previous day. The man was also verbally warned for feeding deer.

#### WINNEBAGO COUNTY

While on late patrol in Rock Cut State Park, CPO Fraser observed a golf cart drive through a trail on the edge of the park. After a short foot pursuit of the golf cart, CPO Fraser identified the individuals and determined they drove the cart through some brush from a bordering property. Citations were issued to the individuals and an investigation is ongoing to determine the extent of damage to park property as well as to locate all individuals involved.

CPO Fraser received information from a park employee about a theft in Rock Cut State Park. The park employee stated he received a call from a concerned park visitor about juveniles stealing a trail marker post. The visitor made contact with the individuals and recorded a license plate number before the juveniles left the park. CPO Fraser tracked down the three juveniles involved and determined who took the sign's. The sign was located and returned to the park. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

While administering boating compliance checks on the Pecatonica River, CPO Schoonhoven arrested a subject on drug charges.

CPO Alt is working on ongoing complaints of three baited whitetail deer stands in Winnebago County.

CPO Schoonhoven requested CPO Alt's assistance while completing a watercraft safety inspection and license check to three local area walleye fisherman at a Pecatonica River Boat launch in Winnebago County. During the inspection, CPO Schoonhoven smelled a strong odor of cannabis emitting from inside the vessel. Further questioning led to the operator of the boat admitting and handing over to CPO Schoonhoven the cannabis and drug paraphernalia.

CPO Alt received a call for assistance from two waterfowl hunters on the lower Pecatonica River in Winnebago County. They ran their boat in shallow water causing the water pump on their motor to draw sand and cease running. The hunters were not in possession of waders or paddles in their boat. CPO Alt, with the assistance of a local farmer, located the hunters and helped them out of the river. A relay was performed in order to retrieve the hunter's truck and trailer. The farmer and CPO Alt assisted the hunters in manually placing the open motor boat back on the trailer.

While checking fall fishermen on Pierce Lake in Rock Cut State Park, CPO Alt observed two individuals climbing Lone Rock which is posted restricted to climbing. The youths were directed safely off the rock and the violation was addressed.

CPO Alt is working an ongoing complaint of hunting without permission in Southeast Winnebago County. The absentee landowners have located an arrow and evidence of someone hunting out of their tree stands. CPO Alt was requested to cite anyone found trespassing or hunting this 40 acre wooded property.

CPO Alt completed a region wide night time weapons qualification for rifle and pistol in Peoria County. Region CPOs also participated in firearm/defense tactics enforcement scenarios while at the range.

CPO Alt issued nuisance permits for nuisance wildlife causing property damage to area residents in Winnebago County.

## **District 7, Sgt. Scott Avery**

**(Counties: Fulton, Henderson, Knox, Marshall, McDonough, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Warren & Woodford)**

### **FULTON COUNTY**

CPO Thompson was on patrol in rural Knox County and located a vehicle parked in an isolated location on private property. CPO Thompson located the hunters and performed a compliance check revealing neither of the hunters had non-resident hunting licenses. A citation and a written warning were issued.

### **MCDONOUGH COUNTY**

CPO Pat Reid conducted a trout enforcement detail at Lake Argyle State Park. Minor violations were documented.

### **PEORIA COUNTY**

CPO Gerard cited a Bartonville resident for failing to report a deer harvest.

### **TAZEWELL COUNTY**

CPO Van Zant cited a subject for hunting over bait in Tazewell County.

## **REGION 2 – Captain Brett Scroggins**

### **District 2 – Sgt. Rich Riedel**

**(Counties: Kane, Lake & McHenry)**

### **LAKE COUNTY**

CPO Davis issued written warnings for fishing with too many devices at Grass Lake Road Bridge.

CPOs Davis and Winters investigated a hunting in a restricted area complaint on the state controlled portion of the Chain O' Lakes.

CPO Davis and Sgt. Riedel interviewed and cited a subject for attempting to take a Mute swan on Fourth Lake.

CPO Winters issued a citation to a subject for unlawful shooting of a swan.

CPO Winters issued a citation to a subject for unlawful taking of a rabbit.

CPO Winters investigated a TIPS complaint for hunters shooting 45 minutes before legal shooting hours.

### **McHENRY COUNTY**

CPO Davis and Sgt. Riedel checked waterfowl hunters on opening day. A citation was issued for hunting without a license and written warnings were issued for failure to maintain separate bag limits (geese).

CPO Davis cited two people for fishing without permission.

CPO Kelley cited an individual for fishing with more than two devices at Moraine Hills State Park.

CPO Kelley issued several written warnings to two individuals kayaking on the Fox River at Moraine Hills State Park.

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CPO Schreiber taught OUI, DUI, and snowmobile law.

**District 3 – Sgt. Mark Simon**  
**(Counties: Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall & Will)**

**GRUNDY COUNTY**

District 3 CPOs staffed the Wildlife trailer at the Natural Resource Tour at Goose Lake State Park where all 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Grundy County toured the property and trailer.

CPO Wollgast is investigating an ongoing situation where hunters are hunting near the grain elevator on the Illinois River.

CPO Anderson worked surveillance details at Mazonia Fish & Wildlife Area and Braidwood Lake for the opening weekend of waterfowl hunting. No violations were observed.

**KANKAKEE COUNTY**

CPO Vadbunker arrested two subjects for multiple deer hunting violations including hunting over bait (corn and apples), hunting without permits in possession, and hunting before legal hours.

CPO Anderson responded to a call of a lost bow hunter at Mazonia Fish & Wildlife Area. He was able to locate the hunter who was uninjured but lost.

**KENDALL COUNTY**

CPO Bergland responded to a call of a hunter hunting too close to a house. He investigated the situation and ultimately the reporting party did not want to pursue any charges.

CPO Bergland checked four waterfowl hunters on the Fox River. He found violations to include failure to maintain separate bag limits, possession of toxic shot, and no hunting license. Two citations and four warnings were issued.

District 3 CPOs staffed the wildlife trailer at National Hunting and Fishing days at Silver Springs State Park

**WILL COUNTY**

CPO Honiotes continues to investigate a minor hunting accident where a shotshell pellet struck a bus driver thru an open window.

CPOs Honiotes and Reid are investigating several complaints of hunting without permission of landowner in Will County.

CPOs Reid and Wollgast investigated a complicated fishing without permission case in Will County where a portion of a strip mine is owned by a club and the other portion by a private landowner. Report filed with the Will County State's Attorney's Office.

**District 4 – Sgt. Bill Shannon**  
**(Counties: Cook & DuPage)**

**COOK COUNTY**

CPO V. Smith wrote a warning for no fishing license while on patrol at Busse Woods.

CPO V. Smith while on patrol at Lincoln Park Lagoon wrote a warning for no fishing license and two warnings for salmon stamps.

CPO V. Smith assisted IDNR and Cook County Forest Preserve biologists in a Muskie salvage operation at Busse Lake Dam.

CPO Macias was patrolling the Lake Michigan harbors when he noticed a subject snagging in Belmont Harbor (which is not allowed). Subject received a citation for snagging in an unauthorized location

CPO Macias was on his way to Montrose Harbor to check on a complaint when he noticed a subject snagging in Belmont Harbor (which is not allowed). Subject received a citation for snagging in an unauthorized location.

CPO Macias was investigating a boat accident and issued a citation for an unnumbered watercraft to one of the subjects.

CPO Macias was patrolling the Lake Michigan Harbors for snagging violations, CPO Macias went to Lincoln Park (where snagging is legal) and issued two written warnings for no license in possession.

CPO Macias and CPOT Poffenberger were conducting a plain clothes snagging detail in Waukegan Harbor, three citations were issued for snagging in an unauthorized location.

CPO Macias and CPOT Poffenberger were conducting fishing enforcement in southern Cook County ponds, and issued three citations to three different people for fishing without a valid license at Wampum Lake.

CPO Macias was conducting fishing enforcement in Southern Illinois ponds and issued three warnings for various fishing violations.

CPO Macias was checking Green Lake for trout fishermen and issued a citation for no fishing license and a warning for no trout stamp

CPO Whitchurch was on patrol in Palos Township in southern Cook County when he observed tree stands used for deer hunting located on Cook County Forest Preserve Property. CPO Whitchurch noted the locations and checked the area on a few occasions. On one of the evenings, CPO Whitchurch observed male subject actively hunting from one of the tree stands. CPO Whitchurch identified himself to the hunter and conducted a license and permit check on the subject. The subject had the required license, stamp, and permit. The subject was arrested and cited for unlawful hunting on property without permission. Just after making contact with the first subject, CPO Whitchurch checked the other tree stand in the area. CPO Whitchurch observed another subject actively hunting from the second tree stand. CPO Whitchurch identified himself to the second hunter and conducted a license and permit check on the second subject. The second subject had the required license, stamp, and permit. The second subject was also arrested and cited for unlawful hunting on property without permission.

CPO Whitchurch was on patrol at Lake Michigan in lower 40 degree weather when he observed a subject operating a personal watercraft without wearing a personal flotation device. The subject was also unlawfully operating the personal watercraft without valid watercraft registration. Additionally, the subject was unlawfully operating it between the hours of sunset and sunrise. CPO Whitchurch made contact with the subject and informed him of the violations of the Boat Registration and Safety Act. The subject was issued a citation for the personal flotation device violation and written warnings for the other violations.

CPO Whitchurch observed a subject unlawfully snagging salmon at a Lake Michigan Harbor. Upon making contact with the subject, it was learned the subject had a valid warrant for his arrest from the Cook County Sheriff's Office. CPO Whitchurch also learned the subject did not possess a valid sport fishing license or salmon stamp because he was not

eligible to obtain them because of delinquent child support payments. The subject was arrested and taken into custody on the warrant and for the fishing violations.

CPO Whitchurch was on patrol on the Lake Michigan shoreline when he observed two subjects fishing and drinking beer out of glass bottles. When the subjects finished these beers, they tossed the empty bottles down onto the bank of the lake and began to walk away. CPO Whitchurch made contact with the subjects and ordered them to return to their previous location to retrieve the bottles from the bank so they could properly discard them. The subjects complied with CPO Whitchurch's order. Both subjects were issued citations for unlawful pollution of a waterway.

CPO Whitchurch and the Cook County Sheriff's Police conducted an investigation into a trespassing and unlawfully hunting on property without permission complaint. After meeting the landowner and hunter on site, it was not clear with regards to easement rights to the property on whether or not there was any wrongdoing. Further investigative findings with regards to the property in question need to be completed to determine if there are any violations.

CPO Gilmer has also been busy with individuals fishing and snagging in Cook County as well. One fisherman was from Virginia and stated he bought his license last week. CPO Gilmer checked the system and found out he was lying and had no valid Illinois fishing license. CPO Gilmer approached the individual with a citation for no valid non-resident fishing license. The fisherman said CPO Gilmer had the wrong name and should check again, this time stating he bought a license the night before. After checking the system again, CPO Gilmer again explained to the individual he didn't have a valid license. He then pulled his phone out showing a photo of a valid license and saying, "See I bought it this morning." CPO Gilmer asked why he bought a license a week ago, last night and then again this morning. The fisherman stated he was just confused is all. CPO Gilmer said, "So am I." He then checked the system again finding out that the fisherman was buying time in an attempt to buy a fishing license online from his cellular phone. Although the fisherman did buy a license, it wasn't at any of the three times he had claimed and didn't have a valid license at the time CPO Gilmer was checking his license so he received a citation.

CPO Gilmer was on patrol at Belleau Lake in the Cook County Forest Preserve. Belleau Lake is stocked with rainbow trout every spring and fall. People, young and old, find opening day of trout season a very special time. Fishing was closed to all fishermen and women until the morning of October 17. While on patrol the night before opening day CPO Gilmer noticed a man looking in the bushes, picking things up and putting them in a bag. CPO Gilmer asked the man what he was doing in a closed park. The man said, "Oh, nothing." It turns out the man was picking rainbow trout out of the bushes that he had hid after catching them, and there were 17 total. The determined fisherman parked his truck and walked across a busy interstate to sneak into the park and fish. The man received several citations. Fishing out of season and taking over the limit was just a couple of citations he received.

CPO Mooi conducted sport fishing and snagging enforcement in Chicago, no violations were found.

CPO Mooi instructed a Boat Accident Investigation Class for the Cook County Forest Preserve police mini-Conservation Academy in Lemont.

CPO Mooi conducted surveillance on possible deer poaching activity in Cook County.

CPO Mooi conducted surveillance on baited tree stands in Cook County.

CPO Klemme, while on patrol in the Chicago Harbors, observed an individual snagging in Burnham Harbor. The subject was issued a citation for snagging in a restricted area.

## DUPAGE COUNTY

CPO Mooi conducted waterfowl enforcement in DuPage County.

CPO Mooi attended a Police Explorer's meeting at the Warrenville Police Department. CPO Mooi spoke and presented information about the enforcement mission of the Conservation Police to high-school students interested in Law Enforcement careers.

## LAKE COUNTY

CPO Gilmer has been busy at the Illinois Beach State Park checking trout fisherman, as well as getting ready for the new deer season. This year is the first chance the public will have at attempting to legally harvest a whitetail deer in the park. He attended an informational meeting for the lucky hunters who got drawn from a lottery and could really tell the excitement from the hunters.

CPO Gilmer has been watching the salmon and trout fishing in Lake and Cook Counties. He has written several tickets and warnings at Waukegan Harbor to individuals that just can't help themselves from snagging fish on the wrong side of the pier into the harbor where boats are still moored and have not yet been taken out for the season.

While approaching a fisherman at Sterling Lake, CPO Farber observed the man throw a glass cannabis pipe into the Lake. The subject had an undersized largemouth bass in a bucket at his location. The Gurnee man was issued a citation for pollution of waterway and a written warning for failure to immediately release short fish.

CPO Farber responded to a call at Illinois Beach State Park. Three male subjects were stranded on an inflatable raft on Lake Michigan. The Kenosha Coast Guard, Beach Park Fire Department, Zion Fire Dept, Winthrop Harbor Fire Department and Lake County Sheriff Dept all responded to the scene. A Winthrop Harbor rescue dingy brought the men to shore without injury. Citations were issued for operation of a watercraft without wearable PFD'S.

CPO Farber arrested a child sexual offender at Illinois Beach State Park. The subject was found sleeping in his vehicle parked next to the children's playground.

CPO Farber observed a subject smoking a crack pipe at Illinois Beach State Park. The subject had a Brillo Pad, crack rock and crack pipe in his possession.

CPO Farber issued several citations at Waukegan Harbor for snagging in a posted restricted area

## REGION 3 – Captain Jim Mayes

### **District 11 – Sgt. Brian McReynolds**

**(Counties: Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie & Shelby)**

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY

CPOs Moody and Barnes cited a Greenup man and woman for trespass to harvest ginseng and harvesting ginseng without a harvester's license.

## MOULTRIE COUNTY

CPO Moody cited a Charleston man on the Lake Shelbyville Wildlife Management Area for hunter harassment/interference.

## SHELBY COUNTY

CPO Greuel handled a traffic accident in Eagle Creek State Park involving a fisherman's truck and trailer becoming submerged at the boat ramp.

CPO Greuel investigated a hunting accident involving a Shelby County man.

CPO Greuel issued several written warnings to waterfowl hunters in the Shelbyville Wildlife Management Area.

CPO Greuel issued several written warnings for Fish Code and Boating violations at Lake Mattoon.

CPO Greuel cited a Tower Hill deer hunter for possession of cannabis in Shelby County

### **District 19 – Sgt. John Williamson**

**(Counties: Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Macon, McLean, Piatt & Vermilion)**

#### **DEWITT COUNTY**

CPO Viverito conducted fishing details at Clinton Lake during the later weekends of October. The detail uncovered numerous violations and three arrests were made for short crappies.

All District 19 officers attended training for emergency worker and traffic details for the Clinton Nuclear Plant. CPOs Cottrell, Reeves, CPOT Ausmus and Sgt. Williamson also attended the Dosimetry Officer training.

CPO Reeves and CPOT Ausmus have cited several fishermen for the unlawful take of short crappies at Clinton Lake.

#### **MACON COUNTY**

CPO Cottrell and Sgt. Williamson cited a Decatur female with the illegal possession of a primate under the Dangerous Animals Act. This was part of the final conclusion to the Java monkey case that occurred in early October.

CPO Wright is currently working on several hunting without permission complaints in Macon County.

CPO Wright questioned a Macon County hunter about a photo that was published in an Illinois on-line magazine. The hunter posed with a large whitetail buck in the bed of his pickup truck. Also in the picture was a salt block. After interviewing the hunter no violations were found.

#### **McLEAN COUNTY**

CPO Graden completed an investigation involving an archery hunter from Streator. It was determined the hunter had illegally harvested three deer and one turkey during the 2015-2016 season. The deer were taken on property where the hunter did not have permission to be. The turkey was killed, by bow and arrow, without a permit. Other miscellaneous wildlife violations were also noted. The hunter was issued four citations: hunting without permission of landowner, unlawfully archery hunting wild turkey without a permit, failure to tag whitetail deer immediately upon harvest, and failure to report whitetail deer harvest to IDNR point of sale. Additionally, the man was issued six written warnings.

#### **PIATT COUNTY**

CPO Reeves received more information from Allerton Park of another illegal ginseng hunter. CPOs Reeves and Ausmus are investigating a Monticello man for the possible illegal take of ginseng.

### **REGION 4 – Captain Jamie Maul**

#### **District 9 – Sgt. Mark Wagner**

**(Counties: Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Macoupin, Pike & Schuyler)**

## ADAMS COUNTY

CPO Drone and Blakeley received a complaint of short sturgeon being taken by commercial fishermen near the Meyer Dam. They responded to the area and located a subject with two short sturgeons. The subject was issued a citation for the short sturgeon. The subject's helper was a non-resident with no fishing license. He was issued citation for no fishing license. The subject was also wanted on two warrants out of Mississippi for dangerous drugs and a parole violation. The subject was taken into custody and transported to Adams County Jail.

## CALHOUN COUNTY

CPOs Gushleff and Weishaupt checked several waterfowl hunters opening day of duck season. Several hunters were cited and issued written warnings by both CPOs for various violations of the Wildlife code including: failure to have a State waterfowl stamp, unplugged shotguns, failure to register for HIP, and failure to have Federal waterfowl stamp.

CPO Weishaupt investigated a subject duck hunting with a revoked firearms owner card. CPOs Gushleff and Weishaupt checked the subject opening day. He denied shooting and stated he was just calling for two other hunters. That evening, CPO Weishaupt received a photo of the three subjects with 14 ducks. They only had 12 ducks when checked. The next day CPO Weishaupt confronted the subject with the information. The subject confessed to shooting the ducks with a revoked FOID and the firearm was seized. Charges are pending.

Sgt. Wagner and the Calhoun County Sheriff responded to Enterprise Island for a domestic involving a firearm. The complainant said he could hear a man and woman arguing from across the river and then he heard six shots. Before Sgt. Wagner arrived with a boat, the sheriff could hear a man and woman arguing from across the river. Sgt. Wagner and the sheriff arrived by boat and the man and woman were located on board a boat anchored to the island. They were removed from the boat and the firearm was recovered along with several empty shell casing and drug paraphernalia. They admitted to arguing but there was no sign of physical harm. The woman admitted to shooting several rounds into the bank in an attempt to scare away raccoons trying to get into a cooler. The woman admitted the drug paraphernalia was hers. She was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and transported to jail.

Sgt. Wagner received a complaint from the Coast Guard of a boat stranded on the Illinois River six miles north of Hardin an hour before sunset. The boat had run out of fuel. Sgt. Wagner responded to the area, located the 42' boat, and towed it to Hardin.

## HANCOCK COUNTY

CPO Wheatley received a court disposition in Hancock County. A subject operating an unregistered watercraft failed to stop for him and fled the area. CPO Wheatley later identified the subject. The subject paid \$619 in fines and court cost for resisting a peace officer after failing to stop for inspection. He also paid \$349 in fines and court cost for operating unregistered watercraft.

CPO Wheatley received a court disposition in Hancock County. A subject was arrested for hunter interference after placing human hair in front of a tree stand to scare off deer. The subject paid \$1,115 in fines and court cost and was placed on 18 months supervision.

## MADISON COUNTY

CPO Goetten received a complaint from a hunter of his tree stand being stolen. The hunter provided information where his stand might be located. CPO Goetten located the stand with a hunter in it. The hunter admitted to taking the stand. The hunter also admitted he knew he was hunting over a salt block. Charges are pending.

## PIKE COUNTY

CPO Drone received a complaint of a subject in possession of a live Canada goose. The subject stated he had purchased the goose from a hatchery, but he could not remember where he purchased it and could not provide any receipt for the purchase. The subject was given a couple of days to produce a receipt. When CPO Drone returned, the subject could not produce a receipt, and the goose had died. The subject was issued a citation for illegal possession, and the goose carcass was disposed of.

### **District 10 – Sgt. Chris Stone**

**(Counties: Cass, Christian, Logan, Mason, Morgan, Sangamon & Scott)**

## CHRISTIAN COUNTY

CPOs Cochran and Tanke located an abandoned tree stand on Lake Sangchris Park with several of the trees in the surrounding area devastated by cutting out shooting lanes. The tree stand was subsequently removed and the destruction of the area documented. The following day, CPO Cochran received a call from the violator wishing to pick-up the tree stand. The subject was issued citations for unlawful destruction of state property (trees) and leaving tree stand unattended without owner's name, address, and telephone number or Site ID number on it.

CPOs Cochran and Tanke performed a boat safety inspection on a watercraft with three subjects docking at Strawkis Point Boat Launch, Lake Sangchris Park. During the inspection, several boat safety infractions were discovered. In the process of the stop, two of the subjects were found to be in possession of cannabis pipes and less than 2.5 grams of cannabis. The two subjects were issued citations for drug paraphernalia and less than 2.5 grams of cannabis. The subjects were arrested and escorted to the Christian County Jail for processing. The boat operator was issued a citation for insufficient number of life jackets and a written warning for uncovered and unsecured boat batteries.

CPOs Cochran and Tanke noticed a boat with six fishing poles out in the water while fishing at Lake Sangchris. Upon performing a boat safety check, they uncovered a multitude of boat safety infractions and fishing violations. The boat operator was issued citations for unlawful sport fishing with four poles over the legal limit, no serviceable life jacket for one of the two occupants, no serviceable fire extinguisher and unlawfully parking in a posted "no parking" area. The operator was also issued written warnings for unlawful use of untagged sport fishing devices, batteries uncovered and unsecured, fishing without fishing license in possession, and use of fish as bait in waters other than were caught.

## SCOTT COUNTY

CPOs Drone and Wichern investigated a trespassing complaint in south Scott County, and after a short interview involving two local brothers, it was determined they were hunting ginseng on private property without permission. Both individuals were charged and instructed not to return to the property because the land had been leased to non-resident deer hunters.

CPO Wichern attended a hunter safety class in Winchester where 31 young hunters successfully completed the course in order to obtain their first hunting license.

### **District 13 – Sgt. Eric Manker**

**(Counties: Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Randolph, St. Clair & Washington)**

## CLINTON COUNTY

CPO Tapley handled a boat accident on Carlyle Lake. No injuries were reported but the boat became swamped after both occupants were ejected from the boat. Both occupants were wearing lifejackets and the operator was wearing the

engine cutoff lanyard which combined probably made a huge impact in the outcome of the accident. It was later learned that a hydraulic hose on the steering failed which was the cause for the boat to make an abrupt turn and eject the occupants.

#### MADISON COUNTY

CPO French was a presenter at the Delta Waterfowl Youth Day at the Edwardsville Gun Club. There were over 75 attendees.

#### MONROE COUNTY

CPO Schachner and CPO Trainee Knop were covertly checking a baited deer stand (numerous large piles of corn and liquid minerals/salt on the ground) when a young subject dressed in street clothes approached the deer stand. The subject made the odd claim that he was 'checking' the deer stand for a nearby neighbor and after leaving the CPOs he drove directly to the neighbor's house. Brief interviews of the young subject and neighbor and also the landowner revealed a third hunter who was bow-hunting from the deer stand (which was owned by the neighbor). However, the neighbor and young subject claimed to be unaware of the bait. CPO Schachner was familiar with the third subject as he had previous enforcement encounters with him (and other members of his family). During a follow-up interview the next day, the bow-hunter (who knew they were coming) admitted that he and his wife went to the deer stand earlier that day to remove all of the bait. The bow-hunter was very evasive and dishonest about nearly everything else that was discussed which also included his denial of hunting from the baited deer stand. However, the officers were persistent and had specific field knowledge which revealed the hunter was lying. CPO Schachner then spoke with the subject's wife which proved the bow-hunters previous statements to be false, with the exception of cleaning up the bait that day.) When the bow-hunter realized the "hunting over bait" citation was inevitable, he reluctantly admitted that he illegally killed a small buck while hunting from the baited stand.

#### RANDOLPH COUNTY

CPO Schachner and CPO Trainee Knop were checking fishermen at a state managed lake when they checked two subjects in a jon boat as they reached the boat ramp. Both men had a combined six bass over their daily creel limit in a cooler. The fishermen claimed they intended to release all the bass after reaching the boat ramp (several were nearly dead). In addition to the over-limits, every single bass they possessed was under the legal length limit and none were legal to possess. They were informed they must release the bass immediately unharmed as soon as they caught it if the fish were not of legal length or if they had reached their creel limit. Both men were cited for an over-limit of bass and received warnings for undersized bass.

CPO Ralph Sievers gave a presentation to the Chester Rotary Club about the duties of a Conservation Police Officer, the changes to the hunting licenses and the members were very interested to hear about the commercial harvest of caviar from the Mississippi River.

CPO Ralph Sievers presented at a Hunter Safety Class at the SWIC campus in Red Bud. 35 kids attended.

CPO Ralph Sievers is following leads for a theft at a waterfowl project north of Sparta. The owner of the waterfowl project went to check on his water pump and the pump was not working. The owner located the problem at the electrical pole. The padlock was cut off of the breaker box and the breakers were stolen. The electric meter was also stolen. The owner then located items in the weeds that are consistent with methamphetamine production and a receipt with an individual's name on it. CPO Sievers is following leads of possible suspects.

CPO Ralph Sievers received a call from the Randolph County Animal Control. A child in Chester had been bitten by a pet raccoon. CPO Sievers went to the residence and spoke to the family. The raccoon was brought to the house by their cat when its eyes were just opened. They raised the raccoon in their house and it goes outside with them. They stated that the raccoon sleeps in the basement. They knocked on the floor and called the raccoon's name. The raccoon could be heard in the ductwork and entered into the room through the vent. They were told by their doctor to watch the

raccoon for 10 days to identify any signs of rabies. CPO Sievers issued the father a written warning for possession of the raccoon and then seized the raccoon. CPO Sievers took the raccoon to a local veterinary for the remaining two days of evaluation and then the raccoon will be taken to a rehabilitator.

CPO Charles received information from Randolph County Sheriff's Office of possible trespassing on property south of Steeleville. With assistance from Illinois State Police and Steeleville Police Department the three trespassers were located and questioned. The three males were in possession of goldenseal roots and digging equipment. It was found that they were trespassing, attempting to find goldenseal root. A small bag of ginseng roots was also found amongst the goldenseal roots. The male that was in possession of the ginseng was not in possession of a ginseng harvester's license. The male was charged with the unlawful possession of ginseng without a harvester's license. The three males were cited for unlawful trespass and the driver of the vehicle was charged with driving without a valid driver's license.

CPO Rolfingsmeier while working the Fall Trout opener cited three fishermen at Derby Lake at the Sparta World Shooting Complex for the unlawful taking of trout without a valid trout stamp. When CPO Rolfingsmeier checked the fishermen they had already had 12 trout in their bucket.

#### ST. CLAIR COUNTY

CPO Ray arrested a subject archery deer hunting in Frank Holten State Park without permission, in a restricted area and operating a motor vehicle off the roadway.

CPO Rolfingsmeier, while working traffic enforcement at Frank Holten State Park, pulled over a vehicle for speeding and the driver was driving on a suspended license. Two citations were issued, one for driving while suspended and a citation was issued for speeding in the park.

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY

CPO Charles spoke at a Hunter Safety Course in Nashville, Washington County. 25 students were present.

### **REGION 5 – Captain Tim Daiber**

#### **District 14 – Sgt. Jeff Cariens**

**(Counties: Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Pope, Saline, White)**

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY

CPO Lay continued an investigation into an unlawful timber cut complaint.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY

CPO Folden is nearing completion of a randomly assigned timber buyer investigation which revealed the timber buyer owes the Illinois Department of Natural Resources more than \$2000. Citations for failure to pay 4% fees as required and failure to keep records were issued.

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY

CPO Jourdan stopped a vehicle at the Bluegill Hole access area and discovered three subjects had many items of drug paraphernalia, suspected cannabis, suspected synthetic cannabis and pills. The adults were charged with possession on drug paraphernalia and possession of cannabis. The juvenile will have charges brought to the attention of the Jefferson County Juvenile Court. Additional charges may apply for other drug items seized during the stop.

CPO Jourdan completed a commercial timber buyer investigation. The timber buyer overpaid and underpaid during several of the quarters checked. The timber buyer was advised by CPO Jourdan how to maintain better records.

POPE COUNTY

CPO Johnson concluded a timber theft investigation. The timber buyer illegally harvested 66 trees without consent. The stumpage value of the trees was determined to be approximately \$6900. The timber buyer was cited for unlawful take of 66 trees without consent of the landowner. The buyer was also issued a warning for unlawful transport of the trees without consent.

SALINE COUNTY

CPO Diggins spoke at a Hunter Safety Course at the Eldorado High School and attended a safety briefing for youth hunters at the annual ten mile creek wing shooting clinic.

A Saline County man appeared in court to answer drug possession/possession with intent to deliver charges from an April 2015 case. The man pleaded guilty to the charges and was fined \$6708 and received 24 months probation.

CPO Diggins received information of a Harrisburg woman processing wild game for sale. Upon looking into the complaint, the Chinese woman had a variety of domestic ducks and animals she was processing and selling in the northern part of the state. The woman was in violation of possessing Chukar and issued a written warning. The woman immediately went to a vendor and purchased a wild game bird breeders permit. She was informed of the permit requirements for possessing and preparing game birds.

WHITE COUNTY

CPO Schoenhoff issued a written warning for failure to pay 4% fees to IDNR. The violation was discovered during a random commercial timber buyer inspection.

OTHER: Region 5 conducted a night firearms training at the Ten Mile Creek range.

**District 15 – Sgt. Dave Hyatt**

**(Counties: Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Lawrence, Marion, Richland, Wabash & Wayne)**

FAYETTE COUNTY

CPO Smith responded to the scene of a hunting accident. The subject injured was attempting to put up a ladder tree stand and fell 15'. Apparently, the stand was not secured by the center brace and the subject was trying to attach the top strap around the tree. The tree stand frame buckled sending the subject to the ground. The subject injured vertebrae in his spinal column.

WAYNE COUNTY

CPO Smith issued a written warning to an archery hunter for hunting without a habitat stamp.

**District 16 – Sgt. Kris Taylor**

**(Counties: Alexander, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pulaski, Union & Williamson)**

JOHNSON COUNTY

CPO Thompson inspected timber trucks in Johnson County. One truck belonged to a company that he had charged with not having proof of ownership/hauling paperwork. This time the driver had been given the required papers.

PERRY COUNTY

CPO Lewis assisted the Illinois State Police with a domestic disturbance in Perry County. A couple had been recently divorced and the ex-wife had a court order to remove some personal items from their residence. The ex-husband was not present at the time; however, the ex-husband's new girlfriend was in the house. The girlfriend would not allow the ex-wife into the house and there was a physical altercation. Illinois State Police is handling the investigation.

#### WILLIAMSON COUNTY

CPO Boston responded to a hunting without permission complaint. The subject was gone when the CPO arrived. The violation is being investigated.

CPO Boston assisted a woman in retrieving her cell phone that she had dropped in the lake. She was thankful, but the phone no longer was working.

CPO Boston attended range qualification and training at Ten Mile Creek range.

CPO Boston is working on a case where he had arrested a Chicago subject in 2003 for spotlighting and attempting to take deer by use of his vehicle, driving while revoked and felony damage to state property. The subject never appeared in court and after 10 years the warrants for his arrest were dropped by Union County. CPO Boston has learned that the subject is incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections at this time for other charges by Chicago Police Department. Prosecution is now in the Union County State's Attorney's hands.