

Warden Report for Lower St Croix Team, October 2009

In Dunn County, Conservation **Warden Jim Cleven** of Colfax investigated where a rifle shot was heard along with some deer running across a field, during the closed gun deer season. Later a dead deer was observed in a field behind the suspect's house. Cleven investigated the matter and found the resident of the house had shot the deer and had it in his freezer. The resident stated that it was with some other deer and it had a bad leg, so he shot the deer to put it out of its misery. Cleven observed that the resident shot the deer with a rifle from the deck of his home, at a distance of 120 to 130 yards. Cleven seized the venison from the resident's freezer and law enforcement action was taken.

Warden Cleven seized an undersized musky from a taxidermist. Cleven investigated and found the owner of the Musky lived in Clark County. An investigation found that the owner of the Musky caught it in WI and even though it was under legal size took it in for mounting. Law enforcement action was taken.

Warden Cleven responded to a complaint during the 4 day antlerless only deer gun season of illegally shooting at deer from a vehicle on the roadway. Wardens Cleven and **Deputy Warden Schwoch** located a vehicle matching the description of the suspects and stopped the vehicle. Wardens found that one of the subjects had shot at some deer from the vehicle. Open intoxicating beverages were also located in the vehicle. Citations were issued.

Warden Cleven investigated a complaint of pickup truck stopping on the roadway, and then a passenger got out of the truck and shot a pheasant. The caller obtained a license plate. Cleven located the suspect and issued a citation for hunting within 50 feet of the roads center.

Cleven participated in the youth gun deer hunt that was sponsored by the Dunn County Fish and Game Club. Seven youth were mentored during the deer hunt. Cleven mentored one youth in the morning and another youth in the afternoon. Both young hunters were successful and shot a deer

Cleven also took enforcement action on bow hunters for; placing bait prior to the deer season and hunting over illegal bait (over 2 gal.).

Warden Wayne Flak (Menomonie) assisted in several complaints of hunters getting lost. Most were able to find there way out eventually. One hunter on the Islands of the Chippewa River became lost and with darkness setting in he called 911. He was able to report landmarks of interest where he was and he was advised to stay at his location. He was located about a mile away from his vehicle.

Warden Flak worked archery hunters for baiting violations and issued one citation for leaving a tree stand overnight on State Land.

Warden Flak also took enforcement action on a group of waterfowl hunters for hunting after legal shooting hours.

In the Durand area, **Warden Bill Wrasse** received information from two hunters that they found a potential marijuana grow in the Tiffany State Wildlife Area. Warden Wrasse went to the site with one of the hunters and confirmed the activity. Wardens Wrasse and **Bob Jumbeck** (Alma) along with Buffalo County **Investigator Lee Engfer** went to investigate the site. At this time another site was found in the same general area. This operation was large with an estimated 2000 plants harvested. Other members of the drug task force were called in the next day to assist in the clean up. This included camping gear, hoses, gas tanks, water pump, garbage, tools and much more. Two large pick-up loads of debris were removed from the area. An investigation is ongoing by the Sheriff's Dept.

Warden Wrasse and Jumbeck investigated subject for alleged violations of shooting more than one buck during the 2008 archery season. The husband had shot and killed a buck early in the archery season then had his wife tag it. He then shot another larger buck later that season and tagged that deer. Group hunting is not allowed during the archery season. The interview resulted in citations being issued and both bucks being seized. The larger 8 point buck was a shoulder mount.

Warden Wrasse was called to assist in looking for a lost hunter in the Tiffany Wildlife area. A duck hunter was due back at noon and was reported missing right before sundown. The Nelson Fire Department and Buffalo County Sheriff's Department set up an Incident Command Center. The hunter was eventually found at about 10:30PM. Another lost hunter was reported a week later but found his way out before another ICS was set up.

Warden Wrasse contacted a group that was camping in a State DNR parking lot. Camping is not allowed at these locations. Warden Wrasse discovered that this group had shot many ducks and had them breasted out. The law required hunters to leave a head or wing on them until the hunters return home. They had also killed a deer. Both the deer and duck carcasses were thrown in the woods adjacent to the parking lot. The boat they were using to hunt ducks did not have the registration displayed. After a refresher on the laws they broke, enforcement action was taken.

Warden Wrasse watched three hunters calling to some geese. A goose circled the pond and one yelled out to the other one to shoot. It turned out the person being told to shoot the goose did not have goose permit as required and both knew it. They also felt their odds of getting checked were not that great. The third party was hunting ducks without a federal stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

In St Croix County, **Warden Paul Sickman** (Hudson) assisted with organizing the 4th annual Youth Day at Forest Ridge Hunt Club. 27 youth attended along with parents.

Youth were able to practice archery, trap shooting, fish in stocked ponds and pheasant hunt. All had a good time and harvested quite a few birds.

Warden Sickman received a complaint of shooting at turkeys from a vehicle using a rifle. Upon investigation, Sickman located a suspect and found he had been shooting at the turkeys from his vehicle using a .22 rifle. The suspect had a prior DNR record. Numerous citations were issued along with seizure of the rifle.

Warden Sickman received a complaint about 2 hunters attempting to register deer with no tags attached. Upon investigation, the complaint was incomplete. The 2 hunters were attempting to purchase deer licenses without completing hunter education. The suspect was found to have been previously employed at a location that sold licenses and had also sold licenses to business patrons without completing hunter education. The suspect made up hunter education numbers for himself and 2 patrons over the past three years. Enforcement action was taken for license fraud.

Warden Sickman received a complaint about goose over-bagging. The suspect bragged about the over-limit on an online hunting forum. Upon investigation, the suspect was found to have killed an extra 2 geese coming into his decoys. The suspect did not want the geese to go to waste so he gave them to a friend who was bow hunting nearby. The daily bag limit is two and group hunting for migratory birds is not legal. Enforcement action taken.

Warden Sickman Presented hunter education instructor awards to three instructors in the New Richmond team (**Dave Johnston 10-year, Ronald Roettger 15-year and Larry Suennen 25-year**).

Warden Supervisor, Dave Hausman (Baldwin) contacted two hunters that had been hunting ducks from a boat on the Upper St Croix River. Upon contact they were found to be operating an unregistered boat, had no life jackets and failed to report earlier Canada goose harvests as required. Enforcement action was taken.

In Pierce County, **Warden Brad Peterson** worked the 4 day antlerless hunt and issued several citations for no blaze orange, shooting a buck, hunting in the wrong unit, uncased bow and hunting without a back tag. Peterson seized a total of 4 illegal deer three of which were bucks and one was a doe shot in an area that wasn't open for gun deer hunting.

Warden Peterson worked the duck opener on the Miss River and saw good numbers of ducks. Most hunters had a successful day with Wood Ducks, Mallards and Teal in the bag. Peterson issued one citation for an unplugged shotgun and issued a few warnings for other minor violations

Warden Peterson checked on a complaint of two people trout fishing in the Kinnickinnic River in River Falls after the season closed. Peterson responded and located two individuals that stated they were practicing their fly casting. The problem

was they both had flies with hooks on and one was observed changing flies. Peterson issued two citations for fishing in the closed season.

Warden Peterson contacted a group of small game hunters and was checking licenses and game bags. A closer check of one person's license discovered that he had borrowed the license from a friend; he stated that if he had harvested anything he was then going to purchase a license. Enforcement action was taken.