

WI River Team Warden Web Report – October 2009

Marathon County:

Warden Ben Herzfeldt, of Schofield, worked past waterfowl complaints on the Schofield Flowage and observed three hunters shooting 15 minutes past shooting hours. Herzfeldt contacted the individuals and found, in addition to the late hunting, all three were in possession of lead shot and two did not have federal waterfowl stamps. That, along with numerous boating violations led Herzfeldt to take enforcement action in the matter.

Warden Herzfeldt worked a baiting complaint and contacted an archery hunter over approximately 10 to 15 gallons of corn. There were other large bait piles on the property that the hunter placed and hunted over as well. Enforcement action was taken.

Warden Herzfeldt completed a bear investigation where enforcement action was taken against two individuals for loaning and borrowing a class A bear license.

Wardens Paul Leezer, of Wausau, and Barry Fetting, of Marshfield, responded to the Mead State Wildlife Area after receiving a complaint of a gunshot well before legal hunting hours. The hunter was located and was small game hunting with a rifle and was found to be carrying a loaded, concealed handgun. After an investigation an illegal tree stand, crossbow and the suspect's archery license were found hidden nearby. Enforcement action is pending.

Warden Leezer investigated a complaint of a subject that trespassed onto a property with an ATV and was observed leaving the property with a buck on the back of the ATV. After investigation, Leezer found that the subject shot the deer with bow & arrow while hunting on his own land. The deer ran across the property line. The subject entered the property the next day without obtaining permission, found & gutted the deer, and then transported the deer out of the property without validating & attaching the deer carcass tag. While coming out of the woods the subject was confronted by the landowner, at which time the subject operated his ATV illegally on a road and across several properties in an attempt to get away. The subject "Dumped" the deer along the way. The deer, which was a large 10 point buck, was recovered later by Warden Fetting. Enforcement action is pending.

Warden Mike Rader, of Wausau, received an anonymous tip of illegal deer baiting occurring on a property in the Town of Wausau. A subsequent investigation revealed that an individual had placed illegal bait for deer just to see what would come in. Enforcement action was taken.

Warden Mike Rader received information from the Wausau PD of individuals hunting migratory gamebirds during the closed season near the Big Rib River. Rader investigated and located a subject who was found to have hunted ducks two days before the opening of duck season, failed to tag a goose prior to transport, and failed to report a goose harvest to the DNR. Enforcement action was taken.

During the course of an investigation into bear tagging irregularities, Warden Mike Rader and Warden Supervisor Randal Falstad found evidence of a taxidermist operating a taxidermy business since 2005 without a DNR permit. Enforcement action was taken.

Warden Mike Rader was forwarded information from the Marathon Co. Sheriff's Office regarding an individual requesting a car-kill deer tag under suspicious circumstances. An investigation revealed the deer had several puncture wounds and no evidence of a car collision. A subject was found to have picked up the deer in Lincoln Co. and illegally transported it to Marathon Co. The suspect stated he placed the deer on the side of the road so he could request a car-kill deer tag because he wanted the antlers. Enforcement action is being pursued.

Portage County:

Warden Jon Scharbarth, of Stevens Point, Stewart Smith, of WI Rapids, and Warden Supervisor Randy Falstad assisted the Special Investigations Unit with a search warrant in Portage County dealing with an unlicensed guiding operation.

Warden Barry Meister, of Stevens Point, gave two presentations to Hunter Safety Classes this month. Over fifty kids attended these courses.

Wardens Scharbarth and Meister report that a deer case from last years December herd control hunt where an individual shot a deer from the road was finalized in court. The defendant accepted a plea agreement on one criminal count of obstructing a warden. The subject was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1,163.75, pay \$996.00 for DNA testing, and lost all Chapter 29 privileges for one year.

Warden Scharbarth received a complaint of several ATV's causing problems in and around the Village of Almond. Scharbarth was able to contact two suspects driving ATV's on a county highway. Numerous violations were discovered with enforcement action taken for registration issues, not taking an ATV safety class, loud exhaust, operation on a roadway, and ATV trespass.

Wood County

While working night hunting enforcement, Warden Barry Fetting, of Marshfield, stopped a vehicle for shining deer during the prohibited hours. Upon contact the operator was found to be in possession of two rifles (.17 cal and .22 cal.) The light and firearms were seized. Enforcement action was taken.

Warden Fetting investigated several baiting and feeding complaints this month. On one occasion a complainant reported that he/she found a dead deer lying next to her garage in a residential area. Fetting located the stand where the deer was shot and a subject in the area who told Fetting that he was looking for a wounded deer. The subject admitted to placing apples and zucchini at two locations near his home for the purpose of feeding deer. Baiting and feeding is prohibited in Wood County, enforcement action was taken.

Warden Fetting received information from the Wood County Sheriff's Department during the 4 day hunt that deputies responded to a complaint that a homeowner watched the operator of a pick-up truck deliberately run over a buck fawn. The 17 year old operator told Fetting that he and two companions were parked near the home, and while leaving the area to avoid detection made the decision to run the deer over rather than stopping. Enforcement action was taken.

Warden Stewart Smith, of WI Rapids, was checking deer hunters in the Vesper area during the Youth Deer Hunt when he observed a hunter dressed in blaze orange posted within 50 feet of the roads center. The 15 year old hunter was not being supervised as required and had been hunting alone for an hour. Dad and Grandpa were in the woods making a deer drive for the 15 year old. Both of them came out of the woods not wearing blaze orange as required. Both of them had been hunting and dad said he was after ruffed grouse, but didn't have a small game license. Enforcement action was taken.

Warden Smith contacted a crossbow hunter that was hunting 17 minutes late from his deer stand, on an overcast evening. There also was a dead buck fawn deer shot with a crossbow bolt in the field near the stand, but the deer was not tagged as required. Upon questioning, the hunter said that he had also shot a doe deer from the same stand about a week earlier, and had tagged it with a bonus tag. Smith found out that the hunter had tagged the first deer with a Herd Control tag, but Unit 57C is not a Herd Control Unit. The buck fawn was seized and enforcement action taken.

Warden Smith and Deputy Conservation Warden Gerald Blum were checking hunters on public lands in the Babcock area. The Wardens contacted a vehicle along a dirt road with three occupants. The front passenger said that they were turkey hunting. Warden Smith observed an uncased shotgun between the front passenger and the driver. The case was fully unzipped. The hunter admitted to hunting for turkey earlier that day in the area, but his turkey tag was for Zone 3 and they were in Zone 1. Enforcement action was taken.