

Central Forest Team Warden Web Report - Sept 2009

Warden Bill Miller, of Adams, cited a pilot who dropped a large cucumber from his airplane which hit the water on Mason Lake about 50 yards from a pontoon boat that Miller was checking. After leaving the water Miller contacted the pilot who said that his wife was on shore and he was showing off to her. Miller explained the seriousness of what he did had the item hit someone.

Warden Bill Miller, of Adams, cited a deer farmer who had several deer escape and failed to report the escape to the DNR. It is believed that all deer are back in the fence. Miller also located 2 cable restraints along the deer fence which were illegally set.

Warden Bill Miller, of Adams, had a pre-trial conference with the District Attorney and a lady that attempted to bribe Miller with \$100 bill instead of Miller issuing her a ticket for fishing without a license. The DA said that she must pay \$645 for fishing without a license, lose the \$100 bribe seized by Miller or have a trial. She asked "who do I send the check to".

Warden Bill Miller, of Adams, received a call of a large 10 point buck with velvet antlers that was discovered in a freezer where a man had recently been evicted. Miller and Warden Wade Romberg, of Friendship, contacted several people during the investigation. The violator (a licensed taxidermist and guide) had shot the buck and a doe 3 weeks earlier. He took them to a friend and butchered the deer and he kept the head as he was going to mount it. This past spring the suspect was convicted of a felony and he turned over all of his guns to a friend. The day he shot the deer he went into the friend's home, got his rifle, hunted and later put the gun back. Miller requested criminal charges for the deer poaching, obstructing and felon with a firearm.

Wardens Wade Romberg, of Friendship, and Eric Grudzinski, of Mauston, contacted one archery hunter who hunted after hours while he was hunting over illegal bait. The hunter also did not have tags with him while hunting. Enforcement action was taken with the hunter.

Warden Robin Barnhardt, of Osseo, investigated a complaint received by DNR Staff in Black River Falls reporting that an unlicensed septic hauler was operating in Trempealeau and Jackson Counties. Barnhardt determined that the hauler had been illegally servicing septic systems since November of 2008. The hauler was cited for several violations and has discontinued business operations.

Warden Robin Barnhardt, of Osseo, assisted Warden Supervisor Korey Trowbridge, of Black River Falls, with investigating a report that a whitetail buck had been illegally shot and killed near Melrose. Wardens identified a suspect in the area and the investigation determined that the suspect had shot and killed the buck with a rifle. Wardens determined the suspect is a felon and cannot possess firearms. Wardens seized the rifle and enforcement action against the suspect is pending.

Wardens Robin Barnhardt, of Osseo, and John Collison, of Trempealeau, investigated a baiting complaint in Trempealeau County and found that a hunter had placed several illegal gravity feeders with bait near deer hunting stands on his property. Wardens seized evidence. Enforcement action was taken.

Warden Eric Grudzinski, of Mauston, issued four ginseng related citations in September. Citations were issued for harvesting without a license, trespassing, and harvesting on state owned property.

Wardens Eric Grudzinski, of Mauston, and Matt Weber, of Necedah, were working shining enforcement in Jackson County. The wardens watched a vehicle approach their location and saw the suspects shining the woods with a spot light. The car stopped on the road right in front of the wardens' location and one shot was fired at a deer using a .22 rifle. The wardens stopped the car and arrested three men for hunting deer with the aid of artificial light.

Warden Eric Grudzinski, of Mauston, partnered with Outdoors Forever Sports Club, of Mauston, and hosted a learn to hunt pheasant program.

Warden Matt Weber, of Necedah, and Deputy Zobal, of Juneau County, contacted a man on Petenwell Flowage in an old row boat with a homemade tin roof. The man said that everything he owned was in the boat and he was traveling by water to New Orleans. His trip was interrupted when he was arrested for a body only warrant from Door County.

Warden Matt Weber, of Necedah, contacted a group of small game hunters who had a loaded gun and another uncased gun in a vehicle plus a littering violation. Enforcement action was taken.

Warden Matt Weber, of Necedah, arrested a person for operating an ATV while intoxicated during the month of September.

Warden Mark Little, of Tomah, observed a personal watercraft operator on Lake Tomah pulling a tuber at times within 50 feet from shore and from a public boat launch. At one point the tuber fell from his tube very near shore. As Warden Little walked up to contact the operator, the tuber's mother was overheard saying: "He was so close, I was really scared that time." Warden Little explained distance requirements for operating personal watercraft and prohibitions against pulling skiers and tubers near public boat launches. Enforcement action was taken.

September kicked off the fall Learn to Fish Program at Tomah High School when Warden Little, of Tomah, gave presentations to about 100 juniors. The program also included field trips with school staff below the Lake Tomah Dam, a cranberry marsh and a fish cleaning demonstration.

While working archery enforcement, Warden Matt Modjeski, of Sparta, found a landowner hunting from an elevated blind overlooking approximately five gallons of

apples, a two gallon plastic pail of mineral and a wooden trough feeder that had been filled with approximately 50-gallons of corn. Enforcement action was taken.

Warden Matt Modjeski, of Sparta, worked night hunting enforcement and issued a citation for shining wild animals between 10 PM and 7 AM.

Warden Matt Modjeski, of Sparta, ran the Laser Shot Hunting Simulator at the Cataract Sportsmens Club Annual Field Days.