

Lower Chippewa Team Warden Web Report

September 2009

Eau Claire County

Warden Scott Thiede, of Eau Claire, investigated the dumping of five large bags of household garbage on county forest property. When moving out of a rented home in the City of Eau Claire, two residents asked a neighbor for help in getting rid of the garbage. The neighbor contacted a friend with a pickup truck. The truck owner was assisted by yet another person when the garbage was finally dumped. Enforcement action was taken.

Warden Scott Thiede provided information about the benefits of outdoor recreation while working a "Get Outdoors" exhibit at the second annual Active & Alive in Altoona Health Fair.

Warden Scott Thiede testified at the court trial of a subject cited for leaving his beer bottles on the Eau Claire River shoreline when he left the area. The subject had been fishing without a valid license. He purchased a fishing license after being contacted by the warden, and claimed at his trial that he would have removed his beer bottles - after being contacted by the warden. The subject was found guilty as charged.

Deputy Warden Water Guard Justin Wershofen met with participants and organizers of various fishing tournaments in the West Central Region and explained laws and procedures to prevent the spread of invasive species. He also set up a display at the Lake Holcombe Improvement Association and discussed invasive species with lakefront property owners. Deputy Warden Wershofen contacted duck hunters on the Mead Wildlife Area on the duck season opening weekend to ensure compliance with invasive species control laws in regard to duck hunting boats and equipment.

Warden Ken Thomson, of Fall Creek, received several illegal baiting complaints and issued citations for baiting violations.

Warden Thomson received complaint that a man was using gasoline to clean tar from the truck while washing his truck at a car wash, washing the tar and gas down the drain. The warden worked with hazardous waste and wastewater staff and took enforcement action.

Warden Thomson and **Warden Supervisor Bill Schwengel, of Eau Claire**, patrolled ATV trails with the county sheriff's department ATV patrol on one weekend day and issued citations and warnings for various violations, including underage operation, illegal highway operation, and operating an ATV with noise in excess of 96 dB. Warden Schwengel also assisted the sheriff's department with a domestic disturbance incident on the highway that he encountered while enroute to ATV patrol duties that day.

Chippewa County

Warden Cody Adams, of Chippewa Falls, was working boating enforcement Labor Day weekend on Lake Wissota and one evening observed a boater accelerate the motor on his boat and swing his boat around in a quick manner while in a slow-no-wake zone. The boater's actions caused a black dog to be ejected from the bow of the boat and into the water. People on shore mistakenly thought that one of the children on board the boat had fallen into the water and yelled at the operator. Adams contacted the operator of the boat and took enforcement action for operating a motorboat while intoxicated.

Adams gave 8 presentations to 5th grade students at the Chippewa County Conservation Day program which took place at Lake Wissota State Park. Each group of students had approximately 30 students.

Warden Scott Bowe, of Cornell, issued citations this past month for littering, fishing in a refuge, fail to display license, fishing without a license, possession of undersized fish and illegal baiting/feeding.

Warden Bowe also worked on several other environmental issues including water regulation, waterway markers, a diesel fuel spill, illegal burning, illegal storage of solid waste, and water pollution/illegal disposal of septic waste.

Warden Bowe investigated two complaints of baiting deer during the closed season and referred a third complaint to Warden Thomson in Eau Claire County. Warden Bowe took enforcement action with one of the suspects who admitted to baiting deer during the closed season only to compete with other hunters in the area. The man told Warden Bowe that he wished baiting was banned altogether.

Wardens Bowe and **Warden Jeremy Peery, of Ladysmith**, patrolled the sturgeon refuge by Jim Falls on the opening day of the sturgeon season. They contacted eleven people fishing in the refuge. Four of those individuals were also fishing without licenses and two individuals possessed three undersized smallmouth bass. Several citations were issued.

Clark County

Warden Adam Hanna, of Neillsville, and Warden Adams observed hundreds of ATVs operating on the Clark County trails over Labor Day weekend and were impressed with the overall safe and responsible operation. Nonetheless, the wardens and the Clark County Sheriff's Department recreational safety officer did issue citations to some individuals for operating an ATV exceeding the 96 decibel noise limit, operating without a spark arrestor, operating without a valid safety certification, operating in a careless manner, and operating at an improper speed.

Wardens Hanna and Thomson cited one man for placing bait prior to archery deer season. In counties where baiting deer is legal, no bait for hunting deer may be placed during the 24 hour period prior to the opening day of the archery deer season.

Warden Hanna reported that two bobcats were struck and killed by vehicles during the month on Clark County highways.