

WI River Team Warden Web Report – September 2009

Marathon County:

Wardens Ben Herzfeldt of Schofield and Paul Leezer of Wausau contacted a suspicious vehicle entering a field at night and found four subjects with a loaded .22 rifle in the bed of the truck shining deer and attempting to shoot raccoons with a spotlight. The subjects ranged in age from 14 to 18. Enforcement Action was taken.

Warden Mike Rader of Wausau was working the northern zone opener of the waterfowl season in the Bern Wetland unit near Athens when he encountered two individuals coming in from a morning of waterfowl hunting. While checking permits and firearms, Rader noticed a strong odor of intoxicants coming from both individuals. Field sobriety tests were administered to and failed by both subjects. The subjects were arrested and charged with going armed while intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor.

Warden Mike Rader organized a meeting with the Wausau-area Hmong community regarding the fall of 2009 hunting seasons and general DNR rules and regulations. Working through a translator, Rader and Wardens Paul Leezer and Randy Falstad were able to address a variety of topics. The participants expressed a desire to continue this format in the future.

Wardens Herzfeldt and Rader worked complaints from several other waterfowl hunters who hunted on Lake Wausau regarding late hunting occurring near the mouth of the Big Rib River on the opening day of the northern zone waterfowl season. The wardens contacted a group of three duck hunters shooting 20 minutes past shooting hours. Enforcement action was taken for hunting after hours and for not having any PFD's in their duck skiff.

Portage County:

Wardens Jon Scharbarth and Barry Meister of Stevens Point, worked the opening weekend of the northern waterfowl zone enforce waterfowl and associated laws. Both waterfowl and boating citations were issued.

Wardens Scharbarth and Rader assisted staff from Hartman Creek State Park with an investigation into a hit and run property damage accident at Hartman Creek. The responsible party was contacted and enforcement action taken.

Wood County

Warden Barry Fetting of Marshfield investigated four spills during the month. The first occurred when approximately 500 gallons untreated dairy wastes overflowed from a companies holding tank. The product traveled approximately one mile through a storm sewer until it discharged into the waters of state. Enforcement Action was taken.

Warden Fetting received a confidential hotline complaint regarding a spill consisting of an unknown petroleum product. The subsequent investigation revealed that approximately 150 gallons of fuel and water was deliberately released from a bulk truck and allowed to flow across a parking area towards a nearby ditch. The responsible party failed to report the incident. Enforcement action is pending.

Warden Stewart Smith of WI Rapids and Deputy Warden Gerald Blum contacted 3 fishermen fishing from their boat on the Wisconsin River. Two individuals did not have licenses. The man had a Montana ID, but the woman didn't have any ID with her. Smith issued both of them citations. Warden Smith later learned that the woman gave Smith a false name and information as she had some outstanding warrants for her in Idaho. Smith and a Wisconsin Rapids Police Officer arrested her at the house she was staying at and she was charged with the crime of Obstruction to a Conservation Warden.

Warden Smith and Deputy Warden Gerald Blum were checking fishermen on the Wisconsin River near Nekoosa. The Wardens checked two fishermen along the bank that had numerous sheepshead, catfish and carp in buckets along the shore. A 33 inch Sturgeon was also located on the ground behind the fishermen.. The Wardens attempted to revive the Sturgeon for a half hour, but the Sturgeon had been out of the water for too long. Enforcement action for the crime of Possession of a Sturgeon during the Closed Season is pending.

Warden Stewart Smith gave 2 presentations at the Sandhill Skills Center. One presentation was to a large Trapper Education Class and another to a Beginning Adult Hunter Class. These new hunters will be mentored by experienced hunters and will get a chance to harvest a deer inside the Sandhill Wildlife Area. Smith also gave presentations to 2 Hunter Safety Classes; one of them was a class of 35 Hmong students held at the DNR office in Wisconsin Rapids. The students came from every corner of Wisconsin, and some from Minnesota. The class was taught by Hmong Hunter Education Instructors.