This report represents some events the OLE handled over the last couple of weeks; however, it does not include all actions taken by the Office of Law Enforcement.

Flag with Seal: The three stars represents the first three "Game Wardens" (now known as Conservation Police Officers) hired in Illinois who were appointed by the Governor in 1885. They were assigned one for Chicago, Peoria, and Quincy’s area. They served a two-year term and were paid by receiving a portion of the fine monies collected from arrests they made for game law violations. They traveled the state by train and would often be away from home for many days at a time.

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CREED

“To serve, protect, and educate the citizens and visitors to the state of Illinois in their outdoor recreational endeavors.”

“To be a vigilant guardian of the natural resources, public safety, and homeland security of Illinois.”

“To assist the public in their times of need; routine and emergency.”

“To educate the inadvertent violator of conservation law, by taking an appropriate level of enforcement action to achieve this goal.”

“To relentlessly pursue, with full statewide police authority, deliberate offenders and bring them before the courts for the administration of justice”

“To maintain the highest level of professional standards, integrity, and conduct.”

“This we pledge to the citizens of Illinois.”

The Office of Law Enforcement supports the Department’s programs designed to protect Illinois' natural and recreational resources through enforcement of those portions of the Illinois Compiled Statutes enacted for that purpose. Conservation Police Officers are vested with full state-wide police authority and are trained to the highest standards for law enforcement professionals in Illinois.

In addition to these enforcement responsibilities, Conservation Police Officers serve as an important link between the Department and its various constituencies (civic groups, sportsmen’s groups, sport shows, etc.). These officers are called upon to assist outside agencies in emergency situations or rescue operations. They participate in the instruction of conservation related statutes to outside agencies, law enforcement organizations, or educational institutions upon request.

INFORMATION ON A CAREER AS A CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER

Please follow the link: Conservation Police Officer Career Opportunities - Law Enforcement (illinois.gov)

Let us know if you are interested in a career as a Conservation Police Officer

Individuals are able to leave their contact information. A CPO will then reach out to them and answer any questions.

Please follow the link: Conservation Police Career Opportunities Form - Law Enforcement (illinois.gov)

OLE Bi-Monthly Activity Reports

For current or back issues. Please follow the link: Activity Reports - Law Enforcement (illinois.gov)
Northwest Zone / District 6

Lasalle County

CPO Roesch responded to rescue and recovery operations of an individual who went missing in the Illinois River in Starved Rock State Park.

CPO Scott Wagner while checking fishermen along the Illinois River near Peru Sportsman Club cited 4 individuals for fishing without a fishing license. All 4 claimed to not be fishing but after crossing over the river and watching individuals from the other side CPO observed all 4 individuals fishing.

CPO Scott Wagner while checking fisherman at Starved Rock near the seawall observed an individual sitting on a picnic table who became noticeably nervous at the CPO's presence. After a short conversation with the individual, he was found to be in possession of cannabis and was not of age. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

Winnebago County

CPO Roesch stopped a vehicle in Rockford with people riding in the bed of the truck. The driver had no driver’s license. CPO Roesch issued a citation for no valid DL. CPO Roesch released the vehicle to another valid driver.

Northwest Zone / District 7

Knox County

CPO Thompson attended a hunter safety class at the Galesburg Archery Club and discussed hunting regulations and proper safety aspects while in the field. Several young hunters learned about existing and new hunting regulations and were informed how to lawfully harvest game and do so in a safe and ethical manner.

Peoria County

CPO Thompson and CPO Elliott attended a comprehensive tactical boat and land-based emergency response training exercise. The training was conducted in cooperation with ILEAS, Illinois State Police Tactical Response Teams, the Central Illinois Emergency Response Team, Fondulac PD, Peoria Fire and Rescue, Tazewell County SO, and local tactical response teams. The exercise was performed with correspondence and utilization of a Unified Command Post. The scenario-based training focused on emergency response with air, water, and land-based emergency response and patrol entities.

Tazewell County

CPO Finn Region 1 District 7 was checking fishermen at Spring Lake when observed a boat coming into the boat ramp. An inspection of the boat led to him asking the fisherman about a bucket with a lid on it. After CPO Finn requested to see in the bucket the fisherman tried to dump out the bucket containing two protected slot bass. The fisherman received a citation for possession of protected slot bass and was warned if he had dumped the fish he would have been obstructing a police officer.
CPO Lazzell and CPO Finn cited the Operator of a boat on the Illinois River for failure to secure children under the age of 13 in a lifejacket as required and insufficient number of lifejackets on the vessel. Additionally, the boat operator was arrested and transported to jail on a failure to appear warrant out of Peoria County for fishing on the property without permission of the property owner.

CPO Finn Region 1 District 7 was checking fisherman at spring lake when he observed a stringer with what appeared to be an illegal bass. CPO Finn approached the fisherman and asked for licenses and inquired about the stringer of fish. One fisherman admitted to catching the fish however stated he had not measured the fish. Bass between 12 and 18 inches are protected at spring lake and unlawful to possess. The bass was 14 inches and the man received a citation for keeping it.
Northeast Zone / District 2

Kane County

CPO Reid and CPO Semenik were on a boat patrol on the Fox River at Boy Scout Island when they observed the operator of a boat disregard the posted "No Wake" area. After making contact with the operator, CPO Reid immediately noticed indicators of impairment. After performing FSTs CPO Reid placed the operator under arrest for OUI: Alcohol. The operator later provided a BAC of .221 The subject was arrested for: Disregard a No Wake Zone, Expired Registration, OUI Alcohol, and OUI Alcohol with a BAC <.08

CPO Iaffaldano responded to a complaint of a wild turkey being retained alive. The Elburn residents were issued two written warnings and the turkey was released back into the wild.

Lake County

CPO Kelley responded to a call of an injured rabbit in Gurnee. The rabbit, while alive, was unable to move its hind legs. The animal was transported to a local wildlife rehabber who thought it may survive what looked like a dog attack.

Northeast Zone / District 3

Grundy County

While conducting sport fishing enforcement at a lake in Grundy County, CPO Prasun observed one fisherman in possession of a turtle that had been caught illegally. The fisherman was issued a written warning for the violation. CPO Prasun observed another fisherman who was in possession of a short walleye and issued him a citation for undersized walleye.

CPOs Farber, Prasun, and Intern Mepham conducted recreational boat patrol on the Kankakee and Illinois Rivers. CPO Farber located a Personal watercraft operator with expired registration decals. The operator showed signs of impairment and was charged with operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol BAC >.08 The operator submitted to chemical testing and registered a (.132)BAC.

Kendall County

CPO Honiotes and his intern taught at a hunter safety course in Kendall County. CPO Bergland checked two fishermen at Loon Lake, Silver Springs State Park. They said they had 3 bass in the bucket back by their picnic table. We went to the picnic table where CPO Bergland saw two beer bottle caps on the table and beer in an open backpack. In a bucket were three bass that didn't look like they were the 15" minimum length required to keep them. When asked, the fishermen said they didn't that there was a minimum length even though they had walked right past the sign that explained the site-specific regulations for Loon Lake. They also said that they didn't see the 3' x 5' sign they drove past that said no alcohol was allowed at Silver Springs. One subject was issued a written warning for the alcohol and a citation for the short bass. The other subject was issued a written warning for the short bass and a citation for the alcohol.
**Kankakee County**

CPO Elliot responded to a dumping call in Northern Iroquois county. After a brief investigation, the dumped boat was removed and the violator was cited for dumping on private property.

CPO Elliot received a call from a private landowner about the continuous trespassing/fishing without permission on his private property. The violator was educated and cited for fishing without the landowner's consent.

CPO Elliot responded to a dog biting another dog complaint at the Kankakee River State Park camping area. Neither dog was injured and the issue was resolved between the owners. All campers/park-goers are reminded to keep their dogs on a leash at all times while enjoying the park.

**Will County**

While conducting a boat patrol on a river in western Will County, CPO Prasun arrested a boat operator for Operating a Watercraft Under the Influence of Alcohol. The operator was issued two citations for O.U.I. and a third citation for two children less than thirteen years old not wearing personal flotation devices. The operator was also issued a written warning for a fire extinguisher violation and for having no safety cut-off lanyard.

While conducting a boat patrol on a river in western Will County, CPO Prasun & CPO Farber encountered an inoperable boat with two occupants on board who were stranded. The boat was towed back to the boat ramp upstream where it was able to be loaded back onto a boat trailer and removed from the water.

While conducting a boat patrol on a river in Grundy and Will Counties, CPO Prasun observed a child operating a watercraft with a younger child on the back. Upon conducting a boat safety check on the watercraft, it was learned the operator did not have a boating safety certificate. It was determined the child's parent knew the child was operating the watercraft without ever having a certificate and was subsequently sighted for the violation.

While conducting a boat patrol on a river in Grundy and Will Counties, CPO Prasun observed a child on a boat who was not wearing a personal flotation device. After conducting a boat safety check, it was determined the boat's battery terminals were unshielded and the operator was not wearing a safety cut-off lanyard. The operator was issued a written warning for the violations.

While conducting a boat patrol on a river in Grundy and Will Counties, CPO Prasun observed a vessel underway with an occupant that was sitting in an improper location. Upon conducting a boat safety check, it was also determined the vessel did not have its battery terminals shielded and there was no sounding device. The operator was issued a written warning for the violations.

While traveling down the highway, CPO Prasun was passed by a vehicle at a high rate of speed. The vehicle's speed was verified to be 82 miles per hour in a fifty-five miles per hour speed zone. CPO Prasun conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and issued the driver a citation for speeding. The driver was also given warnings for expired driver's license, no insurance, and driver's license not in possession.

**Northeast Zone / District 4**
Cook County

CPO Hopper assisted a municipal police department in a foot pursuit pursuant to a stolen car. Radio communications and the helicopter led CPO Hopper to the arrest of one individual.

CPO Hopper issued a citation for illegal possession of two smallmouth bass during the closed season (Spawning season) on Lake Michigan.

CPO Hopper issued a citation for running a red light that resulted in a traffic crash in Chicago.
Central Zone / District 9

Adams County

CPO Wheatley, CPO Jansen, and Sgt Myers attended the Fishing For Freedom Banquet. This banquet honors Veterans from WW2, Korea, Vietnam, and modern conflicts. Over 250 veterans were present during the weekend activities which include a Veterans Home fishing derby, a Fundraising banquet, and ends with a Fishing Tournament. A Good time was had by all.

Jersey County

While working a special event, the Pere Marquette State Park Fishing Fair, CPO Gushleff received a complaint from the Park Superintendent. Horseback riders on the Park Horse trail complained that someone was camping on the horse trail. CPO Gushleff went and investigated the complaint. CPO Gushleff found a tent on the horse trail and seized it. CPO Gushleff left a seizure tag with contact information on it. On the next date, a subject called CPO Gushleff asked about the seizure tag. CPO Gushleff advised the subject that the horse trails are not designated camping areas, and he cannot camp there. The subject stated he is indigent and was basically homeless. He did tell CPO Gushleff he just got a job and is trying to get back on his feet. CPO Gushleff met the subject and returned his tent back to him. A written warning was issued after CPO Gushleff informed the subject of some of the Administrative Rules about camping. The subject stated he understood, and would only camp in the designated campgrounds of the Park.

Central Zone / District 10

Cass County

CPO Wahlbrink and other IDNR-certified wingshooting instructors taught approximately 35 students in an introductory wingshooting clinic at Jim Edgar Panther Creek.

Morgan County

CPO Gerdes conducted an investigation into reports of illegal woodchuck trapping in Jacksonville. The investigation revealed a local man had been trapping woodchucks in a residential area without a trapping license and using untagged traps. The man admitted to the violations and was issued a citation and 3 written warnings.

Central Zone / District 11

Coles County

CPO Barnes checked 5 Charleston subjects fishing on the Embarras River. All of the subjects were cited for no fishing license.

Cumberland County

CPO Hyatt received a call from a Greenup resident who reported a baby opossum found in their residence, upon arrival CPO Hyatt located a family of opossums and was able to retrieve them and relocated them to timber in Cumberland County.

CPO Hyatt received a call from Lake Mattoon Supervisor in regards to vehicles parked in a marked non-parking area. Upon arrival, CPO Hyatt found the owners of the vehicles and issued written warnings for the parking violations and a written warning for a sport fish violation.
Central Zone / District 19

Macon County

CPO Reeves conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle driven by a Decatur man wanted out of Macon County. The traffic stop resulted in the man being issued an IVC violation citation and a notice to appear in court on the warrant at the request of the Macon County Sheriff's Department.
CPO Macias assisted an ISP trooper with a DUI on a subject who only spoke Spanish. Throughout the entire process, the Trooper and CPO worked together to try and get the subject processed and citations issued.

CPO Tapley stopped a vehicle at Rend Lake for having suspended registration plates. A citation was issued.

While patrolling Newton Lake, CPO Swindle and CPO Hyatt observed a small watercraft transporting five adults. A female passenger was riding the gunnel with legs hanging over the edge. During the vessel inspection, we observed two PFDs were missing. One of the passengers was too large to use any of the remaining PFDs. The operator was issued a citation for one missing PFD.

CPO Swindle issued a citation to a logging truck for failure to provide proof of ownership.

While patrolling Stephen Forbes an evening, CPO Swindle observed a fire near the lake in an unauthorized area. Upon further inspection, a vehicle was found parked in the grass with a 9-month expired registration. The driver produced an expired DL and admitted to not possessing a fishing license. The subject was issued a citation for fishing w/o a fishing license and a written warning for the other violations.

While patrolling Stephen Forbes State Park, CPO Swindle conducted a sport fish enforcement check. One of the subjects observed fishing did not possess a fishing license. A LEADS inquiry revealed the subject had active warrants in two counties for failure to appear on a DUI case and possession of drug paraphernalia. The subject was subsequently arrested and jailed at the Marion County jail.
Jackson County
CPO G. Anderson checked a fisherman below the Kinkaid Lake Spillway. CPO Anderson noticed the fisherman had an undersized smallmouth bass in his cooler. CPO Anderson cited the fisherman for the undersized bass and educated him on the immediate release of smallmouth bass in streams and rivers between the dates of April 1 - June 15.

CPO G. Anderson observed 2 boats at Burning Star without navigation lights after sunset. CPO Anderson conducted a check on both boats and discover children under 13 without life jackets being worn. Both boat operators were cited for the violation.

CPO G. Anderson issued 2 citations to subjects who were fishing on private property without permission.

CPO G. Anderson assisted Jackson County Sheriff's Dept. and Illinois State Police with a traffic crash on Route 3. Both drivers had to be taken to the hospital with injuries suffered from the crash.

Johnson County
CPO Johnson received a call about a subject in possession of a fawn. When CPO Johnson arrived, at the residence, a doe was nervously waiting around the back of the residence. The subject released the fawn and returned back to its mother.

Massac County
CPO Wolf assisted Massac County Sheriff's Office in locating a missing 3-year-old child. The child was located approximately 3/4 of a mile from his house. The child was attempting to locate his dogs and got lost and continued walking.

CPO Wolf arrested an individual in Ft. Massac for driving while registration was suspended and having no valid insurance.

Pope County
CPO Wilkinson responded to a 911 call regarding an unresponsive person. Wilkinson arrived on the scene along with a deputy and two firefighters. CPO Wilkinson and the other personnel on the scene performed CPR for several minutes awaiting an ambulance to arrive on the scene.

Williamson County
CPO Shane Teas and CPO Wilkinson performed a boat patrol on the Lake of Egypt. Several boat stops were performed. Wilkinson issued four written warnings for various violations and arrested an individual for unlawful operation of a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol. The watercraft was stopped for operating at dark with no visible stern light and the operator showed multiple signs of impairment. Field sobriety confirmed he was under the influence and the arrest was made.

CPO Teas cited a subject for Failure to Transfer Boat Registration while on boat patrol in Williamson County.