ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Office of Law Enforcement  

Bi-Monthly Activity Report  

June 16-30, 2022  

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 1

Jo Daviess County

CPO Hoftender and Sgt. Beltran stopped a Wisconsin man boating on the Mississippi River. The subject was arrested for the operation of watercraft under the influence of alcohol. His BAC was .131.

CPO Hoftender cited a Chicago woman who had a site with whiskey and beer cans at Apple River Canyon State Park.

Northwest Zone / District 6

Boone County

CPO Roesch assisted Boone Co. Sheriff with an ATV and car that fled from them. CPO Roesch found the car and the driver pulled off in a nearby driveway. The driver had a revoked license. Boone County located the ATV shortly afterward. Boone County is handling the case.

Lasalle County

CPO Engledow and CPO Wagner responded along with ISP D17 Troopers to assist Oglesby PD with a large fight where an individual was stabbed at the Summer Festival. An investigation is still pending by Oglesby PD.

CPO Scott Wagner responded to a call at Illini SP of an individual who had been struck by a car. The investigation showed the victim was struck by his father's car during an apparent domestic encounter between the father and son at Whitetail campground. A thorough investigation will be completed and a report will be forwarded to the LaSalle County SA office for possible charges.

CPO Martin taught a Boater's Safety Education Course in LaSalle County.

CPO Kaufman was called to the Matthiessen Dells area for a vehicle parked in the construction zone. The driver had passed 2 ROAD CLOSED signs and a sign stating anyone entering the area would receive a $195 ticket for entering a closed area. When CPO Kaufman arrived the construction workers were done working for the day and needed the vehicle removed so they could leave. A tow truck was called and the vehicle was removed. Approximately 2 hours later the vehicle owner called the Illinois State Police(ISP) to find out where the vehicle was, and they informed him. The owner called back and said he could not find anyone to give him a ride to the tow company. ISP contacted CPO Kaufman. CPO Kaufman informed them if he gave the owner a ride to the tow company the owner would receive a $195 ticket. CPO Kaufman gave the owner a ride and the owner was issued a ticket for entering a closed area.

CPO Scott Wagner while conducting sport fish enforcement along the Illinois River found individual fishing with crayfish. Upon closer observation, the CPO discovered the crayfish were rusty crayfish which is an injurious species and can't be used as live bait in Illinois. The individual was cited for the violation and all crayfish were destroyed.

CPO Scott Wagner while conducting sport fish enforcement found a fisherman with a bucket full of fish. CPO checked the fish and found a smallmouth bass mixed in with several drums. After being measured it was determined the smallmouth was undersized and should have been immediately released. The fisherman was cited for failure to immediately release a short fish.

CPO Scott Wagner while on boat patrol with CPO Joe Kaufman observed a pontoon boat with two children under the age of 13 not wearing life jackets. A boat stop was conducted and the operator was issued a citation for the
violation as well as written warnings for other minor boat violations.

**Winnebago County**

CPO Roesch stopped a suspended driver at Rock Cut State Park. CPO Roesch issued a citation for driving while license suspended and warnings for improper display of license plates, no insurance, and driver's license not in possession.

**Northwest Zone / District 7**

**Fulton County**

CPO Thompson and CPO Elliott responded to a complaint of possible timber theft in rural Fulton County. CPOs identified the suspect's timber truck at a local sawmill and conducted an interview and timber truck inspection. CPOs identified the suspect had taken and sold walnut logs without a timber buyer's license, no proof of ownership documents and without the consent of the landowner. The suspect also had an active warrant for his arrest and was transported to the Fulton County Jail. Prior to transport, the suspect contacted a relative to remove the timber truck from the property, who upon identification was found to have an active warrant and was transported to the Fulton County Jail. A second suspect was identified as partaking in and committing the theft and was arrested and charged the following day. CPOs charged the first suspect with 4 misdemeanors and the second suspect was charged with 4 felonies and two misdemeanor charges.

CPO Thompson investigated a complaint of trespassing in rural Fulton County. A landowner claimed a logger had trespassed onto his property conducting logging operations on the neighbor. CPO Thompson was familiar with the location and knew the logger had been warned a month prior. Upon arrival and conducting interviews, the log cutter was charged with trespassing and has a future court date. Two additional male subjects were issued written warnings for trespass.

**Peoria County**

CPO Finn Region 1 District 7 was assisting on a boat accident when a call came over the radio of a submerged vessel. Conservation Police and Fon du Lac Police department responded to find a tug had sunk in the channel. CPO Finn assisted with sonar to locate the exact location and place buoys to mark the vessel. Fon du lac PD and CPO Finn transported the US Coast Guard to the scene to assist in their investigation and remediation of the incident.
Northeast Zone Bi-Monthly Report

**Northeast Zone / District 2**

**Kane County**

CPO Kelley attended an IDNR Youth Fishing Derby at the Oakhurst Forest Preserve in Aurora, IL. Approximately 300 kids competed for prizes based on the amounts and sizes of fish caught. Lunch was also provided for the entrants. A good time was had by all.

**Lake County**

While conducting a boat patrol on the Chain O' Lakes, CPO Winters observed 2 children without life jackets sitting in the front of a boat. CPO Winters stopped the boat and explained the laws regarding children and life jackets. 1 citation was issued for the PFD violation and 2 written warnings were issued for various boating violations.

**Northeast Zone / District 3**

**Grundy County**

As CPO Bergland was pulling into Wm. Stratton State Park to go on a boat patrol, he observed a group of three young ladies with a glass smoking bong. When they saw CPO Bergland they attempted to hide the bong. CPO Bergland approached them, took possession of the bong, and confirmed it was being used to smoke cannabis. Further investigation led to more cannabis and possession of Psilocybin, a felony.

While on boat patrol on the Illinois River in Grundy County, CPOs Prasun and Bergland stopped several boats. It must have been the day parents weren't thinking of their kids because all the tickets that were written that day were for kids not being in life jackets as required.

While patrolling a river in Grundy County, CPO Prasun observed a boat with a person under thirteen years old inside who was not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD). The boat was also towing a tuber with no tow flag visible. Upon inspecting the boat, it was determined the boat did not have enough wearable PFDs for everyone on board, the battery terminals were unshielded, and the operator had not been wearing his safety cut-off switch lanyard. The operator was issued a citation for the PFD age violation and a written warning for the remainder of the violations. CPO Prasun inspected another boat and determined the occupants did not have the correct PFD on board. The boat also had unshielded battery terminals, no tow flag when needed, and the operator was not wearing a safety cut-off switch lanyard. The operator was issued a written warning for the violations.

**Kankakee County**

While patrolling a public boat launch in Kankakee County, CPO Prasun observed a boat operator who was later determined to be impaired. The operator was arrested for Operating a Watercraft Under the Influence of Alcohol and O.U.I. with a BrAC of .08 or more. He was issued citations for the O.U.I. violations and a written warning for having an expired fire extinguisher & unshielded battery terminals.
**Will County**

While patrolling department property in southern Will County, CPO Prasun observed a family leave behind a broken styrofoam cooler and several alcohol bottles in the weeds. A family member was also seen carrying open alcoholic beverages back to their car just before they left. The person had been cited by DNR in the past for alcoholic beverages on department property. This person was issued another citation for having alcoholic beverages on department property where prohibited and the family was given a warning for littering.

Upon conducting a boat safety inspection on a river in southern Will County, CPO Prasun determined the vessel had an expired fire extinguisher and no safety cut-off lanyard. The operator was issued a written warning for the violations.

While patrolling a state park in southeastern Will County, CPO Prasun observed three subjects in a restricted area who were going into state buildings without permission. The three were cited for unlawful entry into a restricted area. Additional trespassing charges may be forthcoming.

**Northeast Zone / District 4**

**Cook County**

CPO Kusta was patrolling Department Lands and observed a fisherman. CPO Kusta requested the fisherman's Illinois fishing license. The fisherman showed CPO Kusta a valid Indiana fishing license but did not have an Illinois. CPO Kusta took enforcement action and issued the fisherman a citation for fishing without an Illinois fishing license.

CPO Kusta was conducting recreational boat enforcement on Department Lands. CPO Kusta observed a watercraft with an improper display of registration and made contact with the boat operator. A boat safety inspection was completed and No Sounding device was on board. CPO Kusta educated the operator and issued written warnings for the improper display of registration and no sounding device.
Central Zone / District 9

Macoupin County
CPO Gushleff was patrolling Beaver Dam State Park, and he inspected 2 kayaks launching at the boat ramp. The one subject launching the kayak did not have a life jacket. The subject forgot the life jacket in her car. CPO Gushleff wrote her a written warning for not having the life jacket and made her go get the jacket out of her vehicle.

Central Zone / District 10

Cass County
CPO Wahlbrink arrested individual fishing from a kayak at Jim Edgar Panther Creek after a compliance check revealed he had an outstanding warrant.

CPO Wahlbrink seized an ornate box turtle, a threatened species in Illinois after an investigation revealed an individual was advertising it for sale online. The turtle was reintroduced into the wild where it was taken from.

Logan County
CPOs Gerdes and Wahlbrink responded to an accidental drowning near Lincoln and conducted a SONAR search for the missing subject. The victim was unable to be recovered during the initial search but was located the following morning.

CPO Reeves assisted the Logan County Sheriff's Department in the search and recovery of a man from a pond near Lincoln. CPO Reeves utilized side-scan sonar to locate the victim under the water and marked the location for divers to dive and recover the man's body.

CPOs Wahlbrink, Gerdes, and Reeves used sonar imaging to assist local officials in locating and recovering an individual who had drowned while swimming.

Central Zone / District 11

Shelby County
CPO Miller and CPO Viverito were informed of a possible drunk boater operating on Lake Shelbyville. CPO Miller and Viverito located the vessel driving erratically and conducted a stop of the vessel. The operator of the vessel, a white male from Decatur, was arrested for Operating a watercraft under the influence of alcohol.

Central Zone / District 19

Dewitt County
CPO Reeves conducted a traffic stop at Clinton Lake SRA near the beach. The male driver of the vehicle was a violent sexual predator and was prohibited from being in the state park. The man was notified that a report was going to be submitted to the Dewitt County State's attorney's office for the possible filing of charges.

CPO Workman was on routine patrol at Clinton Lake checking fishermen. He observed a smallmouth bass in a bucket. He found out who caught the fish, measured the fish, and found it to be short of the length limit. CPO Workman issued a citation for failure to release short fish.
**Macon County**

CPO Reeves arrested a Decatur man for an outstanding warrant out of Macon County. At the request of the Macon County Sheriff's office, the man was issued a notice to appear in court for the warrant and not lodged in the Macon County Jail.

**Vermilion County**

While patrolling State lands in Vermilion County, CPO Sanford observed three individuals in possession of alcohol where prohibited. CPO Sanford made contact with the individuals to address the alcohol violation. CPO Sanford then received consent to search the immediate area, as well as the subject's vehicles. During the search, CPO Sanford discovered a small amount of cannabis and cannabis paraphernalia. The individuals were issued citations for the violations.
Southern Zone / District 14

Franklin County
While patrolling around Rend Lake, CPO Tapley stopped a vehicle for having an expired registration. The driver was found to have a suspended driver's license. A citation and a written warning were issued.

CPOs Skelton and Williams patrolled Rend Lake, the operator of one watercraft was issued a citation for no wearable lifejacket another watercraft was issued warnings for tubing without an observer and an orange flag.

CPO Skelton along with CPO Williams performed a boat patrol on Rend Lake. During their duties, CPO Skelton, and Williams identified several violations and took appropriate enforcement actions to ensure safety and compliance.

Jefferson County
CPO Tapley taught at a hunter safety course in Jefferson County

Perry County
CPO Vasicek cited a subject for unlawfully killing multiple white-tailed deer (buck and doe)during the closed season, and transporting uncased firearms on an ATV. Deer were killed with a 300 Blackout rifle in Perry County.

Southern Zone / District 15

Crawford County
CPO Willand observed two individuals bowfishing while standing on a bridge located on a public roadway. CPO Willand made contact with the individuals and advised them it is illegal to be on a public roadway and bowfish. Both individuals received warnings and were educated on the bowfishing regulations.

Effingham County
On 6/18/22 CPO Willand and Sgt. Buhnerkempe performed a marked boat patrol on Lake Sara. Multiple boats were stopped after dark due to navigation light violations, and boat safety inspections were performed.

Jasper County
CPO Hyatt stopped a log truck and completed a timber truck inspection. The operator was issued a warning for an incomplete proof of ownership form.

Southern Zone / District 16

Alexander County
CPO Vasicek and Missouri Conservation Agent Phillips of Mississippi County Missouri were called onto the Mississippi River to search for a boat in distress. Vasicek and Phillips located the 34-foot vessel approximately 20 miles upriver of Cairo, IL. The Illinois residents had spent the night marooned on a sandbar on the Mississippi River. After checking the subject well being the officers attempted to pull the boat into deeper water. After approximately 2 hours of effort, including the Missouri Agent wading in the river and pushing they were able to pull the large boat off of the sandbar into deeper water with the use of their boat. Officers escorted the boat to Wickliffe, Kentucky for fuel and supplies.

Jackson County
CPO G. Anderson followed up on a complaint about subjects riding ATVs at Burning Star SFWA. CPO Anderson received photographs of the subject and identified him from previous incidents around the area. CPO Anderson met the subject at the Williamson County Jail and issued a citation for operating an ATV on state property.

**Massac County**

CPO Wilkinson patrolled Dixon Springs State Park, Mermet State Fish and Wildlife Area, and Fort Massac State Park. While on patrol in Fort Massac, Wilkinson met a vehicle traveling 26 MPH in a 15 MPH Zone. The driver was also not wearing a seat belt. A traffic stop was performed. It was determined the driver was driving on a revoked license and had a warrant for his arrest. Wilkinson arrested the individual on the warrant and towed the vehicle. The individual was transported to the Massac County Jail. Citations were issued for driving while revoked and speeding. A written warning was issued for failure to wear a seat belt.

CPO Wolf worked the Archery Shooters Association Pro-AM Championship Tournament held at Mermet Lake SFWA and Fort Massac State park.

**Williamson County**

CPO Teas investigated a property damage boat accident on Lake of Egypt in Williamson County. One boat struck the rear of another as it turned to enter a marina. No injuries were reported and the operator of the striking boat was cited for Careless Operation.