

# FIELD NOTES

## Long Days

**POTTER**—Last winter, someone asked me what I do after the hunting seasons are over. Actually, many days in late winter, WCOs are trapping turkeys. We usually start around 4 a.m. on those days.

—WCO MARK S. FAIR, COUDERSPORT



## No Teeth Without Jaws

Because of the cold weather during bear season, some hunters were checking in frozen bears. This made it difficult to spread the jaws to pull a premolar for aging. My check station was held at the Trout Run Volunteer Fire Co., and one of the firemen suggested we try their Jaws of Life. It worked.

—LMO THOMAS M. SMITH, JERSEY SHORE

## Hard to Catch Some ZZZs

**TRAINING SCHOOL**—With the long days of classroom instruction at the Ross Leffler School of Conservation, sleep becomes a priority. Living with two other gentlemen takes some getting used to, but after two months we thought we had it figured out. One Monday night, I was awakened around 11:45 by one roommate talking in his sleep. A couple of hours later, my other roommate received several phone calls from his mother, and at 3:15 a.m. the garbage-removal service decided to empty the dumpster located beneath our dorm room window. Needless to say, there was some serious laughter at first call at 5 a.m.

—CADET WILLIAM KREIDER, HARRISBURG

## Burden to Bear

**UNION**—On the last day of the extended bear season, a friend called me to see if I was available to process a 300-pound bear that he was helping his cousin, the successful hunter, drag out of the woods. I informed him that the check station was open, and he said they would take the bear there to check it in. Later that afternoon, I got a call from the same person, who had gone back out hunting, just after he harvested a 500-pound bear. After helping his cousin and dragging his own bear, I suggested he take a few days off to recuperate from dragging 800 pounds of bear in one day.

—WCO DIRK B. REMENGYNDER,  
LEWISBURG

### Looking at the Bright Side

MONROE—I hunted with fellow WCO Philip Kasper during the flintlock muzzleloader season, and shortly after getting into my tree stand, I spotted a doe standing 40 yards away. I shot and missed. I was disappointed, but realized it could be worse. I could have to qualify at the range with that flintlock instead of our shotguns.

—WCO RYAN GILDEA, POCONO LAKE

### Every Hunter's Responsibility

BUCKS—I stopped a 50-year-old hunter who was hunting for pheasants during the youth season. "I guess I should have read the digest more thoroughly," he said.

—WCO JOHN PAPSON, TRUMBIAUVILLE



### Bushytail Tradition

ADAMS—During mid-winter, I met Dave Banack and his family at their hunting cabin. He explained that they have an annual squirrel hunt during the late season. Whoever gets the most squirrels on the designated hunt earns the coveted family trophy—a wooden-engraved plaque depicting a squirrel with an acorn. Seems like a good way to liven up the winter doldrums.

—WCO DARREN DAVID, EAST BERLIN

### What was He Inferring?

MERCER—I was delivering evidence to the State Police Crime Lab in Erie, and while guiding a technician through the computerized procedures, the suspect's date of birth came up and the technician commented, "Oh, an older gentleman." Deputy Carl McAdams, with more than 40 years of service, was present. And I mentioned that the suspect was younger than either of us. But one thing was apparent, at 55, the suspect was old enough to have known better.

—WCO DONALD G. CHAYBIN,  
GREENVILLE

### Quite the Christmas Present

JEFFERSON—My family and I were enjoying Christmas at my sister's house, when after dinner, we were all blessed with a nature show outside her house. Ten blue jays, 11 mourning doves, many dark-eyed juncos and two cardinals were at the birdfeeders. Five turkeys worked their way around the backyard, and a lone deer fed through the front yard, all in a winter wonderland setting.

—WCO ANDREW D. TROUTMAN,  
SUMMERVILLE

### Spray n' Wash

SNYDER/JUNIATA—My wife Wendy, my son, Ben, and I were out for a walk one evening when we spotted a skunk under a streetlight looking for grubs. Ben and I continued on the path while Wendy veered way out around, telling us we were too close. All of a sudden we heard a loud psssss. It didn't phase Ben or me, but Wendy feared the worst. She then realized it was somebody starting the car wash near us.

—WCO HAROLD J. MALEHORN,  
SELINGROVE



### Thought I Heard 'Em All

ERIE—On the first day of the firearms deer season, deputies James Sutton and Jim Langdon came across an individual with a turkey that had been shot out of season and with a rifle. When questioned, the individual tried to convince them that he had been shooting at a deer and the turkey jumped in the way. I filed a citation for taking a turkey out of season.

—WCO DARIN L. CLARK, ELGIN

### Nine Lives

BEAVER—While performing a field check on an elderly pheasant hunter this fall, he told me that he and his dog had been hunting together for years. No matter where they go, the old hound always rides shotgun. One day, while heading back home from a successful day in the field, the dog jumped over the front seat and into the back. It seems a not-so-dead pheasant began flying around inside the car. The laughter that erupted from the gentleman that afternoon was enough to put a smile on my face all day long.

—WCO MICHAEL YECK, BEAVER

### Here's Your Sign

SCHUYLKILL—Just before Christmas, I had the “opportunity” to do a little shopping with my wife. The following day I found a sign hanging in my office that read, “Shopping with your husband is like hunting with the ‘game warden’.”

—WCO KEVIN CLOUSER, ASHLAND

### One Down

TIOGA—After the close of the 2013 firearms deer season, I officially could say I made it through my first hunting season. After surviving pneumonia, snowy roads and only wrecking my truck once, I'll call last year a success.

—WCO PATRICK CULL, ELKLAND



### Can't Make This Stuff Up

BEDFORD—As I approached a group of hunters on the first day of bear season, I noticed that one was wearing Superman underwear over his jeans, but he did have on all the required orange. I usually can keep a good poker face, but not this time. The whole group was laughing as I asked to see “Superman’s” license. The hunter explained that he lost a bet at camp. Before leaving, I asked “Clark Kent” if I could take his photo.

—WCO JEREMY COUGHENOUR, BEDFORD

### **Frigid Flintlock Season**

SUSQUEHANNA—Last year's flintlock deer season was one of the coldest in years. Daily high temperatures were in the negative digits here, with wind chills dipping down to minus 38 degrees on several days. This severe cold weather concentrated deer at reliable food sources. Flintlock hunters who braved the cold, and whose guns went off, enjoyed a successful season.

—WCO MICHAEL WEBB, FOXTON LAKE

### **Father-Son Time**

TRAINING SCHOOL—In April, I took my oldest son out for the Youth Spring Turkey Hunt day. As we spent the morning together, we were able to catch up on many things. He talked about the difficulties of being a third-grader, and I talked about the trials of being a cadet. With today's busy lifestyle, being in the woods with him was an incredible way to reconnect after being away during the week. Don't worry, Josh, I won't even mention that you missed a longbeard; it just gave us a reason to spend another day afield.

—CADET JASON MACUNAS, HARRISBURG

### **Knows the Road**

GREENE—Many of the roads I patrol here are dirt or gravel and don't receive a lot of winter maintenance. One day, after a fresh snowfall, I was on one of these roads and noticed some fresh tracks, which I originally thought might be human footprints. Upon closer examination, though, they turned out to be bear tracks. It was the first time I've found bear tracks since I've been here.

—WCO MICHAEL GREINER, WAYNESBURG

### **Misconception**

PERRY—Many times when I have a deer on my vehicle rack, people ask if I'm just going to throw it in the deer pit. It's important to realize that all WCOs make the best possible use of the resource. It is common practice for WCOs to give edible deer to local food banks or individuals who have requested a deer. Every year, hundreds of deer are donated to help feed those less fortunate, and although not every animal is suitable to be donated, far more go to a good home rather than the deer pit.

—WCO KEVIN ANDERSON, SHERMANSDALE



### **What's In a Name?**

BEAVER—I was helping with building bluebird boxes at a youth field day when a group of youngsters sat down at the table to begin construction. All of the kids had name tags on, and I made it a point to scan them before starting. I thought that it would be an experienced group when I noted that one of the kids' last names was Naylor, which is pronounced "Nailer." My hopes were quickly dashed when I noticed the youngster in the next seat had the last name Bender.

—WCO MATTHEW G. KRAMER, BEAVER

### Where's the TV?

WARREN—Deputy David Paulmier and I encountered an individual during the 2013 bear season, who was camping on the Allegheny National Forest in a tepee. He invited us in and showed us that it was a comfortable 70 degrees. I couldn't help but think that my life could be so much simpler.

—WCO JASON R. AMORY, TIDIOUTE

### Ain't Getting Any Younger

POTTER—After 25 years of service, I'm glad to report that I still have as much enthusiasm for the fall hunting seasons as ever, and my tired old legs and lungs can still carry me to the top of the Potter County ridges. I do have to admit that it takes me longer to recover from those "death marches" than it used to, and now I'm also more anxious for the end of the hunting seasons.

—WCO BILL RAGOSTA, COUDERSPORT

### Nature's Way

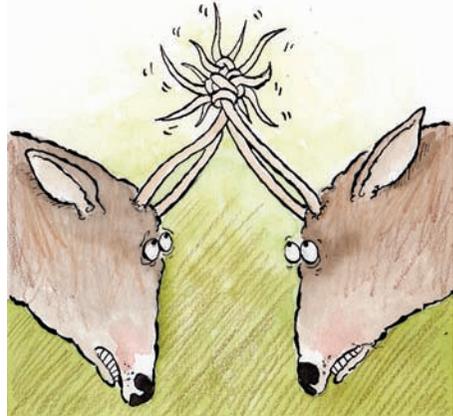
HUNTINGDON—Despite the bitter cold weather in January, I had several reports of bears being out and about then. Although it is not uncommon for the males to come in and out of the dens in search of food during warmer weather, last year's lack of food should have had bears denning up a little more prevalently. Unfortunately, a female had to be euthanized due to an extreme case of mange. She wore a tag that indicated she was 13 years old. She was extremely emaciated, with no body fat to keep her warm and the only humane thing to do during that time of year was to put her down. It was ironic she made it through the hunting seasons only to succumb to mange.

—WCO AMY NABOZNY, PETERSBURG

### In the Zone

YORK—I was checking small-game hunters on a state game lands here when one vented about an incident from years ago. The hunter explained how he had been cited for shooting at a pheasant within 150 yards of one of the stocking trucks. He said, "I thought a safety zone had to be a house; it's not like those guys are living on the truck." I guess the Food and Cover Corps employees are going to have to start camping out in the stocking trucks every now and then.

—WCO KYLE JURY, LEWISBERRY



### Happy Ending

CAMERON—During the second week of the 2013 deer season, I was patrolling the First Fork area when my passenger, LMO Colleen Shannon, alerted me about some deer along Route 872. We stopped and discovered two bucks locked in combat. We decided to walk down to try to separate them, but by the time we got there they untangled and ran off. This is the third time I have encountered this situation, but by far the best outcome of the three.

—WCO WAYNE A. HUNT, ST MARY'S

### Good Season

LYCOMING—The fall hunting seasons were very productive here this year. I had the opportunity to check a large number of hunters enjoying their time in the field. I probably checked more successful deer hunters than during any previous hunting season. The quality of the bucks harvested was outstanding. I also had the opportunity to interface with several junior hunters who were successful in harvesting their first deer. I would like to thank deputies Eugene Lafavor and Bill Bennett, and Land Management Supervisor Cliff Guindon, for all of their help. We were exceptionally busy this past fall, but we were successful in apprehending and prosecuting a number of violators.

—WCO KRISTOFFER A. KREBS,  
WILLIAMSPORT

### In a Single Bound

TRAINING SCHOOL—Although none of the cadets of the 30th Class are in danger of failing to meet the minimum physical-fitness requirement, the sight of the tallest cadet clearing the mandated horizontal jump distance in a single effortless stride did induce some minor feelings of jealousy among the shorter population.

—CADET RYAN GUTH, HARRISBURG

### Forget It

BERKS—Many hunters can go their entire hunting life without ever being checked by a WCO, and some are lucky enough to get checked twice in one day. Please don't be insulted if I don't remember you right away. I always tell people that it's a good thing if I don't, because it means nothing was wrong the last time.

—WCO ERIC ANDERSON, READING

### Had Seen Better Days

LACKAWANNA—At a hearing for a defendant who took a shot from his vehicle at our deer decoy, he said to the judge, "Your honor, the reason I shot the deer from the roadway was because it looked sick." Without hesitation, the judge looked up at the defendant and said, "Yeah, of course it looked sick; it was a dead deer. Guilty!" I couldn't help but chuckle.

—WCO KEVIN MORAN, THORNHURST



### "Tiger" By the Tail

PHILADELPHIA—My neighbor Jim McCann was fishing on Lake Minisink with a surface lure when a big bird swooped down and snatched it. Unfortunately, the owl became hooked in the leg and flew into some brush along the shore. Jim got a heavy blanket and leather gloves, covered the owl and removed the lure from its leg with help from Mike Vallerio. The owl was released and flew away out over the lake, seemingly no worse for wear.

—WCO JERROLD W. CZECH JR.,  
PHILADELPHIA