



## Region 9 Continued

### Midday Action

By Sgt. Davis Madere

As agents we sometimes get stuck on the thought that major hunting violations take place just after sunrise and just before sunset. More often than not such is the case. However, on the last day of modern firearm deer hunting on Maurepas Swamp WMA, I and Sr. Agents Jeff Boyd and Ed Ridgel ran in to a little midday action. We were working a split shift that day and were all headed home just after 11:00 a.m. to grab some lunch and maybe a quick siesta when Jeff stopped his unit near a truck parked on the WMA in St. James Parish.

Ed and I stopped and Jeff explained that he remembered seeing a permanent stand in the area. We discussed the location of the stand and we decided to put on our hip boots and give it a look. As we were putting on our boots...there it was...a rifle shot; and not thirty seconds later a second shot. The shots sounded like they came from about 250 yards in the swamp which was near where the permanent stand was thought to be. It was bucks only at this time on the WMA, so we got a game plan together with the thought our shooter may have taken a doe.

Ed and I took to the swamp while Jeff, though reluctantly, agreed to sit on the truck in case our guy circled around me or Ed. Ed and I walked toward where the shots came from and were about 100 yards apart, unable to see each other as we slipped through the swamp. We didn't plan it, but we gained sight of each other near a cypress ridge where we believed the shots were fired. Sure enough after a short wait here came our guy, clad in camo and orange and dragging a deer.

I identified myself to him and asked as I approached, "Whatcha got?" He hollered back, "Not

what I'm supposed to have!" Now, I was about thirty yards from the guy when he said this and Ed was about 50 yards; for those of you that have hunted the swamp, you know it is moderately difficult to move quickly. Well, I believe I witnessed a miracle that day, as Ed appeared to walk on water and beat me to the subject and his deer. As I walked up, Ed couldn't help but crack a smile as he held up an antlerless deer's head. We escorted the dejected deer hunter back to Jeff's location, cited him, and seized his rifle and, of course, the deer.

I generally would rather not patrol during the middle of the day during hunting season, but the fact is you can happen upon a good case anytime and anywhere.



Sr. Agent Boyd, Sgt. Madere and Sr. Agent Ridgel with illegal deer and rifle seized on Maurepas Swamp WMA.

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