



## Region 9 Continued

# My First Month

By Agent Tyler Marroy

Every cadet wonders what it will be like when they finally make it to the field. They wonder for six long months about how its going to be in that uniform doing what you have been training to do. I know this because I recently graduated from the training academy on Dec. 8, 2006 (Class 20). The academy was a long but memorable experience. We all heard talk about how it was going to be in the field but I had no idea I was going to experience so much so quickly.

My first field training officer was Sgt. Winston Michel of Assumption Parish. Sgt. Michel and I were patrolling in Assumption Parish down Shell Beach Road when we observed several subjects picking up their vessels, which were filled with over a thousand feet of gill nets each and mounds of shad. We set up near the

boat launch and made contact with the first group of men. When we approached the vessel we observed a bucket with catfish, garfish, mullet, and freshwater drum. The subjects had a shad gill net license but according to the provisions you are only allowed to keep shad or skipjack.

As we were speaking with the first group of fishermen, the second truck approached us. We flagged the truck down and they also were in violation of the same thing. We issued four citations and seized both vessels and both nets on paper. That was my very first case and I will never forget that morning or the wonderful smell of shad that lingered with me the rest of the day.

While Sgt. Michel and I were working one night the next week we received a complaint of two subjects' night hunting. After arriving to the area of the complaint we



Shad gill net seized on Dec. 15, 2006 by Agent Tyler Marroy and Sgt. Winston Michel.

parked my truck and walked about two miles to a field where the subjects were allegedly night hunting. After sharing a field with around forty cows that I swear were plotting on us, we observed subjects on two ATVs shining lights into the woods. After watching them shine for a few minutes we heard one of the subjects shoot and we knew we had them, that is if we were able to stop them.

The two subjects

passed us and started heading towards the road so we ran across the field and cut them off. We jumped out of the woods and luckily they stopped in their tracks. Both subjects had loaded .22 rifles and they had one rabbit and one coon. Both subjects were cited for hunting wild quadruped's illegal hours with an artificial light and for hunting from a moving vehicle.


Later that night after

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donating the game that was seized we drove to a boat launch and as soon as we got there we saw a truck parked away from all the other vehicles. As soon as we saw that truck we had a good idea what they were up to. We pulled up behind the vehicle and then turned on our blue emergency lights. In a matter of seconds into talking to the subjects it was obvious that they were hiding something. It's amazing how much body language can give away. We asked the two guys if they had any guns or anything illegal in the truck and they told us no, then gave us permis-

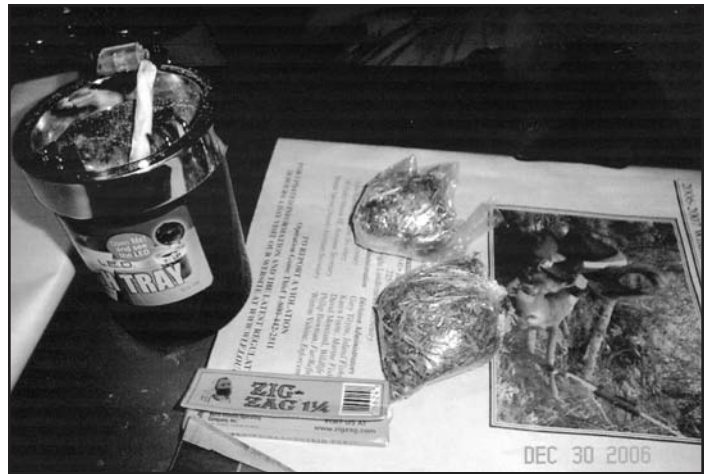
sion to search their vehicle. We found two bags of suspected marijuana that were each bigger than a golf ball in size. Both subjects were cited for simple possession of marijuana.

Making those two cases in the same night was a great and exciting experience. On top of those three cases we also did an undercover case selling nutria tails which was a story in itself. I also got to sit in the woods trying to catch a subject who was running nine rabbit boxes. To my surprise we caught the guy the first day. And I also got to experience a vehicle pursuit that



Agent Tyler Marroy on Dec. 29, 2006 with two .22 rifles, one rabbit and one raccoon seized in a night hunting case in Assumption Parish.

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Two bags of suspected marijuana seized on Dec. 30, 2006 by Agt. Tyler Marroy and Sgt. Winston Michel in Assumption Parish.

ended with the subject running from us into the woods. The guy was obviously running for a reason and did not want to come out of the wooded area he ran into. After screaming to him that we were Agents with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the subject

came out of the woods with his hands up. After checking with Assumption Sheriff we learned that the subject had two warrants out for his arrest. The only thing I can guess is that the subject didn't think

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we would check on warrant because we were just a couple of "Game Wardens". But when we put cuffs on him he soon realized that the "Possum Cops" do more, a lot more than he thought.

My first month we made a night hunting case, drug case, undercover case, rabbit box case, gill net case, and had a guy run from us. I can safely say that I was not expecting to learn

this much this soon. I know I have a lot to learn but it's safe to say that I got a taste of what it's like to be in the field. It's amazing what can be learned when you get in the field and experience everything that you trained for during the academy first hand. I know I have a very long journey ahead of me but my first month is one that I will remember the rest of my life.



Agent Tyler Marroy and Sgt. Winston Michel with nine rabbit boxes seized in Assumption Parish.



Undercover Nutria Tail Case, Dec. 27, 2006. Agent Tyler Marroy, Sgt. Winston Michel and Lt. Les Rulf in St. Mary Parish.

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## Region 9 Continued



*Two 10-points were found dead in Assumption Parish. They were found with their antlers locked together drowned in a small coulee.*

*Photos by Sgt. Davis Madere and Agent Tyler Marroy.*

*This space possible by  
Friends who support  
the Louisiana Game  
Wardens and their  
efforts to teach our  
younger generations  
to enjoy hunting and  
fishing.*



*Sgt. Aron Hastings and Agent Ladd Turner pictured with four deer seized and donated to charity.*

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