Hold the Nuts—Hamilton County

Early in the evening on July 10, Forest Rangers out of Hamilton County were requested to assist a teenage boy having an allergic reaction to a known nut allergy. A group from Camp Fowler, a non-profit children’s camp, in Lake Pleasant, had been hiking the Northville-Placid Trail and were camping at Plumley Point when the teen unknowingly ingested food processed in a facility that also processed nuts. Trip leaders gave him medication to slow the allergic reaction while Ranger Waters responded by boat. Ranger Waters subsequently transported the patient to the Long Lake boat launch, where a Long Lake Rescue Squad was waiting. The teen was transported to Adirondack Medical in Saranac Lake for treatment.

Not So Humerus—Lewis County

On the afternoon of June 21, Forest Rangers out of Lewis County were requested to assist a woman who had been thrown from her horse while riding in DEC’s Otter Creek Horse Trails. The Rangers transported two EMTs from Lewis County Search and Rescue Ambulance Service to the patient. The EMTs evaluated the rider’s condition and determined she had an angulated internal compound humerus (upper arm) fracture. She was then packaged on a litter and transported by a Ranger’s six-wheeler to a waiting ambulance, and then to Lewis County General Hospital for treatment.

Reptile Hoarder—Cattaraugus County

In July, DEC charged an Allegany man with multiple violations for the illegal possession and sale of wildlife, resulting in the largest seizure of illegal reptiles in state history. DEC ECOs, Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigators, and Division of Wildlife staff followed up on a tip and searched the home of the Allegany man where they found 292 animals being kept illegally, including numerous venomous reptiles. Among the seized animals were three king cobras, hundreds of turtles, and six Gila monsters (a venomous lizard native to the southwest U.S. and northern Mexico). The defendant faces numerous charges, including: felony charges of first-degree reckless endangerment; the illegal sale of wildlife; illegally possessing and transporting venomous reptiles; and 283 counts of illegally possessing a wild animal as a pet. The Cattaraugus County District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the case. If convicted on all charges, the defendant faces up to a maximum fine of $104,000 and/or up to 33 years in prison.

Stuck Fawn Freed—Dutchess County

On June 18, ECO Zachary Crain responded to a call about a fawn caught in a fence in the Village of Millerton. ECO Crain located the fawn and freed it from the fence it was wedged under. The fawn sustained minor cuts and scrapes from the fence, but was otherwise healthy. ECO Crain walked a short distance down the road with the fawn and the fawn’s loud bleats soon brought a concerned doe into view. The ECO let the fawn go and was later told by the original caller that the fawn was seen reunited with its mother.