

Two local men among those charged in recent Clark State Forest incidents

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Two Scottsburg men were among those recently arrested by Indiana Conservation Officers at the Clark State Forest north of Henryville.

Kenneth Nichols, 66, and Michael Stanley, 57, both of Scottsburg, were taken into custody, Nichols for public indecency and Stanley for public intoxication. A third man, identified as Jerry Heishman, 60, Lanesville, was charged with public indecency.

The charges filed against the three are misdemeanors. All of the arrests occurred on the evening of July 30.

According to the news release from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), plain-clothes officers were used in the arrests. All three men were incarcerated at the Clark County Jail in Jeffersonville. Heishman posted a \$250 cash bond on July 31 and was released. Both Nichols and Stanley were released on similar cash bonds on August 1, court records indicated. Initial hearings in Clark County Circuit Court 3 were held for Heishman and Stanley on Tuesday, August 5. Not guilty pleas were entered for them, and pre-trial conferences were scheduled September 3. Nichols had his initial court hearing on September 7. His not guilty plea was accepted, and a pre-trial date of September 10 was scheduled.

Officers have stepped up patrols of the forestry in recent weeks in response to complaints from visitors. Several arrests have been made, with Conservation Officers continuing patrols to ensure the safe use of the DNR facilities and its natural resources. Citizens are urged to report suspicious or criminal activity at DNR-operated properties by calling the Indiana Conservation Officers central dispatch at 1-812-837-9536.