

Hunter accused of baiting black bear

By Joe Elias, The Patriot-News <<http://connect.pennlive.com/user/jelias/index.html>>
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A Hummelstown man was cited with baiting a black bear in Lower Paxton Township for several weeks with the hope of killing the bear during the first day of bear hunting season, the Pennsylvania Game Commission said Monday.

Daniel Conner, 49, was found Monday morning dressed in camouflage in a camouflage tent near a development along Goose Valley Road on the property of Shade's Nursery on Colonial Club Drive, authorities said.

Officer Mike Doherty said Conner's baiting caused the bear to remain in the area for food.

The bear has been spotted more than 20 times in the last two weeks in Susquehanna and Lower Paxton townships, authorities said. Doherty said he was continuing his efforts to trap the bear and relocate it to an isolated area. "Hopefully, I'll have better luck now," Doherty said. "I want to make sure this bear gets to live somewhere safe."

Conner was carrying a loaded Winchester 300 Magnum hunting rifle and was close to violating a requirement that hunters be at least 150 yards away from an occupied structure while hunting, Doherty said.

Doherty said he received a tip that Conner was baiting with peanut butter, bacon and apples.

Conner faces a \$300 fine for baiting and a \$75 fine for not wearing enough orange clothing while hunting, Doherty said.

It's possible the bear could move to another area, Doherty said. Several bears were killed Monday, the first day of hunting season, and the bear roaming around Lower Paxton could move into one of their territories, Doherty said. "It's a possibility," he said. "But I'll keep checking my traps."