

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
March 9-15, 2014

This report is a broad sampling of events that have taken place in the past week, but does not include all actions taken by the Law Enforcement Division.



Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)

BARTOW COUNTY

On March 15th, Cpl. Byron Young checked several fishermen at Clark Creek and Tanyard Creek on Allatoona Lake. Cpl. Young found three fishermen fishing without a license.

On March 15th, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix attended the annual Sportsman Dinner at Cartersville First Baptist Church. The officers answered hunting, fishing, and boat registration questions. Approximately 150 people attended the event.

FANNIN COUNTY

On March 8th, RFC Kevin Dyer and RFC Cody Jones were patrolling the Cohutta WMA. The Officers drove past a sign, on a one way in and out road, stating that Jack's River was closed to fishing until the last Saturday in March. When the Officers got to the river they observed an ATV which was illegally driven on the WMA and a man fishing in the closed trout stream without a fishing license or a trout license. The man stated that he saw the sign that indicated the river was closed to fishing but he did not read it. He was issued two citations and two warnings for the violations.

On March 8th, RFC Kevin Dyer and RFC Cody Jones continued patrolling the Cohutta WMA. The Officers stopped to talk with a father and son who road motorcycles from their camp to a scenic overlook. While the Officers checked for their motorcycle endorsement, they determined that the son was only 14 years old and did not have any license. The Officer's observed the father acting overly nervous so RFC Jones received consent to search and found Marijuana and a smoking pipe. The Officers charged the father for the Marijuana and instructed him to drive his son back to camp and come back with their truck to pick up his son's motorcycle.

MURRAY COUNTY

On March 9th, RFC Kevin Dyer, RFC Cody Jones and U.S. Forest Service Agent Mike Tipton were patrolling the Cohutta WMA. The Officers encountered a man camping on the WMA. While talking with the man, the officers could smell a strong odor of marijuana. RFC Jones asked how long ago he had smoked marijuana and he stated a few hours ago. While interviewing the man, he told Agent Tipton where his marijuana and pipes were in his truck. RFC Jones continued interviewing the man and he eventually told RFC Jones the rest of his "stash" was in the back of his truck with his camping gear. RFC Jones searched the bed of the truck and found the remaining marijuana. The amount of marijuana was approximately two ounces which is a felony. The man was arrested for Violation of the Georgia Controlled Substance Act (felony) and possession of drug related objects.

FLOYD COUNTY

On March 2nd, RFC Roger McConkey and Cpl. Tommy Gentry assisted with an overturned boat at Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area. The operator had unloaded his passengers on the nearby bank and was returning to the boat ramp when his boat turned over. According to the operator, he lost his balance and the small aluminum boat to turn over. The Rangers pulled the boat to the bank where the operator could turn the boat back over and load onto his trailer. No one was injured in this incident.

WALKER COUNTY

On March 8th, RFC Roger McConkey, Cpl. Shawn Elmore, and Sgt. Jeff Galloway presented archery programs at Oakwood Baptist Church in Chickamauga, Ga. Oakwood Baptist holds an outdoor day each year to educate kids from the area on hunting, fishing, and other outdoor related activities. The Rangers taught the local kids on safe hunting practices and the importance of ethical hunting using archery equipment.

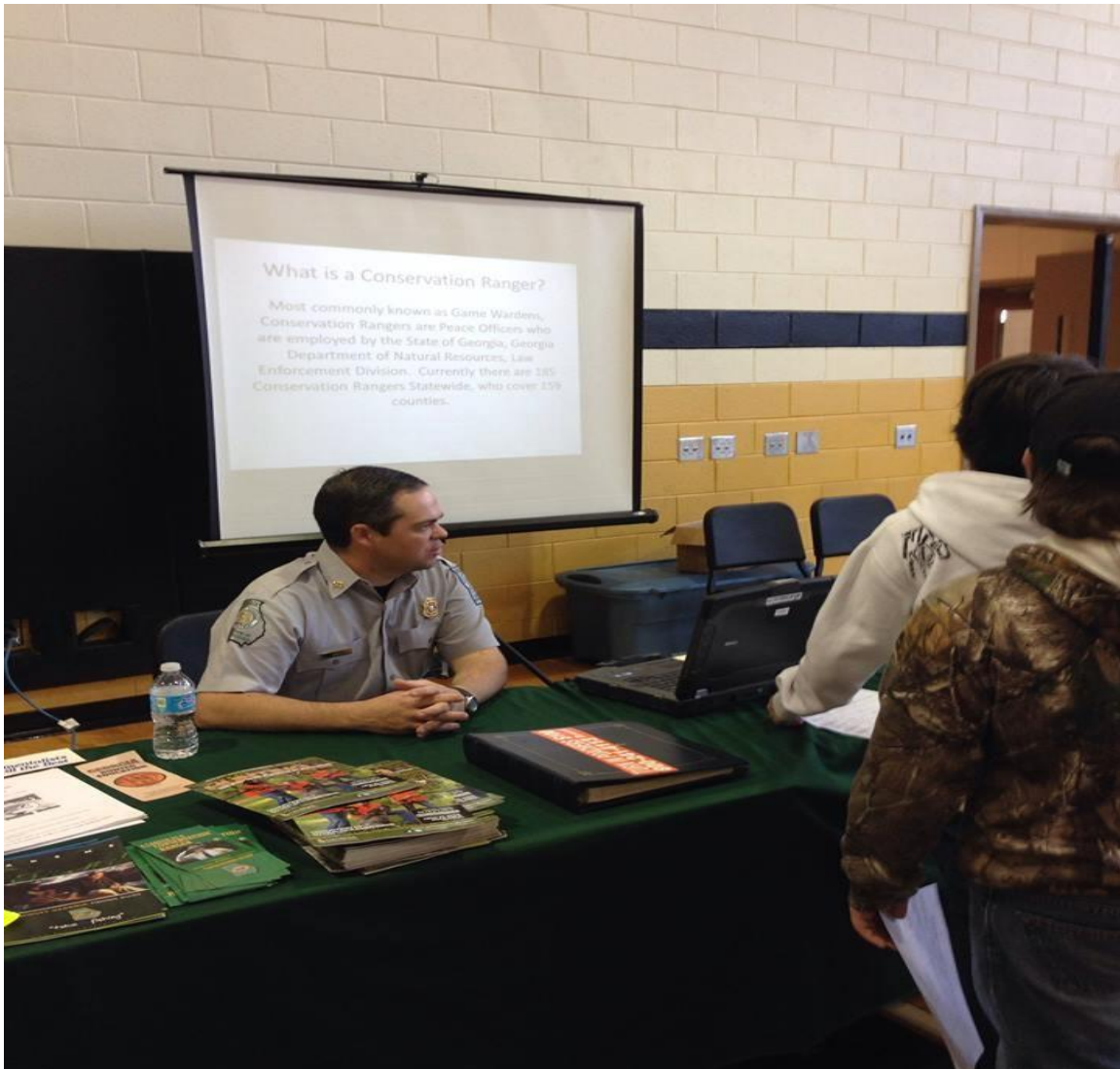
On March 6th, Cpl. Tommy Gentry conducted four programs at Chickamauga Elementary School. He taught the students the hunter safety portion of the CHAMPS program. Cpl. Gentry has been assisting the Walker Co Sheriff's Office for several years with the CHAMPS program.

POLK COUNTY

On March 6th, RFC Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray conducted a program for Tallatoona Pre-K in Rockmart. There were 42 four and five year old students in attendance. During the program, the students were taught about wild turkeys and other animals native to the area. They were also allowed to examine actual mounts, skulls, and other items of animals that are found in or near the county.

On March 6th, RFC Chad Cox, RFC Daniel Gray, and a volunteer instructor, concluded a two night Hunter Education Class at J L Lester Wildlife Management Area in Cedartown. Nineteen students were certified after successfully completing the two night course.

On March 14th, RFC Chad Cox attended Career Day at Rockmart Middle School and spoke to students in 6th-8th grade about what is required to become a Conservation Ranger.



DOUGLAS COUNTY

On March 14th, Corporal Eric Brown and Ranger Mark Puig patrolled Sweetwater Creek State Park and checked numerous fishing licenses and creel limits. While patrolling, the Rangers spotted a vehicle parked at the end of a road with two people standing outside of it. The Rangers stopped and questioned the two individuals and found that they were about to go shoot a pistol down into the woods. The Rangers determined they did not have permission to be there and made them leave the area. At dusk, while patrolling the same road, the Rangers came across a truck parked on a piece of property that had just been cleared for a subdivision. Evidence in the truck showed that the owners could have been hog hunting in the area. After a while two individuals approached the truck. They were in possession of sticks used to hunt subsurface artifacts and had pockets full of rocks they thought were arrowheads. The two men stated they did not have permission from the landowner to be there searching for artifacts. Citations were written for artifact hunting without permission.

CARROLL COUNTY

On March 11th, Corporal Eric Brown responded to a complaint at Snake Creek Reservoir for illegal fishing. During the patrol of the lake 5 Subjects were cited for fishing without permission and 1 for operating a vessel without personal floatation devices.

PAULDING COUNTY

On March 15th, Corporal Eric Brown and Ranger Mark Puig conducted an ATV patrol of Paulding Wildlife Management Area for illegal ATV activity. Situations encountered by the Rangers included checking two coyote hunters, several fishermen, illegal artifact collection, target shooting in an unauthorized area, and a lifejacket violation.

RFC Chad Cox was honored at the monthly Paulding County Board of Education meeting for his assistance during the snow storm on January 29-30. RFC Cox was able to get several kids and faculty members home from school after they had to spend the night at school. Others honored were Commissioner David Austin, Sheriff Gary Gulledege, Paulding County School District Director of Transportations Terry Loveall and Scott Greene, Director of Paulding DOT.



FULTON COUNTY

On March 15th, Cpl. Byron Young, Game Management Chief John Bowers, and state turkey biologist Kevin Lowery were on live radio on the O'Neil Williams outdoor program. The topics discussed were the special youth season, turkey habitat issues, and law enforcement issues encountered during turkey season.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

DAWSON COUNTY

On March 9th, RFC Mitchell Crump and Ranger Shane Brown patrolled Hollis Latham Reservoir for fishing activity. A total of 9 vessels were checked and warnings were issued for fishing without a license and operating a vessel without a C.G approved PFD's.

On March 9th, RFC Mitchell Crump and Ranger Shane Brown were patrolling Nix Bridge Park on Lake Lanier when they encountered two adults and three children fishing. Ranger Brown asked for a fishing license for the adults, neither was able to produce one. Both adult subjects had Mexican ID's with an address in the states. Rangers ran both subjects thru GCIC and the male came back with a warrant for his arrest out of Doraville. The rangers called Dawson County Deputies to assist with properly identifying the subject since GCIC had several listed alias. Subsequently the subject was arrest and transported to Dawson County Detention for his warrant.

DEKALB COUNTY

On March 11th, Cpl. Sanders completed a Hunter Education Class held at Tucker Recreation Center in DeKalb County and had 22 students to pass. This marked the 1st class of the 31st year of teaching for Cpl. Sanders.

FORSYTH COUNTY

On March 9th, Sgt. Lee Brown was patrolling the Chattahoochee River in the Settles Bridge area. Sgt. Brown observed a kayak paddling up river and talked with the person in the kayak. Sgt. Brown determined that the person didn't have a life jacket onboard. A citation was issued for the infraction.

On March 9th, Sgt. Lee Brown, RFC Mitchell Crump and Ranger Shane Brown patrolled Chattahoochee River in several locations. The rangers issued citations and warnings for fishing without a license, fishing without trout stamp and fishing with unlawful bait.

On March 11th, Ranger Shane Brown attended the NWTF banquet in Cumming.

On March 11th, Sgt. Lee Brown taught an On-Line Hunter Education Class at the old Hammonds Fishing Center in Cumming. A total of 15 students were certified in Hunter Education.

After the class Sgt. Brown was notified by Ranger Shane Brown of a complaint of subjects shooting guns on an island out from Little Ridge Park on Lake Lanier. The rangers responded to the park and met with a Forsyth County deputy who was already on the scene. The deputy had made contact with the subjects who turned out to be four teenage boys. Verbal guidance was given and the Corp of Engineer regulations explained to them.

GWINNETT COUNTY

On March 9th, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins checked fisherman at Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville. Cpl. Tompkins issued citations/warnings for fishing without license.

On March 9th, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins was checking fisherman along the Chattahoochee River when he observed a subject at the boat ramp struggling to back his trailer in the water. After the subject stopped Cpl. Tompkins approached and could smell the odor of alcohol coming from the subject's breath. The subject stated he was drinking beer while trout fishing. Cpl. Tompkins asked the subject to complete field sobriety exercises and determined that the subject was under the influence. The subject was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Fishing without a license, and fishing without a trout license.

On March 15th, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins was checking a private pond in the Lawrenceville area where the landowner had complained of people fishing without permission. When Cpl. Tompkins arrived at the pond he observed two subjects at the pond. The subjects were issued written warnings and told not to return to the property without written permission.

LUMPKIN COUNTY

On March 15th, RFC Mitchell Crump was patrolling closed trout streams on the Chestatee WMA when he found two people fishing for trout in a seasonal stream. The subjects were issued citations for fishing in a closed stream.

ROCKDALE COUNTY

On March 13th, Cpl. Sanders completed a Hunter Education Class held at Johnson Park Recreation Center in Rockdale County and had 4 students to pass.

STEPHENS COUNTY

On March 15th, RFC Tim Vickery and Corporal Bill Bunch patrolled the upper end of Lake Hartwell on the Tugaloo River. Several fishermen and boats were checked. One warning was written for fishing without a license.

HART COUNTY

On March 9th, Cpl. Craig Fulghum coordinated an Outdoor Dreams youth Duck hunt at Skeeter Branch Hunting Preserve. This was the ninth consecutive year that the hunt was held in Hart County and it was a huge success. Eight children and their families participated and a supper was provided at the end of the hunt. Assisting in the hunt was Commissioner Mark Williams, Captain Thomas Barnard, Sgt., Stan Elrod, RFC Brandon Pierce, RFC Tim Vickery, and RFC Shane Sarter.



HART COUNTY

On March 9th, Cpl. Craig Fulghum was patrolling affidavit properties in Hart County in the evening. Cpl. Fulghum located one subject fishing on goldmine watershed without permission. The subject was issued a citation for fishing without permission.

On March 13th, Cpl. Craig Fulghum and Sgt. Stan Elrod participated in a Sportsman Banquet for the Royston church of God. At the event the officers had the fishing simulator and answered questions from the public. The guest speaker at the event was Hank Parker and over 400 guests were at the event.

On March 13th, RFC Brandon Pierce attended an Outdoors Banquet hosted by Oak Bower Baptist Church Outdoor Ministries. Over four hundred people attended the banquet. Food was served, as well as, singing and a well-known speaker spoke at the event.

On March 15th, Cpl. Craig Fulghum taught Boating and Hunter Education in Hartwell. Two students were certified during his boating course and twelve students were certified during the hunting course that afternoon.

BANKS COUNTY

On March 9th, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk and RFC Mark Stephens patrolled Banks County for fishing activity. Approximately 20 fishing licenses were checked and three warnings were issued for fishing without a license.

BARROW COUNTY

On March 15th, Ranger Kevin Goss set up the Laser Shot Game System for the Freedom Baptist Church annual Camo & Ammo Dinner and Worship Service. Ranger Goss was able to speak with lots of hunters and fishermen and answered questions about the upcoming turkey season.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

OCONEE/GREENE COUNTY

On March 9th, Cpl. Julian Wilkins and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled the Oconee River for boating and fishing activity. They issued numerous citations and warnings for fishing without a license, registration violations and personal flotation device violations. They also assisted a stranded boater by towing him back to the ramp.

ELBERT COUNTY

On March 10th Corporal Julian Wilkins and Corporal Mark Patterson responded to a complaint of wood theft on the Vaughter WMA. While investigating the complaint the Rangers made contact with a vehicle that matched the description given by the complainant. Cpl. Wilkins utilized the computer in his patrol vehicle to determine that there were several discrepancies with the tag and registration displayed on the vehicle. A computer check also indicated that one of the chain saws possessed by the subject was stolen. Deputies from the Elbert County Sheriff's Department responded and continued investigating the traffic and vehicle offenses. The vehicle operator was charged with theft by taking, possession of stolen property, possession of methamphetamine, manufacturing methamphetamine, DUI, and two tag violations.

On March 11th, Corporal Julian Wilkins taught a hunter safety class certifying five students.

WILKES COUNTY

On March 14th Corporal Mark Patterson attended the Annual National Wild Turkey Federation banquet and answered numerous questions for attendees.

NEWTON COUNTY

On March 10, RFC Richard Tanner attended the job fair at Piedmont Technical College. Twenty different agencies attended the job fair. RFC Tanner was given the task of answering questions about what it took to be a game warden.

On March 15, RFC Niki Spencer and Cpl. David Allen cited one individual for unlawful enticement. He used cracked corn to bait turkeys for his grandson during a youth hunt.

WALTON COUNTY

On March 15, Sgt. Brian Carter, Cpl. Mark Patterson, Cpl. Derrell Worth, Cpl. David Allen, and RFC Niki Spencer inspected approximately 40 vessels at the Wildlife Resources Conservation Center.

HANCOCK COUNTY

Cpl. David Allen and RFC Richard Tanner taught a hunter education class on March 11 and 12.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Corporal Micheal Crawley and K9 Storm patrolled for turkey hunting activity in Washington County near Warthen. While on patrol Corporal Crawley deployed K9 Storm to track a hunter from a vehicle on private property. K9 Storm tracked approximately 3/4 of a mile and found 2 hunters in a blind. The hunters were checked and the area they were hunting. Upon checking the area in front of the blind Corporal Crawley found fresh scratching and evidence of baiting. The suspects were issued citations for hunting turkeys over bait.

MCDUFFIE/JEFFERSON COUNTY

While on patrol March 11, Sgt. Matt Garthright checked several people fishing along Brier Creek. He documented violations against four people for fishing without a license and one for littering.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

QUITMAN COUNTY

On March 14th, Ranger Quinn Fogle and RFC Jim Atchley were conducting a patrol when they encountered two individuals fishing without licenses. It was discovered that one of the subjects was wanted for a robbery in Eufaula, Alabama. He was arrested and turned over to Quitman County Sheriff's Office, charged with giving a false name and fishing without a license. He is awaiting extradition to Alabama. The other individual was charged with fishing without a license.

WORTH COUNTY

On March 15 – 16, Georgia held its first ever, Special Opportunity Turkey Hunting Season. This 2-day season was open for youth hunters only (16 years old and younger) and mobility impaired people. While patrolling on the morning of March 15th, Cpl. Robbie Griner located a group of turkey hunters exiting the woods. The officer noticed that two adult hunters in the group were carrying shotguns, in addition to the shotgun carried by the youth hunter. Cpl. Griner explained the regulations governing the special season, checked their required licenses, and shotguns. As a result, one hunter was charged with hunting turkeys out of season, hunting without a license and warned for hunting without a big game license. The second adult hunter was charged for hunting out of season and warned for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

WHEELER COUNTY

On March 10th RFC Rodney Horne conducted a Hunter Education Review and Test course at the Little Ocmulgee State Park. One student was certified.

DODGE COUNTY

On March 9th RFC Rodney Horne conducted a Hunter Education Review and Test course at the Dodge Co. Public Fishing Area. Five students were certified.

IRWIN COUNTY

On March 15, Sgt. David Reckley was patrolling the Irwinville area during the juvenile only turkey season, when he found fresh tire tracks going into an area known to have a large turkey population. Reckley found a truck parked and soon found two adults and a juvenile nearby. All three were carrying shotguns and had been turkey hunting. Two charges of hunting out of season were addressed.

EVANS COUNTY

On March 1st, RFC Debbie Brannen patrolled the Evans County Public Fishing Area. Numerous licenses were checked resulting in one violation for operating a vessel without PFD's and verbal guidance was given for entering a designed fee area without a GORP license.

Later the same day, RFC Brannen checked a landowner complaint and one violation was written for fishing without permission.

On March 8th, and 9th, The Laser Shot Shooting Simulator was presented to a large crowd at the annual Rattlesnake and Wildlife Festival in Claxton, Georgia. Department of Natural Resources personnel assisting in the event include Cpl. Eddie Akins, Cpl. Chase Atlman, RFC Debbie Brannen, Ranger Patrick Gibbs and Fisheries Tech Steve Mincey.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On March 4th, RFC Clint Jarriel took possession of an antelope buck from a resident of Tattnall County. This seizure was to assist the Montana Game and Fish Commission with an investigation. Investigator Chad Murphy of Montana asked for our assistance a few months back and in an effort to gather the information requested RFC Clint Jarriel, CPL Kevin Joyce, and Ranger Patrick Gibbs interviewed a subject in Tattnall County. With the information from the interview and evidence already compiled from Chad Murphy it lead to the arrest of twelve individuals and more than 18,000 dollars in fines paid. Each person in this case lost their hunting privileges for two years. The antelope is at the DNR office in Metter, Georgia.



EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On Sunday, March 2nd, Cpl. Eddie Akins checked boats at Steel Bridge Landing and Tuckasee King Landing. His efforts resulted in him checking fourteen boats and two fishing license. Three violations were also documented as a result of his efforts. There were two violations for fishing without a license and one violation for operating a vessel in excess horsepower on the Ogeechee River.

CANDLER COUNTY

On March 12, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely and Sgt. Don Dasher responded to the area of East Hiawatha St. in Metter. At the scene, Administrative Sgt. James Mclaughlin advised that the guard on an inmate work detail had reported that the inmates had stepped in a steel trap. The inmates had been chopping brush along a drainage canal near a city water treatment plant. Officers searched the area and located a number of steel traps set along the canal and in an open lot nearby. Officers also located a trail leading from the area to two homes on East Hiawatha St. After interviewing the residents, officers determined a 14 year old in the area was responsible for the trapping activity. Cpl. McNeely and Sgt. Dasher met with the juvenile and his father and explained trapping laws, seasons, lawful equipment, and landowner permission. All the traps were removed and no charges were made.

JENKINS COUNTY

On Friday, March 14, Cpl. Mike Wilcox, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely, Cpl. Eddie Akins, and RFC Grant Matherly assisted Jenkins County Sheriff's Office with the search for a missing person. The person has been missing since September. Investigators with the Sheriff's Office have been following leads as to what happened to L. C. Burroughs. Foul play is suspected in Burroughs' disappearance. The investigators felt like Burroughs might have been dumped in a pond. The Department was called to assist with searching the pond in Jenkins County. RFC Matherly brought side scan sonar and an ROV. The officers used the side scan sonar to capture images of the bottom of the pond. They used the camera on the ROV to look under the dock. The officers didn't discover anything in the pond.

WARE COUNTY

On March 9th, Cpl. Jason Shipes patrolled the Satilla River for boating and fishing activity. During his patrol, Cpl. Shipes encountered two subjects cat fishing. Upon checking their required licenses, Cpl. Shipes found that one of them failed to purchase a license. Later another vessel was checked for safety requirements. Cpl. Shipes found that the operator of the vessel had purchased new throw-able PFD's, however did not have the required wearable PFDs on board. Cpl. Shipes explained the PFD requirements & provided the operator with a boating safety booklet. Citations for each of the violations were documented.

On March 15th, Cpl. Jason Shipes and Ranger Sam Williams checked for boating and fishing activity on the Satilla River at Jamestown Landing. Several vessels were checked for safety requirements along with several groups fishing from the bank. While at the landing two vessels were observed passing under the railroad bridge well above idle speed. Contact was made with each vessel's operator and while speaking with them an odor of alcoholic beverage was detected. Cpl. Shipes and Ranger Williams noticed several empty beer cans in the boats. Each operator agreed to perform a series of field sobriety tests. The tests indicated that each operator had consumed alcohol however it was determined the operators were not impaired. Citations for operating a vessel above idle speed within 100 feet of an object (bridge pilings) were issued to each operator.

LOWNDES COUNTY

On March 15th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree & Cpl. Josh Chambers served as guides and hunter development mentors for two youths participating in a National Wild Turkey Federation Save the Habitat-Save the Heritage kid's hunt. Seventeen kids participated in the event that began the weekend prior with a turkey hunting school. On this morning, the young hunter that Sgt. Dupree was guiding was able to take a nice gobbler. Nearly every other kid saw gobblers, but was unable to harvest the bird.



13-year old Logan McQuaig and Sgt. Patrick Dupree with Logan's Lowndes County gobbler!

BERRIEN COUNTY

On March 8th, RFC Tim Hutto patrolled Paradise PFA for fishing and boating activity. Several citations and warnings were issued for fishing without a license, fishing without a WMA license on a PFA and littering.

COFFEE COUNTY

On March 15th, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey checked two subjects fishing at the Willacoochee River. Violations were documented for fishing without a license and the possession of undersize bass.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

WAYNE COUNTY

On March 12th-13th, Cpt. Doug Lewis, Cpt. Ed Watkins, Sgt. Chris Hodge, Sgt. Damon Winters, Cpl. Randy Aspinwall, Cpl. Craig Smith, Cpl. Bobby White, and Ranger Jason Miller assisted Wayne County S.O. with a warrant round up. At the end of the detail on the 13th a total of 54 warrants were served with only minor incident. All suspects and officers involved suffered no injuries during the execution of the warrants.

On March 16th, Cpl. Randy Aspinwall was patrolling Sansavilla WMA and came upon two turkey hunters. After investigating the situation, Cpl. Aspinwall documented violations for hunting a closed WMA and hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road.

MCINTOSH COUNTY

On March 13th, Ranger Jay Bright received a complaint of littering. After investigating the dump site, Ranger Bright was able to locate the suspect and issue a citation for the violation.

BRYAN COUNTY

On March 10th, Cpl. Jay Morgan assisted the Bryan Co. Sheriff's Dept. with traffic control at the scene of a large house fire in Sayle's Landing Subdivision.

On March 10th, Cpl. Bill Bryson patrolled the Richmond Hill WMA shooting range and cited two persons for using the range without a Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass. Upon checking their driver's licenses, it was found that one subject had an active arrest warrant. The subject was detained and turned over to a county deputy for transport to Bryan County Jail.

LIBERTY COUNTY

On March 13th, Cpl. Jay Morgan presented a Hunter Education class at Outdoor Recreation on Ft. Stewart Military Base, certifying 10 students while also training five new volunteer Hunter Ed. Instructors.

CHATHAM COUNTY

March 14th-16th, DNR Rangers provided support to Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department Marine Patrol in patrolling the Riverfront during the Saint Patrick's Day weekend celebration.

March 14th, Corporal Buster Cooper and Corporal Chris Moore investigated the poaching of hawks in Savannah. One suspect was identified and charged with the illegal hunting and possession of birds and their parts. Two hawks were sized as evidence from a wooded area near Abercorn Road. Two sets of talons were confiscated at a nearby residence. The investigation also led to a violation of trapping a red fox without a commercial trapping license. The trapping had occurred earlier during the trapping season.



March 15th Ranger Kiel Toney and Corporal Chris Moore assisted a group of teenagers with getting home after they became stranded in the Skidaway River after dark. The group had taken a small sailboat out and did not have enough wind to return. The group did not have lights or life jackets.