

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report  
May 11-17, 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)**

### **WHITFIELD COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Shawn Elmore and USFS LEO Lee Dillivan were patrolling the Stover Creek area. While in a parking area, a Calhoun man drove up to the officers with a strong odor of burnt marijuana coming from his vehicle. The Calhoun man was issued federal citations for possession of marijuana, open container, and seat belt violation by Officer Dillivan. The officers then located a camp down off the side of a mountain and located six underage intoxicated individuals with an enormous amount of alcohol. The six were issued citations for underage possession of alcohol and all of the alcohol was poured out.

### **GORDON COUNTY**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Shawn Elmore spoke to three classes at Calhoun High School about the duties of a Conservation Ranger. These classes were part of the Law and Criminal Justice course taught by Coach Randy Rice...

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Shawn Elmore checked a pond located at Bandy Lake and Cline Rd in Hill City for ongoing fishing without permission. Cpl. Elmore located three individuals fishing in the pond and none had obtained permission to do so. Citations were issued for fishing without permission.

The weekend of May 16<sup>th</sup> thru May 18<sup>th</sup> was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Resaca. The new Resaca Battlefield Historic Site was open to the public. Cpl. Shawn Elmore patrolled the historic site and spoke with many visitors that were enjoying the new site. Cpl. Elmore also assisted the Gordon County Sheriff's Office with patrolling the Battle of Resaca Reenactment located on Chitwood Rd. in Resaca. There were approximately 2000 re-enactors and several thousand spectators that attended the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historic battle.

### **POLK COUNTY**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, RFC Chad Cox attended Public Safety Day at Eastside Elementary School in Rockmart. Pre K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade got to visit RFC Cox and see some of the equipment he uses in his job. There were over 800 kids that got to talk with local law enforcement and other public safety officers.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Ricky Dempsey, RFC Chad Cox, and RFC Daniel Gray hosted the annual Polk County Kids Fishing Rodeo at Kenview Farm. Almost 400 kids were registered and given a t-shirt, entered for hourly giveaways, and skating pass to local skating rink. Hot dogs, chips, cookies, ice cream, and drinks were provided at no cost for all those in attendance.



### **HARALSON COUNTY**

May 11<sup>th</sup>, RFC Daniel Gray checked two individuals turkey hunting. One individual was issued a warning for turkey hunting with an unplugged shotgun. RFC Gray also checked 4 individuals fishing on the Little Tallapoosa River. One individual was issued a warning for fishing w/o a license.

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Eric Brown was patrolling the southern end of Carroll County for Turkey activity. He found fresh tracks that led about a mile back into a hunting club where he found two subjects hunting on a power line. One subject was cited for hunting turkey with an unplugged shotgun.

## **Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)**

### **DEKALB COUNTY**

On May 16, Cpl. Sanders received a complaint about illegal trapping in DeKalb County. Cpl. Sanders made contact with the complaint who told Cpl. Sanders where the traps were located. Cpl. Sanders contacted DeKalb Park Officer Bowman and requested his assistance. Officer Bowman conducted a search on Lucky Shoals Creek and Rotherwood Drive in Tucker Georgia. Officer Bowman informed Cpl. Sanders that the traps would be on DeKalb County property. Cpl. Sanders met with Officer Bowman at Rotherwood Drive and Lucky Shoals Creek. Cpl. Sanders was standing on the pipe that runs under Rotherwood Drive and saw in plain view three body gripping (330) traps. There also were two leg holding traps with the body traps within 8 feet of the road. Cpl. Sanders and Officer Bowman search the creek and located three more body gripping traps within

15 yards of the other traps. Cpl. Sanders seized the traps for evidence. Cpl. Sanders went to the subject's resident and left a business card hoping the subject would call. Within the hour, the subject called and wanted his traps back. Cpl. Sanders went back to the location and charged the subject with Failure to Tag Traps, Trapping on Public Right away and Trapping without a license.



**Traps located by Cpl. Eric Sanders in DeKalb County.**

### **GWINNETT COUNTY**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins completed an investigation on a subject that killed a bearded hen in Elbert County on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The subject was issued a citation and the hen turkey was seized.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Shane Brown and Cpl. Eric Sanders encountered a subject trout fishing with two poles at Jones Bridge Park. The subject was issued a citation for trout fishing by unlawful methods.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Sanders conducted a HIN inspection. A man brought in two Sea-Doo's for inspection. While talking with the owner, Cpl. Sanders had a bad feeling that something was not right with the Sea-Doo's. A check on GCIC came back clean, but Cpl. Sanders was not satisfied. All weekend Cpl. Sanders tried to find the original owners and no luck. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Sanders called Sgt. Chad Welch of the Investigative Unit to help locate the owners. Sgt. Welch called back and confirmed Cpl.

Sanders gut feelings that the Sea-Doo's were stolen out of Savannah Georgia. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Sanders and Sgt. Welch along with Gwinnett County P.D. served a Search Warrant at a resident in Gwinnett County. The subject that brought the PWC's to the inspection informed the officers that the PWC's were at a farm in Buford. He also provided valuable information of who he bought the PWC's from and where. Cpl. Sanders got in touch with the Investigator at Chatham County Police Department and gave all information to him. The case is still ongoing and a suspect has been identified.



**Stolen PWC's located by Cpl. Eric Sanders in Gwinnett County.**

### **LAKE LANIER (DAWSON, FORSYTH, GWINNETT, HALL, & LUMPKIN COUNTIES)**

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, RFC Mitchell Crump and Cpl. Eddie Tompkins patrolled Lake Lanier. The rangers checked fisherman and pleasure boaters for compliance with license requirements and safety equipment. The rangers checked 9 vessels and 6 fishermen during the patrol. Citations and warnings were issued for insufficient PFD's, failure to obey regulatory marker, and allowing child under age 13 to ride in in moving vessel without wearing a PFD. The rangers also arrested a subject for Boating Under the Influence of alcohol under age 21.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, RFC Mitchell Crump and Cpl. Eddie Tompkins received a call in reference to a boating incident near Vann's Tavern Park. Sgt. Mike Burgamy, Cpl. Eric Sanders, and RFC Barry Britt also responded to the scene to assist. One subject was arrested on

scene for Boating Under the Influence of alcohol. The incident is still under investigation.

### **LUMPKIN COUNTY**

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Shane Brown was patrolling Yahoola Creek Lake when he encountered a man standing on the bank. The subject told the ranger he wasn't fishing. After Ranger Brown located the subjects fishing gear he was arrested and taken to the Lumpkin County Jail for fishing without a license.

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 9:30 P.M., RFC Eric Isom received a call from Jackson County Sherriff's Office Dispatch Center requesting assistance in a search and rescue for an overdue hunter. The hunter called his wife around 7:30 P.M. and stated that he was lost and stuck in a swamp and could not be contacted again. It also had been raining heavily and the weather was forecasted to continue with the heavy rain, and flood watches for the area. Once on the scene RFC Isom deployed Colt for an area search at approximately 10:00 P.M. near the hunter's vehicle. Jackson County and Jefferson City Fire Department personal with RFC Isom followed Colt approximately 500 yards before hearing a gunshot off in the distance after an announcement was made with a bullhorn. Rescuers reached the hunter at 12:17 A.M. he was lightly dressed, cold, and wet. He stated that he had gotten turned around and did not have a light with him. He tried to walk in a straight line but could not do so because of all the down trees and thick vegetation. He got tired and just gave up. The rescuers assisted the victim out of the woods and to awaiting Paramedics. The victim was suffering from mild hypothermia and dehydration. He was cleared to leave the scene after being treated.

### **WHITE COUNTY**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, RFC Anne Britt patrolled the Chattahoochee WMA with USFS Cpt. Stuart Delugach. Several fishermen were checked during the patrol. RFC Britt charged one person for illegal consumption of alcohol on the Wildlife Management Area and warned two individuals for possession of a loaded firearm on WMA.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Steve Seitz and RFC Anne Britt patrolled the Chattahoochee WMA for hunting and fishing activity. During the patrol two fishermen were checked and later found in possession of over the daily limit. One fisherman was in possession of 22 trout and the other fisherman was in possession of 19 trout. Both individuals were charged for possession of over the daily limit. Three other fishermen were charged for fishing without permission on DNR affidavit property (private property) on the Chattahoochee River off Poplar Stump Rd.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, RFC Anne Britt investigated a fishing without permission complaint at Unicoi Outfitter's property on the Chattahoochee River in Sautee. White County Sheriff's Office assisted with the complaint. One male was found fishing on private property along without having a trout license. RFC Britt cited him for fishing without a trout license and warned him for fishing without permission. Later that afternoon, RFC Britt responded to an in-progress complaint of ATV's riding recklessly on the Chattahoochee

Wildlife Management Area above Low Gap Creek. White County Sheriff's Office responded as well. RFC Britt and the WCSO Deputies located four ATV's riding on the WMA. One subject ran his ATV off the road and it went down an embankment approximately 200 yards away from the road. A wrecker was used to pull the ATV back up to the road. The ATV operator was not injured. All four operators of the ATV's were charged for illegal use of ATV's on WMA.

### **HABERSHAM COUNTY**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, RFC Chad Chambers received a complaint from a landowner on Goshen Mountain Road regarding a turkey being killed on his property by an individual without permission. The landowner told RFC Chambers that he knew the suspect and had spoken with him earlier that afternoon. The landowner was able to provide RFC Chambers with a name, vehicle description and phone number for the suspect. RFC Chambers called the suspect who was on his way back to his residence in the Jefferson area and convinced him to come back to Habersham County to discuss the accusation. RFC Chambers met with the suspect in Cornelia and he admitted to killing the turkey on the complainant's property. The suspect's excuse was that he had discussed possibly bear hunting on that property this coming fall with the property owner earlier that day and that he thought it would be O.K. to turkey hunt as well. RFC Chambers informed the suspect that he would need written permission from the landowner to hunt any game on the property. The suspect was charged with Hunting without permission and Possession of illegally taken wildlife. He was given a warning for Hunting without license on person since the hunting license he produced for RFC Chambers was expired. A computer check of the license revealed that the suspect had a current hunting license. The gobbler was confiscated as evidence.

### **RABUN COUNTY**

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Derek Dillard received a request from the Rabun County Sheriff's Office to assist in the search for a runaway 17 year old person on Warwoman WMA. This person had run away from a youth camp that was camping in the area. Cpl. Dillard and USFS Officer Derik Breedlove patrolled the WMA and surrounding areas for the rest of this date and RFC Chad Chambers joined in the search on May 15<sup>th</sup>. There were sightings of the runaway person walking along Warwoman road, but the person was not located. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the runaway was located uninjured and walking along Warwoman Road by some members of his camping group. The runaway person told the searchers that he had been hiding from the people looking for him until May 16<sup>th</sup> when he came out to Warwoman Road.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Derek Dillard and United States Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Derik Breedlove were patrolling the area of Earl's Ford Road. While doing so, they encountered two men standing in a campsite. As the Officers drove up to the two men, one of them turned around in an attempt to hide something. The Officers got out of their vehicle and spoke to the men. It turned out that the man that was trying to hide something had a bag of marijuana in his possession. Subsequently he was charged with simple possession of marijuana

## **Region III- Thomson (East Central)**

### **OGLETHORPE COUNTY**

On May 16<sup>th</sup> RFC Phillip Nelson presented a program to the Oglethorpe County Rotary Club. The presentation highlighted the duties and capabilities of the Law Enforcement Division.

### **CLARKE COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Julian Wilkins attended the annual Marigold Festival in Winterville. He manned a booth with boating safety materials and answered questions on topics related to DNR functions.

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On May 13<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, Cpl. Brian Hobbins, and Cpl. Mark Patterson responded to a request for assistance from the Wilkes County Sheriff's Department. The Rangers utilized sonar equipment to locate a reported stolen vehicle that had been driven into Clarks Hill Lake at a public boat ramp. After locating the vehicle in approximately 14 feet of water, the Rangers assisted members of the Elbert County dive team and the Wilkes County Sheriff's Department with the vehicle recovery.

### **BURKE COUNTY**

May 10, RFC Jeff Billips gave a presentation for the Society for Georgia Archaeologists at Red Top Mountain State Park. RFC Billips' presentation covered two recent cases in Burke County. One case involved the arrest of four looters at a Native American Indian site and the other involved the arrest of two looters that desecrated Confederate soldier and infant graves.

May 13, RFC Billips received an injured bald eagle call. RFC Billips was unable to locate the eagle. Upon returning to his neighborhood, RFC Billips observed a suspicious vehicle. RFC Billips stopped the vehicle after the operator sped through the neighborhood and failed to stop at a stop sign. The driver was arrested for DUI drugs/alcohol, driving while suspended, failure to stop and too fast for conditions.

May 17, Sergeant Max Boswell and RFC Billips patrolled Burke and Richmond Counties for boaters and fishermen. The Rangers observed two ATV's operating on Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle. Two adults and one juvenile were turned over to Plant Vogtle Security for criminal trespass and criminal damage to property.

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Corporal Micheal Crawley and 5 other Rangers represented the Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division by riding in the Police Unity Tour. All six rangers road from Portsmouth Virginia to Washington D.C. in just 3 days. The Rangers also participated in the memorial service held at the Police memorial for fallen officers on Tuesday May 13.

### **MCDUFFIE COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain, Cpl. Brian Hobbins, Cpl. Michael Crawley, and RFC Robert Timmerman performed HIN inspections at the Thomson Office. 35 vessels were inspected and certified.

### **Region IV- Macon (West Central)**

### **Region V- Albany (Southwest)**

### **DOUGHERTY COUNTY**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, DNR Honor Guard members, Cpl. Robbie Griner and Cpl. Scott Carroll participated in the Albany/Dougherty County Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony. The ceremony honored fallen law enforcement officers that had given their life while protecting and serving Federal, State and County law enforcement agencies. The ceremony was in conjunction with the National Law Enforcement Week.



### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tony Cox was conducting a boat patrol on Lake Seminole when he located and arrested two subjects for BUI.

## **Region VI- Metter (Southeast)**

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Dan Stiles and RFC Rodney Horne conducted a vessel patrol on the Oconee River. Fourteen vessels were checked for boating safety equipment and registration and nine individuals were checked for fishing license compliance. Violations for fishing without a license, fishing without license on person, operating vessel without CGA Personal Floatation devices (life jackets), and operating vessels without registration were documented.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Dan Stiles patrolled the Beaverdam and River Bend WMA's. Licenses, creel, and vessels were checked at the boat landings and the shooting range on the WMA's. No violations were detected.

### **BERRIEN COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Morty Wood and Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey investigated a complaint at Paradise PFA in reference to several areas of the PFA being vandalized. Several tables had been turned over, trash cans had been kicked over and the porta-pottys had been turned over. After an investigation, two subjects were charged with Damaging Department Property and Entering a PFA without a GORP license. Another subject was cited for Fishing on a PFA without a WMA License.

## **Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)**