

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
November 16-22, 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 November 22nd, RFC Brooks Varnell, K9 Rock, and RFC Bart Hendrix responded to a hunting-without-permission complaint at the Cobb Legion Hunting Club. The Rangers found the area the complainant had told them about off a dirt road. Rock was able to track the first hunter up after about 30 minutes. The Rangers also learned that there was another hunter in the area and had the first hunter call his partner to meet back at the truck. The hunters thought they were hunting on Allatoona WMA. The private hunting club is clearly marked and posted as well as the nearby WMA. Both hunters were issued citations for hunting without permission.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On November 22nd, RFC Bart Hendrix checked an area in Holly Springs where members of his work unit have been checking a baited area for several weeks. RFC Hendrix went to the complaint area and found a hunter hunting over whole corn and without his orange vest. This hunter was unrelated to the complaint that the work unit had been checking. The hunter was issued citations for hunting big game over bait and hunting deer without the required fluorescent orange. RFC Hendrix checked another ongoing complaint near Little River Elementary School and located a truck with hunting equipment parked in the very back of the school. After a 1 hour foot patrol for the hunter a deputy with Cherokee County called the owner of the vehicle and asked him to meet us at the parking lot. The hunter finally came out and eventually admitted to hunting in the area. He was issued a citation for hunting without a big game license.

On November 22nd, RFC Brooks Varnell and Bart Hendrix located a vehicle parked in the woods of Highway 20 near Rhine Rd. After a quick search the Rangers located a man and woman hunting deer nearby. Neither hunter was wearing the required fluorescent orange and both were issued citations for their violations. The Rangers talked to the hunters about the importance of wearing the fluorescent orange vest.

FANNIN COUNTY

On November 7th, RFC Cody Jones was patrolling the Cooper's Creek WMA Hunt when he received a complaint that an old Skeeter boat had been dumped on the WMA. Officer Jones contacted the last registered owner and found that the boat had been sold or traded three different times. Officer Jones was able to track down the current owner who did take responsibility for the boat. The suspect stated that the boat in question was beyond repair but the trailer would work for his other boat. The suspect was issued a citation for dumping of egregious litter.



METRO ATLANTA

On November 18th, Rangers from across the northern half of the state participated in the WinterEX winter preparedness drill in the metropolitan Atlanta area. DNR Rangers assisted other state agency personnel with various law enforcement roles designed to keep area roadways cleared and citizens protected during major winter weather events.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

On November 22, RFC Tim Vickery and Cpl. Josh Chambers were patrolling the Carnesville area when they encountered four duck hunters. The Hunters had several violations. A citation and a written warning were issued to the duck hunters. Two wood ducks were taken by the officers and donated to a needy family in Franklin County.

MADISON COUNTY

On November 16th, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Shane Sartor worked a night hunting detail in a known complaint area. The officers spotted a vehicle shining a spotlight out of the window. The vehicle was stopped and three subjects were inside. The officers noticed several cases of alcoholic beverages within the vehicle, as well as, open containers of alcohol. After collecting the evidence the driver of the vehicle was tested in order to determine if they were safe to operate a vehicle. Upon completing the tests, the driver was found to be impaired and was arrested. The other two subjects were also arrested. Upon arriving at the Madison County Jail the officers met with Sgt. Stan Elrod to interview the subjects. All subjects admitted to hunting deer at night. As a result, twelve citations were issued. The violations consisted of hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, driving under the influence (under 21 years of age), and possession of an open container of alcohol in a vehicle. The subjects were booked into the Madison County jail.

HALL COUNTY

On Sunday November 16th, Corporal Jason Roberson and Corporal Adam Loudermilk responded to a complaint of night deer hunting inside the city limits of Gainesville. They apprehended four subjects who were in possession of two deer that were spotlighted and two .22 caliber rifles. Three of the subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting from a public road. The fourth was a juvenile and was not charged.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On November 21st, RFC Chad Chambers spotted a pickup truck parked in an unusual place on a small tract of land in the Pea Ridge area. RFC Chambers investigated the vehicle and noticed hunting related items inside the vehicle. He looked up the surrounding properties on the county tax maps and noticed that all the tracts in the local area were barely larger than one acre. The property adjacent to these small tracts belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). It is 73 acres and they do not allow hunting. Chambers circled the property, came in the main entrance and began searching the woods. He soon located an individual hunting in the middle of the property. Chambers charged the subject with Hunting without permission.

UNION COUNTY

On November 22nd, RFC David Webb was patrolling Fish Cove Road in Union County and came upon a grey in color Chevrolet Silverado parked at the end of a driveway next to an open field. While RFC Webb was looking around the truck, RFC Webb observed some movement in the woods to the left of the field. A male subject dressed in camouflage, not wearing fluorescent orange was walking back to the residence carrying a compound bow. The hunter told RFC Webb that he was deer hunting and had left his orange vest at the residence and did not think he needed it on private property. RFC Webb issued a citation for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

WHITE COUNTY

On November 19th, RFC Anne W. Britt was checking a complaint in the area of Dean Mountain Rd., when she came in contact with two male subjects wearing camouflage standing in the road. She turned her truck around to check to see if they were getting ready to go hunt and noticed they had left the area on foot. RFC Britt located the two subjects hiding in the woods close by. After investigating why they had left the area quickly, RFC Britt found one subject to be in possession of drug paraphernalia and later received consent to search the suspect's vehicle. White County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ken Egerton assisted RFC Britt. RFC Britt and Deputy Egerton found three bags of suspected marijuana, a digital scale, zip lock clear plastic bags, rolling papers and a homemade pipe. The suspect was turned over to the Appalachian Drug Task Force to Officer Chad Dorsey and was arrested and charged for felony possession of Violation of GA Controlled Substance Act with intent to distribute. The suspect was on Federal probation.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Corporal Micheal Crawley and K9 Storm patrolled for waterfowl hunting in Washington County. Several hunters were checked and citations were written for no federal duck stamp. Corporal Crawley also checked property for people hunting without permission near Tennille.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On November 21, Cpl. Ben Payne worked night hunting complaints in Richmond County. At 2100 hours a vehicle pulled up next to his location and parked. Cpl. Payne could hear the individuals talking about shooting animals and heard weapons being loaded. Once the vehicle began to move, he pulled in behind them. He followed them down the road and witnessed them shining a light. Then 2 shots were fired from the vehicle. Cpl. Payne then made a traffic stop on the vehicle. The violators had shot at a hog and were actively looking for it. A K-9 officer located two guns at the scene. There were 4 subjects involved in night hunting from a public road. There were 3 juveniles and one adult. The adult was arrested for hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle. The juveniles were handed over to their guardian's and charges are pending an investigation.

WILKES/ELBERT/OCONEE COUNTY

On November 22nd Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Mark Patterson investigated several complaints. The Rangers also conducted patrols of three management areas for waterfowl and deer hunting activity. Several minor violations were addressed.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On November 22nd, Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Robert Timmerman conducted a concentrated patrol of the Little River on Clarks Hill Lake. The patrol was performed to detect waterfowl violations. Several citations and warnings were issued for a variety of violations ranging from license requirement infractions to insufficient PFDs.

WARREN COUNTY

On November 22nd, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin and RFC Brian Adams performed a Hunter Education Course at Briarwood School in Warrenton. Eleven students were certified in hunter safety.

MORGAN COUNTY

On November 22, while checking hunting without permission complaint, Cpl. David Allen and RFC Ricky Boles found a subject hunting across the property line and hunting over a corn feeder. Upon further investigation, two more subjects were also found hunting over corn and one subject hunting deer without fluorescent orange. All three hunters were cited for their violations.

On November 24, RFC Ricky Boles responded to a road hunting complaint. The subject was reported to of shot from a vehicle on a public road. The subject then ran across field attempting to recover deer. With vehicle and subject description, Ranger Boles was able to track down violator. The subject was charged with hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle. The violator missed the deer.

Cpl. Derrell Worth responded to a without permission complaint. The complainant was able to provide a vehicle description of the suspect's vehicle. Cpl. Worth was able to locate where the subjects sat adjacent to the pond and retrieve several freshly spent shot shell casings. Cpl. Worth and Sgt. Bo Kelly canvased the area and located the suspect's vehicle. Upon interviews and further investigation, three subjects were cited for hunting without permission and other charges as follows: discharging a firearm within 50 yards of a public road, hunting without federal water fowl license, hunting without Georgia water fowl license, hunting with lead shot, hunting with unplugged shotgun, and hunting without hunter education.

NEWTON COUNTY

On November 24, 2014 RFC Ricky Boles responded to hunting without permission complaint from Newton County Sheriff's Office. Complaints of shots being fired were coming from the back of an undeveloped subdivision. Along with several deputies, Ranger Boles encountered six duck hunters coming from area of complaint. Further investigation found that none of the hunters had permission to enter the property. All six hunters were cited for hunting without permission.

HANCOCK COUNTY

Cpl. Derrell Worth cited one subject for hunting without a nonresident hunting license and without nonresident big game license.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

JONES COUNTY

On November 22nd, RFC Jeremy Reese encountered a subject that was found to be hunting an area baited for deer. This hunter was charged with hunting big game over bait.

On November 22nd, RFC Jeremy Reese concluded a littering investigation that ended with one subject being charged with unlawful dumping.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On November 17th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen responded to a lost hiker's call where two subjects walked off the Pine Mountain trail on FDR State Park. DNR Park Ranger's Desmond Timmons and Jeff Bryant were already on the scene and began to search the area. A search party of 5 individuals was utilized to make their way through thick terrain to locate the two individuals. The individuals were located unharmed, other than being cold. The hikers were escorted out of the woods and taken to EMT's which were on scene.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On November 23rd, RFC Jeremy Reese charged 2 subjects with hunting big game over bait and for hunting without fluorescent orange. It was also determined that one of the individuals had just killed a 10 point buck. RFC Reese seized the buck and the meat was given to a needy family in the community.

TALBOT COUNTY

On November 22nd, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen was checking hunting activity along a county road. A truck was located in the area and Cpl. Bolen was unable to verify a valid hunting license on the individual driving the truck. K-9 Ruger was utilized to track the individual from the truck to his deer stand. After locating the subject, Cpl. Bolen verified the hunter did not possess a valid hunting license or a valid big game license. The hunter was also not wearing a fluorescent orange vest. After a brief discussion with the individual, Cpl. Bolen discovered that the individual may be a convicted felon. The rifle was seized as evidence and the case will be pending further investigation.

WILKINSON COUNTY

On November 22nd, Ranger Matt Johnson checked two juvenile hunters that were duck hunting a pond that was freshly baited with corn. The juveniles were given verbal guidance and were turned over to their parents.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

STEWART COUNTY

On November 18th Ranger Quinn Fogle received a call from a landowner stating that he was following a vehicle with two subjects in it, whom had just shot a deer illegally off of his property. A few moments later the caller lost sight of the vehicle but was able to give an Alabama tag number. Fogle and GSP Trooper Matt Holloway sat up surveillance on a highway in the area where the suspect was traveling. After approximately 45 minutes a subject and vehicle matching the description was stopped and Ranger Fogle found a freshly killed doe in the vehicle. During the interview the driver admitted to being involved in the shooting of the deer and told the officers he had dropped the other subject off at his residence. The officers went to interview the second suspect and upon arrival at the suspect's residence a dead deer and bobcat were found in the yard. The subject admitted to killing that deer and bobcat the day before. A total of nine citations were issued including hunting from a motor vehicle, hunting from a public road, hunting without permission, hunting without license, hunting without big game license, and hunting out of season.

On November 21st Ranger Quinn Fogle stopped to check two hunters coming out of the woods. As Ranger Fogle pulled up, one subject turned towards the woods and sat down a cup containing an alcoholic beverage. Ranger Fogle administered field sobriety exercises on the subject then arrested him for hunting under the influence. The subject was transported to Stewart County Jail by Lumpkin Police Department.

RANDOLPH COUNTY

On November 22nd, Sgt. Butch Potter responded to a citizen complaint of illegal hunting. Five citations were issued for license infractions and failure to wear fluorescent orange.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

On November 19th, RFC Tony Cox investigated a complaint from Seminole County Sheriff's Office in reference to a night hunting incident and pursuit that a deputy was involved in earlier in the week. RFC Cox interviewed the suspect and issued citations for hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle (ATV), and hunting from a public road. The suspects ATV, rifle, and spotlight was seized at the scene by the deputy.

On November 22nd, Sgt. Rick Sellars and Ranger Steve Thomas conducted a foot patrol on an area where they had received a complaint about a convicted felon hunting deer. Three hunters were checked and issued citations for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange. One of the three hunters was the subject from the complaint. His rifle was seized and a warrant will be issued for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

EARLY COUNTY

On November 20th, RFC Tony Cox responded to a request for assistance from a GSP Trooper. The trooper had stopped a vehicle that contained a live trap with an opossum in it. The driver was cited by RFC Cox for several trapping violations. He was also arrested by GSP for his traffic infractions and for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The suspect had been arrested last year by Rangers in Baker County for hunting deer from a public road, hunting from a vehicle and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

THOMAS COUNTY

On the night of November 16th, Sgt. David Ruddell and Ranger Eric White were conducting surveillance of a complaint area when they observed the occupants of a truck hunting fields along the highway. Upon stopping the suspects, a loaded 7mm magnum rifle and 22 magnum rifle equipped with a scope-mounted spotlight were located. Due to open containers of alcoholic beverages in the truck, Trooper Travis Roberts screened the driver for DUI before the Rangers transported the subjects to jail for hunting deer at night and other related charges.

On November 22nd, RFC Jon Penuel heard shots coming from an area of a large pond after legal hunting hours. The Ranger located three subjects that had been hunting the pond and cited them for hunting waterfowl after hours.

WORTH COUNTY

On November 22nd, Cpl. Robbie Griner located five subjects hunting geese and ducks. As he inspected licenses and the immediate hunting area, it was discovered the area was baited with corn. The five hunters were charged with hunting waterfowl over bait and twenty-one geese and two ducks were confiscated.



21 Canadian Geese and 2 Gadwall ducks shot over the baited area in Worth County.

BROOKS/COOK COUNTIES

On November 22nd, RFC Jon Penuel heard shots coming from an area along the Little River. Penuel located six subjects hunting ducks in a pond that was baited with corn. The subjects were charged for hunting ducks over bait.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On November 22nd, Cpl. Greg Wade located eight hunters shooting around a pond that was baited. The hunters were charged for hunting ducks over bait and twenty-six ducks were seized.



18 Wood Ducks, 2 Mallard, 3 Teal, 1 Gadwall and 1 Redhead confiscated from the Berrien County pond.

MACON COUNTY

On November 18th, Ranger Jesse Harrison received a complaint from the RANGER HOTLINE in reference to an illegal buck being harvested in a QDM antler restriction county. At the conclusion of the investigation, the subject was charged with taking/possession of illegal antlered deer from QDM/antlered restricted county and failure to record deer harvest.

SCHLEY/SUMTER COUNTIES

On November 22nd, Cpl. Clint Martin was conducting a patrol when he observed the occupants of a vehicle hunting a pecan grove from a public road. Cpl. Martin stopped the vehicle and found the two occupants to be in possession of loaded 7mm Mag., .270 Win and a .17 HMR caliber bolt action rifles. With the assistance of Cpl. Bob Holley, the two subjects were arrested and taken to the Schley County Sheriff's Office to be interviewed. During the investigation that followed, it was revealed that these subjects along with two additional individuals had shot a 6-point buck at night from the roadway on November 21, 2014. The two additional subjects were located and brought to the Sheriff's Office where they were interviewed as well. Upon completion of the investigation, two of the subjects were each charged with two counts of hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle. The two additional subjects were each charged with one count of hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle. Further investigation into their activities also revealed that two of the individuals had been hunting earlier in the day and had taken an 8-point buck without the required licenses. Both were also charged with non-resident hunting without a license and non-resident hunting big game without a license. The 8-point buck was confiscated. The 6-point that was shot from the roadway on the night of November 21st was not recovered by the individuals on the night it was shot and could not be located.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

IRWIN COUNTY

On November 16th, Corporal John Stokes was working night deer hunting. While watching a peanut field a subject shined the field with a flashlight. The hunter stated he was looking for wild hogs and had a dead one in the back of his truck. Two violations were documented for hunting from a vehicle and hunting from a public road.

On November 20th, Corporal John Stokes was working night deer hunting on Black Gum Road when three violators shined a field and shot a deer. All three violators were charged, totaling twelve violations. The charges documented were hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road and hunting without permission.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On November 21st, multiple officers worked a special detail searching for night deer hunting activity. One vehicle was observed shining a light from the public road and a traffic stop was initiated. The vehicle was occupied by four individuals and after a brief investigation it was determined the subjects were night deer hunting. All subjects were arrested and appropriately charged. Two guns, ammunition, and a light were seized as evidence. The subjects were turned over to the Jeff Davis County Sheriff's Office.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On November 21, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely responded to a reported hunting incident off Highway 119 North of Springfield. While investigating the report Cpl. McNeely determined that a 21 year old Springfield woman had shot herself in the foot with a .22 caliber rifle while squirrel hunting. The woman was taken to Candler Hospital in Savannah for treatment.

TELFAIR COUNTY

On Saturday, November 22, 2014, Sgt. James McLaughlin and RFC Rodney Horne located a baited duck shoot in Telfair County. Five subjects were located on a baited farm pond and were in possession of 8 wood ducks. Violations were documented for hunting over bait, hunting with illegal ammo, hunting without a license, hunting without federal duck stamp, hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license, and failure to participate in the migratory bird survey (HIP) program.



EVANS COUNTY

On the afternoon of November 16, RFC Debbie Brannen was patrolling for waterfowl hunting activity. While on patrol Brannen heard several shots fired after legal hours. Upon further investigation, three juveniles were located shooting ducks. All three subjects were given verbal guidance for hunting waterfowl after legal hours.

LAURENS COUNTY

On November 19th, Corporal Dan Stiles presented a wildlife program to eight Kindergarten classes totaling 121 children.

On November 20th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne presented a wildlife program to one hundred pre-Kindergarten students consisting of five classes.

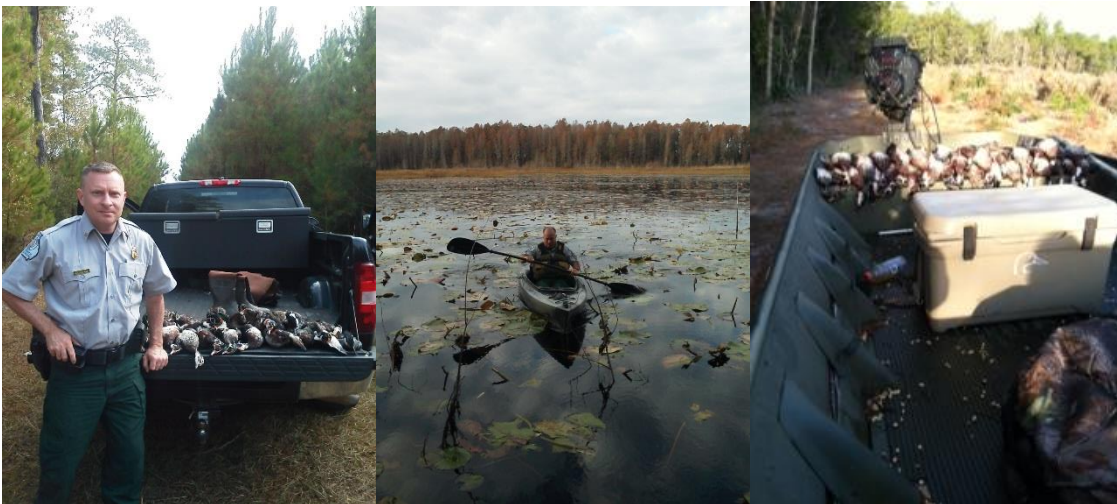
On November 20th, Corporal Dan Stiles assisted the Georgia Bureau of Investigations and the Laurens County Sheriff's Department with a search for a missing woman from East Dublin. Numerous officers from GBI, Laurens County S.O, and other police and fire agencies assisted in the search of hundreds of acres of wooded areas and farm land.

On November 22nd, Corporal Dan Stiles and Game Management Tech. III Bobby Sanders patrolled the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area for hunting activity. Thirteen waterfowl hunters were checked for license and limit compliance. One citation was issued for operating a vessel without Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices (life jackets) and two citations were issued for hunting without a federal duck stamp.

On November 22nd, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne responded to an in-progress call in Laurens County about a person hunting from a public road. While investigating the complaint RFC Rodney Horne located wood ducks in the subject's vehicle. Three hunters were checked for hunting waterfowl in conjunction with the complaint. Violations documented were hunting without a federal duck stamp and failure to participate in the migratory bird survey (HIP) program.

LOWNDES COUNTY

Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey and RFC Keith McDonald located twelve people duck hunting on November 22nd. While checking licenses, Cpl. Daughtrey noticed a lot of corn in the bottom of the boat that some of the subjects were hunting out of. One of the hunters admitted that they had put a 55 gallon drum of corn in the pond, but thought the corn was probably gone. RFC McDonald also was told by one of the hunters that they had placed corn in the pond. Cpl. Daughtrey and RFC McDonald checked the pond and found corn scattered in the pond. Citations were issued for hunting ducks over bait. Violations of hunting with an unplugged shotgun and hunting w/o Georgia waterfowl license were documented. 32 wood ducks and two hooded mergansers were confiscated.



COFFEE COUNTY

On November 22nd, RFC Joe Hilton was on routine patrol for duck hunting activity. This patrol resulted in finding two individuals hunting ducks without a federal duck stamp and hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license. Also, RFC Hilton responded to a hunting deer without permission complaint. RFC Hilton investigated the complaint and issued citations for hunting without permission, hunting deer without fluorescent orange and hunting big game without a big game license.

On the 23rd, RFC Hilton was on routine patrol for duck hunting activity. This patrol resulted in one individual being cited for hunting without a license, hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license and hunting without a federal duck stamp.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On November 22 Cpl. Shaymus McNeely and Cpl. Eddie Akins were checking duck hunters on Lake Eureka. While checking one hunter Cpl. McNeely observed a piece of shelled corn in his boat. The hunter was unclear whether he had any knowledge of corn in the lake. Officers searched the immediate area around the area and detected the presence of shelled corn on floating grass mats. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting ducks over bait. A hen ring neck duck was confiscated.

CLINCH COUNTY

On November 22nd, Sgt. Patrick Dupree responded to an in-progress deer-dogging complaint near Dupont. A deer hound from a large deer-dogging club had run a deer onto adjoining property. The hound was caught by the hunters on the property. The hound was returned to the owner and he was issued a written warning for failure to keep hunting dogs on permitted property.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity to report.