

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**November 2-8, 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 4<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Mike Barr received a call from Georgia Parole Officer Molly Willis in reference to a possible illegally taken bobcat. Officer Willis had information that a parolee was in possession of a bobcat at a residence in Cartersville. Later that day Cpl. Byron Young, Officer Willis, and two other Parole Officers searched the residence. Cpl. Young was able to determine that the bobcat was hit by a car and taken to a taxidermist. No action was taken by Cpl. Young. While searching the residence officers located what appeared to be methamphetamine and glass pipes. The Cartersville Drug Task Force was called for assistance. While at the residence a male knocked on the back door. Undercover drug agents answered the door and found a male with a large amount of marijuana in his pockets. The male was immediately taken into custody. Other charges are pending by the Cartersville Drug Task Force.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, RFC Zack Hardy was on patrol off of Sewell Rd near Taylorsville. RFC Hardy observed a male hunting in a ladder stand without the required hunter orange. When the hunter saw RFC Hardy he quickly climbed out of the stand and attempted to elude the officer. RFC Hardy cut the hunter off before he reached his truck and issued him a citation for hunting deer without hunter orange.

### **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix responded to a hunting-without-permission complaint off Hwy 108 near Waleska. The officers located a hunter in full camo exiting a wooded area without a firearm. The officers approached the male and asked if he was hunting. The male stated that he did not have a gun. The officers immediately observed the odor of marijuana coming from the male. When asked about his activities the male quickly ran from the officers. After a short foot chase the officers were able to catch the suspect and handcuff him. Six Cherokee County SO units arrived to assist the two officers in the chase. A search of the area turned up a .308 caliber rifle and a .40 caliber pistol hidden under a log in the wooded area that the male was standing in. Officers located a large amount of methamphetamines, marijuana, and a schedule III drug in the suspects clothing. Arrest warrants were secured for five felony charges and three misdemeanors. The officers were very thankful to the Cherokee County SO for their quick response and assistance.



*Drugs and firearms located on a hunter in Cherokee County*

On November 8-9<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Byron Young, RFC Bart Hendrix, RFC Brooks Varnell, and RFC Zack Hardy worked the Hometown Hero's Event at Cabela's in Acworth. The officers answered questions and handed out information on hunting and boating laws and regulations.

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

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, RFC Eric Isom and K9, Colt, responded to complaint of possible illegal hunting in the Auburn area. At the scene RFC Isom, RFC Kevin Goss, and a Barrow County Sheriff's Deputy located the suspicious vehicle. Colt tracked from the vehicle a short distance to a dilapidated residence and began alerting at a corner window. RFC Isom announced himself and instructed anyone inside to come out. A subject from inside made himself known and exited through the window. The subject had several warrants out of Barrow County. He was using the residence as a hiding place. He was arrested and transported to the Barrow County Detention Center.

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 2200 hours Ranger First Class Mark Stephens responded to a call of possible deer hunting at night off Hwy 441 in Commerce, Ga. At approximately 2230 hours Officer Stephens arrived at the scene. An investigation was conducted and the hunter was placed under arrest for hunting under the influence and for hunting deer at night. Commerce Police Department transported the individual to the Commerce Detention Center.

### **DAWSON COUNTY**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, two hikers/campers were camping above Amicalola Falls State Park on USFS property on Frosty Mtn. The female became sick with an upset stomach on Friday night and requested a transport down to the park on Saturday morning. RFC Barry Britt responded along with a Dawson County SO unit. RFC Britt picked the hikers up on a 4x4 accessible only road and transported them back to their vehicle at Amicalola Falls State Park. The female did not need medical attention. She stated she just didn't feel like she could complete the hike back down to the park.

### **HABERSHAM COUNTY**

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, RFC Chad Chambers was called to a local golf course where members there heard shooting coming from a nearby power line. Upon an investigation of the area, RFC Chambers located an area where a deer had been killed. He tracked an ATV from the area to a residence where he encountered an individual cleaning a doe and a fawn in the back yard. Upon questioning the individual and an additional search of the area, RFC Chambers discovered a corn pile near the area where the two deer were killed. RFC Chambers charged the subject with two counts of Killing antlerless deer and issued him a warning for Hunting over bait.

On Novembers 6<sup>th</sup>, RFC Chad Chambers coordinated efforts with biologist Kevin Lowery to remove a deer being held illegally at a residence. The deer was placed in a transport box and relocated to a remote area. The owner of the residence was issued a warning for holding a game animal without a permit. He had picked up the deer as a fawn due to the fact that the mother was killed on the highway. He was given guidance by Lowery and Chambers on how to better handle similar situations in the future.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, RFC Chad Chambers encountered two individuals hunting together on private property without the landowner's permission. Upon a search of the area, Chambers determined that the area was baited due to the fact that there were grains distributed on the site and a salt block was present. The first individual did not possess a firearm and was only charged with accompanying a deer hunter without wearing fluorescent orange. The second subject was charged with Hunting over bait and Hunting without a license. She was given warnings for Hunting without wearing fluorescent orange, hunting without a big game license and Hunting without permission.

## **TOWNS COUNTY**

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, RFC David Webb and Sergeant Steve Seitz were patrolling Cooper's Creek WMA when they encountered an individual transporting a loaded firearm in a vehicle. RFC Webb issued the individual a citation for the violation.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, RFC David Webb and RFC Cody Jones encountered an individual hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road on Cooper's Creek. The subject was issued a warning for the violation.

## **HART COUNTY**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, RFC Brandon Pierce, Cpl. Craig Fulghum, and Sgt. Stan Elrod assisted with a multi-agency road check. Due to the road check several traffic violations were issued and the rangers issued three citations and a warning. The violations consisted of failure to record deer harvest, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license. A total of three deer were confiscated and donated to needed families.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, RFC Brandon Pierce patrolled the county for any hunting activity. Several hunting licenses were checked. As a result, one citation was issued. The violation consisted of non-resident hunting without a big game license.

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Vickery and Sgt. Stan Elrod checked an area that had been baited with corn. RFC Vickery found an adult subject and a juvenile hunting over the bait. The adult subject was not wearing a fluorescent orange vest. The subject was issued a citation for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and was written a warning for hunting big game over bait.

## **MADISON COUNTY**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Vickery and Sgt. Stan Elrod were patrolling in the evening when they observed a vehicle parked near the woods. The Rangers waited at the vehicle for the hunters to come out to check their licenses. Four adult hunters and one juvenile came out of the woods. Two of the adult hunters were not wearing fluorescent orange. They were each issued a citation for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

## **STEPHENS COUNTY**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Corporal Josh Chambers was patrolling northern Stephens County when he encountered a hunter that was not wearing an orange vest. The subject was issued a citation for not wearing fluorescent Orange while deer hunting. After issuing the citation Cpl. Chambers investigated the area and learned the subject had killed a doe. The subject was also charged for killing an antlerless deer and for failure to record deer harvest.

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

### **RICHMOND COUNTY**

On November 6, Cpl. Ben Payne patrolled Richmond County for hunting without permission complaints and bait. He met with 2 landowners in South Richmond County. In the afternoon Cpl. Payne received a complaint of hunting without permission. He responded to the location and apprehended the violator. The violator was issued citations for hunting without permission, hunting without orange, and hunting without big game license. Later in the afternoon Cpl. Payne and RFC Billips responded to a possible hunting incident. It was determined at the scene that the subject had died from a heart attack while sitting in his ground blind.

On November 8, Cpl. Payne worked without permission and bait complaints. He apprehended a juvenile hunting on a baited deer stand. The juvenile was not wearing any orange. After locating his parents it was determined that the father had baited the area and was also actively hunting the bait. Three deer had been killed within 200 yards of the bait. The father was issued a citation for unlawful enticement of game and given instruction on hunting the area in the future.

### **JOHNSON COUNTY**

On November 8, RFC Grant Matherly and Cpl. Michael Wilcox responded to a call of night hunting in Johnson County. The vehicle had been spotted by a Department Helicopter shining several fields south of Kite, Ga. The Rangers located the vehicle and made contact with the driver. While talking with the subject about the night deer hunting, Officers noticed a strong odor of alcohol coming from him. Trooper Lawrence was notified to handle the DUI. The subject was charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road by the Rangers, and was charged with DUI and open container by the Trooper.

### **BURKE COUNTY**

On November 8, RFC Billips responded to a burned out vehicle on Yuchi WMA. The driver was discovered in the vehicle. The incident remains under investigation by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Burke County Sheriff's Office.

### **WALTON COUNTY**

On November 7, RFC Ricky Boles responded to hunting without permission complaint in Walton County. The hunter had shot two small bucks across the fence on a neighboring property. The hunter was charged with hunting without permission and the two deer were confiscated. The deer were given to a local needy family.

On November 9, RFC Ricky Boles responded to an illegal trapping complaint. A local hunter on neighboring property witnessed a fox and bobcat in foot traps while walking in to his deer stand. Subjects pulled up on an ATV and fired two shots. At this time, the hunter was too far away to identify trappers. When hunter got down from his stand, the animals were gone and blood was around the area of traps. RFC Boles investigated the area and was able to track down the trappers. The traps were set on park property, were not tagged with trapper identification, and the animals were taken out of season. Due to the trappers being minors, only verbal warnings were issued.

### **HANCOCK COUNTY**

Cpl. Derrell Worth cited two subjects for failure to wear PFDs in a boating safety zone and cited one subject for a nonresident hunting without a deer harvest record.

### **GREENE COUNTY**

Cpl. Derrell Worth cited one subject for hunting dove out of season. Cpl. Derrell Worth responded to two separate search and rescues located on the Red Land's WMA. A brief search was performed and both subjects were successfully located.

### **NEWTON COUNTY**

Cpl. Derrell Worth responded to a complaint in the city of Covington in reference to a subject hunting on city property without permission on 11/6; upon further investigation, one subject was cited for hunting without permission, hunting without fluorescent orange, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license. A second subject was cited for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

RFC Ricky Boles was contacted by a local landowner concerning finding a dead deer on his property. No one had been given permission to hunt the property. On Saturday morning, November 8, Sgt. John Harwell and RFC Ricky Boles patrolled area of property, finding a truck parked at a business next door. Rangers walked the property and found a hunter in a portable deer stand. The subject was charged with hunting without permission.

On November 8, Sgt. John Harwell and RFC Ricky Boles cited one subject for hunting without permission and hunting without fluorescent orange on Newton County property. Rangers were patrolling property for signs of hunting activity when they found a truck parked on property. After three hours of walking the woods for the hunter, the subject was located and cited for his violations.

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On November 7<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Mark Patterson was contacted by Wilkes County 911 and dispatched to a lost hunter call on Clarks Hill WMA. The lost hunter was located by companions blowing a truck horn. He was able to walk out to the road without additional assistance.

Cpl. Patterson was notified by GSP Grovetown of a request for assistance by Wilkes County in the search for two lost 17 year old hunters. The subjects had become disoriented while trailing a deer at dusk. Wilkes County dispatched Deputies to the scene and began a hasty search of the area. The subjects walked out to a residence nearly a mile from where they had entered the woods at around 11:00 pm. The subjects were returned safely to their hunt camp.

Other activity in Wilkes County for the period included the documentation of two hunting big game over bait, one hunting from a WMA road, and one possession of undersize fish.

### **OGLETHORPE COUNTY**

On November 11<sup>th</sup> RFC Phillip Nelson apprehended a subject that was hunting without permission. This particular complaint had been active for over a year.

### **MCDUFFIE COUNTY**

On Sunday November 9, Cpl. Brian Hobbins checked an area known to be baited. Hobbins located two subjects on the property. Citations were issued to both subjects for hunting big game over bait. Hobbins then conducted an area check on Clarks Hill WMA. Citations were issued for having a loaded gun in a vehicle and hunting without a WMA stamp. Hobbins also responded to an in progress hunting without permission complaint. A subject was located that had killed a four point buck and had shot an eight point buck that he could not find. The subject was cited for hunting without permission. The four -pointer was confiscated and given to the landowner.

### **WARREN COUNTY**

On Saturday November 8, RFC Brian Adams and Cpl. Brian Hobbins assisted with a Wounded Warrior Retreat deer hunt for disabled veterans at Come-A-Way Plantation. The hunters harvested 6 does during the two day hunt.

During the week ending November 8, RFC Brian Adams completed two ongoing investigations. The first one dealt with a subject killing a 140 inch class deer from a motor vehicle. Adams secured a search warrant and was able to obtain picture and text evidence of the crime. The subject was charged with hunting from a motor vehicle and failure to record harvest. The buck was confiscated. The second investigation was a complaint of someone killing over the limit of bucks. Adams obtained pictures of five separate bucks that were killed by one subject. The subject was interviewed and confessed to killing the five bucks. He was cited for hunting without license, hunting without big game license, taking over the limit, and failure to record harvest. Two bucks were confiscated.

### **TALIAFERRO COUNTY**

On Saturday morning November 8, RFC Brian Adams and Cpl. Brian Hobbins checked an area known to be baited. Officers located several subjects hunting over bait and not wearing orange. One subject had killed an 8 point buck over bait. 5 citations were issued for hunting big game over bait. One subject was also issued a citation for failure to record harvest. Warnings were issued for not wearing fluorescent orange. The 8 point buck was confiscated.

## **LINCOLN COUNTY**

On November 8<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln County, Cpl. Ryan Swain apprehended two subjects hunting big game over bait while working hunting without permission complaint. The two subjects were on the property line of the complaint property in a pop up blind. The subjects were cited for hunting big game over bait and released.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln County, Cpl. Ryan Swain apprehended two subjects for hunting without permission. The two subjects were non-resident hunters from Florida. The subjects were found in a wooded area off of Leathersville Road. The two subjects were cited for Hunting without Permission, Hunting Big Game without wearing orange clothing, Non-Resident Hunting without a license, and Non- Resident Hunting Big Game without a Big Game License.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln County, Cpl. Ryan Swain was checking Hunting without permission complaint in the North end of the County. This complaint has been ongoing since the start of firearms deer season. While checking the property, one subject fled the area once the presence of the officer was made known. An investigation is being conducted and near conclusion and warrants will be taken this week.

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

### **JASPER COUNTY**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, RFC Niki Spencer was checking an illegal hunting complaint when she located two individuals hunting deer over bait and without wearing fluorescent orange. The hunters were cited for the violations.

### **LAMAR COUNTY**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, RFC Keith Page investigated a complaint about a suspect harvesting more than the legal limit of deer. RFC Page had been investigating the man since the beginning of deer season. RFC Page located the man hunting and checked his hunting license and harvest record. The hunter had not recorded all the deer he had killed and taken to a local deer cooler and logged in. RFC Page issued the hunter a citation for failing to record his deer harvests.

### **MONROE COUNTY**

On Saturday evening, November 8<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Tim Kendrick checked numerous baited deer stands on a hunting club. Kendrick located three hunters that were hunting deer over bait. Two of the hunters were not wearing the required fluorescent orange while hunting. All three hunters were given citations for hunting big game over bait and two citations were issued for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange clothing. In addition, one of the hunters had killed a spike buck that morning and had not recorded the kill on his harvest record. He was issued a written warning for failure to record deer harvest.

### **MUSCOGEE COUNTY**

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen presented a K-9 Information and Education program to a private elementary school in Columbus. Cpl. Bolen talked about the purpose of the department's K-9 program, as well as performed a demonstration for the class.

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

### **STEWART COUNTY**

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Quinn Fogle interviewed a hunter who had killed an 8 point buck the day prior. It was determined that the hunter did not possess a hunting license at the time of the kill. The subject was cited for the violation and the deer was confiscated.

On the afternoon of November 6<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Fogle responded to a hunting incident involving a subject whom had climbed into a stand with a loaded gun. The subject shot himself when his gun became entangled in the camouflage fabric around his stand and he jerked the gun trying to free it.

#### **TERRELL COUNTY**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Scott Carroll encountered two subjects while investigating a complaint. Cpl. Carroll noticed that the two men appeared to have been consuming alcohol, and after testing both hunters, one was arrested for hunting under the influence and transported to the Terrell County Jail.

#### **DOOLY COUNTY**

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Jesse Harrison observed the operator of a vehicle pulling off the road and using his headlights to illuminate deer in several fields along the roadway. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver was charged with blinding wildlife with lights.

#### **MACON COUNTY**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Jesse Harrison was on routine patrol when he noticed suspicious looking smoke coming from behind a residence. After a brief investigation, it was determined that a subject was burning electrical items to get copper wire. A citation was issued for unlawful burning.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Harrison received an in progress call related to the illegal dumping of tires. A landowner stated that a U-Haul entered his property in an attempt to dump approximately 100-150 used tires. The landowners followed the subject's in the U-Haul until Deputies arrived. The incident is still under investigation.

#### **SUMTER COUNTY**

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, RFC Randy James was conducting a patrol when he observed the occupants of a truck utilizing a light bar and a spotlight to illuminate fields along the roadway. James stopped the vehicle and both occupants of the vehicle were charged with hunting hogs from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

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

#### **EMANUEL/JOHNSON**

On November 8, during a night flight detail in Emanuel County, Sgt. Don Dasher observed a vehicle shining fields with the head lights. Sgt. Dasher called Cpl. Mike Wilcox and directed him to the location. Cpl. Wilcox conducted a vehicle stop in Johnson County. The vehicle was occupied by one adult male and one adult female. Cpl. Wilcox recovered a loaded .22 mag rifle and a spotlight in the truck. RFC Grant Matherly responded to the location. The driver of the truck was charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle. The driver was also arrested by the Georgia State Patrol for DUI.

#### **JENKINS COUNTY**

On November 5, Cpl. Mike Wilcox responded to Big Dukes Pond WMA upon request of Wildlife Tech III Steve Kyles. Kyles located a vehicle parked at the back side of the state owned land on some private property. Near the vehicle there was a gambrel hanging in a tree and it was apparent that an animal was recently cleaned at the location. Cpl. Wilcox arrived at the location and the two officers waited for the owner of the truck to return. The owner was observed walking off of the state owned land. The officers conducted a license check. During the check it was discovered that the Florida hunter had harvested a buck on the previous day from the management area. The hunter did not have his harvest record filled out, he did not sign in to hunt on the management area, and he did not check the deer out on the WMA. The charges that were documented were failure to record deer harvest record, failure to sign in on a WMA, and failure to check game out on a WMA. The officers confiscated the meat and the antlers. The antlers are being held as evidence and the meat was donated to the Jenkins County Sheriff's Office.

## **BULLOCH COUNTY**

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, Rgr. Jordan Crawford, Sgt. Don Dasher and Cpl. Eddie Akins were working night hunting in the area of Lawrence Baptist Church in lower Bulloch County. At about 11:30pm Rgr. Crawford radioed the other two units and said that he had a vehicle coming by his position shining a spotlight out the window of the vehicle. Rgr. Crawford stopped the vehicle and with the assistance of Sgt. Dasher and Cpl. Akins the incident was investigated. A loaded rifle and a spotlight were located in the vehicle. The two males and one female each had violations for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle documented against them.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eddie Akins was working night hunting off G.W. Oliver Road. At approximately 10:45pm., Cpl. Akins had a vehicle stop down the road from his position. Within seconds of the vehicle stopping two shots could be heard. Cpl. Akins proceeded to the area where the vehicle was stopped and located one subject standing down the road in front of the vehicle. Investigation of the incident revealed that the occupant of the truck had exited the vehicle and shot an opossum in the ditch of the road with a 410ga. shotgun. A violation for hunting from a public road was documented against the violator.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eddie Akins was working areas out from Leefield for hunting activity. His efforts resulted in three licenses being checked and one violation for hunting without fluorescent orange being documented.

On the morning of November 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eddie Akins patrolled the Brooklet-Leefield area for hunting activity. His efforts resulted in three licenses being checked with no violations being detected.

## **EMANUEL COUNTY**

On the night of November 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eddie Akins and a number of other officers were working a night-flight detail for night hunting activity throughout Emanuel County. At approximately 10:00pm. Cpl. Akins had a vehicle come by his position with someone shining a spotlight out the window of the vehicle. Cpl. Akins stopped the vehicle and had the five passengers exit the vehicle. Rgr. Jordan Crawford responded to the scene and assisted Cpl. Akins in investigating the incident. A loaded rifle and two spotlights were seized from the vehicle. Each of the five occupants of the vehicle had violations for hunting from a motor vehicle, hunting from a public road and hunting deer at night documented against them.

## **BERRIEN COUNTY**



On Wednesday November 5th, just outside of Nashville, Sgt. Morty Wood was working a night hunting detail. Sgt. Wood saw a blue Ford Ranger truck approach the field he was working and a spotlight shined out of the passenger window. He stopped the truck and found two white male occupants who said they had a pistol in the truck. After removing the two from the truck and inspecting the pistol, a Taurus Judge loaded with buckshot type defense rounds, Sgt. Wood made the determination to arrest them for hunting deer at night. RFC Tim Hutto was nearby and called to come to the location and assist. Sgt. Wood and RFC Hutto called for a deputy to transport and then began an inventory search of the vehicle. Approximately 20 feet from the passenger window they located a white tissue wrapped with a rubber band. Inside were three meth pipes. RFC Hutto then discovered a digital scale in the passenger floor board. In the truck RFC Hutto discovered a black bag containing 9 individual bags of crystal meth and more bags. Charges were made for possession of meth with intent to distribute (felony), hunting deer at night, and hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and driving with expired registration.

On Saturday November 8th, Sgt. Morty Wood received a call about someone shining on a property located on the Enigma-Nashville Road. Sgt. Wood was not close by at the time but knew that GSP Trooper Ben Taylor was near the call and asked him to be in route to the area in case the suspects left before Sgt. Wood's arrival. Trooper Taylor located the suspect and saw him shining a spotlight into the pecan trees on the property. After checking with the landowner, the man was issued a warning for hunting raccoons from a vehicle and told to call the landowner for permission before coming back onto the property.

#### **ATKINSON COUNTY**

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Hutto and Atkinson County Deputy 3T responded to a night deer hunting call on highway 441 in Pearson. The officers located a pickup truck in a hay field with nobody in or around the truck. RFC Hutto noticed a shotgun behind the seat of the small truck and blood in the bed of the pickup. RFC Hutto checked the vehicle tag and discovered that the vehicle didn't have insurance or registration. Further investigation revealed that the driver had a suspended driver's license, was a convicted felon, and was wanted out of Florida. RFC Hutto towed the vehicle and began an investigation into the incident. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, after talking with the district attorney's office, RFC Hutto took warrants on the driver for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, driving with a suspended license, driving without insurance, and driving without registration. The night deer hunting incident is still under investigation.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Hutto patrolled the Axson area for deer hunting activity. The patrol resulted in numerous hunters being checked and violations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange, non-resident hunting without a license, and non-resident hunting without a big game license were documented.

#### **COFFEE COUNTY**

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Hutto concluded an investigation into a subject who dumped a deer carcass out on a public road in Nicholls. A concerned citizen was able to take pictures of the individual's truck and get a tag number for Officer Hutto. The subject was ultimately charged with unlawful dumping of waste.

#### **LANIER COUNTY**

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, RFC Keith McDonald received an anonymous complaint reference to an individual posting photographs on Facebook of an alligator that was killed the same day. After an investigation, RFC McDonald located the individual and alligator. The alligator had been skinned and butchered. A citation was issued for hunting out of season and a warning was written for possession of alligator or parts thereof.

#### **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, RFC Mark Pool, and Ranger Sam Williams conducted a hunter development program utilizing the laser shot shooting simulator at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Echols Animal Rescue wild game supper in Statenville. Approximately 100 participants enjoyed the laser shot in addition to a broad selection of wild game dishes.

## **WARE COUNTY**

On November 7th, RFC Mark Pool completed an investigation related to someone shooting deer from a public road and without permission. A subject shot at a buck from his vehicle and there was a hunter in the woods nearby who observed the shooter fire at the deer. RFC Mark Pool located & charged the shooter with hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting without permission. The shot missed the deer.

On November 5th, Cpl. Jason Shipes completed an investigation related to hunting without permission and hunting big game over bait without landowner permission. Cpl. Shipes was contacted on October 26th by a local landowner about two subjects observed walking out of his property just before dark. Cpl. Shipes, along with RFC Mark Pool, checked the property and determined that the subjects were accessing the property along a power-line and actually using the landowner's ladder stand. Cpl. Shipes and RFC Pool located a granular-type feed placed in front of the ladder stand. The landowner was contacted about the substance. It was determined that the owner was not responsible for placing the feed in front of the stand. After interviewing several different subjects, Cpl. Shipes and RFC Mark Pool were able to locate one of the subjects observed that afternoon. He admitted to officers that he has been hunting the stand and placed the "goat feed" in an effort to kill a deer over it. Cpl. Shipes issued citations for hunting without permission and hunting big game over bait without landowner permission.

## **CLINCH COUNTY**

On November 3rd, Cpl. Jason Shipes responded to a complaint of shots being fired from a public road. Prior to his arrival, Cpl. Shipes was contacted by the landowner and advised the vehicle had returned to the area. The Clinch County Sheriff's Department was also notified and responded to the area to assist. Cpl. Shipes met with the complainant and the two subjects at the scene. After conducting a brief investigation, Cpl. Shipes learned that one of the occupants of the vehicle was traveling through the area when a small four-point whitetail deer was observed crossing the road. The driver shot the deer and left the area. A second subject was then contacted and asked to drop him off so that he could search the area for the deer. After learning this information, Cpl. Shipes located the buck approximately 25 yards off the roadway shot through the chest with a high-powered rifle. Citations for hunting without permission and hunting from a public road were issued. The deer was donated to the Clinch County Sheriff's Department for distribution to a needy family.



*Young buck killed illegally in Clinch County.*

On November 5th, Cpl. Jason Shipes completed an investigation related to hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle. On November 2nd, Cpl. Shipes was off duty and hunting when he heard a rifle shot from a county road. Cpl. Shipes immediately exited his deer stand and went to the edge of the wooded area in an effort to see who may have shot from the public road. Cpl. Shipes did not see anyone at that time but could hear a vehicle's door shut and begin to travel towards his location. He observed the vehicle and was able to get a good description. Once Cpl. Shipes went back on duty he began to look for and located the vehicle parked at a local convenience store. Contact with the owner was made and after a brief investigation, three subjects were charged for hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

## **DODGE COUNTY**

On November 7<sup>th</sup> at approximately 1:00 AM, Ranger First Class Allen Mills was contacted by the Dodge County sheriff's office in reference to a missing person with mental issues. A coordinated effort between Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement, GA State Patrol Aviation, Dodge County Sheriff's Office, various fire departments, and volunteers was implemented to locate the individual. At approximately 4:30 AM the subject was located walking down the road he lived on. Medical personnel examined the individual and he was released to family members on scene.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Allen Mills and Corporal Dan Stiles provided a HIN inspection site at the Dodge County Public Fishing area. Three vessel owners were assisted with various registration issues.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> at approximately 6:30PM, Ranger First Class Allen Mills assisted an Eastman Police Department officer with a traffic stop. A vehicle was stopped for operating a without tail or brake lights. By utilizing his mobile computer terminal (MCT), RFC Mills was able to determine that the subject operating the vehicle was operating a vehicle without a GA driver's license and that the individual had warrants for his arrest for other violations. The subject was arrested and transported to the Dodge County Law Enforcement center by Eastman PD.

## **LAURENS COUNTY**

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Riverbend Wildlife Management Area during a big game check-in hunt. Eighteen hunters were checked for license compliance. One violation for hunting without a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) license was documented.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Two anglers were checked for creel and license compliance. One violation for fishing without a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) license was documented.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles, Ranger First Class Allen Mills, and Ranger First Class Rodney Horne responded to a 911 call from Laurens County of a hunter in distress due to medical issues. EMS, Georgia State Patrol, and a deputy from the Laurens County Sheriff's Office also responded. Unfortunately the victim was deceased upon arrival of emergency services.

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

### **LONG COUNTY**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Patrick Gibbs conducted a hunting-from-the-road detail on Townsend WMA. His efforts resulted in 4 citations for hunting from a vehicle, and 4 citations for hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road.

### **WAYNE COUNTY**

On Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bobby White responded to a lost hunter call from Wayne County dispatch. The hunter's wife called around 1100pm and said her husband was a diabetic and he had been dog hunting all day and should be home by then. Dispatch traced the hunters' phone and the hunter was found a little disoriented but otherwise ok.

### **BRYAN COUNTY**

On Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Jason Miller was patrolling the areas of Richmond Hill WMA when he came upon a vehicle accident that had just occurred. A truck pulling a trailer pulled out in front of a car. The operator of the car was verbally abusive and belligerent, and appeared intoxicated. The subject was arrested by a Bryan County deputy for driving under the influence.

On the afternoon of Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Jason Miller received a call about a disabled boat in Ossabaw Sound. Ranger Miller and Cpl. Jay Morgan launched a boat at Ft. McAllister's state park's ramp. The Rangers found the disabled boat near Bradley Point off Ossabaw Island and towed them back to the dock at the campground.

## **LIBERTY COUNTY**

On Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jack Thain, Cpl. Bill Bryson, and Sgt. Phillip Scott conducted a Right whale patrol offshore of St. Catherine's and Ossabaw Islands. The Rangers were patrolling the area to detect the presence of Right whales in the area to help track the whales and prevent the whales from being struck by boaters and ships.

On Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jack Thain issued citations and completed an investigation on a nine-point buck that was illegally shot. On the late afternoon of Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, RFC Thain and Cpl. Jay Morgan responded to a call from a hunter who stated that he heard a shot behind his tree-stand on their club property off Oak Creek Rd. The Rangers proceeded to the area and watched along the road until about an hour after dark when they then circled the property by truck. When they pulled back onto Oak Creek Rd., they found a truck had pulled onto the shoulder of the road occupied by a male and female couple who claimed that they were looking at their GPS to obtain an address. There were no guns in the truck but the Rangers got their names and truck tag info. After the couple left, the Rangers found signs in the roadside ditch as to where someone had walked into the woods so the Rangers searched the woods and area but did not find anything. The next morning, the hunting club members reported that they had found a dead nine-point buck at the scene. The Rangers responded to search the area for evidence and found where the buck had been shot on the club's property across the ditch by someone on the roadway. Over the next couple of days, RFC Thain received several calls from local residents who provided information as to who had shot the deer after hearing the subject talk about it. RFC Thain met with the suspect who confessed that he shot the deer from his truck on the road. He confessed that he left the area to go to a Halloween party and called his friends (the couple that the Rangers had checked) to go retrieve the deer. The suspect was charged with hunting from road and hunting without permission.



*Rangers with poached 9-pt. buck (Liberty Co.)*