

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report  
October 12-18, 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 October 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Lee Burns was interviewing an Archeologist at the Etowah River Boat Ramp on Highway 411 when he heard a loud crash. Cpl. Burns looked up and witnessed passenger vehicle spinning out of control down Highway 411. The vehicle collided with a concrete truck crossing the highway. Hearing screams, Cpl. Burns ran up to the highway and found the passenger entrapped and in need of medical assistance. Cpl. Burns immediately radioed the Bartow County and Georgia State Patrol dispatchers for assistance. A Floyd Medical Center Emergency Medical Technician stopped as well, and assisted with c-spine on the passenger. Bartow County Fire was able to cut the passenger door off the vehicle and render much needed medical attention. Both occupants were transported to the hospital for medical treatment.



On October 18<sup>th</sup>, just after midnight Cpl. Byron Young responded to a call for assistance from the Georgia State Patrol. A police chase started after a suspect rammed a Paulding County Police car and ended up on I-75. The suspect crashed his truck on the I-75 Allatoona Lake Bridge in Bartow County. The male suspect then jumped from I-75 into Allatoona Lake. Cpl. Young was contacted to provide a patrol boat to search for the suspect. Bartow County Fire and Rescue also responded by boat. The suspect somehow survived the jump and was located under the Hwy 293 Bridge in a wooded area by Bartow County Deputies. Paulding County SO units transported the subject back to Paulding County for a number of charges and treatment at a local hospital.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Mike Barr, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Zack Hardy checked baited deer stands off Hwy 293 in Kingston. One hunter was cited for hunting big game over bait.

## CHEROKEE COUNTY

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Lee Burns and RFC Bart Hendrix located a truck in an unusual area off Hwy 108. The two Rangers located the hunter hunting from the ground. The hunter was not wearing the required fluorescent orange for hunting deer. The man was cited for the violation and talked to about the importance of wearing the fluorescent orange vest. RFC Hendrix found out that the hunter had just completed the Hunter Education course 6 days before the hunt on October 9, in Bartow County. RFC Hendrix explained to the hunter that “wearing 500 square inches of orange” was a test question and was confident that the instructors covered it during the class.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Capt. Johnny Johnson and Cpl. Lee Burns cited a hunter for hunting big game over bait. This is a case and carried over from last year and has proven to be one of Cpl. Burns’ toughest due to the mountainous location.

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Byron Young received a complaint about an ad on Facebook for hunting. In the ad the property owner was taking money for hunting on her property. There was mention in conversations between the complainant and the property owner about keeping out corn for the deer. Cpl. Young passed the information on to RFC Bart Hendrix. On October 16 Cpl. Lee Burns and RFC Hendrix located the property in question off Moore’s Mill Lane in Waleska. Whole corn was located in several locations on the property. RFC Hendrix and Intern Matt Agee checked the property on October 18 and located a hunter sitting near the whole corn. The hunter was not wearing the required fluorescent orange for hunting deer. RFC Hendrix and Intern Agee then spoke with the property owner who eventually told them the truth about the Facebook ad. The hunter was issued citations for hunting deer without wearing the required fluorescent orange and hunting big game over bait. The property owner was issued a citation for illegal enticement of game.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Byron Young, RFC Bart Hendrix and Intern Matt Agee located 5 adult hunters hunting on Allatoona WMA. The first weekend was Adult/ Child, Ladies and Honorary licenses holders only. The hunters were not hunting with a child and were issued warnings, given a copy of the hunting regulations and encouraged to carefully read before hunting on State WMA’s.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Capt. Johnny Johnson and Cpl. Lee Burns checked successful hunter Kenny Crawson while patrolling McGraw Ford WMA. McGraw Ford WMA is an archery only area and often times these areas are more productive during firearms season.



## **PICKENS COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. James Keener checked a person deer hunting with a crossbow. The hunter did not have a hunting license or a big game license. The hunter stated that he was hunting with a crossbow because he was a convicted felon and could not possess a firearm. While talking with the hunter Cpl. Keener found that the hunter was carrying a concealed handgun. The suspect was arrested and charged for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, carrying a concealed weapon without a permit, and hunting without a license.

## **GILMER COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Joe Hill issued a citation to a person for holding a game animal without a permit. The person had found a young fawn deer and had kept it chained to a tree in his back yard for at least a week before rangers became aware of it.

## **WHITFIELD COUNTY**

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Casey Jones investigated a complaint regarding the illegal taking of a deer. Cpl. Jones along with Cpl James Keener and WTHI Larry Etheridge responded to the complaint. After interviewing the suspect it was discovered that the hunter had taken a buck out of season with a .22 magnum rifle. The suspect also killed the deer over bait and did not record the deer harvest. The rangers addressed all the violations and confiscated the deer.

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

### **HABERSHAM COUNTY**

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Derek Dillard and USFS Officers Derik Breedlove and Jeff Angel located a man that was deer hunting on USFS Property with a 30-06 rifle even though it was primitive weapons season. The man had also cut out trails and cut several trees down so that he could ride his ATV to his hunting stands. He was charged for hunting with an illegal weapon and numerous other Federal Violations.

### **WHITE COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Anne Britt located a hunter hunting deer over bait on US Forest Service property in Sautee. The hunter was in a ladder stand approximately twenty yards from the baited area. The hunter said he had poured out a fifty pound bag of corn about a month prior to hunting over it. RFC Britt said the deer must not have found it because it still looked like all fifty pounds of corn was still there. The hunter was also cited for not having a big game license.

Later that afternoon, RFC Anne Britt was patrolling the Chattahoochee Wildlife Management Area for illegal hunting and fishing activity when she met with four male subjects that were inquiring about camping sites. One male got out of a parked vehicle off the road with a beer bottle. RFC Britt asked about the alcohol and received consent to search the vehicle for open containers. RFC Britt located one beer bottle and a pill bottle on the floor board that contained a green leafy substance that had an odor of marijuana. One male claimed the substance and was arrested and charged for violation of Georgia controlled substance act and open container law. After White County Deputy J. Fry arrived for transport, they searched the vehicle and found five flasks containing liquor located inside a backpack in the front seat.

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, RFC Anne Britt was patrolling White Oak Gap Road on the Chattahoochee Wildlife Management Area when she heard White County dispatch call out EMS and Fire Rescue personnel to rescue a male in his 40's who had fallen 80-100 feet off the top of Raven Cliff Falls and sustained serious head and body injuries. White County Search and Rescue requested aviation support to help extract the patient. DNR Law Enforcement aviation arrived to use a long line to transport the patient out from the bottom of the falls and to turn the patient over to an Air Med helicopter on Richard Russell Scenic Highway. RFC Mitchell Crump assisted as an observer for the DNR Law Enforcement Division helicopter operated by Major Doc Watson during the mission. White County Search and Rescue located the patient by foot, treated him for the transport, placed him in a basket and attached him to the long line on the helicopter. Major Watson and RFC Crump successfully extracted the patient. Captain Terry Sosebee with White County Fire Department, DNR LED Captain Thomas Barnard, RFC Anne Britt, and RFC David Webb assisted by receiving and transporting the patient from the basket to the Air Med Helicopter. The patient was treated and transported to the hospital. After patient contact the search and rescue team learned the patient fell about ten feet from the falls and then rolled down the cliffs another twenty feet. The patient is in critical condition.

### **MADISON COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Shane Sartor and SGT. Stan Elrod checked several baited deer stands in the morning. At one location a subject was hunting over a feeder and was not wearing an orange vest. The subject was issued two citations. At a second location a subject was hunting over bait and was wearing an orange stocking cap. He was issued one citation for hunting big game over bait and issued one warning for not wearing an orange vest.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Vickery and Sgt. Greg Colson were patrolling Franklin County by vehicle when they saw a hunter with no fluorescent orange sitting in a deer stand. The Rangers stopped the truck and made contact with the individual, a 17 year old male. He was issued a warning for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Vickery and Sgt. Greg Colson were patrolling Franklin County by vehicle when they again saw a hunter with no fluorescent orange sitting in a deer stand. They stopped their truck and walked to the subject's deer stand. Ranger Vickery asked the subject for his hunting licenses. The subject stated that he did not think he had to have a hunting license to hunt on private land. Ranger Vickery informed him otherwise. Ranger Vickery then asked the subject if he had anything out in front of his stand that he shouldn't have. The subject stated that he was hunting over a salt block and took Ranger Vickery to it. The subject was cited for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and hunting without a license. He was issued warnings for hunting big game over bait and hunting without a big game license.

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Eric Isom utilized his K9 partner Colt to locate a subject hunting without permission from a landowner complaint in the Nicholson area. The subject received citations and warnings for hunting without permission, hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange, hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license or big game license, and hunting without completing hunter safety course. Later that day near Pendergrass, RFC Isom with Colt located another subject hunting illegally. The subject received citations for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and hunting big game over bait.

### **BANKS COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk patrolled Banks County. During the patrol he issued one citation for hunting big game over bait and hunting deer without orange. He also arrested one subject for hunting under the influence of alcohol.

## **HALL COUNTY**

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, RFC Kevin Goss stopped a boat coming to fast out of the no-wake zone at Sunset Cove Lake Lanier. After speaking to the driver and conducting a safety inspection, RFC Goss asked if he would step on board RFC Goss' boat so he could administer field sobriety. After field sobriety testing RFC Goss placed the operator under arrest for BUI.

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Roberson arrested one subject for operating a vessel under the influence.

## **UNION COUNTY**

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, RFC Kevin Dyer answered a complaint in reference to dogs killing a small bear cub in Union County. RFC Dyer met the complainant at the scene and loaded the 35 pound cub into his truck. RFC Dyer searched the area but did not locate the dogs. RFC Dyer made arrangements with Don Carter State Park Manger Thomas Brown for the cub to be mounted and used in educational programs on the park.

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 8:00pm RFC Kevin Dyer answered a complaint in Union County in reference to hunting out of season. RFC Dyer met Union County Deputy Dyer, Lockwood and Glass at the scene. The Union County 911 Dispatch had received a call that two guys shot a deer, loaded the deer into a vehicle and left the scene. The Deputies located the vehicle and interviewed the two suspects. RFC Dyer and the Deputies completed the interviews and one subject was arrested for hunting deer out of season and possession of illegally taken wildlife. The subject was transported to the Union County Jail for booking. The second subject led the officers to where the spike deer was hidden. The deer was confiscated and the subject was issued a citation for possession of illegally taken wildlife and a warning for hunting deer out of season.

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, RFC Kevin Dyer and SGT Steve Seitz patrolled Nottely Lake for illegally boating violation and illegal fishing violations. Multiple violations were documented and the Rangers towed a stranded vessel back to a dock.

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, RFC Kevin Dyer met Union County Deputy Andrew Hammond at Nottely Marina. Dyer and Hammond patrolled Nottely Lake for illegal boating violations and illegal fishing violations. Multiple violations were documented and the officers answered a complaint in reference to a rented PWC that had rolled over, filling with water causing motor damage. RFC Dyer completed a boat incident report for the rental company. During the investigation of the incident RFC Dyer issued a citation to the rental company for improper vessel registration.

## **RABUN COUNTY**

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Derek Dillard investigated a complaint about someone trapping raccoons out of season. Cpl. Dillard located, interviewed, and charged a man that had been illegally trapping Raccoons in the Mountain City area. The man had even recently been bitten by one of the Raccoons that he had trapped. Corporal Dillard cited him for trapping out of season.

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

### **MORGAN COUNTY**

On October 18, RFC Ricky Boles approached a hunter looking through his scope at a deer in front of his stand. The deer was standing in the food plot eating from a pile of corn. The hunter was cited for hunting big game over bait and hunting without fluorescent orange.

## **HANCOCK COUNTY**

Cpl. Derrell Worth cited two subjects for hunting big game over bait, one for hunting without a license, one for hunting without a big game license, and one without a WMA license.

Sgt. John Harwell and Cpl. David Allen cited one fisherman for fishing without permission, three hunters for hunting big game over bait and three hunters for hunting without fluorescent orange.

## **GREENE COUNTY**

Cpl. Derrell Worth cited one subject for hunting big game over bait, one for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange, cited one subject for hunting hogs without fluorescent orange, and one subject for hunting without hunter education.

## **GLASCOCK COUNTY**

On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, Captain Mark Padgett and RFC Brian Adams apprehended 5 subjects for hunting big game over bait. Two subjects were not wearing required orange vests and one subject did not record his deer kill on his license harvest record. The subjects were cited and released.

## **MCDUFFIE COUNTY**

On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin and Cpl. Brian Hobbins apprehended two subjects who were hunting big game over bait. The subjects were in violation of the orange clothing requirement and license violations. The subjects were cited and released.

On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Robert Timmerman apprehended two subjects. One subject was cited for hunting big game over bait while the other subject was cited for unlawful enticement of big game.

On Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, RFC Robert Timmerman, and RFC Brian Adams apprehended two subjects who were hunting without permission and hunting over bait. One subject also was charged with violation of the orange clothing requirement and the other did not record his deer kill on his license harvest record. Both subjects were cited and released.

On Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Brian Hobbins apprehended two subjects who were hunting on Clarks Hill WMA while it was closed. The two subjects were cited and released.

## **LINCOLN COUNTY**

On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Robert Timmerman apprehended one subject hunting big game over bait. The subject was cited and released.

## **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Robert Timmerman apprehended two subjects who were hunting big game over bait. The subjects also were in violation of the orange clothing requirement. They were cited and released.

On Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin and RFC Robert Timmerman apprehended one subject on Keg Creek WMA for hunting big game without a big game license. The subject was warned and released.

## **RICHMOND COUNTY**

On October 18, Cpl. Ben Payne patrolled Richmond County checking without permission complaints and baited deer stands. He patrolled Phinizy and Spirit Creek WMA's. In the evening he worked complaints near Keysville. He made contact with a hunter without permission on CSX property. The hunter was given a warning for hunting without permission.

## **BURKE COUNTY**

On October 17, RFC Grant Matherly and Wildlife Tech 3 Steve Kyles were working a night hunting complaint in Burke County. Late in the evening the Officers heard a shot ring out a short distance from where they were positioned. The Officers proceeded to the area where the shot came from, but did not come into contact with anyone at that time. The following day Sgt. Boswell, RFC Matherly, and RFC Billips investigated the complaint further. Two subjects were interviewed about the events, to which they admitted to. They were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle.

## **OCONEE COUNTY**

On October 15<sup>th</sup> SGT Brian Carter and RFC Tim Butler cited two deer hunters for hunting without wearing fluorescent orange and hunting big game over bait

On October 19<sup>th</sup> SGT Brian Carter and RFC Tim Butler cited two deer hunters for hunting big game over bait. Additionally, three hunters were issued warnings for hunt deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

## **WALTON COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup> RFC Tim Butler observed two men exiting the woods carrying a bow and a camera in an undeveloped neighborhood. Neither of the hunters was wearing fluorescent orange. The man carrying the bow did not have a big game license, or a hunting license. RFC Butler asked them to show him where they had been hunting. The two men led RFC Butler around in the woods for an extensive time. It became apparent to RFC Butler the men were attempting to deceive him. RFC Butler sent the men back to their truck, and soon located the blind the men were hunting from. The man with the camera fled on foot before RFC Butler returned. One subject was cited for hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and hunting without fluorescent orange. Arrest warrants are being issued for the other man.

## **WILKES COUNTY**

On October 16<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Mark Patterson patrolled portions of the county for hunting activity. Violations addressed during the patrol were hunting deer without fluorescent orange and failure to record deer harvest.

## **OGLETHORPE COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Matt Garthright and RFC Phillip Nelson checked two clubs that were next to each other that were known to have bait. On one club the Rangers located one person hunting deer over bait and not wearing orange and another without orange. On the second club, the Rangers located six people hunting deer over bait and one without orange. Seven hunters were charged with hunting big game over bait and three were also charged with hunting without wearing fluorescent orange clothing.

On the evening of October 18<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Matt Garthright, Cpl. Julian Wilkins, and RFC Phillip Nelson were on patrol when they observed a person hunting from a tower stand on a big power line. The hunter was not wearing any orange. The hunter was checked and warned for hunting without fluorescent orange.

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

### **BALDWIN COUNTY**

On the morning of October 15<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Matt Johnson located 2 hunters on private property. Further investigation led to the hunters being charged with hunting big game over bait.

On the morning of October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Lynn Stanford checked private property that he had discovered was baited earlier in the week. Three hunters were located hunting over the baited area and were issued citations for the violations.



## **BUTTS COUNTY**

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Keith Page and K9 Drake responded to a hunting without permission complaint. Page and Drake apprehended two suspects who were hunting without a license. The landowner did not want to prosecute the hunters; however they both received citations for hunting with a license and hunting without a big game license. One of the men also received a citation for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange clothing.

## **HARRIS COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Mitch Oliver and FDR State Park Asst. Mgr. Jeff Bryant worked a hunting without permission complaint on the park. Cpl. Oliver and Bryant located a hunter in a climbing stand where he was also hunting over bait (corn). When asked, the hunter said that he was aware that he was hunting on state property and had also seen the state park boundary signs. The hunter was issued citations for hunting without written permission and hunting big game over bait.

## **JASPER COUNTY**

On Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, RFC Freddie Hays was contacted by a Jasper County Deputy about a subject that was possibly hunting with a rifle on Oconee National Forest. RFC Hays went to the location and met with the deputy. The hunter was from Florida and was hunting with a .270 caliber rifle during primitive weapons season. He was not wearing fluorescent orange clothing and did not possess a non-residence license to hunt deer in Georgia. The hunter was issued citations for non-resident hunting without license, non-resident hunting without big game license, hunting without wearing fluorescent orange clothing and hunting with an illegal weapon.

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Freddie Hays checked several areas where he had previously located deer bait. RFC Hays found four subjects hunting deer over bait and two subjects that were hunting without any of the required licenses for deer hunting. Four citations were issued for hunting big game over bait. The hunters without licenses were issued citations for hunting without license and given written warnings for hunting without a big game license.

## **JONES COUNTY**

On the morning of October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jeremy Reese located three hunters hunting an area he had discovered to be baited with whole corn earlier in the week. Three citations were issued for hunting big game over bait and three warnings were issued for hunting without wearing fluorescent orange.

## **LAMAR COUNTY**

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Keith Page and K9 Drake patrolled Lamar County for deer hunting activity. Page and Drake located one man that killed two bucks, neither of which had 4 points on one side of their antlers. The man claimed he thought he was shooting at the same deer twice. Page issued the man a written warning for killing an undersized buck in an antler restricted county, due to the statewide restriction that one buck must have a minimum of four points on one side.

On Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, RFC Keith Page and K9 Drake located a man who was hunting deer over bait. They also located another hunter on the same property that was hunting deer without a big game license. One citation was issued for hunting big game over bait and another for hunting big game without a big game license. A written warning was issued for the orange vest violation.

## **MERIWETHER COUNTY**

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Keith Waddell checked several baited stands he had located earlier in the week. He issued two citations for hunting big game over bait and issued two warnings for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

On Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Keith Waddell held a hunter education class at Big Red Oak Plantation. About 20 students were certified as having completed their hunter education requirements.

### **MONROE COUNTY**

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Tim Kendrick and RFC Niki Spencer checked several areas where Kendrick had found baited deer stands the previous week. Five hunters were found hunting in the baited areas. Each hunter was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait and one hunter was issued a written warning for hunting without wearing fluorescent orange clothing.

On Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 7:00am Cpl. Tony Wynne received a call from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in reference to a hunting incident that occurred at approximately 6:30am that morning. Wynne responded and upon arriving at the scene discovered that the 67 year old hunter was hunting deer out of a box stand when he died from a heart attack. The hunter had previously suffered a heart attack two weeks prior to the fatal heart attack.

### **MONROE / UPSON COUNTY**

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tony Wynne went into a large hunting club located on the Monroe/Upson County line to check deer stands where deer bait had been previously found by Cpl. Susan Morris and Cpl. Wynne. Wynne found four hunters hunting deer over bait resulting in three citations and one written warning for hunting big game over bait.

### **PIKE COUNTY**

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Travis Sweat and Sgt. Brent Railey checked several baited stands that Cpl. Sweat had located earlier in the week. They found three hunters in violation. They issued three citations for hunting big game over bait and two written warnings for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

On Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Travis Sweat received a hunting without permission complaint in Pike County. Cpl. Sweat met with the landowners and located the area being hunted. On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Sweat and RFC Kevin Godbee returned to the area. On the way through the woods, the Rangers located the suspect's vehicle and followed the boot tracks back to the complainant's property. Once on the very back side of the property, Cpl. Sweat identified two male subjects sitting at the base of a tree. Cpl. Sweat identified himself and had the two subjects step away from their bows. Upon further investigation, Cpl. Sweat determined that the two subjects were sitting about 1' from the property line on property that they had permission to hunt. The two Rangers made charges against the subjects for hunting big game over bait, hunting without fluorescent orange, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On the evening of October 17<sup>th</sup>, DNR LED, USFS and the Putnam County Sheriff's Office conducted a large scale license check on Cedar Creek WMA. Hundreds of motorists and hunters were checked. Three arrests were made for DUI and drug possession as well as numerous citations issued for traffic and hunting violations. On the evening of October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Lynn Stanford located 2 hunters hunting a baited area. The hunters were issued a written warning as well as a citation for hunting big game over bait.

### **WILKINSON COUNTY**

On the evening of October 18<sup>th</sup>, RGR Matt Johnson worked night hunting on a clear cut in the central part of the county. A short time into his detail he observed a truck travel along the road illuminating the clear cut with a flashlight. RGR Johnson stopped the truck and made contact with the driver and passenger who stated they were looking for deer and were in possession of a hand held light, as well as a .308 rifle. Both subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public road.

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

### **GRADY COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Mike Binion cited five hunters for shooting a baited dove field.



*Cpl. Mike Binion with confiscated doves from a baited shoot.*

### **BROOKS COUNTY**

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jon Penuel investigated a complaint of someone hunting with a modern firearm during primitive weapons season. While foot-patrolling the complaint area, RFC Penuel located a golf cart on a property line. A short time later a subject dressed in camouflage and carrying a shotgun loaded with buckshot returned to the golf cart from the adjoining property. The subject was charged for hunting on lands of another without permission, hunting with an illegal weapon and hunting without wearing fluorescent orange.

### **THOMAS COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jon Penuel and Sgt. David Ruddell observed a vehicle pass two other vehicles in a “no passing zone”. The driver then attempted to evade the officers by quickly pulling into the rear parking lot of a golf course. The driver was found to be driving on a suspended driver’s license due to a previous conviction for vehicular homicide. The subject was arrested and charged for the violations.

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

### **EMANUEL COUNTY**

On October 18, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely and Sgt. Don Dasher conducted a patrol of hunting clubs off Hwy 57 between Swainsboro and Kite. A number of deer hunters were checked off Claxton Way Road, which had been the scene of a hunting incident last season. Officers issued citations for: hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange, non- resident hunting without a license, and failure to record deer harvest.

On October 18, Cpl. Wilcox received a call from GSP about a hunting incident that occurred in Emanuel County. A female subject was hunting in a homemade tree stand behind her parent’s house when she became dizzy and fell. Cpl. Wilcox received the call just before 11:00pm. The victim was at the Emanuel County ER. When Cpl. Wilcox arrived at the hospital the victim was awake but in pain. The victim suffered a broken toe and several abrasions and bruises. She is expected to be fine.

## **EFFINGHAM COUNTY**

On October the 18th, Ranger Jordan Crawford and Cpl. Eddie Akins patrolled Effingham County looking for hunting activity. Several hunters were checked with one violation documented for hunting without a big game license.

## **BERRIEN COUNTY**

On the night of Saturday October 18, Sgt. Morty Wood investigated a complaint of night deer hunting in the Alapaha area. After arriving in the area Sgt. Wood heard two, small caliber gun shots deep inside the property that he was watching. A short time later a vehicle was seen and a spotlight on top of the vehicle was actively shining as the vehicle approached Sgt. Woods' place of concealment. Sgt. Wood stopped the Ford Ranger truck. In the bed of the truck were two Hispanic males with a .22 caliber rifle and two high powered rifles. Driving the truck was a third Hispanic male that lived on the property. In the cab near the driver, Sgt. Wood located a loaded .22 magnum revolver pistol. Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey arrived on scene and the three poachers were arrested and transported to the Berrien County Jail. Charges included hunting deer at night and hunting from a vehicle for each of the suspects.



## **ATKINSON COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Hutto checked several areas for deer hunting activity. RFC Hutto checked several hunters resulting in fourteen violations for hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting deer without fluorescent orange, non-resident hunting without a license, and non-resident hunting without a big game license.

## **LANIER COUNTY**

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Hutto checked an area of the Alapaha River for boating and fishing activity. Six fishermen and boaters were checked resulting in eight documented violations for fishing without a license, operating a vessel without life jackets, and operating a vessel without a fire extinguisher.

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, at around 8:30 p.m., RFC Tim Hutto received a call of a stranded boater on the Alapaha River. RFC Hutto, RFC Keith McDonald, Lanier County Sheriff's Office, and Lanier County Fire Department searched for the vessel and occupants. At around 9:30 p.m. the vessel was located and the occupants were escorted out safely.

## **COFFEE COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Joe Hilton was on routine patrol for hunting activity in Coffee County. While on this patrol, RFC Hilton conducted several hunting license checks. These checks resulted in multiple citations and warnings for hunting without a hunting license, hunting big game without a big game license, non-resident hunting without a hunting license, non-resident hunting big game without a non-resident big game license, hunting deer without required fluorescent orange and failure to record deer harvest.

## **COOK COUNTY**

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey was working a hunting without permission complaint when he heard two rifle shots near his location on the adjoining property. Cpl. Daughtrey proceeded to the adjoining property and located two hunters who were looking for a deer that one of the hunters had shot at. Neither hunter was wearing the required fluorescent orange clothing. Further investigation revealed that one of the hunters was not licensed. Both subjects were from Florida. Violations of Non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting w/o big game license, hunting deer w/o wearing fluorescent orange and failure to record harvest were documented.

## **PIERCE COUNTY**

On October 18th, while on patrol, RFC Mark Pool encountered several groups of dog-deer hunters. Every hunter was checked and RFC pool issued two citations for hunting without a license and issued verbal guidance for other minor violations.

## **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On October 18th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and Ranger Daniel North patrolled the eastern portion of the county for hunting activity. While on Register Road (a county road), the officers encountered an individual standing on a dog box in the bed of a pickup truck holding a loaded deer rifle. The non-resident hunter did not possess a big game license or a dog-deer license. The violations were documented.

## **CLINCH COUNTY**

On October 18th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and Ranger Daniel North patrolled the southern portion of the county for hunting activity. Several different groups of deer-dog hunters were encountered and violations for operating a vehicle without dog-deer permit number displayed and hunting big game from a public road were documented.

## **WARE COUNTY**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Sam Williams, Cpl. Jason Shipes, and Sgt. Patrick Dupree responded to a boating incident at the Suwannee Canal Unit of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. An elderly couple were ejected from their vessel shortly after launching from a rest stop approximately eight miles inside the Swamp. Preliminary investigation indicates the female boat occupant drowned. The male occupant was slightly injured. US Fish & Wildlife Service Officer Pam Garrison, Ranger Sam Williams, Cpl. Jason Shipes, and Charlton County EMS technicians retrieved the victim. DNR LED's Critical Incident Reconstruction Team is conducting a complete investigation of the incident.

## **APPLING COUNTY**

On the morning of opening day of firearms deer season, Cpl. Chase Altman, Cpl. Kevin Joyce, and K-9 Briar responded to a hunting without permission complaint in the lower part of Appling County. One hunter was found hunting on land he didn't have permission to hunt on and was also hunting over bait. The person was charged with hunting without permission and also with hunting big game over bait without landowner's permission.

## **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On October 18, 2014 Cpl. Chase Altman, and Cpl. Kevin Joyce conducted a patrol on Bullard Creek WMA for possible deer hunting activity. Altman and Joyce checked several hunters and one subject was charged for hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

## **EVANS COUNTY**

On October 8, 2014, DNR personnel from the Region 6 Law Enforcement Division assisted the Evans County Sheriff's office with the Luke Bryan concert venue. Rangers utilized their ATV's and UTV's to patrol the area. The personnel included Captain Scott Klingel, Sergeants Don Dasher, Jon Barnard and James McLaughlin. Corporals Eddie Akins, Chase Altman and Rangers Rodney Horne, Joe Hilton, Jordan Crawford and Debbie Brannen.

On October 9, 2014, RFC Debbie Brannen patrolled the Evans County Public Fishing area for complaints of late fishing. One violation was documented for fishing on a public fishing area after sunset.

On October 12, 2014, RFC Debbie Brannen checked licenses on the Evans County Public Fishing Area. A total of eight licenses were checked resulting in violations for fishing without a license, fishing on a PFA without a WMA license and entering a designated fee area with a GORP license.

## **TATTNALL COUNTY**

On October 10, 2014, RFC Debbie Brannen patrolled Big Hammock WMA. One violation for entering a designated fee area without a GORP license was documented on the shooting range.

On October 11, 2014, RFC Debbie Brannen checked hunters and licenses on Big Hammock WMA. One violation for entering a designated fee area without a GORP license was written on the shooting range.

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

### **LONG COUNTY**

On October 5, 2014 Ranger Gibbs set up surveillance in a clear cut on the north end of Long County. At around 9:30pm a truck came down the road and shined a light out of the driver's side window. Gibbs followed the truck for about ½ mile and observed the driver shine a light from his window 10 different times and hold a rifle out of the window once. Gibbs conducted a traffic stop and charged the individual for hunting from a vehicle and hunting from a public road.



## **WAYNE COUNTY**

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bobby White was called by local dispatch stating a landowner went to go hunting on his property when he found two hunters sitting in two of his hunting stands. Cpl. White arrived on-scene and questioned the two hunters. They stated someone gave them permission to hunt on the property. They both had shotguns loaded with buckshot and slugs. They stated they were deer hunting. Neither of the two had a hunting license. One of the hunters was a non-resident.

## **MCINTOSH COUNTY**

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Damon Winters and RFC Kate Hargrove worked a hunting without permission complaint off Harris Neck Road. Two hunters were found hunting on the property. After interviewing the hunters violations were documented for hunting with illegal weapon, hunting without florescent orange, and hunting without a license. A hunting without permission investigation is still ongoing.