

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**September 27 – October 3, 2015**

**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)**

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Brown was checking a complaint in Villa Rica. One person was found to be hunting big game over bait, without a hunting license, without a big game license, without a deer harvest record, failure to record a deer harvest, and without landowner permission. Upon further investigation, another person was subsequently charged for hunting without a hunting license, hunting without a big game license, hunting without a deer harvest record, and hunting without permission.

### **FULTON COUNTY**

On October 1<sup>st</sup> a resident spotted two men walking in the woods of a newly built subdivision using flashlights well after legal hunting hours. Milton Police Department responded and found two men at their truck in full hunting apparel. When questioned about their activities said they were looking for a lost wallet. Not having anything to detain the men any longer the officer let them go, but not after gathering all their info. A second officer responded to the scene and suspecting something fishy with the excuse conducted a search of the area. The officers located a crossbow and compound bow hidden under a jacket at the wood line, which they collected as evidence and notified DNRLED. Ranger Mark Puig responded the next day and conducted a search of the area to collect any additional evidence that the officers may have missed. While completing a report on the incident, Ranger Puig noticed a truck pull into the subdivision and down into a gas line off the road. Finding this odd, Ranger Puig eased down the road and saw the passenger exit the vehicle, dressed in full camouflage. As soon as the passenger saw the DNR truck he nervously got back in the vehicle with the driver. Ranger Puig walked up to the vehicle and asked what they were doing. The driver responded "Oh, we were here yesterday afternoon just before dark and I lost my wallet". The two men received a citation for hunting without permission.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Eric Brown and Ranger Mark Puig responded to a complaint of illegal dumping at the DNR boat ramp on Highway 166 on the Fulton/Douglas County line. The rangers found multiple bags of household trash and an abandoned vessel that someone had dumped. The rangers located information in one of the trash bags that led the rangers to a nearby residence. The homeowner admitted to dumping the trash after a party the previous weekend and received a citation. The vessel appeared to have been dumped there previously and is still under investigation.

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

### **MADISON COUNTY**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, RFC Shane Sartor checked the Broad River WMA for hunting violations. During his patrol two hunters were checked. A total of three citations and one warning were issued. The violations consisted of nonresident hunting without license, nonresident hunting without big game license, nonresident hunting without WMA license, and resident hunting without a big game license.

### **STEPHENS COUNTY**

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Craig Fulghum and Sgt. Stan Elrod patrolled Lake Russell WMA in Stephens County for violations. One subject was issued a citation for driving in an unauthorized area on the WMA.

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

### **RICHMOND COUNTY**

On October 4, Cpl. Payne attended an all administration meeting in Richmond County to discuss inclement weather and possible flooding in the CSRA. Chief James from Richmond County Fire Department headed the discussion and each department stated resources available in case of flooding. Cpl. Payne listed DNR response availability and equipment on standby.

On October 3, Cpl. Payne and RFC Matherly met with swift water rescue personnel at Engine Co. 1 to discuss creeks and rivers that would crest the fastest. Rangers and firemen discussed response issues associated with swift water rescue. They monitored the weather and planned their day based off inclement weather. Rangers patrolled state owned properties in Richmond County. They also patrolled local creeks and rivers monitoring water levels. No activity was documented.

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

On September 30, Cpl. Adams met with the Washington County Young Sportsmen Foundation to discuss this year's "Shoot off contest" at the fair.

### **BURKE COUNTY**

On October 3, Ranger First Class Jeff Billips received a complaint that a landowner's son had just encountered 4 children climbing on one of the tower stands on their property. RFC Billips went to the tower stand and tracked back to the boundary line fence. An above ground pool ladder had been placed over the barbed wire topped fence for access onto the complainant's property. The ladder had been removed and was approximately ten yards into the neighboring property. RFC Billips went to the suspected residence and encountered the four children that had been on the complainant's property. The oldest child was 14 and said that he and his siblings had been out hiking on the complainant's property. RFC Billips advised them of the hazards of trespassing particularly during deer season as well as climbing into a tower stand. The children's father arrived at the residence and RFC Billips informed the father of the seriousness of the incident.

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On October 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Brian Carter, Cpl. Mark Patterson, and RFC Richard Tanner assisted the Wilkes County Sheriff's Department with a search for a vehicle. The Rangers utilized Side-Scan sonar equipment to search a portion of Clarks Hill Lake for the vehicle that was suspected to be submerged and was a key element in an ongoing investigation. The vehicle was located by sonar and later retrieved with the assistance of members of the Elbert County Dive Team.

### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain assisted Lincoln County Sheriff's Office with general patrol of the county, assisting citizens after a microburst occurred in the Eastern End of the county.

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

### **HENRY COUNTY**

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Travis Sweat and RFC Kevin Godbee checked an area that Cpl. Sweat had determined the prior week to be baited. They located a man hunting deer with a shotgun over bait (corn). In the bait, the man had also placed a foothold trap which he admitted was to trap the raccoons that were eating the corn he had put out for deer. He was charged with hunting deer out of season, hunting big game over bait, trapping out of season and failure to attach a tag to trap. The trap was confiscated.

## **TROUP COUNTY**

On Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sgt. Brent Railey and Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor William Britt taught an all-day hunter education course at the Troup County Sportsman's Club. About 43 students were certified.

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

### **DOOLY COUNTY**

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Clint Martin, Ranger Jesse Harrison and Ranger Jay Lewis responded to a complaint of three subjects hunting without permission. The investigation into the incident revealed that one of the subjects had shot at a buck from the road, on the previous evening. The three subjects, two of which were in possession of firearms, were apprehended while attempting to recover the buck. One subject was issued citations for hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road, hunting with illegal ammo/weapon, hunting without permission, hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license. The second subject was issued citations for hunting with illegal ammo/weapon, hunting without permission, hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license. The third subject was given a warning for criminal trespass.

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

### **TELFAIR COUNTY**

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant James McLaughlin was called to assist Telfair County Sheriff's Office with a string of burglaries that were happening throughout the county. Officers from several agencies investigated and set up check points to curb the activity.

Also on the 29<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. McLaughlin responded to a nuisance alligator call at the waste water treatment plant of McRae-Helena. No alligator was spotted and Sgt. McLaughlin provided the city manager with the phone contact of the Game Management Section.

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles presented a program to the Exchange Club. Cpl. Stiles presented a PowerPoint presentation about the Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division and answered questions from club members. Fifty two persons were in attendance.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles assisted with a firearms big game hunt at the River Bend Wildlife Management Area. The annual hunt is limited to hunters in wheelchairs. Ten individuals participated in the hunt with numerous local volunteers assisting the hunters.

### **BERRIEN COUNTY**

On Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, while on patrol at Paradise PFA, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey encountered two fishermen that were in possession of undersize bass. Two violations for possession of undersize bass were documented. During the same patrol Cpl. Daughtrey checked two subjects fishing in a small jon boat. There were no life jackets on the boat. The violation was documented and the life jacket requirements were explained to the boat operator.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Morty Wood received a call from Berrien 911 about an alligator in an elderly woman's yard on Old Valdosta Highway. Sergeant Wood responded and with the help of the concerned caller they were able to capture and relocate the alligator.



*Nuisance alligator in Berrien County*

### **COOK COUNTY**

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey was contacted by a local land owner who had discovered two bags of trash dumped on his property. Cpl. Daughtrey located the trash and found several pieces of identification in the trash. Cpl. Daughtrey located the subject who was responsible for the dumping violation. The littering violation was documented and the trash was cleaned up by the person who dumped it.

### **COFFEE COUNTY**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto worked a complaint on a subject who was believed to be hunting deer with a high powered rifle during bow season. Cpl. Hutto used K-9 Titan to find where a deer had been shot in a field on the subject's hunting land. Cpl. Hutto interviewed the subject and located the deer meat and deer carcass. Sufficient evidence was not present to document a violation of hunting with an illegal weapon, but violations were documented for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

### **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Patrick Dupree received a complaint that bear carcasses had been dumped along the Woodpecker Route. Sgt. Dupree and Ranger Daniel North inspected the scene and photographs of the four carcasses and other trash were taken. After nearly a week of investigating, Sgt. Dupree and Corporal Tim Hutto located the person responsible on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cpl. Hutto charged the individual with unlawful dumping of waste.



*Bear carcasses dumped on public right-of-way in Echols County*

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sergeant Patrick Dupree encountered a group of bear hunters near Big Arm Bay that had released hounds at a site baited with doughnuts & peanut butter. Seven violations of hunting big game over bait were documented.



*Bear bait site in Echols County.*

### **CLINCH COUNTY**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Shipes completed an investigation related to three subjects hunting without permission in May of 2015. Cpl. Shipes began the investigation after receiving information from a hunting club that three subjects entered their club without permission to hunt hogs. The three subjects were captured on game cameras placed by club members. These photos were provided to the officer for evidence. Cpl. Shipes was able to identify and locate the subjects in the photos. After conducting an interview, the poachers admitted to entering onto the property by driving ATVs around the gates. Once on the club they captured and left with a feral hog. During the investigation, Cpl. Shipes also found that none of the individuals involved were in possession of a valid hunting license at the time of the incident. Citations were issued for hunting without permission and hunting without a license.

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

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On September 28, Sgt. Chris Hodge, Cpl. Chris Ridley, RFC David Brady and Ranger Colte Shaske responded to a call for assistance from Glynn County Police Department regarding a subject that had threatened to kill a woman with a knife on St Simons Island and then retreated to a small boat and fled the scene. Cpl. Chris Ridley was able to locate the vessel and suspect and follow him to a private dock on the East River. Sgt. Hodge, RFC Brady and Ranger Shaske were able to take the man into custody and turned him over to the Glynn County Police Department.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Rangers from Region 6 and Region 7 participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Coast Fest event put on by the Coastal Resources Division. Rangers assisted in directing traffic. There were over 7500 people that attended Coastfest. Later that evening, Region 7 Rangers and Georgia State Patrol conducted a Wildlife Checkpoint on the Paulk's Pasture Wildlife Management Area Check in Rifle Hunt. Over 60 vehicles and 80 hunters were contacted.

