

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
April 10 – April 16, 2016

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)

PAULDING COUNTY

On April 17th, Sgt. Eric Brown and RFC Mark Puig patrolled Paulding Wildlife Management Area for turkey hunting and fishing activity. Numerous hunters were checked with only minor violations observed.



On April 17th, RFCs Chad Cox and Daniel Gray responded to an injured cyclist on the Silver Comet Trail. The rangers were the first on scene and established a safe route for the following first responders to effectively reach the injured cyclist.



DOUGLAS COUNTY

April 16th, RFC's Daniel Gray and Mark Puig conducted a state park patrol at Sweetwater Creek State Conservation Park. The Rangers checked 13 fishermen and issued 3 citations for fishing without a license.

POLK COUNTY

On the afternoon on April 16th, RFC Chad Cox received a call about someone fishing without permission near Rockmart. RFC Cox located two subjects fishing from the bank of the lake. RFC Cox cited the subjects for fishing without permission.

CARROLL COUNTY

On April 16th, Sgt. Eric Brown and RFC Chad Cox checked several public lakes and located numerous people fishing. The rangers issued two citations for fishing without a license.

FLOYD COUNTY

On April 11th thru April 13th, RFC Ben Cunningham attended Aimpoint Instructor School held in Brunswick, GA. RFC Cunningham is a firearms instructor and this training taught him new techniques and training he can bring back to the region..

GORDON COUNTY

On April 16th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore patrolled the Oostanula River, Coosawattee River, and Conasauga River. He issued a citation for operating vessel without personal flotation devices and several warnings for fishing without a license.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On April 16, Ranger Chris Kernahan was patrolling Fort Yargo State Park, when he made contact with a subject who had built an illegal bon-fire in the middle of the public use area. The fire was subsequently extinguished, and the violation was documented.

HALL COUNTY

On April 16, Ranger Chris Kernahan was patrolling Lake Lanier for fishing activity, when he made contact with a subject who was found to be fishing without a license. The subject was also found to have a felony warrant out of North Carolina. The subject was subsequently arrested.

On April 10, Ranger First Class Mark Stephens and Sgt. Mike Burgamy responded by vessel on Lake Lanier to assist Hall County deputies in reference to three fleeing burglary suspects. Hall County deputies apprehended two of the subjects with the third suspect still at large.

JACKSON COUNTY

On April 16, RFC Eric Isom and his K9 partner Colt were checking private property near Commerce for fishing without permission. Two subjects were located fishing on the property. Violations for fishing without permission were documented.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On April 16th RFC Tim Butler attended the Beach Haven Baptist Church wild game supper. RFC Butler answered numerous questions about wildlife and game laws.

OCONEE COUNTY

On April 16th RFC Tim Butler responded to an in progress hunting without permission complaint. Two violations of turkey hunting without permission were documented. Later in the morning on another property, RFC Butler located a suspicious car parked on the side of the road. CPL David Allen came to assist with locating the occupants of the car. Two suspects were located in the woods hunting turkeys without permission. Both cases were documented.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On April 15th RFC Phillip Nelson presented 6 Boating and Safety programs to over 100 kids at Oglethorpe Primary School.

On April 16th RFC Phillip Nelson Checked a hunting turkeys over bait complaint. No violations were documented.

ELBERT COUNTY

On April 16th SGT Brian Carter and CPL Julian Wilkins investigated an illegal burning in progress. Violations of illegal burning were documented.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On April 16th, RFC Robert Timmerman investigated a boating incident on Clarks Hill Lake. The incident occurred off of Keg Creek near Wildwood Park. The incident revealed that only property damage was reported no injuries or medical treatment. A report was filed to document the incident. No charges were filed.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On April 17, Cpl. Ryan Swain apprehended two subjects off of Fishing Creek on Clarks Hill Lake. The two subjects were charged with fishing by using illegal methods and concealing wildlife. The subjects had taken game fish with methods other than pole and line. The subjects also had hidden fish in various compartments within the vessel. The subjects were written citations and released. The fish were seized and disposed of.

NEWTON COUNTY

On April 13 Ranger Schay finished an unlawful dumping investigation. One violation of dumping of egregious litter greater than 500 pounds was documented.

GREENE COUNTY

On April 16, Sgt. John Harwell was contacted by GSP dispatch concerning teens on Lake Oconee drinking and throwing beer cans in the lake from their vessel. Sgt. Harwell responded along with RFC Ricky Boles and Ranger Jason Harrison. While patrolling in vessel, the subjects were located. One teen was charged with boating while under the influence and transported to Greene County detention center, nine more were cited for possession of alcohol by underage person.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On April 17, Cpl. David Allen checked a baited area in Hancock County. One subject was cited for hunting turkeys over bait.

OCONEE RIVER

On Saturday, April 16, Cpl. David Allen and RFC Richard Tanner patrolled the Oconee River checking for boating and fishing activity. The Rangers checked 41 fishermen and 22 boats during the patrol. The only violation noted was one vessel that did not have enough life jackets on board the vessel.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

CLAYTON COUNTY

On Monday, April 11th, RFC Kevin Godbee patrolled Shamrock Lake. He issued one written warning for operating a vessel without PFD's.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On Sunday, April 10th, Cpl. Keith Waddell patrolled Joe Kurz WMA. He checked several fishermen and turkey hunters. He issued two written warnings for fishing without a license.

OCMULGEE WMA

On April 13th, RFC Ronnie Beard received a complaint of illegal shotgun hunting in the archery only area of the WMA. The area will continue to be patrolled.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the morning of April 16th, Corporal Bubba Stanford patrolled the Oconee National Forest. Cpl. Stanford located four fishermen along the Little River and two of the fishermen, upon seeing Cpl. Stanford, threw their fishing poles as well as bait cups into the water. It was discovered that neither subject had a valid fishing license. Citations for littering were issued as well as warnings for fishing without a license.

PULASKI COUNTY

On April 12th, RFC Ronnie Beard received a call in reference to hunting without permission. RFC Beard arrived at the location and walked the property. The subjects were not found but fresh boot prints were present. The incident is still under investigation.

TALBOT COUNTY

On April 10th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver patrolled Big Lazer WMA/PFA for hunting and fishing violations. Cpl. Oliver encountered several violations at the PFA including fishing without a license, fishing on a PFA without a WMA license, operating a vessel without required CGA PFD's, and fishing on a PFA after hours.

TROUP COUNTY

On Sunday, April 10th, RFC Russell Epps was checking fishermen at Ringer Access. He checked a boat at the boat ramp and found two fishermen with 16 hybrid and striped bass each (32 total). The fish were confiscated and both fishermen were issued citations.

On Saturday, April 16th, RFC Russell Epps received a call about a boating incident at West Point Lake. Upon arrival RFC Epps determined the incident had occurred out of the water in a parking area. A boat being towed by a vehicle had fallen off the trailer and a person riding in the boat fell out and broke his arm.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

LEE COUNTY

On April 11th Ranger Jay Lewis, Cpl. Greg Wade, Sgt. Al Greer and Sgt. Ellis Wynn responded to a possible drowning on the Kinchafoonee Creek. The location where the subject was thought to have drowned was searched by DNR Rangers using body drags and side scan sonar. The Lee County Dive team also conducted a search of the area without success.

Rangers continued to conduct searches of the creek each morning and afternoon and on the morning of the 14th Rangers Eric White and Jay Lewis located the subject's body and coordinated its removal with other local agencies.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

BERRIEN COUNTY

On April 10th, Corporal Tommy Daughtrey documented violations of fishing without a license and taking undersize fish at Paradise PFA. Many other violations were noted and the violators were given verbal guidance.



These two fishermen had a good day at PPFA

WARE COUNTY

On April 15th & 16th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Corporal Mark Pool, Ranger First Class Sam Williams, Ranger First Class Daniel North, and Ranger Judd Sears attended the Georgia Hunting & Fishing Federation's Okefenokee Outdoor Show in Waycross. The officers operated the laser shot shooting simulator, provided printed information, and answered numerous questions during the two-day event.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Saturday, April 9th, 2016, RFC Kiel Toney talks with Richmond Hill kids about the importance of wearing their life jacket and boating safety. This was a part of Richmond Hill's Public Safety Day at the First Baptist Church.



BRYAN COUNTY

On April 13th, RFC Jason Miller was contacted by the manager of the Sterling Links Golf Club who stated that they had found three men fishing in the lakes of the golf club without permission. On April 15th and 16th, RFC Miller met with the three men and cite them for fishing without permission.

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On April 11th, RFC Colte Shaske assisted the Brantley County Sheriff's Office in a search warrant of a residence suspected of manufacturing marijuana. While investigators and deputies searched inside the residence, RFC Shaske searched the property where a total of 18 marijuana plants were found. Inside the deputies found 1 stolen weapon and approximately 2 ounces of bagged marijuana bagged for sale. The individuals were charged for manufacturing marijuana, felony possession, and possession with intent to distribute and a pending possession of a stolen weapon.