

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
March 27 – April 2, 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)

GORDON COUNTY

On March 27th, Sgt. Mike Barr was patrolling Gordon County. He checked an area off of Redbone Ridge Rd. and found two hunters turkey hunting. One hunter had harvested two jakes which he had at his vehicle. During a check of their licenses, Sgt. Barr discovered the hunter had not properly recorded his harvest. Due to the new turkey harvest system, Sgt. Barr issued him a warning and explained the new recording procedures for turkeys.

On March 30th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore was patrolling the Curryville community and located a truck parked beside a church. Cpl. Elmore checked the truck and noticed several Conibear traps in the bed of the truck. Cpl. Elmore located a Rome man tending to traps that were set along a beaver dam. The Rome man was found to be trapping without a license and did not have his traps properly tagged. He was new to trapping and was issued written warnings. He was also educated on current trapping laws.

FLOYD COUNTY

On March 29th – 31st, Sgt. Mike Barr and RFC Mark Puig attended the “Valor” law enforcement conference in Atlanta. Multiple metro agencies attended the special training by the US Bureau of Justice which focused on current trends in law enforcement.

CHATTOOGA COUNTY

On April 2nd, RFC Roger McConkey was patrolling fishing and boating locations in Chattooga County. Multiple boats and fishing licenses were checked. One subject was found to be fishing without a license. He was charged for fishing without a license in the Trion area.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HALL COUNTY

On March 31, Cpl. Anne Britt and RFC Joe Hill observed a male subject discard a newspaper from the driver’s side window in Hall County. The Rangers initiated a traffic stop and issued the subject a citation for littering.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On April 1, RFC Joe Hill patrolled Buck Shoals State Park for boating safety violations. While RFC Hill was leaving the area, he observed the driver of an 18-wheeler discard a styrofoam cup from the driver’s side window. RFC Hill initiated a traffic stop and issued the subject a citation for littering.

WHITE COUNTY

On March 30, CPL Anne Britt served a search warrant on an adult male’s residence off Asbestos Rd., with the assistance from other rangers including Sgt. Steve Seitz, RFC Joe Hill, Ranger Beth Gilbert, Wildlife Technician Scott Bardendwerper, and White County Sheriff’s Department deputy Ken Eggerton. The search warrant included seized items involved in illegal hunting and trapping activity in White County. The case is under investigation with pending charges.

RABUN COUNTY

On April 2, RFC Chad Chambers and Ranger Beth Gilbert patrolled Wildcat Creek and checked several fishermen. The officers issued seven written warnings and one citation to six fishermen for fishing without a license on person, fishing without a license, fishing without a trout license, and fishing with expired license and expired trout license.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

RICHMOND COUNTY

On March 27, Cpl. Payne patrolled Burke County checking areas baited for turkeys. At one location a vehicle was parked at a gate to the entrance of a hunt club. With prior knowledge of where the bait had been located in years past, Cpl. Payne walked in and encountered a hunter hunting over a corn feeder. The hunter was looking at a decoy within 60 yards of the feeder. After asking for proper licenses the hunter stated that he had not purchased any licenses. Cpl. Payne charged the hunter with hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license and hunting without big game license. Verbal guidance was given for no turkey harvest record.

WILKES COUNTY

On March 27, Cpl. Mark Patterson caught one subject hunting turkeys over bait while on patrol in Wilkes Co.

CLARKE COUNTY

On March 28, RFC Phillip Nelson caught two subjects fishing without permission. Violations of fishing without permission were documented.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On April 2nd, RFC Robert Timmerman performed an Educational Program in Grovetown for a group of children at Grovetown Elementary School. Timmerman spoke of a Rangers duties and boating safety.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

CLAYTON COUNTY

On Thursday, March 31st, RFC Kevin Godbee patrolled Shamrock Reservoir. He issued one written warning for fishing without a license.

HOUSTON COUNTY

On Sunday, March 27th, Cpl. Robert Stillwell patrolled Oaky Woods WMA for turkey hunting activity. While checking four hunters, Cpl. Stillwell found all of the hunters to be hunting with unplugged shotguns. Three were hunting with buckshot and one had no license. Citations were issued for hunting turkeys with and unplugged shotgun and hunting turkeys with illegal ammo. Citations were also issued for the license violations.

JONES COUNTY

On the afternoon of March 27th, RFC Jeremy Reese patrolled the Juliette Dam. Several fishing licenses were checked and one subject was issued a citation for a nonresident fishing without a license.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On Thursday, March 31st, Cpl. Keith Waddell received a complaint of fishing without permission on a private pond. This was a pond he had received a complaint on recently. Cpl. Waddell went to the scene and with the assistance of Cpl. Travis Sweat and RFC Kevin Godbee was able to cite two people for fishing without permission. The case is still under investigation for others to possibly be charged.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On April 1st, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen presented 4 boating safety power point presentations to different battalion companies at the I-507th Training Safety Day on Ft. Benning. The training included boating requirements as well as general boating safety laws.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the morning of March 27th, Corporal Bubba Stanford patrolled Cedar Creek WMA. Several turkey hunters were checked and one hunter was issued a written warning for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

TALBOT COUNTY

On April 2nd, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen checked a baited ground blind for turkey hunting activity. As Cpl. Bolen was approaching the area, he noticed a gobbler in front of the ground blind in the baited area. Just a few moments later, Cpl. Bolen heard a shot from the ground blind and noticed the gobbler had been shot. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait and the turkey was confiscated for evidence.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

COLQUITT COUNTY

On March 27, Ranger Eric White was investigating an area previously found to be baited for turkeys. When Ranger White arrived at the bait site, he found turkey decoys had been placed in the bait and a hunter was calling from a nearby ground blind. The subject was charged for hunting big game over bait.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

CHARLTON COUNTY

On the morning of March 27th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams was patrolling for turkey hunting activity near the St. Mary's River. During the patrol, two turkey hunters were encountered. A check of the hunters' licenses revealed that one hunter was not in possession of any hunting licenses and the other hunter did not possess a big game license nor the new harvest record. The violations were documented and guidance given on how to obtain the new harvest record and record harvested turkeys on the Game Check system.

WARE COUNTY

On March 30th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams received a call from Ware County 911 in reference to someone burning illegal materials in Waycross. The officer responded and discovered that a female subject had been burning old carpet material. The fire had already been extinguished by Waycross Fire Department. Guidance was provided to the subject that only natural vegetative yard debris could be legally burned after obtaining a burn permit and that all other materials would need to be taken to a land fill. The violation was documented.

LOWNDES COUNTY

On April 2nd, Ranger First Class Keith McDonald observed an individual returning to his truck from the woods. RFC McDonald stopped to check hunting license and the shotgun. When RFC McDonald checked the shotgun five shotgun shells were ejected. A citation was issued for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On April 2nd, Ranger First Class Keith McDonald patrolled Paradise Public Fishing Area. His efforts resulted in the documentation on fishing without a license and fishing without a WMA stamp on a PFA.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity to report.