

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
March 6 – March 12, 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)

BARTOW COUNTY

On March 6th, RFC Zack Hardy vessel patrolled Allatoona Lake with a DNR LED intern for fishing and boating activity. During the patrol, RFC Hardy checked 27 fishing license and 19 boats. RFC Hardy issued citations for fishing without a license and operating vessel with insufficient PFD's.

On March 6th, RFC Zack Hardy completed a three day environmental investigation of an unlawfully dumped boat on private property on Hwy 411 near Kingston. RFC Hardy was able to obtain information from the expired registration numbers and the hull identification number to a previous owner. From there, RFC Hardy interviewed three subjects that were involved with dumping the vessel. Charges were made for unlawful dumping of waste.



On March 12th, Sgt. Derek Dillard and RFC Bart Hendrix responded to Allatoona Lake to assist RFC Micheal Crawley with three subjects on PWC's near Red Top Mt State Park. Two of the subjects were found to be operating under the influence. While talking with one of the subjects RFC Bart Hendrix arrested another male for interfering with a Ranger's duties.

On March 12th, Cpl. Byron Young responded to a call on Red Top Mt State Park in reference to car break-ins. Three vehicles had windows busted out and items taken. Bartow County Investigators were called are currently working the case.

FANNIN COUNTY

On March 12th, RFC Cody Jones was investigating an out-of-season trapping complaint when he observed three treble hooks, all baited with meat, hanging low from the trees. Also observed were five leg hold traps placed around a dead deer, which was being used as the bait. While conducting surveillance on the area, Officer Jones witnessed the suspect shoot and kill an opossum out of season. Near the discarded opossum, Officer Jones also found a dead buzzard with a broken and nearly severed leg. Officer Jones documented six violations: using unlawful devices (baited hooks), killing a non-game animal (buzzard), trapping out of season, failure to tag traps, trapping without a license, and trapping without written permission. Three citations were issued and the traps were seized.



Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HALL COUNTY

On March 12th, Sgt. Mike Burgamy, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk, and Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Hall County for fishing activity. During the patrol the Rangers checked 59 fishing license and 8 boats. They issued 10 citations and warnings and arrested two individuals for possession of marijuana.

WHITE COUNTY

On March 8th, Cpl. Anne Britt and Cpl. Kevin Dyer responded to an illegal fire off Platinum Drive in Cleveland. White County Fire Department was on scene extinguishing the fire when the officers arrived. The responsible adult male told the officers he was cleaning up around the area when he flicked his cigarette out in the yard and went back inside the residence. When he came back outside he saw the fire and he called 911. Cpl. Britt and Cpl. Dyer walked around the 10' x 10' area where the burnt debris was. The debris left over in the burnt area included 6 tires, left over metal from furniture that included a mattress, recliner and or sofa, copper wire, cabinet, miscellaneous metal cans, and other household garbage. Cpl. Britt cited the adult male for unlawful dumping of egregious litter (less than 500 lbs. /100 cubic feet).

TOWNS COUNTY

On March 11th, at approximately 9:00 PM, RFC David Webb received a call from GSP Gainesville about two hikers that were lost on the Appalachian Trail (AT). The two hikers had left a campground at 6:30 PM and became lost when several trails intersected the AT near Chattahoochee Gap. The hikers had cell phone service and were able to give RFC Webb their general location and stated they could hear cars on a highway. RFC Webb responded to the area and at approximately 9:50 PM, the two hikers and their dog were able to hike out to Jacks Gap on Hwy 180 at the entrance to Brasstown Bald. They contacted Towns County 911 by phone and RFC Webb was notified. RFC Webb met both of the hikers at that location and gave them a ride back to the campground. The hikers and the dog were uninjured and in good spirits.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On March 12th, RFC Joe Hill and USFS LEO's Derrick Breedlove and Jeff Angel, conducted a nighttime patrol of Lake Russell WMA. Several violations were observed and encountered while on this patrol. LEO Breedlove issued one subject a citation for driving in unauthorized areas of a WMA. On a separate encounter, LEO Breedlove arrested one subject for driving while license suspended, misdemeanor possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

RICHMOND COUNTY

On March 5, Cpl. Ben Payne patrolled Richmond County checking fishing without permission complaints and licenses. Several licenses were checked with no violations documented. No activity was present at the without permission locations.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

On March 12, Sgt. Boswell, Cpl. Payne, Cpl. Adams and R.F.C. Matherly assist with the Washington County Youth Sportsman Day. Over 400 kids were able to use the "Fishing simulator" and the "Shooting Simulator".

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On Friday March 11th, RFC. Phillip Nelson investigated a dumping complaint in which a subjects name was found in the dumpsite. The investigation is on-going.

ELBERT COUNTY

On Sunday March 6th, SGT. Brian Carter, CPL. Julian Wilkins, and RFC. Phillip Nelson patrolled Elbert Co. boat ramps on Lake Russell and Clarks Hill Lake. No violations were detected during the patrol.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On March 12th, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Robert Timmerman responded to Clarks Hill Lake in reference to a 47 year old male boater who had been missing for 20 hours. After several investigative techniques were used, the subject's mobile phone was pinged and located in the Keg Creek area. After 3 hours of searching, contact was made with the subject who was still fishing on the lake and fine.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the morning of November 8th, Cpl. Bubba Stanford patrolled fishing areas along Lake Sinclair and the Oconee River. Numerous fishermen were checked and 2 subjects received citations for open container violations as well as possession of undersized fish.

BIBB COUNTY

On March 12th, RFC David Fisher and Cpl. Josh Swain patrolled Lake Tobesofkee. The Rangers checked 28 vessels and 42 fishermen. Several violations were documented throughout the day including operating a vessel without PFD's and fishing without a GA fishing license.

HARRIS COUNTY

On March 12th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver checked fishing activity at Lake Franklin, which is located on FDR State Park. Cpl. Oliver documented violations for operating a vessel without PFD's and operating a vessel without a registration.

LAKE SINCLAIR

On the afternoon of March 12th, RFC Jeremy Reese and Sgt. Bo Kelly patrolled areas of Lake Sinclair. Numerous fishermen were checked and warnings and citations were issued for fishing without license, insufficient PFD's and failure to wear PFD's in a hazardous area.

PULASKI COUNTY

During the week of March 7th, RFC Ronnie Beard patrolled Flat Creek PFA. Fishermen were checked and no violations were detected.

TROUP COUNTY

On March 6th, RFC Kevin Godbee and Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled West Point Lake around the Hwy 27 area. They checked 3 boats and 19 fishing licenses and issued 1 written warning for littering.

On March 12th, RFC Russell Epps and Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled West Point Lake around the Hwy 27 and Hwy 219 bridges and accesses. They checked about 45 fishing licenses and 17 boats and issued one written warning and one citation. They also found one subject with an active felony probation violation warrant who was arrested and turned over to Troup County Sheriff's Office for processing.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

WHEELER COUNTY

On March 12th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Little Ocmulgee State Park. One violation for non-resident fishing without a fishing license was documented.

CLINCH COUNTY

On March 6th, Ranger Judd Sears and Ranger First Class Daniel North received information from a trapper that an animal had been illegally released from one of his traps. After a brief investigation, contact was made with the suspect who admitted to releasing the trapped animal. The violator was charged with removal of wildlife from trap of another.

LOWNDES COUNTY

On March 12th, Sgt. Morty Wood, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and Ranger First Class Daniel North assisted with the 2016 NWTF Lowndes Longspurs Jakes' Hunt turkey school. During this classroom period students learned about turkey biology, turkey hunting tactics, calling turkeys, firearm and hunting safety. After the classroom portion of the training, students were allowed supervised target practice with their shotguns.



Sgt. Morty Wood and RFC Daniel North assisting with shotgun training at the Jakes' turkey hunting school in Lowndes County.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On March 12th, RFC Colte Shaske assisted the Brantley County Sheriff's Office and the Satilla River Keepers with the *Keep Brantley Beautiful* program. The program reaches out to the community to help clean up litter and unlawful dumping sites around the county. The volunteers cleaned a stretch of dirt road with numerous dumping sites. Approximately 10,000 pounds of trash was picked up including tires, household items, couches and televisions. All were taken to the appropriate disposal site.



GLYNN COUNTY

On March 9th, RFC David Brady made contact with two individuals whom had been picking shellfish in Jointer Creek. The two suspects had their possession limit for oysters, but neither had a fishing license. Both subjects were cited for Fishing without a license.