

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
November 13 – November 19, 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)

FANNIN COUNTY

On November 19th, RFC Cody Jones received information from RFC David Webb about a Fannin suspect killing too many undersized bucks. RFC Jones interviewed the suspect and he admitted to killing a 5 point buck on 11/7 and a 3 point buck on 11/11. The antlers were seized as evidence and a citation was issued.

On November 19th, RFC Cody Jones responded with Fannin Deputies and Forest Service to a residence of an arson suspect. Officers found that the suspect had set fires around the house and then left. RFC Jones used a fire extinguisher to put out one of the fires. No one was hurt and there was no property damaged. The suspect was arrested the next day.

PICKENS COUNTY

On November 16th, Cpl. James Keener secured an arrest warrant for theft by receiving stolen property for a subject from an investigation that was started on November 7th. On the 7th, Cpl. Keener was contacted by Pickens 911 in reference to a bear that was killed after reportedly charging at a woman and child. Cpl. Keener responded, took statements, and assessed the report. The bear, a juvenile male bear approximately 70 lbs., had been shot approximately 35 – 40 yards from the front porch area of the residence by the homeowner. There were no signs of damage to property and the bear never got closer to the woman and child than the location where it was shot. Upon inspection of the firearm used to kill the bear, a Mossberg 308 caliber rifle, it returned stolen. The subject was interviewed at that time and the rifle was seized. After meeting with detectives on the case, an arrest warrant was issued for the stolen firearm and a warning was issued to the subject for illegally killing the bear.

On November 19th, Cpl. James Keener completed an investigation that was started on November 6th. The investigation was in reference to two deer that had been killed by an individual who did not possess any hunting licenses. The subject had killed a 6pt. and 8pt. buck on November 5th and had been arrested on the 6th for an unrelated warrant. He was found to be in possession of one of the deer at time of arrest. The subject was interviewed and confessed to killing both deer. Both bucks were confiscated. The subject was subsequently charged with hunting without license, hunting without big game license, and failure to record / report deer harvest.

HARALSON COUNTY

On November 13th RFC Daniel Gray investigated a hunting w/o permission complaint. After a brief investigation, one individual was cited for hunting w/o permission, hunting w/o orange and hunting over bait.

BARTOW COUNTY

On November 13th, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Zack Hardy responded to a complaint of subjects hunting on Pine Log WMA with high powered rifles. At this time the WMA is closed for big game hunting. The officers located 3 hunters hunting on the area with high power rifles. One hunter had harvested a hog. Citations and warnings were issued for hunting on a closed WMA and hunting with illegal firearm.

On November 18th, Cpl. Byron Young was working the check in hunt on Pine Log WMA and located a dirt bike riding on the area. The rider was issued a citation for illegal use of ATV on a WMA.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On November 19th, Cpl. Byron Young responded to a call of jeeps riding on Allatoona Lake bed near Bent Trail on Allatoona WMA. Cpl. Young received information that a truck was stuck near the waterline of Allatoona Lake. Several hours later Cpl. Young located the owner of the truck and issued a citation for driving in unauthorized area on the WMA. Cpl. Young and the truck owner made arrangements to remove the truck from the area.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On November 13th, RFC Joe Hill patrolled Tallulah Gorge WMA and USFS property around Tallulah Falls for hunting activity. RFC Hill checked several deer/bear hunters and encountered two hunters who did not have a valid big game license. The Ranger issued citations to the two hunters for hunting big game without a big game license.

UNION/FANNIN COUNTIES

On November 19th, SGT Steve Seitz and RFC David Webb interviewed a Union County adult male in reference to taking over the season limit of antlered deer and harvest recording violations. RFC Webb received information that concluded the adult male had killed three bucks and he tagged one buck as a doe. RFC Webb was told the adult male killed an antlerless deer which he used his juvenile son's tag to record it. After the interview, the adult male admitted to killing three bucks and an antlerless deer. The adult male admitted to using his son's tag to record the antlerless deer. RFC Webb cited the adult male for hunting over the limit of antlered deer and failure to record deer harvest information. The adult male was warned for the other two recording violations. RFC Webb seized a seven point buck for evidence.

JACKSON COUNTY

On the morning of November 19th, RFC Mark Stephens, RFC Eric Isom, Ranger Chris Kernahan, and K-9 Colt conducted an area check on private property for illegal hunting activity in Jackson County. While on the area check, the Rangers made contact with three subjects who was found to be hunting big game over bait. Additionally, one of the subjects was found to be hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license. The subjects were issued citations for the violations.

On November 16th, RFC Eric Isom and his K9 partner Colt were checking a hunting without permission complaint near Braselton. They located a subject hunting without permission, without orange, and over bait.

BARROW COUNTY

On the morning of November 19th, Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Fort Yargo State Park, near one of the boat ramps. While on patrol, he made contact with multiple subjects who were found to be fishing by unlawful methods, fishing without licenses, and in possession of undersized largemouth bass. Through the course of the investigation, Ranger Kernahan found two of the subjects to be in possession of Methamphetamine. Additionally, one of the subjects was found to be in possession of Methamphetamine with the intent to distribute, and also providing a false name and date of birth. Ranger Kernahan arrested two of subjects for the violations, and later obtained warrants.

On the morning of November 20th, Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Barrow County for hunting activity. While on patrol, he made contact with a subject who was found to be hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and hunting deer without wearing the required fluorescent orange. Ranger Kernahan issued citations to the subject for the violations.

BANKS COUNTY

On November 19th, Sgt. Mike Burgamy and Cpl. Adam Loudermilk patrolled Banks County for hunting activity. During the patrol the officers checked 20 hunters and issued 9 citations and warnings.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

RICHMOND COUNTY

On November 13, 2016, Cpl. Ben Payne worked an ongoing complaint that started last deer season in south Richmond County. The complaint was that an adjoining landowner was hunting over bait, without licenses, and without fluorescent orange. The complainant was also worried that his livestock may be in danger since the stands were facing his pasture. After working the complaint all last deer season with no contacts made, Cpl.

Payne received word that the illegal hunting had started back up on opening day of firearms deer season this year. After patrolling the area, Cpl. Payne found additional stands from last year on an adjacent property. Cpl. Payne patrolled the area on Sunday and located two hunters hunting the stands. They were not wearing any fluorescent orange and the stands were still baited. The hunters were issued citations for hunting big game over bait and not wearing the required hunters orange. Further investigation showed that both individuals were licensed. The complainant was contacted and was encouraged by the apprehensions.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

On November 13, 2016 RFC Matherly and RFC Billips investigated a complaint of road hunting in Jefferson County. A button buck was located which had been shot from the road way. Several hunting camps were checked for the vehicle which was described by the complainant. The vehicle was not found at that time. The investigation is ongoing.

On Friday November 18, 2016 RFC Matherly received a call of a Bobcat which had bitten a lady in Wrens. The Bobcat was caught and taken to be tested to check for the rabies virus.

On November 19, 2016 Sgt. Boswell and RFC Matherly checked duck hunters in Jefferson county. One citation was issued for an unplugged shot gun.

WALTON COUNTY

On Nov. 16 Ranger Jason Harrison cited a deer processor for Sale of Game. The citation was written due to an investigation.

On Nov. 17 Ranger Jason Harrison and CPL. Eric Sanders worked a deer baiting complaint in Walton. Citations for Hunting Big Game over Bait and Hunting Deer without Fluorescent Orange were documented.

On Nov. 18 Ranger Jason Harrison cited a subject for Hunting Big Game over Bait.

On Nov. 19 Ranger Jason Harrison worked a Hunting without Permission Complaint near Social Circle. A Citation was written for Hunting without Permission. A warning for Hunting Deer without Fluorescent Orange was documented.

On Nov. 19 Ranger Jason Harrison wrote a citation for Hunting Big Game over Bait. A warning for Hunting Deer without fluorescent Orange was documented.

GREENE COUNTY

Cpl. Derrell Worth cited one subject for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and hunting big game over bait, one subject hunting without a WMA license, one subject for operating a vessel without personal flotation devices and two subjects for hunting without their Georgia waterfowl license.

ELBERT COUNTY

On November 19th Cpl. Mark Patterson documented one case of hunting big game over bait and one case of hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

OCONEE COUNTY

On November 13, RFC Phillip Nelson responded to a complaint of hunting without permission. Violations documented were two charges of hunting big game over bait, two charges of hunting deer without fluorescent orange, two charges hunting with illegal weapons, two charges of hunting without a big game license, two charges of hunting without a license, and two charges of failure to record harvest. A nine point buck and one doe were confiscated.

On November 18th RFC Tim Butler documented one case of hunting big game over bait.

NEWTON COUNTY

On 11/14/16 Ranger Schay completed an illegal hunting investigation. A violation of hunting big game over bait was documented.

On 11/20/16 Ranger Schay was patrolling Newton County for hunting activity. While checking duck hunters a violation of operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs was documented.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

BROOKS COUNTY

On November 15th, RFC Jon Penuel received a complaint from a landowner about someone hunting on his property without permission. Having noticed unusual activity on his property, the complainant set up a trail camera and got pictures of the suspect actively hunting on his land. RFC Penuel recognized the suspect in the photos as a subject he has dealt with in other trespassing incidents in the past. RFC Penuel located the suspect and charged him with hunting without permission.

On November 19th, RFC Jon Penuel received a complaint of suspect seen dumping a deer carcass along a public road. The complainant was able to get a tag number and vehicle description and provided that information to RFC Penuel who tracked the suspect down and charged him with littering.

COLQUITT COUNTY

On the evening of November 19th, Cpl. Greg Wade heard several gun shots coming from a known duck roost. While walking into the area, Cpl. Wade observed five hunters shooting ducks coming into the roost. When one of the hunters exited the pond, Cpl. Wade made contact with the suspect, which prompted the others to hide in the woods. After a little effort, Cpl. Wade rounded up the other hunters and issued sixteen citations to four adult hunters for hunting ducks over bait, hunting waterfowl after hours, failure to allow inspection, hunting without federal duck stamp, hunting without a license, hunting with an unplugged shotgun, hunting after obtaining the daily bag limit and hunting waterfowl with lead shot.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

IRWIN COUNTY

On November 19th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area during a check-in Big Game Hunt. Five license checks were performed. No violations were documented.

WHEELER COUNTY

On November 14th, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne responded to an in progress complaint of night hunting in Wheeler County. Upon arrival, RFC Horne met two Georgia State Troopers who had witnessed and apprehended the poacher. RFC Horne interviewed the poacher and issued three citations for hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

On November 13th, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne responded to an in progress complaint of hunting without permission in Wheeler County. Upon arrival, RFC Horne interviewed both poachers and issued eight citations, two for non-resident hunting without a license, two for non-resident hunting big game without a non-resident big game license, two for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange, and two for use/possession of drug related objects/materials. RFC Horne seized one glass smoking bong, one marijuana pipe with smoked residue, a pack of rolling papers, and a marijuana grinder with residue from the poachers.

DODGE COUNTY

On November 13th, Ranger First Class Allen Mills conducted a patrol of a hunting club. RFC Mills encountered three hunters that had harvested deer. Officer Mills discovered none of the hunters were licensed. Violations for non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting big game without a big game license, and hunting without obtaining a deer harvest record sheet were documented.

LAURENS COUNTY

On November 16th, Corporal Stiles and Ranger Burns were patrolling for deer hunting activity. Two hunters were checked for license compliance. Three violations were documented for hunting without fluorescent orange, hunting without license, and hunting without big game license.

On November 18th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger Burns, conducted a night patrol of Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area. No violations were detected.

TELFAIR COUNTY

On November 17th, Corporal Stiles and Ranger Burns patrolled Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area. Four hunters were checked for proper licenses. One violation was documented for hunting without a big game license.

LOWNDES COUNTY

On November 9th Ranger First Class Daniel North received information from an anonymous source concerning a poacher who had killed three bucks in two different counties. RFC. North began an investigation into the matter and discovered that the suspect had only tagged one of the bucks and two does. A few days later, RFC. North received more information about a fourth buck that had been killed by the same individual. After some more investigation and interview, the poacher admitted to killing the four bucks and then tagging two as does. Violations of taking over the season limit of antlered deer and recording and reporting requirements of game animals were documented and three sets of antlers were seized.



BERRIEN COUNTY

On 11-15-16, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey noticed a deer being skinned at a local hunting club. Cpl. Daughtrey stopped and talked to the hunter skinning the deer. The hunter had not recorded the deer on his deer harvest record. The harvest record requirements were explained to the hunter. The violation was documented.

COOK COUNTY

On the morning of 11-17-16, Cpl. Daughtrey responded to a hunting w/o permission complaint. Two illegal deer stands were located on the complainant's property. A deer had been killed out of one of the stands the week prior. Cpl. Daughtrey talked with both landowners and the property lines were established. Per the complainant's request, the violator was warned for hunting w/o permission.

WARE COUNTY

On November 19th, Corporal Jason Shipes encountered two subjects exiting the woods after their morning deer hunt. While checking for license requirements, Cpl. Shipes learned that one of the subjects failed to purchase any of the required licenses needed to hunt big game. Cpl. Shipes issued citations for hunting without a license and hunting big game without a license. The hunter also was provided the opportunity to purchase his license online.

CLINCH COUNTY

On November 17th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree was patrolling for deer hunting activity along Suwannee Creek when he drove into a hunting camp on Jack Gamble Road. Two hunters were preparing to skin a doe deer that one of them had shot earlier that day. Sgt. Dupree discovered the successful hunter had not recorded the deer on his harvest record before moving from harvest location. The hunter was issued a written warning for violation of recording requirements for a game animal. Also, Sgt. Dupree explained the new game check requirements to the hunter.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On November 13th, Corporal Chase Altman was patrolling Bullard Creek WMA. Two individuals using the shooting range were checked, with one warning being issued for not having a GORP pass for the range.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On November 19th Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel patrolled Tattnall County Landing on the Ochopee River for duck hunting activity. RFC Jarriel checked two hunters and wrote citations for hunting without a federal duck stamp, hunting waterfowl with illegal ammo, hunting waterfowl without Georgia waterfowl license.

TREUTLEN COUNTY

On November 19, 2016 after patrolling for duck hunting activity RFC Bobby Sanders encountered a deer hunter, hunting without a license, without a big game license, or a harvest record. The appropriate violations were documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

LIBERTY COUNTY

On Sunday November the 13th, RFC Thain was patrolling areas of Liberty County. RFC Thain noticed a vehicle coming out of county property where no one is allowed to hunt. The two men told RFC Thain that they were just taking a shortcut back to their houses. However, this shortcut was taking them through locked gates that they were not supposed to have access to. RFC Thain determined through investigation that the two men had been hunting the property for deer or hogs. The two men were cited for hunting without permission.