



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
February 19 – February 25, 2017

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- Acworth (Northwest)

No activity to report.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BANKS COUNTY

On February 25th, RFC Eric Isom and Sgt Mike Burgamy patrolled Wilson Shoals WMA for hunting activity. While on the WMA, the Game Wardens checked the shooting range. While at the range the Wardens assisted, several subjects in purchasing GORP (Georgia Outdoor Reactional Pass) and range violations were documented.

BARROW COUNTY

On February 21st, Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Barrow County for fishing related activity. While patrolling, he made contact with a subject who was found to be fishing without a license. Ranger Kernahan proceeded to document the violation. Upon verifying the subject's identity, Ranger Kernahan determined that the subject had multiple outstanding criminal arrest warrants. Ranger Kernahan placed the subject under arrest, and the subject was transported to jail.

HALL COUNTY

On February 25th, RFC Eric Isom and Sgt Mike Burgamy checked the boat ramps and parks that provide access to Lake Lanier. Twenty anglers were check and the Wardens issued multiple warnings for fishing without a license.

FORSYTH COUNTY

On February 25th, Ranger Chris Kernahan responded to a boating incident that occurred in Forsyth County, on Lake Lanier. The incident involved a canoe that capsized, due to the improper shifting of weight. An adult subject, and a juvenile subject were on board when the incident occurred. The adult subject was treated by EMS on scene for a laceration to his arm, and the juvenile subject was transported to the hospital with mild hypothermia.

UNION COUNTY

On February 19, 2017, SGT Steve Seitz and RFC David Webb patrolled for boating and fishing activity on Lake Nottely by vehicle. The game warden's checked fifteen fishing licenses and two boats on this date. Two citations and one warning were issued for fishing without a license.

Later this date, RFC Webb received a complaint of an illegal burn in Union County. Upon arrival, RFC Webb was met by an elderly woman who admitted that she did not know that it was illegal to burn trash in a cardboard box. After further investigation, it was determined that there were remnants of a flat screen television. The elderly woman had began the process of putting the fire out before RFC Webb arrived. RFC Webb explained to her only natural debris was permissible to burn. RFC Webb issued a written warning for unlawful burning violation.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On February 19th RFC Tim Butler patrolled for fishing activity. Three violations of fishing without a license were documented.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On February 24th, Game Warden RFC Bobby Timmerman conducted a patrol of Pollards Ponds on Tubman Road in Columbia County. While on patrol Game Warden RFC Timmerman wrote one citation for fishing without permission.

McDUFFIE COUNTY

On February 25th, Game Wardens Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Bobby Timmerman conducted a concentrated patrol of the McDuffie PFA for fishing and boating activity. While on patrol Game Wardens Cpl. Swain and RFC Timmerman checked over thirty anglers and twenty boaters. The PFA patrol resulted in Game Wardens detecting twelve violations ranging from failure to comply with license requirements to undersized fish.

WILKES COUNTY

On Sunday February 19th, RFC Matherly, Cpl. Patterson, and Sgt. Carter met with investigators in Wilkes County to search wells with the ROV for evidence to a crime. RFC Matherly was able to clear one well with the ROV by using the camera to look for the objects thought to be in the bottom of the well and found that there was nothing there. The second well the Game Wardens was found to be dry and the bottom could be seen with the aid of a flash light.

BURKE COUNTY

On February 23, RFC Jeff Billips assisted with a Career Day at Edmund Burke Academy. RFC Billips inspected a Seafood Seller in Waynesboro. RFC Billips checked fishermen at Jones Lake.

On February 25, RFC Grant Matherly and RFC Billips patrolled Di -Lane Plantation, Yuchi and Mead Farm WMA's. The Wardens checked for GORP compliance at Yuchi WMA firing range. The Wardens checked boaters and fishermen at the Savannah River.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

APPLING COUNTY

On February 25th, Corporal Chase Altman responded to a fishing w/o permission call from a landowner. Two individuals were found at a small pond, and after a brief investigation, were found to not have permission to be there. Two citations were issued for the violations.

On the evening of February 25th, Sergeant Jon Barnard and Corporal Chase Altman patrolled the Altamaha River for activity. Several vessels and fishing licenses were checked along the patrol, resulting in violations for fishing w/o a license, and operating a vessel w/o valid registration.

On February 25th, Corporal Chase Altman closed an illegal dumping investigation, resulting in the subjects offering to clean up the mess and a violation of illegal dumping less than 500 pounds being documented.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On February 19th, RFC Bobby Sanders was patrolling boat landings around Bullard Creek WMA. At one landing 25 vessels were inspected for boating safety equipment. Violations were documented for operating a vessel without registration, operating a vessel above idle speed while within 100' of shore/ object, and operating a vessel with improper lights.

On February 21st RFC Bobby Sanders was doing a night time patrol of Bullard Creek WMA when he observed a vehicle driving on a non-improved road. Two individuals were found to be hunting raccoons and had all the proper licenses. Violations were documented for driving on a non-improved road.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

On February 20, 2017 Ranger Cameron Dyal and RFC Bobby Sanders were patrolling boat landings along the Altamaha River when a vessel was checked that was found to be in possession of an undersized Stripe Bass (Striper). The proper violation was documented.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On the evening of February 25th, Sergeant Jon Barnard and Corporal Chase Altman patrolled along the Altamaha River. Over 10 vessels were checked, resulting in numerous violations being documented, which included; operating a vessel w/o valid registration, operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's, and a non-resident fishing w/o a non-resident license.

On February 19th RFC Bobby Sanders completed a littering case that ended with a violation documented for littering and another individual involved being arrested for an active warrant and was turned over to Toombs County Sheriff's Office.

BEN HILL COUNTY

On February 25th, Game Warden John A Stokes patrolled creeks and public fishing areas for fishing. Two violations were documented for fishing without a license at Paulk Park in Fitzgerald.

DODGE COUNTY

On February 19th, Game Warden Allen Mills conducted a patrol at the Dodge County Public Fishing Area. Two vessels and five anglers were checked for license and regulation compliance. Verbal guidance was given for minor violations. Officer Mills also encountered some of the local wildlife on the area.



Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake

On February 22nd, Game Warden Allen Mills was investigating a complaint of a person holding a deer without a permit. Officer Mills located the address and spoke with the suspect. She agreed to release the deer and to leave the gate open. One violation for holding/possessing a game animal without a permit was documented.

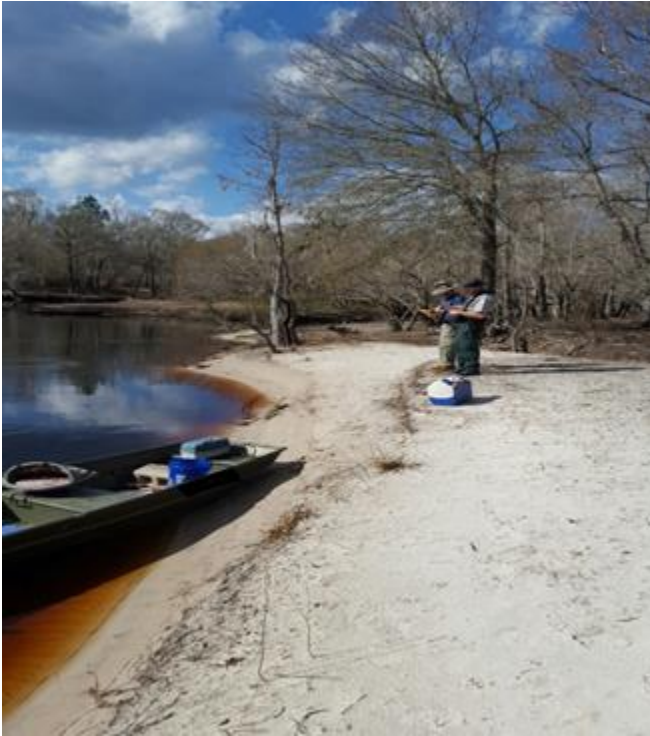
LAURENS COUNTY

On February 19th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area (PFA). Twelve visitors were checked for license and creel limit compliance. Three vessels were checked for boating safety equipment. One violation for fishing on a PFA without a Wildlife Management Area License was documented.

On February 19th, Corporal Dan Stiles conducted a vessel patrol on the Oconee River. Nine vessels were checked for registration and boating safety equipment. Five anglers were also checked for fishing licenses and creel limit compliance. No violations were detected.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On Sunday, February 19th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Ranger First Class Sam Williams conducted a vessel patrol on the Suwannee River. Several boaters and fishermen were encountered. One fisherman was found to not have a fishing license. The violation for non-resident fishing without a license was documented.



RFC Williams checking a fisherman on the Suwannee River in Echols County

PIERCE COUNTY

On Saturday, February 25th, Corporal Mark Pool & Ranger First Class Sam Williams responded to a call for assistance in locating an injured person. While riding an ATV near the Satilla River, a male subject was injured when his ATV overturned, landing on top of him. There were no roads into the area along the river swamp, so the officers and EMS responded by vessel. The officers located the victim and assisted EMS in placing the subject in their vessel for transport. The victim was then transported to a nearby boat ramp where an ambulance was waiting.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

MCINTOSH COUNTY

On February 19th, Capt. Bob Lynn, Sgt. Damon Winters, Cpl. Randy Aspinwall, and RFC Mark Day worked the Wayne County Hog Jam. The Hog Jam is a hog hunting competition held annually in Jesup Ga. Cpl. Aspinwall works with the wounded warrior project and provides hunts for the wounded warriors along with the Wayne and long County Sheriff's. Sgt. Winters and RFC Day conducted an I&E program for the warriors at the long County Sheriff's cabin on the Altamaha River Saturday night. The Hog Jam was a fantastic success.



GLYNN COUNTY

On February 19th, Cpl John Evans encountered two ATV's on a county road while patrolling a complaint area during the early morning hours. Evans conducted a traffic stop on the ATV's and immediately recognized that both subjects were highly intoxicated. Both were operating the ATV's with open beer's and after investigating further Evans determined that both had been out riding and drinking all through the night. Cpl. Evans conducted field sobriety tests on one of the subjects while the other refused to perform the tests. Both subjects were charged with DUI, littering, and transported to the detention center by Glynn county PD.

On February 25th, RFC Colte Shaske spoke with kids and adults about firearm safety at the annual Jakes day put on by the National Wild Turkey Federation at Camp Tolochee. RFC Shaske was able to bring the Lasershot shooting simulator and Game Management brought the Hides and Skulls Exhibit to show the kids.

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On February 24th, Rangers Colte Shaske, Judd Sears and Kate Hargrove assisted the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Georgia State Patrol and Brantley County with a road check traffic detail.

BRYAN/LIBERTY COUNTY

02/24/17 -Game Wardens Bill Bryson and Tim Morris received an in progress complaint of an individual trying to catch an alligator in Liberty County. The Game Wardens were able to locate the individual and advised him that it was illegal to catch and relocate alligators. The Game Wardens explained to the individual that only licensed nuisance trappers were allowed to relocate alligators.

02/25/17- Game Wardens Bill Bryson and Tim Morris patrolled the Ogeechee River for boating and striped bass fishing activity. While on vessel patrol the Game Wardens checked numerous boaters and anglers. The following violations were documented: operating vessel within 100' of object/shore above idle speed, operating vessel with insufficient PFD, and operating vessel with improper PFD.



K-9 Case is newest officer in Region 7. Case's handler is Game Warden Jack Thain.