



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**May 14 – May 20, 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)**

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl.'s Byron Young and Bart Hendrix patrolled Allatoona Lake and responded to several boating complaints. The officers issued 7 citations and warnings for violation of the 100' law, operating vessel without PFD's, allowing underage child to ride moving vessel without PFD and operating vessel without registration. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Zack Hardy received a tip in reference to marijuana plants in a remote location in western Bartow County. The Wardens foot patrolled the area and located several plants. The Wardens teamed up with the Bartow County Drug Task Force and removed the plants. The DTF is currently investigating the case further.



**Eight marijuana plants removed by GA Game Wardens and Bartow County DTF.**

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, RFC Zack Hardy completed an investigation of a person selling owl talons that was made into a necklace. RFC Hardy interviewed the suspect and she confessed to the sale of the necklace made with owl talons. The suspect was charged with unlawful hunting/possession birds or parts.



**Necklace made with owl talons.**

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, RFC Zack Hardy was notified by Bartow County Fire Arson Investigator of a fire that was set in a location that one of the DNR LED Spartan surveillance cameras was set in an effort to determine who was unlawfully dumping and burning in that location. The surveillance camera got pictures of one suspect that was at the location approximately 20 minutes before the Bartow County Fire Department arrived on scene. That suspect was not located that evening.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, RFC Zack Hardy was on routine patrol in that area and observed a white male riding a bicycle that matched the description from the suspect from the previous day. RFC Hardy went out with that suspect and contacted the Arson Investigator. The suspect was transported to the Bartow County Jail for further interview. From the interview, the suspect confessed to setting four different fires in that location. Charges of Arson 1<sup>st</sup> degree, two counts of Arson 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, and three counts of criminal trespass were taken out on the suspect.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, CPL Bart Hendrix responded to Red Top Mountain State Park in reference to a teenage girl being critically injured by a falling tree the night before. The teenage girl was treated at Cartersville Medical Center and later air lifted to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga for treatment of her injuries. Unfortunately the teenage girl did not survive her injuries. The incident is still under investigation.

### **POLK COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Chad Cox attended a career day at Eastside Elementary School in Rockmart. He spoke to the kids about his job, showed them animal skins, and had his patrol boat equipped with several PFD's to make sure they practice water safety this upcoming summer.

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray responded to Douglas County to assist with the search of a missing 13 year old child. The two Game Wardens along with MCCD and other volunteers searched several wooded areas. The child was located after dark by a Douglas County Sheriff Deputy.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown, Cpl. Chad Cox and RFC Zach Hardy assisted with the 16th Annual Roger Bruce Family Fun Day at Sweetwater Creek State Park. The Game Wardens ran the DNR shooting and fishing simulators and gave boat rides.

### **FLOYD COUNTY**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Mike Barr was on patrol on Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area (PFA) when he found to young men fishing in an unauthorized area which is the regulation lake used by Oglethorpe Power for power generation. The men said their friend told them it was a great place to fish. Both men were issued citations for fishing in closed waters on a PFA.



**Fishing areas are regulated at Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area.**

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Mike Barr and Parks Officer Matt McDaris held a road block at Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area (PFA). Both officers had received complaints of people with alcohol on the PFA which is operated by the DNR Parks Division. Alcohol can't be possessed on the area by regulation. The officers checked to ensure arriving guest had their parking pass, checked for possession of fish, and possession of alcohol. Unfortunately, several people attempted to bring alcohol into the facility. They were given written warnings and elected to dispose of the alcohol.



**Parks Officer Matt McDaris issues a written warning to a person in possession of alcohol at Rocky Mountain PFA.**

## **Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)**

No Activity to report.

## **Region III- Thomson (East Central)**

### **CLARKE COUNTY**

On May 14<sup>th</sup> RFC Tim Butler documented several violations for fishing without a license and operating a vessel without a personal flotation device.

### **JASPER COUNTY**

On May 20<sup>th</sup> CPL Julian Wilkins, RFC Phillip Nelson, and intern Crymes assisted Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center with Jakes Day by presenting a mini-boat program.

### **OCONEE COUNTY**

On May 14<sup>th</sup> RFC Tim Butler documented violations for fishing without a license and operating a vessel without personal flotation devices.

## **WALTON COUNTY**

On May 16<sup>th</sup> RFC Tim Butler located a vehicle parked illegally in the woods near Briscoe Reservoir. RFC Butler was able to determine a vessel had been unloaded from the truck. After about an hour wait, three kayakers returned to the truck while fishing. All three individuals were issued citations for fishing without permission.

## **Region IV- Macon (West Central)**

No activity to report.

## **Region V- Albany (Southwest)**

### **GRADY COUNTY**

On May 20, 2017 Cpl. Tony Cox responded to a fishing without permission complaint in Grady County. One subject was cited for fishing without permission.

## **Region VI- Metter (Southeast)**

### **EFFINGHAM COUNTY**

On May 20<sup>th</sup> RFC Jordan Crawford and SGT Brian Hobbins patrolled river landings along the Savannah looking for fishing and boating activity. During the patrol one subject was arrested for boating under the influence of alcohol and operating a vessel with an insufficient number of PFD's on board.

### **WARE COUNTY**

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Ranger First Class Sam Williams conducted a high visibility patrol at several boat landings on the Satilla River in Ware County. While at Jamestown boat landing, the officers observed a boat without current registration. After conducting a boating safety inspection on the vessel, the operator was provided guidance on registering the vessel and the violation was documented.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Sam Williams conducted a boating safety patrol at Laura Walker State Park Lake. During the patrol, a vessel was encountered operating without enough personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board for the number of occupants in the vessel. The violation for operating with insufficient PFDs was documented.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree responded to a vehicle vs. bear incident on US Hwy 1 south of Waycross. The adult male bear weighed approximately 275 lbs. The bear was removed from the highway.

### **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Ranger First Class Sam Williams patrolled boat landings along the St. Mary's River in Charlton County. While at Camp Pinkney boat landing, a person was observed fishing from the river bank. The officers conducted a fishing license check and discovered he was not in possession of a fishing license. The violation for fishing without a license was documented.

## **Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)**

### **LONG COUNTY**

May 20, 2017, Captain Bob Lynn and RFC Patrick Gibbs assisted with weighing in the days catch at the 6th annual Fishing for a Cure panfish tournament in Long County. The tournament raised enough money to assist six families with special needs children by presenting a \$12,000 check to reach family.



**GLYNN COUNTY**

May 20, 2017, Sgt. Mark Carson assisted with a security detail on the Turtle River as Georgia Power demolished Plant McManus. The demolition took 9 seconds to bring down the building and smoke stack.

