



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
November 12-18, 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)

CHATTOOGA COUNTY

On November 14th, GWFC McConkey responded to a complaint of a buck deer being shot from the road in Chattooga County. After investigation of the incident. Three subjects from Alabama were identified and later located. Charges are pending on the violations of hunting from a motor vehicle, hunting from a public road, and discharging a firearm from a public road.

On November 15th, GWFC McConkey and GW Callaway patrolled baited locations in Chattooga County. During the patrol, two hunters were found and charged or warned for hunting over bait and hunting deer without 500 square inches of fluorescent orange.

DADE COUNTY

On November 18th, Game Warden Sgt. Mike Barr and GW Nolan Callaway were patrolling in the Rising Fawn area. After checking a complaint area, they noticed a flock of turkeys and several jakes fighting with each other.



Jakes fighting with each other in Rising Fawn, Georgia.

FLOYD COUNTY

On November 6th, GWFC McConkey completed an investigation into hunting without permission in Floyd County. The Game Warden was contacted about hunting items found on the complainant's property. The items were used to identify the three hunters who were found to be illegally coyote and deer hunting on the complainant's property. Charges for hunting without permission, hunting without license, and hunting without orange were made against the three hunters.

On November 18th, opening day of duck season, Corporal Ben Cunningham and Game Warden Kalem Burns checked a group of six duck hunters who had anchored their boat and were hunting standing in waste deep water on the Coosa River. The Game Wardens explained to the group that they have to hunt from their boat because once they step out of their boat, they were trespassing and hunting without permission. All the individuals received a warning.

On November 18th, Corporal Ben Cunningham and Game Warden Kalem Burns received an in- progress complaint of a subject hunting without permission. The subject was supposedly parked at a neighbor's house and was walking to the complainant's property. After making contact with the subject, the Game Wardens discovered that he was actually not hunting on the complainant's land, but on land he had permission to hunt on as well as another plot of land that he did not have permission to hunt on. Owner of property has been contacted.

On November 19th, Corporal Ben Cunningham and Game Warden Kalem Burns were patrolling brushy branch when they noticed a small john boat with three individuals leaving the dock. The Game Wardens flagged the boat down before the boat motored too far. After inspection of the vessel the Game Wardens discovered there were no Personal Flotation Devices (life jackets) on the boat, one of the individuals was a child under 13, and the boat had no registration. The Game Wardens explained the multiple violations to the occupants and the operator was issued citations.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BANKS COUNTY

On November 12th, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk received information about a subject that had taken two antlerless deer in Banks County. Cpl. Loudermilk was able to locate the suspect and citations were issued for the violation.

On November 16th, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk was notified by a member of a hunting club that an antlerless deer had been taken in the past couple of days, and the carcass was left near the hunting camp. During the investigation a suspect was identified and it was determined that the suspect had taken three antlerless deer that week. The suspect was issued citations for the violations.

On November 18th, Cpl Adam Loudermilk and Cpl. Eric Isom patrolled Banks County for waterfowl hunters. During the patrol, they located two hunters hunting waterfowl after hours. Citations were issued to the individuals for the violations.

JACKSON COUNTY

On November 18th, Game Warden Cpl. Eric Isom checked five duck hunters. One was found hunting with an unplugged shotgun. The violation was documented. Later that day Cpl. Isom utilized his K9 partner Colt to locate a subject hunting deer over bait, without wearing orange, and an eight-point buck kill. The violations were documented and the deer confiscated. In addition, Cpl. Isom located another subject who killed over the bag limit of antlered deer. The spike was seized. Both deer were donated to a family in need.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

MORGAN COUNTY

While patrolling on opening day of duck season, Sgt. Matt Garthright located several groups of duck hunters. He checked a total of 14 duck hunters that morning. All were in compliance but one, who did not have a Federal Duck Stamp. This hunter was warned for hunting without a federal duck stamp. He got in compliance by going ahead and buying a duck stamp that day.

NEWTON COUNTY

On November 13th, Ranger Dan Schay and RFC Ricky Boles worked a hunting without permission investigation in Newton County. During the course of the investigation, violations of hunting without permission and recording requirements for game animals and birds were documented. A 9 point buck was confiscated as well. Later that day Ranger Dan Schay completed another investigation and documented violations of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

On November 19th, while patrolling Newton County for hunting and fishing activity, Ranger Schay documented a violation of fishing without permission.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On November 14th Cpl David Allen and SGT Matt Garthright patrolled Hancock County for Deer Hunting Activity. Violations for Hunting Big Game Over Bait, Hunting Deer Without Fluorescent Orange, Misdemeanor Possession of Marijuana, and Failure to record Deer Harvest were documented.

On November 18th and 19th Cpl David Allen Patrolled Hancock County for Deer and Duck Hunting. Violations for Illegal Bucks, Unlawful dumping of a Vessel, Unplugged Shotgun, Hunting Big Game Over Bait, Target Practicing on WMA, After Hours Duck Hunting, and Hunting Deer Without Fluorescent Orange were Documented.

WALTON COUNTY

On November 17th Ranger Jason Harrison Patrolled Walton County for Deer Hunting Activity. One Violation for Hunting Big Game Over Bait was Documented.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

FAYETTE COUNTY

On November 17th Cpl. Travis Sweat and Ranger Charlie Follin checked a complaint area. They located a hunter hunting deer over bait and cited him for this and for hunting without permission. They used RFC Keith Page and his K9 to locate the deer the hunter had shot.

HENRY COUNTY

On November 16th RFC Kevin Godbee checked an industrial area where he had a complaint of hunting without permission. He encountered one hunter and cited him for hunting without permission and hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

On November 11th RFC Kevin Godbee checked a baited deer stand he had found. He cited a hunter for hunting big game over bait and hunting without fluorescent orange.

JASPER COUNTY

On November 18th RFC Hays received information that a convicted felon was hunting on United States Forest Service property in Jasper County. RFC Hays went to the location given to him by a complainant and located the subject returning to his vehicle with a high power rifle. A check of the subject's criminal history revealed that the subject was a convicted felon. The subject was placed under arrest for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. During the arrest, RFC Hays patted the subject down for any weapons on his person and located a container with marijuana in the subject's pants pocket. While RFC Hays was inventorying the subject's vehicle, before having it towed, he located a large quantity of crystal methamphetamine along with needles in the vehicle. The subject was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of marijuana less than one ounce, possession methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony and possession of drug related objects.

LAMAR COUNTY

On the morning of November 18th RFC Keith Page and Sgt. Tony Fox surveilled a pond that Page had previously documented as being baited for ducks. Shortly after daylight the wardens heard shooting in the vicinity of the pond and, upon checking the location, found three subjects hunting the baited area. All three were cited for hunting ducks over bait. Additionally, one of the hunters was found to have neither a hunting license nor a Georgia migratory bird stamp – this hunter was charged for these infractions as well.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

SEMINOLE COUNTY

On November 18th, Game Wardens Bob Holley, Tony Cox, and David Jones located a baited duck pond and cited nine subjects for hunting ducks over bait.

THOMAS COUNTY

On November 13th, Game Warden Eric White responded to a complaint area regarding subjects hunting from the road. Warden White setup surveillance on the area and later observed a vehicle traveling down the road and illuminating multiple fields and tree lines with a spotlight. White initiated a traffic stop and made contact with the three subjects in the vehicle, and after a brief investigation he located a hand-held spotlight, a loaded rifle, and an illegal suppression device the subjects had attempted to hide in the vehicle. The three subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting without permission. After conferring with prosecutors and ATF authorities, Warden White charged the subject who owned the rifle and the homemade suppression device with hunting with a suppressor.

LEE COUNTY

On November 18th, Game Warden Al Greer attempted to make a traffic stop on a vehicle. Greer pursued the vehicle for approximately 30 minutes. The chase ended in Sumter County, when the subject exited the vehicle and jumped into Lake Blackshear. The incident is still under investigation and charges are pending.

On November 17th, Game Warden Jesse Harrison conducted an investigation in reference to an illegally killed buck. The buck was confiscated and the subject was charged with hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license. Warnings were given for failure to record deer harvest and hunting without hunter safety certification.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

SCREVEN COUNTY

On November 15th, Corporal Shaymus McNeely responded to a call regarding hunting without permission in the Rocky Ford area. The complainant advised that he observed a person stop and shoot a deer from the road adjacent to his property. Cpl. McNeely investigated the scene and was able to identify a suspect from evidence collected and information from the complainant. Cpl. McNeely made contact with the suspect who admitted to shooting a button buck from the window of his truck with a crossbow. Violations of hunting without permission, hunting from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting without a license were documented.

APPLING COUNTY

On November 17th Corporal Chase Altman closed out a two-week long investigation on a complaint of illegal use of an ATV on a WMA and placing of bait on Moody Forest WMA. One trail camera was collected and later returned to the individual. The violations of illegal use of an ATV on a WMA as well as illegal placing of bait on a WMA were documented.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On the morning of November 18th Sergeant Jon Barnard and Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders were patrolling for waterfowl hunting activity. Several individuals were located and found to be hunting in a beaver pond baited with corn. Violations for hunting waterfowl over bait were documented and the ducks that were harvested were confiscated and donated to a local youth home. In the process of locating the duck hunters, RFC Sanders encountered a deer hunter who was found to be hunting without a hunting license, big game license, harvest record, or an orange vest those violations were documented as well.



On the evening of November 18th, Corporal Chase Altman and RFC Bobby Sanders located several individuals hunting waterfowl after legal hours, the violations were documented accordingly.

EVANS COUNTY

On November 18th Sergeant Jon Barnard was called to a complaint of an individual hunting on private property without permission. Shortly after arriving the hunter was located and the violation for hunting without permission was documented.

IRWIN COUNTY

On November 17th, Game Warden Allen Mills conducted a patrol at the Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) during an either sex check-in hunt. 27 hunters were checked for license and WMA regulation compliance. Violations for hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road, hunting without a big game license and possession/transportation of a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a WMA were documented.



Deer harvested at Alapaha River WMA

On November 16th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Nine hunters were checked for licenses and compliance with WMA regulations. No violations were detected



WHEELER COUNTY

While on patrol looking for deer hunting violations, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne observed a person hunting deer without wearing a fluorescent orange vest. RFC Horne documented one violation on the hunter for hunting deer without wearing a fluorescent orange vest.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On Sunday, November 12th, Game Wardens Patrick Dupree and Sam Williams patrolled in the St. George area for dog deer hunting activity. During the patrol, several hunters were encountered in active dog deer races. While checking the hunting licenses of one of these groups, a subject was observed driving away in a truck before the Game Wardens could get to him. After checking the licenses of the remaining hunters, the officers began following the tire sign of the truck that drove away. A short time later, the truck and hunter were located. When the driver was questioned, it was discovered that he was not in possession of any of the required licenses. 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 were documented.

A short time later, on an adjacent hunting club, another group of hunters were located. While checking for licenses and required permit numbers, Game Warden Sam Williams observed what appeared to be a hand rolled marijuana cigarette behind the ear of one of the hunters. The officers questioned the subject and placed him under arrest. Additional marijuana cigarettes were located on him. A deputy with Charlton County Sheriff's Office was contacted and once on scene, the subject's vehicle was searched and more marijuana was found in a bag. The subject was turned over to Charlton County S.O. and charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana. He was issued a written warning for operating a motor vehicle without the dog-deer permit number displayed.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On November 16th, Game Warden Joseph Cowart and Sergeant Patrick Dupree were on patrol for dog-deer hunting activity on Woodpecker Route when the officers observed two vehicles parked on the shoulder of the road. The occupants of the vehicles were on top of their dog boxes with loaded firearms in hand. Citations were issued to both hunters for hunting big-game from a public road.

CLINCH COUNTY

On November 17th, Game Warden Joseph Cowart and Corporal Jason Shipes were on patrol on Highway 177 East of Fargo when GW Cowart and Cpl. Shipes observed a vehicle parked on the shoulder of the road. One occupant was standing on top of the dog box of the vehicle. Wardens Cowart and Shipes stopped to do a license check of the occupants, but after a brief investigation, it was found that both subjects had their firearms out and readily accessible. Both subjects received citations for hunting big-game from a public road. One of the subjects was also cited for non-resident hunting without a non-resident big-game hunting license.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Saturday November the 18th, Game Warden RFC Thain was conducting patrols for wildlife violations in Bryan County. Several hunters were checked and most were hunting deer with dogs. One hunter was cited for hunting without a license.

LIBERTY COUNTY

On Nov. 16th, Game Warden Cpl. Jay Morgan found a man who was working for a roofing contractor, disposing of roofing shingles into the dumpsters at the Liberty County recycling/dump station on Ft. Morris Road. The roofer was likely dumping the shingles there to avoid any fees associated with the lawful disposal of asphalt shingles. Cpl. Morgan contacted the Liberty Co. Code Enforcement Officer who responded and cited the man for unlawful use of the dumping station. The recycling/dump station is only for the use of local residents dumping household trash and commercial contractors are required to take their waste to the county landfill.

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On November 17, Game Warden David Brady was patrolling along Highway 110 in Brantley County when he encountered several men that were hunting along the road. As Brady stopped to investigate he was able to determine that the men were running deer dogs on a property that was not permitted. The men were charged for hunting deer with dogs on unpermitted property and hunting without fluorescent orange.

A short time later was, Brady was in-route to meet a complainant when he encountered two trucks on a rural road in the county. While talking to the men in the first truck, Brady could smell the strong odor of burnt marijuana coming from the truck. Once he secured the driver and passenger he made contact with the second truck, which also smelled like marijuana. Brantley County Sheriff's office and Georgia State patrol responded to Brady to assist. The investigation yielded four arrests for possession of marijuana, outstanding warrants and driving under the influence (DUI drugs).

On November 18, Game Warden David Brady conducted a morning patrol of a local deer dogging club when he encountered several hunters. As he conducted license checks he could smell the strong odor of burnt marijuana coming from one of the trucks. As Brady continued with the checks he recognized one the men from an arrest the previous year. After a thorough investigation, one man was arrested and charged with hunting under the influence (HUI drugs), possession of marijuana and possession of multiple licenses.

On November 17th, Cpl. John Evans was patrolling for night hunting activity when he noticed someone walking the edge of the clear cut he was watching. Cpl. Evans snuck around to the other side of the cut and used a slash pile to close the distance between him and the suspect. Once he was within about 40 yards, Cpl. Evans turned on his flashlight and confronted the suspect. The man immediately threw down the rifle he was carrying and started trying to distance himself from the gun. Cpl. Evans searched him for weapons and asked about the gun. He denied having a gun at first and then kept saying it wasn't his and he was just getting it for a friend. Cpl. Evans ran a criminal history on the suspect and found him to be a convicted felon. He was arrested and charged with Hunting deer at night and Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

CAMDEN COUNTY

On November 18, Game Warden David Brady completed an investigation regarding a suspect from Florida that had killed a deer at night in Georgia. Brady and Game Warden Colte Shaske met with Florida Fish and Wildlife and conducted interviews of the suspects. The investigation yielded multiple charges for hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a vehicle. FWC also had multiple charges on the suspects and felony Lacey Act charges are being considered.