



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**November 19-25, 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)**

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On the evening of November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Sgt. Mike Barr assisted some youth hunters in hunting for deer. The youth were accompanied by their parents who were also licensed hunters. Jacob Turner, age 10 from Adairsville, made a good shot on a doe at approximately 100 yards when it came into a food plot during the last 30 minutes of legal shooting time. He was proud of his harvest!



*Jacob Turner, age 10, of Adairsville harvested a doe during a youth hunt on Thanksgiving evening.*

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Byron Young and Warden Zack Hardy located a hunter on Barnsley Gardens Property near Adairsville. The hunter did not have permission to hunt the property. The hunter was also within 200 yards of a baited area. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting without permission and a warning for hunting big game over bait.

### **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bart Hendrix and Warden Frank Pucci checked a duck swamp on US Army Corps property. The area is closed to firearm hunting. The Wardens located 4 hunters shooting ducks in the swamp. The hunters had all the required licenses. The hunters were issued citations for hunting without permission.

### **CHATTOOGA COUNTY**

On November 21st, GWFC McConkey assisted Sgt. Barr with an investigation of poaching deer and possible drug manufacturing. During Sgt. Barr's investigation into the poaching activity, items were located on the property that were thought to be involved in the manufacturing of meth. A picture of the items received from Sgt. Barr was shown to local drug investigators by GWFC McConkey. They also believed the items to be involved in the manufacturing of drugs. Lookout Mountain Drug Task Force officers and Georgia Probation officers were contacted about the incident. All officers responded to the area and made contact with the probationers who were found in possession of meth and other items related to the drugs. Three subjects were arrested by the Lookout Mountain Drug Task Force and local investigators.



*Jar found in area of reported poaching/drug activity suspected to be meth cook-off jar.*

On November 22nd, GWFC McConkey checked a local hunter in Chattooga County. The hunter had taken a five point buck on that morning's hunt. The hunter had failed to properly record / report his harvest per state law and was found to be hunting deer without the required 500 square inches of fluorescent orange. The hunter was charged with the two violations.

On November 23rd, GWFC McConkey responded to a possible hunting incident in Chattooga County. The hunter was located and checked by local EMS with no injuries found. The hunter had started climbing a tree to hunt when the top section of the climbing stand came loose from the tree. The hunter fell back and hung from the lower section of the stand by his feet. The stand was inspected during the investigation and it was found the hunter did not properly lock the cable on the upper section of the stand before climbing the tree. The cable pulled loose from the stand making the hunter fall. No hunting violations were found during the investigation.

On November 25th, GWFC McConkey was patrolling Chattooga County for hunting activity. One hunter was located and checked after an evening hunt. The hunter was found to be hunting without the required big game license and resident hunting license required to hunt deer in the state. The hunter was charged for the big game license violation and written a warning for the resident hunting license violation.

On November 25th, GWFC McConkey was working Chattooga County for night hunting deer activity. The officer observed a truck come down the road, turn around near his location, return to the field and shine the field using the headlights of the truck. The truck backed out of the field and was stopped by the officer after continuing down the road. The subjects were found with a loaded .308 rifle in the rear seat and a .22 mag rifle next to the passenger. The subjects were charged with hunting from the road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting deer at night. One subject was additionally charged with providing a false name and date of birth to an officer. He was found to have provided a family members information after he was unable to provide any identification.

## **DADE COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Sgt. Mike Barr and GWFC Roger McConkey worked a complaint of night hunting near Rising Fawn, Georgia in Dade County. At approximately 12:40AM, GWFC McConkey saw a vehicle come down a road and turn sideways in the road towards a field. The vehicle then turned on a LED light mounted on top of the vehicle. The light was spotlighting several deer in the field. GWFC McConkey stopped the vehicle and found three occupants, a loaded rifle, and a handgun. All three were arrested and charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road. The case is pending in the Probate Court of Dade County.



*Bright LED light bars are now being used to spotlight deer at night.*

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Sgt. Mike Barr responded to a call of a person hunting without permission on private property north of Trenton off Highway 11. The man and son who owned the property had seen movement in the woods. Thinking it was a deer, they looked at the man with optics. They then realized it was an illegal hunter hunting deer without fluorescent orange. They made contact with the person and remained with the person until Sgt. Barr arrived. The man said he received permission from a person who rents an adjacent home. The person did not own the land the illegal hunter was found on. After interviewing the man, it was discovered he had also hunted the same area in September and October 2017. The man had not obtained a deer harvest record nor had downloaded the Go Outdoors App in order to record his deer harvest. He was charged with hunting deer without fluorescent orange and hunting without obtaining a deer harvest record. He was warned for hunting without permission at the direction of the landowner. Charges are pending in the Probate Court of Dade County.

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Sgt. Mike Barr was patrolling on Griff Johnson Road in Dade County. He saw a vehicle pulled into the woods on private property. While waiting on the hunter to return to his truck, Sgt. Barr began scanning the woods using binoculars. He witnessed a man walking in the woods wearing camouflage with archery equipment. The man did not have any fluorescent orange on. Orange is required by archery hunters during firearms deer season for the safety of the hunter so he is not mistaken for game. The man was from Tennessee and admitted he did not have any fluorescent orange and that he knew he was supposed to wear orange. His non-resident licenses were valid. He was charged with hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange. The case is pending in the Probate Court of Dade County.

## **FLOYD COUNTY**

On November 20th, 2017, Corporal Ben Cunningham and Game Warden Kalem Burns received a complaint from a property owner that he witnessed an individual hunting on Georgia National Guard property without fluorescent orange. The land owner also managed to get the vehicle tag of the suspected hunter. After the game wardens received the complaint, they reached out to the National Guard to see if anyone is allowed to hunt their property. The National Guard responded that no one is allowed to hunt that property because it is a safety hazard. The Game Wardens then ran the tag of the suspected hunter and after locating a current address, confronted him at his house. The suspect admitted to hunting on National Guard land, not wearing fluorescent orange, and not properly tagging a deer he admitting to killing on another property. The individual received a citation for hunting without permission and warnings for not wearing fluorescent orange and failure to record deer harvest.

On November 23rd, 2017, Corporal Ben Cunningham and Game Warden Kalem Burns were patrolling a section of private property looking for illegal hunting. Corporal Shawn Elmore and Game Warden Nolan Calloway were nearby just in case assistance was needed. While patrolling the area the Cpl. Cunningham and GW Burns noticed an individual dressed in full camouflage and wearing a fluorescent vest. The game wardens approached the individual and asked the individual if he was hunting. The subject said he was not hunting only trying to see who was on their property. The game wardens asked why the subject was wearing hunting clothes and the subject responded that is just what they had handy to wear to come check out their property. After more questioning, and finding the same type of cigarettes butts the subject was smoking in a nearby deer stand, the game wardens decided to call in Corporal Brooks and his K9 partner Taz to try and locate a weapon. After searching the location, Taz located a loaded rifle in a nearby barn where the subject has also parked his car. The subject had no hunting licenses and had previously had his hunting privileges suspended. The subject was arrested for hunting without license, hunting while privileges were suspended, and interference in a ranger's duties.

## **GORDON COUNTY**

On November 25th, Game Warden Cpl. Shawn Elmore and Game Warden Nolan Calloway were checking an area on Chitwood Rd in reference to a hunting without permission complaint. During the patrol the game wardens located 5 people hunting without permission. During the investigation it was determined that two of the subjects had killed deer in 2016 without permission. A spike and 10 point were confiscated. A fictitious lease agreement with one of the individuals and a fictitious landowner was presented to the game wardens. The investigation into the fictitious lease agreement with forged names is still ongoing. Several citations and warnings were issued to the group.



*Game Warden Nolan Callaway with 2 confiscated bucks that were killed without permission during the 2016 season.*

### **POLK COUNTY**

On November 25th, 2017, Corporal Ben Cunningham and Game Warden Kalem Burns were working a night hunting detail off a rural road. The game wardens noticed a car driving extremely slowly down the road, turn into a field, turn back onto the road, turn around, and pull back into the field where they had turned earlier. After about a minute, a shot was heard from the direction the car was parked. The game wardens drove toward the vehicle from where they were hiding and proceeded to make a traffic stop on the vehicle which had tried to turn around. The passenger quickly jumped out but after strong verbal commands, the passenger stayed at the front of the vehicle. The driver remained in the vehicle. After a short interview of both parties, the subjects denied having a gun or firing shots. Both the driver and passenger admitted to having open containers in the vehicle and had both been drinking. After scanning the area the game wardens located a loaded pistol near the car. Both occupants denied the pistol being theirs. The game wardens then noticed the smell of marijuana coming from the car, and after a search of the vehicle, several small baggies of marijuana were located along with a small baggy of pills. Eventually the passenger admitted to being the owner of the drugs, the gun, and admitted to firing the shot. The passenger was arrested for convicted felon possessing a firearm, possession of marijuana less than an ounce, and interference in a ranger's duties.



*Game Wardens recovered a handgun and suspected drugs on a night hunting stop.*

## **FANNIN COUNTY**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Cody Jones seized a Mule Deer from a taxidermy studio that had been killed in Colorado. The intact head of the deer is in violation of CWD (chronic wasting disease) laws. Cpl. Jones has interviewed the hunter that harvested the deer in Colorado, and is actively working an investigation with officers from that state.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jones responded to a night hunting complaint where someone had shot a deer while on foot behind a residence. Cpl. Jones found that the deer had been shot in an area baited with corn. He also seized a trail camera that was watching the area. A search warrant was granted for the camera and the suspect was identified. The suspect was interviewed, confessed, and was subsequently charged with hunting deer at night and hunting big game over bait.

## **GILMER COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Casey Jones and Warden Travis Shrader issued warnings for hunting without license on person and hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

## **MURRAY COUNTY**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Casey Jones and Warden Travis Shrader issued warnings for hunting without deer harvest record, (2) fishing without license on person, and issued a citation for hunting big game over bait.

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jones and Warden Shrader issued a citation for hunting big game over bait.

Cpl. Jones and Warden Shrader also started an investigation on November 20<sup>th</sup>, after a traffic stop by a local agency. The investigation has resulted in the confiscation of 7 deer at this time for violations including hunting from a public road, hunting from a motor vehicle, hunting without permission, taking antlerless deer, and multiple harvest record violations. Interviews have been conducted with several suspects and charges are forthcoming.

## **PICKENS COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Casey Jones and Warden Travis Shrader issued citations to two individuals for hunting big game over bait.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sgt. James Keener issued citations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange and hunting big game over bait. Warnings were also issue for hunting deer without fluorescent orange and a deer harvest record violation. A 3 pt. buck was confiscated that had been killed in the baited area.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Cody Jones answered a complaint involving two suspects. One subject was arrested, the other released. The subject arrested was hunting while his privileges were suspended from a night deer hunting conviction in 2016. He was also hunting without a license, hunting without big game license, hunting deer without fluorescent orange, and hunting without permission. The other subject was also charged with hunting without permission.

## **WHITFIELD COUNTY**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Warden Mark Moyer issued citations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange and hunting big game over bait.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Warden Moyer issued a citation for hunting big game over bait.

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

### **BANKS COUNTY**

On November 24-25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk and Nails Creek Baptist Church Men's Ministry held the annual Banks County Youth Deer Hunt. A total of 24 kids, ranging from ages 9-16 years old, hunted for two days and harvested 24 deer.

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Chris Kernahan conducted multiple area checks on private property in Barrow County. During the area checks, he found various subjects hunting deer before legal hours, hunting deer over bait, and hunting without hunter education. The violations were addressed.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Kernahan completed two separate investigations reference illegally taken deer. At the conclusion of the investigations, he found that multiple subjects had hunted deer without licenses, hunted deer without big game licenses, hunted deer without wearing fluorescent orange, and violated reporting and recording requirements for deer. The violations were addressed.

### **HALL COUNTY**

On Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, RFC Kevin Goss encountered two hunters in a deer stand hunting over corn with no orange on. Both hunters were issued citations for not wearing orange and hunting over bait.

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Isom finished an investigation received from a complaint. Cpl. Isom along with his K9 partner Colt located a subject hunting without permission and without wearing orange. In addition, Cpl. Isom had evidence that the subject had killed an 8-point, 6-point, and 4-point buck. He also had killed a spike and a doe, all in the same year. He received citations and warnings for hunting w/o permission, hunting deer w/o orange, failure to record deer harvest, and take over bag limit of antlered deer. The racks were confiscated and the meat donated to a family in need.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Isom located a subject walking back to his vehicle. The subject was not wearing orange and did not possess a big game or hunting license. When questioned about his hunting activities, Cpl. Isom determined that the subject was not being truthful in his statements. Cpl. Isom deployed his K9 partner Colt, who backtracked the subject to a baited stand. Colt also located a freshly killed 8-point buck. The subject received citations and warnings for hunting big game over bait, hunting with licenses, and hunting deer without wearing orange. The buck was confiscated and later donated to a family in need.

### **HART COUNTY**

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Craig Fulghum Patrolled the County for hunting violations. During his patrol he documented two violations which consisted of a subject hunting deer without a fluorescent orange vest and hunting without a big game license.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Craig Fulghum Patrolled Hart County WMA for violations. During his patrol Cpl. Fulghum located a subject hunting deer on the WMA which was only open to small game hunters. The subject was issued a citation for hunting on a closed wma.

### **STEPHENS COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Tim Vickery received information that a subject had killed two bucks on property he did not have permission to hunt on, and that one of the bucks was killed when the subject did not have a big game license. Ranger First Class Vickery and Sergeant Derek Dillard met with the complainant and checked the area where the deer were supposedly shot. They located the chair which the subject hunted out of, as well as where he had dragged out a deer earlier that morning. The Rangers gathered additional information and evidence and went to speak to the subject. The subject admitted to killing a large buck on the morning of



November 23, 2017 and then going to buy his big game license. He also admitted to shooting another buck the morning of November 25, 2017 on the property he did not have permission to hunt. The subject was cited for hunting without permission and hunting without a big game license. He was written warnings for hunting without wearing fluorescent orange and littering. The antlers from the two bucks were taken for evidentiary purposes. On November 25, 2017 RFC Shane Sartor checked several duck hunters with one subject being issued a warning for hunting with unplugged shotgun.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC Shane Sartor was checking Lake Russell WMA when he observed a subject throw a cup out of the drivers' side window of his truck. The Subject was issued a citation for littering.

#### **MADISON COUNTY**

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, RFC Shane Sartor and Sgt. Derek Dillard responded to a complaint of illegal hunting. One subject was located and issued citations for hunting without permission and hunting without orange vest. The subject was also issued two warnings for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

#### **HABERSHAM COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC Joe Hill and Ranger Beth Gilbert finished an investigation in Habersham County. The Game Wardens received an anonymous complaint in reference to a subject killing over the season limit of antlered bucks. After collecting evidence and interviewing several subjects, the Game Wardens found that one subject had killed three antlered bucks, none of which had four or more points on one side. The subject was recording the deer on three different harvest records, owned by three different people. The subject also admitted to not wearing an orange vest while hunting. The violator was issued citations for recording and reporting requirements of game animals and birds and over the season bag limit of antlered deer. The same subject received warnings for recording and reporting requirements of game animals and birds and hunting deer without fluorescent orange. Two deer were seized as evidence and the meat was donated to a charity.

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

#### **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

On November 23, Game Warden Bobby Timmerman conducted a concentrated patrol on the Savannah River. He cited 1 subject for operating a vessel without lights during the hours of darkness and operating a vessel without a CGA PFD.

On November 24, Game Wardens Bobby Timmerman and Ryan Swain were on patrol at Mistletoe State Park and cited 1 subject for being a Non Resident fishing without a license.

On November 25, Game Warden Bobby Timmerman conducted an investigation of illegal dumping. Officer Timmerman found and cited 1 subject for dumping a deer carcass on private property without permission.

#### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

On November 24, Game Warden Ryan Swain conducted a concentrated patrol at Leathersville boat ramp. He cited 1 for hunting waterfowl without a license.

On November 25, Game Wardens Ryan Swain and Doyte Chaffin checked a hunting club that was previously found to be baited. Game Wardens checked found and cited 3 subjects for hunting big game over bait. The subjects were also issued citations for not wearing orange and misc. license violations.

On November 26, Game Warden Ryan Swain check an area that was previously found to be baited. He found and cited 1 subject for hunting big game over bait.

## **McDUFFIE COUNTY**

On November 25, Game Warden Bobby Timmerman investigated 1 subject for taking 2 undersized bucks. The subject was cited and the buck was seized. The buck was donated to a needy family.

## **WARREN COUNTY**

On November 23, Game Wardens Bobby Timmerman, Brian Adams and Doyte Chaffin patrolled Warren County. They found and cited 1 subject for hunting waterfowl without a federal duck stamp and 1 non-resident hunting big game without a hunting license or big game license.

On November 24, Game Wardens Brian Adams and Doyte Chaffin received a complaint in reference to hunting without permission. Game Wardens checked the area. They found and cited 1 subject hunting without permission. The subject took a deer. The deer was seized and given to a needy family.

## **GLASCOCK COUNTY**

On November 24, Game Wardens Doyte Chaffin and Brian Adams patrolled Glascock County. They found and cited several subjects for hunting without orange and misc. license violations.

## **NEWTON COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Dan Schay patrolled Newton County for hunting activity. While on patrol, violations of hunting big game over bait and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Dan Schay was patrolling Newton County for night hunting activity. While on patrol, Ranger Schay observed three vehicles pull over and light a fire in the middle of a county road. During the investigation into the matter, the fire was safely extinguished and a violation of possession of alcohol by an underage person was documented. Three subjects were determined to be safe to drive and the group was sent home.

## **GREENE COUNTY**

Between November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Derrell Worth along with assistance with Sgt. Matt Garthright cited 1 subject for hunting deer without permission, cited 7 subjects for hunting deer without fluorescent orange, cited 1 subject for hunting deer without license, cited 2 subjects for hunting raccoons without license, cited 1 subject for hunting without a big game license, cited 3 duck hunters for operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs, cited 3 subjects for hunting ducks without federal waterfowl license, cited 4 subjects for hunting big game over bait, cited 1 subject for fishing without a license, cited 1 subject for unlawful enticement of big game, cited 1 subject for driving on a closed WMA road, cited 1 nonresident subject for fishing without a license, and cited 1 subject for unlawful dumping of waste less than 500 lbs.

Warrants for hunting deer at night, reckless conduct and false statements will be secured on a subject reference to a year old investigation for the illegal killing of deer inside a gated community. A .22 caliber rifle equipped with a silencer, scope and high powered green light was confiscated from the suspect and logged into evidence.

## **HANCOCK COUNTY**

Between November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, CPL David Allen, SGT Matt Garthright and Ranger Jason Harrison patrolled Hancock County for Deer and Duck Hunting Activity. Violations for Hunting Big Game over Bait, Unlawful enticement of Game, Allowing Child to hunt without Hunters Education Certificate, Failure to record Deer Harvest, Hunting Without Big Game License, and Hunting Deer without Fluorescent Orange were Documented. On November 26<sup>th</sup>, CPL David Allen and SGT Matt Garthright responded to a Search and Rescue where a subject was stuck in climber about 40 ft. up a tree. The subject failed to attach the bottom half of his climber to the top and lost the bottom half. An extra climber was employed and the subject was returned to the earth safely.

## **WALTON COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ranger Jason Harrison Patrolled Walton County for Deer Hunting Activity. Violations for Marijuana less than one ounce, Hunting Deer without Fluorescent Orange, Failure to Record Deer Harvest and Fishing without a license were documented.

Between November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Ranger Jason Harrison Patrolled Walton County for Deer and Duck Hunting Activity. Violations for Hunting big game over bait, Hunting Ducks without federal duck stamp, Hunting without GA Water fowl License, Failure to record deer harvest, Hunting Deer without Fluorescent Orange, and Hunting Deer without a Hunting License were documented.

## **BURKE COUNTY**

On Saturday, November 18, Corporal Jeff Billips apprehended a poacher hunting without permission on the Norfolk Southern rail road near Waynesboro. Game Warden First Class Grant Matherly arrived to assist. The poacher was hunting over bait and was not wearing fluorescent orange. The poacher also did not have licenses or deer harvest record. The poacher gave consent to search his vehicle and Game Warden Matherly discovered a container of suspected methamphetamine. The poacher was arrested and the Game Wardens contacted investigators with the Burke County Sheriff's Office. A search warrant of the poacher's resident resulted in additional arrests of suspects and the discovery of more methamphetamine, stolen firearms and stolen trailers.

On Thursday, November 23, Cpl. Billips and Sergeant Max Boswell responded to a hunting without permission complaint in Girard. The complainant provided a trail camera photo of two poachers on his property. The Game Wardens located hunting activity on a neighboring property. Cpl. Billips contacted the owner of the neighboring property who said the hunters would be back that evening. Cpl. Billips checked the hunters and both violators were identified. Violation for hunting without permission and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

On Thursday, November 23, Cpl. Billips and Sergeant Max Boswell responded to a hunting without permission complaint in Girard. The complainant provided a trail camera photo of two poachers on his property. The Game Wardens located hunting activity on a neighboring property. Cpl. Billips contacted the owner of the neighboring property who said the hunters would be back that evening. Cpl. Billips checked the hunters and both violators were identified. Violation for hunting without permission and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

On Friday, November 24, Cpl. Billips apprehended two poachers whom were hunting deer at night. Cpl. Billips assisted the Burke County Sheriff's office when a suspect driving a Ford F-250 had fled from deputies on a high speed chase into Screven County. The Deputies lost the suspect somewhere in Screven County so Cpl. Billips contacted the Georgia State Patrol and advised them of the suspect's vehicle description. Cpl. Billips, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely, GSP Troopers Matt Moorman and Jake Thompson then set up surveillance for the F-250 at various locations in Burke and Screven Counties. Troopers Moorman and Thompson and Cpl. McNeely stopped a suspicious truck on Oglethorpe Trail in Screven County. The Troopers arrested the 17 year old driver for DUI and several other violations. Cpl. Billips spotted the F-250 and attempted to stop the truck. The driver refused to stop and Cpl. Billips pursued him into Screven County. The pursuit continued for nearly 15 minutes reaching speeds over 95 miles per hour. The driver repeatedly attempted to evade Cpl. Billips and officers from Screven County Sheriff's office and Sylvania Police Department by driving off road and driving recklessly. Eventually Trooper Thompson caught up to the pursuit and successfully applied the P.I.T. maneuver on the F-250. The driver had felony warrants in Richmond County with additional charges to be filed in Burke and Screven Counties.

## **RICHMOND COUNTY**

On Tuesday, November 21, Sergeant Max Boswell, Sergeant Matt Garthright and Cpl. Billips responded to a missing duck hunter complaint on Phinzy Swamp WMA. The search continued on Wednesday, November 22 when the duck hunter's body was recovered.

On November 24, Cpl. Payne received a complaint of illegal dumping off Gordon Highway. The complainant stated that a gate was stolen on his hunt club and a large pile of trash was dumped back in the woods blocking the road. Once the dump was located, Cpl. Payne found boxes with labels identifying a potential suspect. After further investigation it was determined that the property the labels came from had been abandoned. Cpl. Payne then used county records to find out who the property belonged too. The property was managed by a real estate office and a manager was assigned to the property. After talking to the manager a violator was identified. Cpl. Payne then went to the violator's residence and interviewed the violator. Warrants will be taken for dumping for commercial gain and theft.

Later in the day Cpl. Payne received information about a truck parked on private property without permission. Once on scene, Cpl. Payne located the two individuals that were associated with the truck fishing in a pond. The individuals did not have permission to fish and were cited.

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

On Tuesday, November 21, Cpl. Billips received an in progress hunting without permission call in Washington County. Cpl. Billips met with the complainant and learned that this was a long term complaint on a suspect known to poach white-tailed deer on multiple properties in the area. Cpl. Billips and the complainant set up surveillance from two locations. At approximately 6:20 PM, Cpl. Billips observed a vehicle exiting the property. Cpl. Billips stopped the vehicle and identified the driver and passenger as the suspects for the complaint. The suspects were issued citations for hunting without permission.

### **JEFFERSON COUNTY**

On 11-24-17 Game Warden First Class Grant Matherly received a complaint of a truck parked on the side of the road in the Harrison, GA area and subjects in the woods with flash lights. The complainant was able to get a tag number off the vehicle as it left the area. GWFC Matherly located the truck at the residence of the owner and began to investigate the incident. It was found that the subjects had shot at a coyote from the road way and were trying to find it in the wooded area. Both subjects involved were issued citations for hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

On 11-26-17 Game Warden First Class Matherly was working a without permission complaint in West Jefferson County when he heard shots coming from a different without permission duck complaint a few miles down the road. GWFC Matherly moved locations and encountered 6 individuals hunting on property owned by Georgia DOT. The subjects were all charged with hunting on lands of another without permission and 16 ducks were confiscated. GWFC Matherly had noticed another vehicle further into the property which did not belong to the 6 hunters while he was locating the duck hunters. After he finished issuing citations to the duck hunters he investigated the other vehicle, and found that there was a subject also deer hunting on the GA DOT property. The subject was located and charged with hunting on the lands of another.



Game Warden First Class Matherly and Corporal Jeff Billips investigated a complaint of hunting without permission inside a high fenced property in Jefferson and Burke County. The officers interviewed a juvenile and a 17 year old that were involved in the incident. The 17 year old was charged with hunting without permission and hunting deer without fluorescent orange and given warnings for hunting without license, hunting without big game license, and hunting without hunter safety requirement. The juvenile will have charges placed in Juvenile Court in Burke County for hunting without permission, hunting deer without fluorescent orange, and hunting without hunter safety requirement.

## **CLARKE COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Brian Carter and Rfc. Tim Butler arrested a man for convicted felon in possession of a firearm, hunting without permission, hunting big game over bait, and hunting without fluorescent orange.

## **OGLETHORPE COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Rfc. Phillip Nelson patrolled Oglethorpe Co. for hunting activity. During this patrol violations documented were hunting big game over bait and hunting without fluorescent orange.

On Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Julian Wilkins and Rfc. Phillip Nelson patrolled Oglethorpe Co. for hunting activity. During this patrol officers documented violations of illegal burn, hunting big game over bait and hunting without fluorescent orange.

## **WILKES COUNTY**

During the course of the Thanksgiving holiday week Cpl. Mark Patterson responded to several hunting complaints. Portions of the county were patrolled by Cpl. Patterson and Sgt. Brian Carter that were known to have baited deer stands. The Game Wardens documented numerous violations to include hunting big game over bait, hunting without license, hunting without big game license, hunting deer without fluorescent orange, blinding wildlife with lights, and criminal trespass.

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

### **BALDWIN COUNTY**

On the afternoon of November 25<sup>th</sup> Ranger Jon Segars and Corporal Bubba Stanford patrolled private property near Milledgeville. The officers located an adult hunting deer with his two children. Further investigation led to the subject being arrested for hunting under the influence and other wildlife violations.

### **HARRIS COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and Game Warden Ethan Franklin received information that a subject killed a nice buck earlier that day. The officers looked into the matter and discovered that the subject had killed a third buck of the season. The hunter was issued a citation for taking over the season limit of antlered bucks. The deer meat was donated to a local food bank and the rack was seized as evidence.

### **HEARD COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup> RFC Russell Epps checked the quota hunt on Glovers Pond area of West Point WMA. He found three hunters who had not been drawn for the quota. They were issued citations for the violation and one of them was issued a citation for insufficient PFD's.

On November 24<sup>th</sup> RFC Russell Epps patrolled a baited area and issued a citation for hunting big game over bait (deer).

### **HOUSTON COUNTY**

On the afternoon of November 24<sup>th</sup> Ranger Stephen Payne and Corporal Robert Stilwell located a deer hunter who was not wearing the required fluorescent orange. A citation was issued for the offense.

### **JONES COUNTY**

On the morning of November 25<sup>th</sup> Ranger Stephen Payne and Corporal Robert Stilwell patrolled southern Jones County hunting clubs. One hunter was located that was hunting without required non-resident licenses and citations were issued for the offense.

## **LAMAR COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup> RFC Page checked a baited deer stand and apprehended a subject hunting from the structure. After a brief interview, Page discovered that two more individuals were hunting on the property. They were also found to be hunting deer over bait. All three hunters had license violations as well. The three subjects were cited for hunting big game over bait and issued warnings for hunting deer without a big game license as well as hunting deer without a harvest record.

## **MERIWETHER COUNTY**

On November 19<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Travis Sweat and Ranger Charlie Follin located an after-hours duck shoot in western Meriwether County. They issued two citations for hunting ducks after hours.

On November 25<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Keith Waddell received a complaint about a bobcat being killed out of season and a picture of it being posted on Facebook. He met with the person who shot the bobcat the next day, issued a citation for the offense, and confiscated the bobcat.

## **TALBOT COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> Cpl. Keith Waddell located a hunter with a buck that did not meet the 4 point on one side rule in a QDM county. He issued the hunter a citation for the violation.

## **TROUP COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup> RFC Russell Epps patrolled Ringer access on West Point Lake. He issued a citation for insufficient PFD's.

## **UPSON COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Wil Smith checked a baited area he had discovered earlier in the week. With the aid of RFC Keith Page, Ranger Ken Lalumerie, and a local sheriff's deputy, 3 subjects were located on the property. All three subjects were hunting deer over corn and not wearing fluorescent orange. Additionally, two of the hunters were not residents of Georgia and both possessed no licenses to hunt; these two were charged with nonresident hunting without a license.

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

### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tony Cox and Cpl. Jon Penuel were patrolling Lake Seminole when they encountered two subjects gill netting. As they approached the vessel they observed one of the subjects dumping fish back into the water. After a brief investigation it was determined that they dumped catfish from the vessel. Both subjects were cited for failure to allow inspection, commercial fishing without a license, and taking game fish by illegal methods.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tony Cox and Game Warden David Jones were conducting a patrol when they heard several shotgun blasts after sunset. The four subjects were located and cited for hunting migratory birds (dove) after hours.

### **EARLY COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Bob Holley was working a night hunting complaint when he encountered a vehicle spotlighting fields in the area. Two subjects were cited for hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting big game from a public road.

## **TURNER COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Al Greer received a night deer hunting complaint from a landowner who was able to provide Greer with a vehicle description. Greer located the vehicle in the area and interviewed the two subjects who were then charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle and hunting without permission.

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

### **EFFINGHAM COUNTY**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> Game Warden First Class Jordan Crawford patrolled Effingham County for hunting and fishing activity. During the patrol several hunters and fisherman were checked with two violations for fishing without a license documented.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> while on patrol Warden Crawford encountered an illegal deer dog drive in Effingham County. Several suspects were caught and violations for hunting deer with dogs on unpermitted property were documented.

On November 25<sup>th</sup> Warden Crawford received a call about two individual using deer dogs to hunt a tract of property without the permission of the landowner, however by the time the warden had received the call both individuals had left the area. After a two day investigation Warden Crawford was able to locate the parties involved and charges for hunting deer with dogs on unpermitted property, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license were documented.

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area (WMA) during a sign-in big game hunt. Fifteen hunters were checked for license and WMA regulation compliance. Seven violations were documented. Violations included hunting deer without fluorescent orange, hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road, hunting without a big game license, and hunting on a closed WMA (two subjects were hunting small game which was closed during the deer hunt).

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles was patrolling for waterfowl hunting activity. Four hunters were located and checked for licenses and possession limit. Three citations were issued for hunting waterfowl without a Federal Duck Stamp.

### **TELFAIR COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal John A Stokes and Sergeant James McLaughlin patrolled for duck hunters, four hunters were found hunting ducks over bait.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sergeant James McLaughlin and Game Warden Allen Mills assisted the Telfair Sheriff's office with an auto accident off highway 441. These officers were one of the first to arrive on scene. The driver was transported to the hospital for medical treatment.



*Sgt. McLaughlin assisting Telfair S.O.*

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Sergeant James McLaughlin assisted Telfair County EMA with a missing dementia patient. The elderly lady walked away from her residence and family members were unable to locate her. The woman was located just before daylight about three quarters of a mile from her home and was suffering from hyperthermia. She was transported to the hospital for treatment.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne was patrolling Telfair County looking for big game hunting violations. RFC Horne located a hunter hunting without wearing fluorescent orange. One violation for hunting deer without wearing a fluorescent orange vest was documented.

### **WILCOX COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal John Stokes and Game Warden Lamar Burns, patrolled for duck hunters, two hunters were found hunting waterfowl after hours.

### **WHEELER COUNTY**

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne was patrolling Wheeler County looking for big game hunting violations. RFC Horne located a hunter hunting without wearing a fluorescent orange vest. Three violations were documented on the hunter for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange, a non-resident hunting without a license, and a nonresident hunting big game without a nonresident big game license.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne was patrolling Alligator Creek Wildlife Management area for illegal hunting. One hunter was located and the hunter was charged as a nonresident hunting without a license and for a nonresident hunting big game without a nonresident big game license.

On November 25, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne, Game Warden Lamar Burns, and Sergeant James McLaughlin was patrolling Wheeler County looking for big game hunting violations. Four persons were checked hunting on a property. Two custodial arrests were made for possession of firearms by convicted felons and one poacher had an arrest warrant. Three were charged for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange, and one was charged for hunting without a license and for hunting big game without a big game license.

### **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Sam Williams was patrolling for hunting activity in the Winokur area when he encountered a group of hunters lined along the roadway on foot. After speaking with the subjects, the officer learned there were others on an adjacent road. While checking the hunting licenses of everyone, the officer was able to determine that the group was rabbit hunting with beagles. Two of the subjects did not possess hunting licenses. The violation for hunting without a license was documented on each.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Sam Williams was in the St. George area after dark when he encountered several hunters inside a hunting club. While conducting a check of their hunting licenses, the officer determined that the group was hunting hogs and none of the subjects possessed hunting licenses. The violation of hunting without a license was documented on each.

### **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Wardens Patrick Dupree and Daniel North started out the morning listening for duck hunting activity in the western portion of the county. An active shoot was located and seven poachers were involved. Upon contact, bait was found and two of the poachers fled the scene. DNR Game Warden Tim Hutto was called to bring his K-9 "Titan" to assist with tracking the fleeing suspects. Game wardens Jason Shipes and Joseph Cowart also arrived to assist with securing the scene. After six hours, a total of forty-five ducks were seized. The two fleeing poachers were identified and returned to the scene. Violations of hunting ducks over bait, possession over daily limit of ducks, hunting ducks with unplugged shotguns, hunting without licenses, hunting without Georgia migratory stamps, hunting without federal duck stamp and interference with a game warden's duties were documented.





*45 illegally-killed ducks in Echols County.*



*Baited duck pond in Echols County.*

## **CLINCH COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Daniel North was conducting surveillance in the Dupont area for night hunting activity. During this time a truck was seen travelling down a county road and a light was shined out the passenger side of the truck into nearby trees. Upon stopping the vehicle, the occupants advised that they had been hunting for raccoons and possessed two recently-killed raccoons in the bed of the truck. Violations of hunting from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, hunting without a license and hunting without permission were documented. On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Joseph Cowart and Corporal Jason Shipps were on a night hunting detail when they observed a light being shined from a vehicle along a public road. Game wardens Cowart and Shipps initiated the stop and after a brief investigation, it was determined that the subject did not have a firearm. The driver was cited for blinding wildlife with lights.

## **WARE COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens, Jason Shipes, Mark Pool, Judd Sears, Joseph Cowart and Daniel North conducted a patrol of Dixon Memorial WMA during the weekend dog hunt. While checking participating hunters, two individuals were found with loaded shotguns in their vehicle. The violations were documented.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mark Pool received a call from Ware County Sheriff's office. Deputies had stopped a vehicle and observed a freshly-killed deer in the back of the vehicle. The driver admitted to killing the deer about an hour prior to the stop which was at 11:45 p.m. Cpl. Pool arrived on scene and interviewed the subjects resulting in charges for hunting deer at night & hunting from a vehicle.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mark Pool received a call from Ware County Sheriff's office. Deputies had stopped a vehicle and observed a freshly-killed deer in the back of the vehicle. The driver admitted to killing the deer about an hour prior to the stop which was at 11:45 p.m. Cpl. Pool arrived on scene and interviewed the subjects resulting in charges for hunting deer at night & hunting from a vehicle.



*Illegally-killed deer in Ware County.*

## **PIERCE COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Game wardens Judd Sears, Daniel North, Jason Shipes, Mark Pool, and Joseph Cowart patrolled a large area of Pierce County for waterfowl hunting activity. During the concentrated patrol four hunters were located with their daily limit of ducks. It was found two of the subjects didn't possess federal duck stamps as required and one subject was hunting with an unplugged shotgun. Violations were documented for hunting with unplugged shotgun and hunting without federal waterfowl stamp.

## **TOOMBS COUNTY**

On the evening of November 19<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Jon Barnard, Corporal Kevin Joyce, and Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders responded to a complaint of someone shooting waterfowl after legal hours. The Game Wardens coordinated their efforts and encountered several individuals. In addition to the violation of hunting waterfowl after legal hours, violations for hunting without a license and hunting without a federal duck stamp were documented.

## **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On the night of the November 19<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Altman was working a complaint area for night hunting. Around 9:30 pm, a vehicle was spotted shining a light out of the window. Cpl. Altman pulled in behind the truck and observed two more fields shined, before a traffic stop was conducted. Three adult males were charged with hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road, and hunting deer at night.

### **APPLING COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> Thanksgiving morning, Cpl. Altman was patrolling for duck shoots in the county. Several shots were heard coming from a creek, where two subjects were found to be hunting. Violations for hunting waterfowl w/o steel shoot were documented, and the juveniles present were given verbal warnings for the violations.

### **TREUTLEN COUNTY**

On the morning of November 24<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Kevin Joyce was patrolling the county for deer hunting activity. One hunter was checked and a violation for hunting without fluorescent orange was documented.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

On the morning of November 25, Corporal Kevin Joyce patrolled the south end of the county for waterfowl hunting activity. One shoot was located and three hunters were checked for compliance. After a brief investigation, it was determined that none of the hunters had permission from the landowner to hunt the area. In addition, there were several other violations present. In all, violations were documented for hunting without permission, hunting without a license, hunting with an unplugged shotgun, hunting with illegal ammunition (lead), and hunting without a federal duck stamp.

### **TOOMBS COUNTY**

On the morning of November 25<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Booby Sanders located several individuals hunting waterfowl. A brief inspection of the hunters found violations of hunting without a federal duck stamp, which were documented properly.

### **APPLING COUNTY**

On the evening of November 25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Altman located two duck hunters, and found that one of the subjects did not have a valid federal duck stamp, the violation was documented.

### **COLQUIT COUNTY**

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Morty Wood, Corporal Tim Hutto, and Ranger Chris Thompson checked a duck shoot near the Cook and Colquitt County Line. While checking the hunters it was discovered that the pond was baited with whole corn and that numerous other violations were present. A total of six hunters were checked and violations were documented for hunting ducks over bait, hunting without a license, hunting with an unplugged shotgun, hunting without a federal waterfowl stamp, hunting with lead shot, and taking over the limit.

### **LANIER COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto and Ranger Chris Thompson patrolled South Lanier County for deer hunting violations. Violations were documented for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

### **COOK COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Game Warden Tommy Daughtrey was called by a local land owner to report a deer had been illegally killed on his property. The landowner found where a deer had been shot and dragged to a nearby residence. Daughtrey spoke to a person at the residence where the deer was dragged. A female at the residence admitted that her husband had shot the deer. After an investigation was completed, charges of hunting w/o permission, hunting w/o a license, and hunting w/o a big game license were documented.

### **ATKINSON COUNTY**

On Saturday November 25, Corporal Tim Hutto and Ranger Chris Thompson were working a night deer hunting detail in the Kirkland area. Corporal Hutto observed persons from a Tahoe shine two different fields. The Tahoe was stopped and found to be occupied by one male subject. He had a loaded rifle and a loaded shotgun in the vehicle. He was arrested and charged with hunting without permission, hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting big game from a public road.

## Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

### BRYAN COUNTY

On Friday November the 24<sup>th</sup> Game Wardens RFC Toney and Sgt. Scott patrolled Bryan county checking boaters, anglers, and hunters. One hunter on the Richmond Hill WMA bagged a nice quail while quail hunting with his dog. The picture below shows the hunter, his dog, and the bagged quail. Later on in the day the two Game Wardens checked the Tivoli River pier. One non-resident angler was cited for fishing without a license there.



On Saturday November the 25<sup>th</sup> 2017, Game Wardens Ranger Morris, Cpl. Bryson and Sgt. Scott patrolled the salt waters of Bryan County checking boaters and anglers. Several boats were checked and the fishing was good. One angler was cited for over the limit of the red drum.

While patrolling Bryan County on November 25th, RFC Toney checked Hank and Raymond Morgan, from Richmond Hill. Hank and Raymond were with their aunt and uncle for their first fresh water fishing trip. They caught 12 fish in the Ogeechee River, including the two in the photo.

### LIBERTY COUNTY

On Saturday November the 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Ranger Morris and Cpl. Morgan were patrolling hunting clubs in Liberty County. Numerous hunters were checked without violations. Two hunters were cited for not having deer dogs marked with the deer dogging permit number.



## **GLYNN COUNTY**

On November 19, Game Wardens Colte Shaske, John Evans and David Brady were working a road hunting detail in a complaint area when a subject pulled up and shot two times from inside of the truck. The subject then turned the truck around, got out and shot two more times while standing in the road. He then pulled the truck in the ditch and began running through the woods, again shooting the decoy multiple times. The man was charged for hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a vehicle.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. John Evans was patrolling the Sterling area for illegal waterfowl hunting activity. Cpl. Evans heard a roost shoot across from the Clayhole Swamp WMA. He worked his way into the area and found five subjects hunting ducks in a swamp inside their hunting club. They had one wood duck in their possession. They were charged with hunting waterfowl after hours.

## **CAMDEN COUNTY**

On November 19, Game Warden David Brady was working an area for after-hours waterfowl activity. He began to hear shooting from the swamp and worked his way down to locate the hunters. The hunters continued to shoot the incoming ducks until it was dark. Brady was able to make contact with three men that were shooting the ducks after hours. Multiple charges were made for hunting ducks after hours, hunting ducks with lead shot and license violations.

On November 22, Game Warden David Brady was working an area in the south end of the county when he encountered a man that had been still hunting. After a brief investigation, Brady determined that the man was not wearing the required orange for deer hunting. The man was charged with hunting deer without fluorescent orange and failure to record/ report deer harvest.

## **BRANTLEY COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, RFC Colte Shaske witnessed 3 deer dog hunters out on the side of the road, 2 of which was not wearing hunter orange. RFC Shaske checked for hunting licenses. The same 2 individuals did not have hunting licenses. RFC Shaske issued both of the individuals citations for Hunting without a License, and Hunting Deer without Fluorescent Orange.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. John Evans was working a night deer hunting detail with several other game wardens. Cpl. Evans observed a truck shine the corn field he was watching. Cpl. Evans followed the truck and stopped it as it was pulling into a drive way. There were two people in the truck and a third standing in the yard that they were coming to pick up. Cpl. Evans identified the driver and passenger and sent the third man back in the house. The driver was the same suspect Cpl. Evans had caught just 10 days earlier hunting from the road, without orange, without licenses, without permission, and running dogs on unpermitted property. The suspects had a 12 gauge shotgun and a .22 rifle on this night. Both were charged with Hunting deer at night, Hunting from a vehicle, and Hunting from a public road.