



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**March 11 – March 17, 2018**

**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)**

### **CATOOSA COUNTY**

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Cpl. Shawn Elmore and Ranger Travis Shrader attended the Ducks Unlimited Chattanooga Chapter Green Wings event at the Covey Farm in Fort Oglethorpe. The wardens spoke with children about the importance of wearing a life jacket while duck hunting from a boat, spoke about hunting and fishing laws, and assisted Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) Wildlife Officer Joe McSpadden and Brian Franklin with an archery shooting game. There were over 300 children and over 200 adults that attended the event.



**Game Wardens Shrader answering questions at the Green Wings event.**

### **FULTON COUNTY**

March 17<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown and GWFC Daniel Gray investigated an illegal dumping complaint and a vehicle that was broken into at the HWY 166 boat ramp. Both cases are still under investigation.

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

March 17<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown and GWFC Daniel Gray patrolled several areas in Carroll County to check for boating and fishing activity. During the patrol the Game Wardens issued citations and warnings for fishing w/o permission, operating vessel w/o registration, operating vessel w/o PFD's, and operating vessel w/o displaying registration.

### **POLK COUNTY**

March 18<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown and GWFC Daniel Gray responded to a trapping complaint. After a brief investigation one individual was charged with failure to check traps every 24 hours.

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

March 18<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown and GWFC Daniel Gray patrolled on Sweetwater Creek State Park. During the patrol Game Wardens checked 14 individuals fishing and 7 were cited for fishing w/o license.

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

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, GW Eric Isom and his K9 partner Colt were checking private property near Nicholson. A vehicle was located hidden off a powerline right of way. Cpl. Isom and Colt located two subjects who had been fishing on the property. Both subjects received citations for fishing without permission were documented.

On March 17, Cpl. Eric Isom, GWFC Chris Kernahan, & K-9 Colt conducted an area check at Bear Creek Reservoir. During the area check, the Game Wardens addressed violations that included allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a lifejacket, operating a vessel without lifejackets, and operating a vessel with insufficient lifejackets.

### **RABUN COUNTY**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Beth Gilbert and Sgt. Steve Seitz responded to a report at Tallulah Gorge State Park of people off the designated trail under the suspension bridge. All foot traffic must remain on marked trails. Park staff observed two adult males along the river below the suspension bridge struggle to return to the trail stairs when ordered back to the trail. The men were issued citations for accessing a restricted area of the park.

### **UNION COUNTY**

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 9:30pm CPL Kevin Dyer received a request for assistance from United States Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Jason Arrowood. USFS LEO Arrowood stated that he and USFS LEO Robert Burnette located a large party consisting of approximately 150 people located on USFS Land in Union County. Due to the amount of intoxicated people at the party they were requesting additional personal. CPL Dyer arrived at the scene as well as two Union County Sheriff Deputies. While working the large party multiple citations were issued for possession of alcohol by persons under the age 21 and possession of Marijuana less than an ounce. The subjects were asked to clean up the litter from the party site.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Derek Dillard and Cpl. Craig Fulghum assisted the Georgia State Patrol with a roadblock set up near Tugaloo State Park. During the course of approximately 2 hours the roadblock netted 13 violations which also resulted with 2 arrests. The violations consisted of 2 counts of driving under the influence, 3 counts of child endangerment, 1 count of open container of alcohol and 1 count of misdemeanor possession of marijuana less than an ounce. There were multiple counts of driving without a license or driving while license was suspended also documented during the check.

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

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On March 11<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Mark Patterson checked a fishing without permission complaint. Two subjects were charged with fishing without permission.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Mark Patterson made contact with six subjects who were hunting without permission. Violations documented were hunting without permission.

### **NEWTON COUNTY**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Dan Schay assisted with the East Newton Elementary Career Day.

### **WALTON COUNTY**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Dan Schay was called to an in progress fishing complaint. During the investigation, two juveniles were found to be fishing without permission and returned to their parents. Later that day, Game Warden Dan Schay patrolled in the area of the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir and a violation of operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's was documented.

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

No activity to report.

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

### **MITCHELL COUNTY**

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jon Penuel checked an area that he had previously identified as being baited for turkeys. During the patrol, Corporal Penuel located an adult and juvenile hunting turkeys in the area where wheat had been spread on the ground. The adult was charged with hunting big game over bait.

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

### **WARE COUNTY**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Shipes was conducting a foot patrol along the Satilla River in the area of Hwy 84 Bridge. While walking in the area he located a tent in the woods. It appeared that the occupants of the tent had been living there for some time. Cpl. Shipes made contact with three individuals at the tent and determined that they had been staying in the area for more than two weeks. While speaking with the three individuals, Cpl. Shipes noticed items commonly used for the production and use of illegal narcotics. Upon checking each subject for possible warrants, one of the subjects fled on foot into the woods. Other officers arrived from the Ware County Sheriff's Department along with Game Warden Judd Sears. After a brief search of the wooded area the subject who fled was located and taken into custody. He was later charged with obstruction and giving false information. It was determined that two of the three subjects were wanted on unrelated felony warrants. The Ware County Drug Unit responded and processed the scene.

### **PIERCE COUNTY**

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Shipes, Game Warden First Class Judd Sears, and Game Warden Joseph Cowart attended Mershon Baptist Church's annual turkey shoot. During this event game wardens taught archery skills to the children and adults in attendance. A booth was setup with hunting, fishing, and boating information also.

### **LOWNDES COUNTY**



On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, Sgt. Morty Wood, Cpl. Tim Hutto, and Game Warden First Class Daniel North assisted with the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Lowndes Longspurs Youth Wild Turkey School & Hunt. The officers presented hunting & gun handling safety tips, wild turkey biology and management, hunting and calling tactics, and served as range masters during a live fire session. Before dawn on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the officers met with a parent and youth and served as guides on a turkey hunt. Several of the fifteen young hunters were successful in taking their first gobbler ever.



## **BERRIEN COUNTY**

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto and K-9 “Titan” checked an area off the Enigma-Nashville Road that was baited for turkey hunting. At around 7:20 a.m., Corporal Hutto approached the site and found two hunters in the ground blind. The adult hunter had placed cracked corn and sunflower seeds around the blind and had several turkey decoys set up in the bait. The adult was also in possession of a loaded shotgun. Citations were issued to the adult for unlawful enticement of game and hunting out of season.

## **DODGE COUNTY**

On March 11, Game Warden Allen Mills received a complaint from Corporal Dan Stiles in reference to illegal fishing activity in progress at the Dodge County Public Fishing Area. Game Warden Mills was already at the PFA and was able to respond immediately to the complaint. Game Warden Mills located two individuals in a vessel fishing a “spider rig” with a total of 16 fishing poles. On a PFA, anglers can only fish with two poles at a time. The two violations documented were violations of other provisions on a PFA.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles assisted the Dodge County Sheriff’s Department with a reported theft of three Capuchin Monkeys. Cpl. Stiles investigated a location in Wilkinson County which was holding other wild animals (exotics) illegally. The original theft is still under investigation.

On March 16, Game Warden Mills received three littering complaints in the Chester area. The officer searched through several bags of thrash looking for information leading to who may have dumped the bags on the side of the road. All three cases are under investigation.



*Photos of trash thrown to the side of the road.*

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant James McLaughlin assisted USDA and Oconee Drug Task force with investigating a dog fighting event. The investigation resulted in seven individuals being charged with dog fighting, conspiracy and drug charges.

## **WHEELER COUNTY**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant James McLaughlin and RFC Rodney Horne assisted Georgia State Patrol and the Wheeler County Sheriff’s Office with a demonstration that occurred at the Court House. Approximately 75 individuals were rallying in support of a 16 year old male that claimed excessive force was used against him by local officers. The demonstration was peaceful and there were no issues.

## **LAURENS COUNTY**

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant James McLaughlin, Corporal Dan Stiles, and Ranger First Class Rodney Horne responded and assisted the Laurens County Sheriff’s Department in a search for three fleeing suspects in a burglary. The three suspects were located and arrested.

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

No activity to report.