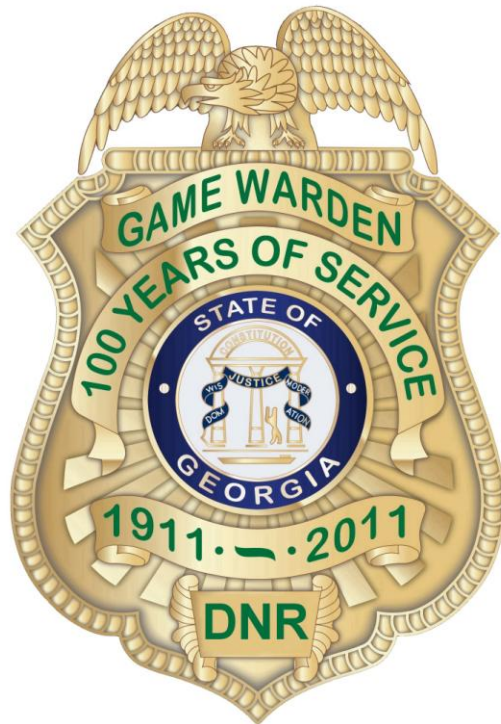


Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Law Enforcement Section

Field Operations

Weekly Report
January 1-7, 2012

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 Section.



Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)

BARTOW COUNTY

On Saturday, RFC Bart Hendrix, RFC Brooks Varnell, and his K-9 “Rock” were patrolling the Hollis Lathem Reservoir near the Cherokee County and Dawson County lines. They had received concerns from the manager of the water authority property that illegal duck hunting may be taking place on the water reservoir property. The area is open to the public for fishing, but no weapons are allowed and are so stated on signs at the public boat launch. The Rangers and “Rock” located three adults and a juvenile with a large decoy spread duck hunting on an island in the reservoir. One adult stated he had been hunting the area for seven years. The adults received citations for hunting without permission and one adult received a citation for an unplugged shotgun.

FANNIN COUNTY

On Sunday, RFC Cody Jones charged a Fannin County man after the subject shot a decoy deer out of the window of his truck. The subject was charged with hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

FORSYTH COUNTY

On January 2nd, Sgt. Lee Brown and RFC Adam Dills were patrolling Lake Lanier on Buford Dam. The rangers observed a small jon boat tied up to one of the “Boat Keep Out Buoys” at the dam. The rangers were able to call the boat over to the shore. Once at the shore the rangers checked the safety equipment in the boat and the fishing licenses of the two occupants. The rangers found that one of the PFD’s was unserviceable. A written warning was issued for operating a vessel with an unserviceable PFD and verbal guidance was given for tying up to the buoy.

Later that evening Cpl. Freddie Hays and RFC Mitchell Crump interviewed a subject on an investigation that Cpl. Hays had been working. Sgt. Brown and RFC Dills were called to assist with the investigation in securing the evidence. The subject had killed three bucks (a six pointer, nine pointer and a eleven pointer.) Two of the bucks had been killed on property the subject didn’t have permission to hunt on. The other buck was killed where the subject did have permission. All three bucks were seized. The subject also had killed a bear during archery season on Dawson Forest WMA. The subject didn’t sign-in to hunt during the archery season on Dawson Forest WMA. After he killed the bear and was having it tagged by a DNR biologist at a local deer cooler the subject was told to go and sign the bear kill in on the kill sheet at Dawson Forest WMA. The subject failed to do so.

The subject was issued citations and warnings in Forsyth County for hunting without permission, possession of illegally taken wildlife and taking over the limit of bucks. In Dawson County the subject was issued citations and warnings for failure to sign-in on a

big game hunt, failure to sign-out kill of big game and possession of illegally taken wildlife.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

GREENE COUNTY

On January 6th, Cpl. Derrell Worth cited two subjects for Violation of Georgia Waste Control Laws.

On January 7th, Cpl. Derrell Worth cited a subject for hunting w/o a license and another subject for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

On January 7th, Cpl. Derrell Worth and Wildlife Tech. Bobby Lord responded to hunting without permission complaint in Taliaferro County. Four subjects were charged with hunting without permission, possession of illegally taken wildlife. Three of the four were hunting without a license and two were convicted felons (for armed robbery and aggravated stalking).

NEWTON COUNTY

On January 4th, RFC Larry Mills and Sgt. John Harwell checked four deer processors and three taxidermists. One taxidermist was cited for operating without a taxidermist license.

On January 6th, RFC Niki Spencer and RFC Ricky Boles responded to an in progress without permission duck hunting complaint on Hodges Circle Rd.

On January 7th, RFC Niki Spencer checked numerous duck and rabbit hunters with no violations detected.

WALTON COUNTY

On January 7th, RFC Niki Spencer gave verbal guidance to two individuals for fishing without permission.

MORGAN COUNTY

On January 7th, RFC Ricky Boles patrolled Lake Oconee area boat ramps for hunting and fishing violations. Verbal guidance was given for fishing without license, operating vessel without PFDs and without fire extinguishers.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On January 4th, Cpl. Brian Hobbins and Sgt. Doyte Chaffin conducted an investigation near Riverside Middle School. One subject was charged with hunting deer out of season and hunting over bait.

On January 6th, Rfc. Robert Timmerman began an investigation dealing with criminal trespass on Stallings Island. One subject was apprehended and the other subject is still at large due to flight into another state. The investigation is still pending.

WILKES COUNTY

On Sunday January 1st, Rfc. Mark Patterson and Sgt. Brian Carter found seven subjects from South Carolina hunting on Fishing Creek. Several subjects did not have license. One subject who was a resident of South Carolina tried to present a Georgia resident license. Violations included nonresident hunting without a license, nonresident hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license, hunting without a federal duck stamp.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On January 6th, Cpl. Ben Payne patrolled Richmond and Burke County listening for dove and duck hunting activity. He worked night hunting complaints in Richmond and Burke County.

BURKE COUNTY

On January 7th, Sgt. Max Boswell's work unit held a Region night hunting enforcement detail in Burke County. Thirteen Rangers participated in the detail. One vehicle was stopped and two were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle. The driver was DUI .17 and the passenger had several outstanding warrants.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BIBB COUNTY

On January 1st - 7th, Cpl. Robert Stillwell, RFC Kevin Joyce, Sgt. Tony Fox, and officers of the USFWS patrolled Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in reference to a managed hog hunt. Officers issued a total of seventeen citations; these included eight for hunting hogs on lands of another without permission, four hunting from a motor vehicle, four hunting from a public road, and one for failure to wear fluorescent orange.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On January 1st Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled Joe Kurz WMA and checked several boats at the ramp. He issued two warnings for operating a vessel without PFD's and operating a vessel without registration.

TAYLOR COUNTY

On the morning of January 5th Cpl. John Harkins and RFC Josh Swain were listening for duck shoots when they heard several shots near the Flint River. Officers were able to locate the shoot and encountered two hunters. Officers also found the area in which they were hunting to be baited with corn. The subjects were charged with hunting ducks over bait and given warnings for hunting without Georgia waterfowl licenses.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

SEMINOLE COUNTY

On January 1st, RFC Tony Cox responded to a hunting without permission complaint on the Chattahoochee River. He called Cpl. Mike Binion and RFC Bob Holley to assist with

his patrol dog. Three subjects were located and cited for hunting on lands of another without permission. Several other violations were encountered in the incident, including, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, failure to record deer harvest, and possession of a fish-shocking device on the subjects' vessel.

DECATUR COUNTY

On January 7th, Sgt. Rick Sellars, Cpl. Mike Binion, Ranger Jace Heard, and Ranger Kevin Goss conducted a vessel patrol of Lake Seminole. They encountered several violations including two hunting without a licenses, two hunting without a federal duck stamps, hunting without a WMA license, and taking a protected species.

Later on the same date Cpl. Mike Binion and Ranger Kevin Goss responded to a complaint of someone hunting after legal hours on the Flint River. Two subjects were located and cited for hunting waterfowl after legal hours.

MARION COUNTY

On January 6th, Sgt. Danny Bishop, Cpl. Tommy Lawrence, Cpl. Ronnie Beard, RFC Randy James and RFC Clint Martin worked night deer hunting complaint areas. At approximately 11:45 pm Sgt. Bishop observed the occupants of a vehicle hunt a peanut field. The vehicle was stopped and three adults were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a vehicle.

TIFT COUNTY

On January 7th, a high volume of gunshots being fired at daybreak attracted the attention of Cpl. Greg Wade. The gunshots were coming from a pond the ranger had discovered baited for ducks earlier in the week. He contacted Cpl. Robbie Griner, who was patrolling nearby, to assist him. The two officers proceeded to the pond on foot and checked the hunters as they were exiting the pond. Five hunters were charged with hunting ducks over bait, hunting waterfowl with lead shot and their fifteen wood ducks were seized.

COLQUITT COUNTY

On January 7th, RFC Jon Penuel located a two-man dove shoot taking place. As officer Penuel made his way across the field on foot to speak with the men, he found that the field was heavily baited with wheat, cracked-corn, and grain sorghum. The two hunters were charged for hunting doves over bait.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

WILCOX COUNTY

On January 2nd, Cpl. John A. Stokes and Sgt. David Reckley patrolled the north end of Wilcox County for dove activity. One shoot was located in Pineview. Thirteen people were issued citations for hunting doves over bait. The same field had been checked, shut down previously for the same violation and the owner had been notified.

CLINCH COUNTY

At dawn, on January 1st, RFC Jason Shipes and Sgt. Patrick Dupree patrolled a hunting lease south of Fargo due to a complaint of individuals hunting without licenses and putting out bait to kill coyotes. The officers located a pile of household sponges and food scraps placed alongside a logging road. Several individual sponges that appeared to be coated with cooking grease were also observed tossed along other roadways on the property. The officers encountered an individual that admitted to putting the baited sponges out for coyotes. The individual stated that no poison was put on the sponges. He was hoping the coyotes would die due to the ingested sponges clogging their digestive tract. The officers instructed the individual to remove all the baited sponges he had placed on his hunting club to lessen the chance of any game animals ingesting the sponges. The officers suggested the hunting club try and call in the coyotes and shoot them or locate a trapper to help control the population. The individual was more than happy to comply with the officer's request.

Just after noon on January 1st, RFC Jason Shipes and Sgt. Patrick Dupree were patrolling a deer-dogging club near the swamp perimeter due to a complaint of illegal hunting activity. They encountered several hunters that appeared to be catching deer hounds along the Swamp's Edge Break. As the officers approached they observed one individual running into the woods in what appeared to be an attempt to hide or flee. The officers asked who the subject that ran into the woods was. One of the hunters advised the subject's name and stated that he was just running in an attempt to catch their deer hounds before they entered the Okefenokee Refuge. Upon the subject's return to the roadway, RFC Shipes and Sgt. Dupree checked each hunter for the required Georgia hunting licenses. The hunter that ran and one other hunter were from Florida and both had failed to purchase any hunting licenses. Citations for non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, hunting deer with dogs without a deer dog license, and one additional citation for hunting without fluorescent orange were issued to the non-resident hunters.

On January 1st, RFC Jason Shipes responded to a complaint of deer hunters failing to keep their deer dogs on permitted property. While checking the area RFC Shipes located several individuals hunting deer with dogs parked on the public roadway. As RFC Shipes approached the first vehicle he observed the barrel of a high-powered rifle pointing out the driver's side window. The driver was sitting in the vehicle with a loaded .270 across his lap with the barrel out the window waiting for a deer to appear. RFC Shipes issued a citation for hunting big game from a public roadway.

Two hours after dark on January 6th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree responded to the Council area to investigate a hunting incident involving a hunter that reportedly fell from his ladder-type deer stand. The hunter was transported by Life-Flight helicopter from the scene to a Jacksonville, FL hospital due to the seriousness of his injuries. Sgt. Dupree met Clinch Sheriff's Investigator Allen Morgan at the scene and began the initial investigation. RFC Jason Shipes completed the investigation on the morning of January 7th. The hunter appeared to have slipped and fell almost 15 feet. He crawled out to his vehicle and called 911.

EVANS COUNTY

On January 5th, RFC Debbie Brannen checked fishing and boating activity on the Evans Public Fishing area. Violations were noted for operating a vessel with improper registration and operating a vessel without P.F.D.'s. Several individuals were given verbal guidance on the new GORP fee.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On the evening of January 8th, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey, RFC Tim Hutto, and K9 Gauge patrolled Paradise PFA for fishing and boating activity. Violations were located and addressed for fishing without a license, fishing without a WMA license, operating a vessel without life jackets, and taking undersize bass.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On December 22nd, RFC Brandon Pierce responded to a call in reference to four caught deer dogs. Officer Pierce arrived at the location, picked up the dogs and contacted the owners. A total of two violations were documented. The violations consisted of failure to keep hunting dogs on permitted property.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

CHATHAM COUNTY

On January 1, RFC Buster Cooper was on saltwater patrol in Turner's Creek when he noticed two individuals in a boat tied up to a private dock, attempting to get the attention of some dolphins in the area. One of the individuals was throwing shrimp from a live well to the dolphins and the other individual was leaning over the side trying to get the dolphins to take shrimp out of his hand. RFC Cooper came alongside the vessel and explained to the individuals that their actions were illegal and potentially dangerous to themselves and the dolphins. A federal citation was issued for harassing dolphins.

On January 4, Cpl. Bill Bryson patrolled the salt waters of Chatham County and checked a commercial crabber. One of his helpers (strikers) did not have a commercial fishing license. The individual was cited for not having a commercial fishing license.

On January 7, RFC Buster Cooper, Ranger Kate Hargrove, Ranger Kiel Toney, and Sgt. Cindy Miller patrolled offshore Wassaw Island. The Rangers checked four individuals in a boat, fishing near the DUA Reef. The individuals had 28 black sea bass. The fish were disposed of and the individuals were cited federally for having the prohibited species on board.



On January 7, RFC Buster Cooper, Ranger Kate Hargrove, Ranger Kiel Toney, and Sgt. Miller, received a complaint, while offshore, of three individuals digging clams in a closed area. The Rangers responded

from 8 miles offshore to the location and made contact with the individuals. Two individuals were cited for taking shellfish in a closed area.

GLYNN COUNTY

On January 2nd, Cpl. Wil Smith and RFC John Evans were patrolling Everett City Hunting club and stopped to check a couple of hunters. As officers were talking to the subjects, Cpl. Smith smelled what he knew as the scent of marijuana and RFC Evans recognized one subjects as a convicted felon. While performing field interviews with the subjects, the driver told RFC Evans the location of marijuana in the vehicle. After placing the first subject under arrest for Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, a search of his person revealed marijuana on his person also. Both subjects were arrested for Violation of the Georgia Controlled Substance Act.

BRYAN COUNTY

On Jan. 2nd, RFC Jack Thain cited three persons for violations of range rules at the Richmond Hill WMA shooting range.

LIBERTY COUNTY

On Jan. 2nd, Cpl. Jay Morgan and RFC Jack Thain checked a taxidermist/deer processor's facility and records. The owner was given info as to where to obtain a deer processor permit.

On Jan. 6th, Cpl. Phillip Scott, RFC Jack Thain, Cadet Trey Taylor and Cadet Thomas Sapp patrolled the St. Catherine's Sound area checking a boat returning from offshore. Two persons in the boat were cited federally for possession of prohibited species (Black Sea Bass) during a closed season.



On Jan. 7th, RFC Thain cited one dove hunter near Hodges Rd. for hunting dove with an unplugged shotgun.

WAYNE COUNTY

On January 6, 2012 RFC Randy Aspinwall received a call from a landowner reference a truck he was following that had just shined his field. RFC Aspinwall immediately went to the area but the truck had eluded the landowner. However, the landowner did have a tag number. He then went to the address listed for the tag. He spoke with a female at that residence that stated her son was out hunting. She gave him her son's phone number. Aspinwall made contact with the subject and met with him at a store. The subject admitted to night hunting and gave Aspinwall his accomplice's name. Both subjects were given citations for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.