

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report  
January 19-25, 2014

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- Calhoun (Northwest)**

### **CHATTOOGA COUNTY**

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC McConkey and Cpl. Gentry checked a complaint area in Lyerly, Ga. The Rangers were attempting to locate subjects possibly duck hunting without permission. Three duck hunters were checked in the area, but no violations found.

### **DADE COUNTY**

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC McConkey and Major Watson responded to an aviation request from the Georgia Forestry Commission to assist with a fire on Lookout Mountain. The fire had reached the bluff of the mountain where GFC could not reach with their equipment. Major Watson used a DNR Law Enforcement Division Bell 407 helicopter to drop water on the fire in the bluff area.

### **WALKER COUNTY**

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Shawn Elmore patrolled Johns Mountain WMA. He checked several squirrel hunters on the WMA and issued one warning for a license violation.

### **CATOOSA COUNTY**

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, RFC Roger McConkey responded with Catoosa County deputies to a domestic disturbance call. Upon the arrival of the deputies, one of the subjects ran from the scene through the neighborhood. RFC McConkey went to the location to assist with finding the subject. The subject was located behind a house near the original scene by a Catoosa County Deputy.

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

### **DAWSON COUNTY**

On January 25<sup>th</sup> RFC Barry Britt charged two trout fishermen with fishing in closed trout waters on the Amicalola Creek above Steel Bridge Rd on Dawson Forest WMA.

### **GWINNETT COUNTY**

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Shane Brown and SGT Lee Brown issued citations and warnings for fishing with bait in an artificial stream, no trout stamp and fishing with multiple rods.

## **TOWNS**

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jesse Cook was patrolling U.S. Forest Service property off Charlie Creek Road when he observed a Maroon Ford Explorer traveling toward Rabun County. The vehicle stopped in the middle of the narrow mountain road and Cpl. Cook noticed the window roll down. Cpl. Cook thought the driver wanted to ask him a question so he walked up to the driver's window. Cpl. Cook noticed that the driver had a liquor bottle in his lap and appeared extremely intoxicated. When asked about the liquor bottle the driver finally realized the bottle had been left between his legs and attempted to hide the bottle. The driver was subsequently arrested for open container, suspicion of driving under the Influence, driving on a suspended license, expired tag and no insurance. The vehicle was impounded and the driver was transported to the Towns County Detention Center for a state administered chemical test of his breath. Cpl. Cook administered the Intoxilyzer 5000 test and the subject's alcohol level was over three times the legal limit for operating a vehicle.

## **WHITE**

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Steve Seitz and RFC Anne Britt patrolled Chattahoochee WMA and issued two subjects warnings for fishing on a closed stream.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC Anne Britt issued a man a warning for trapping without a license and failing to affix metal name tags to traps.

## **STEPHENS COUNTY**

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bill Bunch heard shots coming from a swamp near his location. Cpl. Bunch went to the location and located a vehicle. The shooting continued until about 6:30 p.m. which was after legal hours for shooting ducks. He was able to see the hunters shooting as ducks were flying in to roost. Cpl. Bunch spoke with the hunters which were over the limit of ducks and shooting after legal hours. Citations were issued for these two violations and nine wood ducks were seized.

## **JACKSON COUNTY**

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, RFC Eric Isom concluded an investigation that began in December. During deer season RFC Isom along with his K9 partner Colt were checking a baited property, Colt found some evidence of a deer kill near the bait. RFC Isom was able to determine a name of a suspect who was hunting the property and also located a deer at a deer cooler in that was suspect's name that had been checked in around the same time. RFC Isom interviewed the subject. During the interview he admitted to killing a 4 point buck near the bait. He was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait. The meat had been given to a third party who was allowed to keep it and the rack was confiscated.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC Eric Isom responded to a complaint of someone possibly hunting deer from the road near Gillsville. Once in the area RFC Isom discovered the shots were duck hunters hunting in the area. RFC Isom checked three duck hunters in a nearby swamp. Two of the hunters did not sign their duck stamp and were given verbal warnings and made to sign their duck stamps.

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

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On January 25<sup>th</sup> Capt. Mark Padgett, Sgt. Brian Carter, Cpl. Mark Patterson, and RFC Phillip Nelson checked several areas for waterfowl hunting activity. One area checked was in response to a previous land owner complaint of hunting without permission where the Rangers made contact with three subjects hunting ducks. While investigating the hunter's activity, it was determined that they were hunting an area baited with corn and two of the individuals did not possess a Georgia waterfowl license. Citations were issued for hunting ducks over bait and hunting ducks without a Georgia waterfowl license. Verbal guidance was given on the issue of hunting without permission.

### **NEWTON COUNTY**

On January 25, RFC Niki Spencer cited six individuals for duck hunting without permission, two for hunting waterfowl without a Georgia waterfowl license, and one individual for operating a vessel without personal flotation devices.

On January 26, RFC Niki Spencer checked one duck hunter parking on private property to access the Alcovy River. The individual was given verbal guidance for trespassing on private property.

### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain apprehended two subjects off of Little River on Clarks Hill Lake for hunting waterfowl by vessel. The two subjects were hunting waterfowl while under power of a vessel. The subjects also had no PFDs in the vessel. One subject also had a license violation. Citations and warnings were issued and the subjects were released.

### **WARREN/GLASCOCK**

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, Captain Mark Padgett, Sgt. Matt Garthright and Sgt. Doyte Chaffin's work unit participated in a two county after hours waterfowl shoot detail. Several units positioned themselves around Warren and Glascock Counties to listen for late shoots. No violations were detected during the detail.

### **BURKE COUNTY**

On Friday, January 24, RFC Jeff Billips responded to a complaint of night hunting. RFC Billips met with Burke County Deputy Curt St. Germaine and the complainant at the complainant's residence. RFC Billips located the violators and issued citations for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle.

On Saturday, January 25, Sgt. Max Boswell and RFC Billips located two poachers who were shooting a duck roost in Girard. Violations documented were hunting waterfowl after hours, possession over the limit, and possession of lead shot.

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

### **BUTTS COUNTY**

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, RFC Keith Page and K9 Drake located several young men duck hunting on the Tussahaw Creek just North of Jackson Lake. One of the young men was hunting without a hunting license, a Georgia waterfowl license, a HIP permit, and hunting with an unplugged shotgun. Because of the boy's young age (18), RFC Page issued the young man one citation for hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license, and issued warnings for the rest of the violations.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC Keith Page and Cpl. Susan Morris found two men duck hunting on High Falls State Park. The men put a boat in on the Towaliga River and traveled South of the Hwy 36 Bridge. The area of the river from the Hwy 36 Bridge to the dam at High Falls is State Park property and hunting is not allowed. Both hunters were warned for hunting on a State Park.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC Keith Page and Cpl. Susan Morris located two men duck hunting on the Tussahaw Creek. One of the hunters did not have a federal waterfowl stamp. He was issued a written warning for the violation.

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

### **LAKE SEMINOLE**

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Mike Binion, Cpl. Randy Davis, and RFC Tony Cox conducted vessel patrols to check waterfowl hunters. The Rangers documented six violations for hunting without license/duck stamps, three operating vessels without PFD's, and two hunting on a closed WMA/Waterfowl Refuge.

### **EARLY COUNTY**

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Steve Thomas cited two duck hunters for hunting without a federal duck stamp.

### **CRISP COUNTY**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade received a complaint that a group of hunters had killed a large number of Redhead ducks, possibly well over the legal bag limit. The information also suggested that the suspects were claiming to have killed the ducks at Lake Seminole in order to keep the actual kill site undisclosed. Armed with very few details, Cpl. Wade conducted a thorough investigation locating the hunting area and the six hunters who had killed fifty eight redheads, forty six over their legal limit. The subjects were charged with taking over the daily bag limit and the ducks were confiscated.



### **WORTH COUNTY**

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Robbie Griner and Ranger Eric White located and cited two subjects shooting waterfowl after legal hours.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade and Ranger Eric White located a group of subjects hunting waterfowl in a pond the officers had determined was baited during an inspection the previous week. The officers checked the hunters and the area, locating whole kernel corn still present in the pond. The subjects were charged for hunting waterfowl over bait.

### **MACON COUNTY**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ranger Jesse Harrison was conducting a patrol when he heard several gunshots coming from a pond. He located seven adults and two juveniles hunting waterfowl after hours. The subjects were issued citations for hunting waterfowl after hours. Fifteen wood ducks were confiscated and donated to a needy family.





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

### **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Daniel North observed a vehicle at the Echols/Lowndes county line that appeared to be driven by an intoxicated driver. A traffic stop was conducted and both the driver and passenger were found to be extremely intoxicated. The driver was arrested for DUI and the passenger was arrested for an outstanding warrant for violation of probation.

### **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and RFC Mark Pool assisted Charlton County Sheriff's officers with a search for a man that had been missing for more than a week. During the search a Georgia State Patrol helicopter located what appeared to be a human body lying in a brushy area near the man's home. Sgt. Dupree & RFC Pool were directed by the pilot to the area and located the deceased man. Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents are continuing the investigation.

## **CLINCH COUNTY**

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jason Shiples was patrolling in the eastern portion of the county when he heard a rifle shot near a public road. Upon investigating the shot, Cpl. Shiples found an individual standing in the road with .22 caliber rifle. Cpl. Shiples learned the subject was merely target practicing from the roadway. Citations were issued to the subject for discharging a firearm from a public roadway.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Josh Chambers checked five hog hunters in the Fargo area. Two hunters were issued citations for non-resident hunting without a non-resident hunting license.

## **WARE COUNTY**

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Josh Chambers completed an investigation initiated on January 4<sup>th</sup> in reference to a deer dogging incident that occurred just south of Waycross. A deer hound was located on property not permitted for dog deer hunting and the dog's collar was not properly marked with the required information. After speaking with several people in the area, Corporal Chambers obtained the name of the hunter who most likely owned the dog. Corporal Chambers interviewed the suspect and he admitted to owning the dog involved in the incident. The dog owner was charged with failure to keep dogs on permitted property and issued a written warning for the dog's collar not having the correct information on it.

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

### **BRYAN COUNTY**

On Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bill Bryson and Sgt. Phillip Scott checked four duck hunters in Skipper Narrows Creek. Two of the hunters were cited for taking non-game species.

On Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Jason Miller and Cpl. Bill Bryson were patrolling the Richmond Hill WMA near Belle Island Rd. and found two squirrel hunters on the "Archery Only" area. Both hunters were cited for hunting with firearms in an "Archery Only" area and for hunting small game with an unplugged shotgun.

### **LIBERTY COUNTY**

On Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jay Morgan checked four duck hunters off Freedman Grove Rd. All four hunters were cited for hunting with unplugged shotguns. Three were also cited for hunting without a Federal Duck stamp. And one hunter was also arrested for hunting under the influence of alcohol.