

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
November 9-15, 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)

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On November 15th, Sgt. Mike Barr and Cpl. Lee Burns checked several baited deer stands in northwest Cherokee County. Two subjects were located and charged for hunting big game over bait.

COBB COUNTY

On November 11th at 9:00pm, RFC Bart Hendrix responded to a shots fired call near Allatoona Lake in Acworth. RFC Hendrix foot patrolled the area for illegal hunting activity. While working on the incident report from a drive way, RFC Hendrix noticed that a car drove by his location several times at a very slow rate. Suspecting that the vehicle may be involved with the shots fired call, RFC Hendrix decided to stop the vehicle. The vehicle was stopped and a bag containing 27 grams of marijuana and \$4700.00 cash was found on the occupants of the vehicle. The case was turned over to officers from the Acworth Police Department.



On November 12th, Cpl. Lee Burns attended a Career Fair at The Cobb Galleria Centre meeting with students from twenty-four Colleges and Universities from across the state. Cpl. Burns spoke with approximately 100 students seeking careers in Conservation Law Enforcement and Wildlife Biology.

On November 13th, Cpl. Lee Burns and RFC Barton Hendrix responded to an in progress complaint in Cobb County of hunting with firearms. Upon arriving at the scene it was determined that three subjects had jumped an eight foot a fence and entered property owned by Cobb County. The three subjects had shot a spike buck and yearling doe. Cpl. Burns located the spike buck lying outside the fence and a fresh gut pile from the doe. Cpl. Burns noticed that both deer were dragged up to the fence and tossed over for field dressing. Cpl. Burns tracked the subjects approximately one half mile from the gut pile where he found the subjects loading the doe into a pickup truck. The three subjects were charged with hunting w/o permission, hunting with firearms in an archery only county, hunting w/o big game license, hunting w/o license and hunting w/o hunter education certification. Both deer were confiscated and donated to a local needy family.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On November 9th, RFC Chad Chambers received a complaint through Habersham 911 regarding two subjects possibly killing a deer illegally. RFC Chambers arrived on scene and met with two Habersham deputies and the two suspects. The first suspect confessed to killing the deer on the adjacent property where he did not have permission to be. The second suspect admitted to helping his friend load the deer into their pickup. RFC Chambers also noticed that there was a large amount of corn distributed over the area. RFC Chambers charged the first subject with Hunting without permission, hunting over bait and gave him a warning for Failure to record deer harvest. The second subject was given a warning for Possession of illegally taken wildlife.

On November 12th, RFC Chad Chambers received a complaint of a baited deer stand on private property near Demorest. RFC Chambers was 10-7 at the time so he contacted Cpl. Josh Chambers who lives near the complaint area and gave him the information. Cpl. Chambers found the baited stand and made contact with a subject on the afternoon of the 13th. Cpl. Chambers charged the individual with Hunting over bait.

UNION COUNTY

On November 15th, RFC David Webb was patrolling Gumlog Mountain in Union County and came upon a black Dodge truck with deer hair in the bed. RFC Webb ran the vehicle tag and then ran the owner on Go Outdoors and found that the owner did not have a current hunting license and his big game license had expired on Nov. 11th. RFC Webb waited on the hunter to come out and verified the license information. The subject was issued a citation for hunting without a license and warned for hunting without a big game license and hunting without a deer harvest record.

JACKSON COUNTY

On November 11th, RFC Eric Isom and his K9 partner Colt responded to a complaint from a landowner near Commerce. Two subjects were located hunting the property. The subjects received citations and warnings for hunting without permission, hunting without obtaining a deer harvest record and littering.

On November 13th, RFC Isom and Colt responded to a call regarding two subjects entering the woods with rifles off I-85. Two subjects were located deer hunting without fluorescent orange. They received citations and warnings for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and failure to record deer harvest.

On November 14th, RFC Isom concluded a littering investigation where eight bags of thrash thrown out in the Pendergrass area. The suspect agreed to clean up the area. He received a warning for littering.

On November 15th, RFC Isom and Colt checked a complainant's property near Hoschton. They located a subject deer hunting without permission. He received a citation and a warning for hunting without permission and hunting without wearing fluorescent orange.

On another property near Apple Valley, RFC Isom and Colt located two hunters hunting deer. They received citations and warnings for hunting without permission, hunting over bait, and hunting without wearing fluorescent orange.

HALL COUNTY

On November 15th, Cpl. Jason Roberson received a call about hunting without permission at Squirrel Creek on Lake Lanier. He responded to the area and located a freshly killed eight point buck and a deer stand. He also located fresh boot tracks that travelled onto an adjacent piece of property. He then conducted an investigation and obtained a confession from the suspect. Citations and warnings were written for hunting without permission and hunting without orange. The deer was given to a needy family.

HART COUNTY

On November 10th, RFC Brandon Pierce, along with volunteer instructor Steve White, conducted a Hunter Education Class at the Corps of Engineers Office. A total of twelve students attended the class and all were certified.

MADISON COUNTY

On November 14th, Sgt. Stan Elrod heard a call on the radio about a burglary in Madison County. Three hours later while returning home from working a night hunting complaint in Franklin County he noticed a white male standing in a ditch near the area where the burglary occurred. Sgt. Elrod called Madison County dispatch to get see if a suspect had been caught. They advised no one had been apprehended. Sgt. Elrod turned around and went back to locate the subject. Upon making contact, Elrod asked for his identification. He claimed to not have any but gave a name and date of birth. Elrod ran the info and it came back not on file. In the meantime, two Madison County deputies arrived. After a few more questions, his real identity was learned and determined that he was the suspect who had broken into the house. The subject was turned over to deputies and Elrod took a warrant for giving false information to add to his other charges.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

On November 15th, RFC Vickery was checking a hunting-without-permission complaint when he encountered an individual hunting in a ladder stand. The stand was about 40 yards inside the complainant's property. Ranger Vickery got the subject out of the stand and talked with hm. The subject stated that the stand was not his and he did not know that he was on someone else's property. Ranger Vickery showed the subject the property lines and told him he had to remove his stands. The subject was issued a citation for hunting without permission.

MADISON COUNTY

On November 11th, RFC Shane Sartor checked a baited deer stand and located a subject sitting in a chair with a rifle and no orange over the bait. The subject was issued two citations for hunting over bait and hunting without orange.

On November 15th, RFC Shane Sartor was area for possible night hunting when a truck approached and shined the field with a spotlight. The truck was stopped and was occupied by two male subjects along with two loaded firearms and a spotlight. The subjects were taken to the Madison Co. S.O. and both subjects were issued citations for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road and hunting from a vehicle. One subject was also issued a warning for failure to record deer harvest for an antlerless deer he had killed earlier that evening that was in the bed of the truck.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Corporal Micheal Crawley and K9 Storm worked deer hunting activity near Riddleville and Davisboro areas. Several hunters were checked and citations were issued for hunting without orange vest.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On November 14, Cpl. Ben Payne worked a deer dumping complaint in Richmond County and advised the landowner of ways to deter this type of activity. The deer were decomposed and were likely dumped by a nearby resident. Cpl. Payne checked 3 WMA's for activity checking 3 hunters.

GREENE COUNTY

On November 15th, Cpl. Derrell Worth cited one subject for hunting on a WMA without a license. On that same date he cited one subject for hunting without permission.

NEWTON COUNTY

On November 16th, Cpl. Worth and Sgt. Harwell received hunting without permission complaint in Newton County. One subject was cited for failure to record two bucks on his deer harvest record. He was also cited for unlawful dumping.

WILKES COUNTY

On November 15th Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Mark Patterson checked hunting without permission and illegal dumping complaints. The complaints are still under investigation.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On November 15th, RFC Robert Timmerman and Sgt. Doyte Chaffin checked a baited area off of White Rock Road in Lincolnton. Two subjects were apprehended for Orange Clothing violations and Unlawful Enticement of Deer (baiting).

TALIAFERRO COUNTY

On November 15th, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin's work unit and Sgt. Brian Carter's Work unit attended a GOHS road check with Taliaferro County Sheriff's Office and GSP. Several violations were detected during the road check. Violations ranged from Failure to Record Deer Harvest, License Violations, and DUI.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY/ BARTRAM WMA

On the morning of November 9th, Ranger Matt Johnson located several individuals camped on Bartram WMA. The subjects were charged with driving on a closed WMA road and were instructed to leave the property.

BUTTS COUNTY

On Saturday morning, November 15th, Sgt. Tim Kendrick was patrolling Butts County when he found two trucks parked in a field. Kendrick looked in the bed of one of the trucks and saw empty deer corn bags and other evidence that the owner of the truck might be hunting deer over bait. Sgt. Kendrick called RFC Keith Page and requested him to bring K-9 Drake to assist in locating the hunters. When Page and K-9 Drake arrived, they located two hunters on the property. One of the hunters was hunting over bait and the other hunter wasn't wearing a fluorescent orange vest. Citations were issued for hunting big game over bait and hunting without fluorescent orange clothing.

On Saturday evening, November 15th, Sergeant Tim Kendrick and RFC Keith Page checked a hunting club near Flovilla where they had previously found numerous baited deer stands. They found a hunter in one of the baited deer stands without any fluorescent orange clothing with him. The hunter was issued citations for hunting big game over bait and hunting without fluorescent orange clothing.

HARRIS COUNTY

On November 8th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver received a call in regards to an in progress hunting without permission complaint. Cpl. Oliver made contact with the lease holder and was given the details of the incident. The lease holder told Cpl. Oliver that he believed the subject was gone from the property and that there was no need to respond. Cpl. Oliver was also given a description of the car that dropped the subject off. Cpl. Oliver was familiar with the car and went the next morning and located the owner. The owner of the car said that she had dropped her ex-husband off on the property to do some walking. She also said that he was wearing camouflage and carrying a rifle. Cpl. Oliver later interviewed the ex-husband and got a full confession from him in regards to the incident. On November 10th, a warrant was taken for hunting without permission and the subject subsequently turned himself into the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

HENRY COUNTY

On Saturday, November 15th, RFC Kevin Godbee checked a baited stand. He discovered a hunter in the stand that wasn't wearing the required hunter orange vest. He cited the hunter for hunting big game over bait and warned him for the orange violation.

JASPER COUNTY

On Saturday, November 15th, RFC Freddie Hays was patrolling in North Jasper County when he located two men hunting deer where they had placed corn and salt blocks in the food plots where they were both hunting. Both hunters were issued citations for hunting big game over bait.

JONES COUNTY

On the morning of November 15th, RFC Jeremy Reese located a hunter near a baited area he had discovered earlier in the week. The subject was charged with hunting big game over bait.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the morning of November 13th, Sgt. Bo Kelly and Ranger Matt Johnson investigated an illegal hunting complaint that occurred the evening before. After several interviews one subject was charged with hunting without permission.

WILKINSON COUNTY

On the morning of November 15th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford responded to a hunting club in south Wilkinson County in reference to a tree stand incident. After further investigation, it was determined the hunter had been working on the stand after completing his hunt when he slipped and fell breaking his leg, but is suspected to make a full recovery. Later that afternoon, Cpl. Stanford discovered a subject burning wire in a yard. The subject was given a warning for unlawful burning and the fire was extinguished.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

CRISP COUNTY

On November 9th, Cpl. Bob Holley was following up on a report of suspicious gunshots in the area of the new Crisp County School Complex. During a foot patrol of the adjacent properties a pick-up truck containing hunting equipment was located. Cpl. Holley deployed his K-9 dog and picked up a track leading through the wooded property and crossing onto the property owned by the Crisp County Board of Education. The dog then tracked out into a fallow field where he located a subject in a camouflage ghillie suit lying in the brush, and in possession of a loaded rifle. Upon questioning the subject, it was determined that he was hunting on the Board of Education property without permission and was cited for the violation.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On the November 15th Ranger Jordan Crawford and SGT. Don Dasher patrolled Effingham County looking for hunting activity. During this patrol several hunters were checked with five violations documented. Violations included hunting without a license, hunting without a big game permit and hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

JENKINS COUNTY

On November 14th Sgt. Don Dasher was going out to work night hunting, when he heard 911 dispatchers call Jenkins County SO about a shooting incident. Sgt. Dasher notified the Sheriff's Office that he was responding to the call. The suspect in the shooting was reported to be walking on Georgia Highway 23. Sgt. Dasher located the suspect, still carrying the gun, and ordered him to the ground. The suspect was held there until the deputies arrived and took custody of him. The suspect was then transported to the Jenkins County jail.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On Saturday, November 15th, Cpl. Eddie Akins responded to a deer dogging complaint off Arcola Road. A landowner had caught a dog on his property from one of the neighboring deer dogging clubs. Investigation of the incident resulted in the documentation of a violation for failure to keep dogs on permitted property.

On Saturday, November 15th, Cpl. Eddie Akins checked the Oliver Bridge WMA for hunting activity. His efforts resulted in nine hunters being checked and no violations being detected.

BEN HILL COUNTY

On Nov 15th, Corporal John A. Stokes was patrolling for deer hunting activity. Cpl. Stokes checked two hunters that were not wearing the required fluorescent orange while hunting deer. Both violations were documented.

LAURENS COUNTY

On November 9th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Three anglers were checked for creel and license compliance with no violations being found. Cpl. Stiles also patrolled the property for hunting activity during the sign-in archery deer hunt. Two hunters were checked with no violations documented.

On November 10th, Corporal Dan Stiles responded to a complaint in progress at a previous complaint location of illegal dumping of deer carcasses. The complainant, a local resident, was not at home and stated that a hunter from an adjacent property was harassing his wife and granddaughter. Cpl. Stiles responded to the scene and contacted the Laurens County Sheriff's office to also respond. The subject was located on a public road near the complainant's residence. The subject admitted that a member of the hunting club dumped deer carcasses on the road adjacent to the complainant property. The subject was arrested for driving under the influence (alcohol) and driving on a suspended license. Cpl. Stiles also charged the subject with non-resident hunting without non-resident big game license and documented another violation for hunting without a non-resident hunting license. The hunter leasing the property was located and a violation for littering was documented. The next day Cpl. Stiles was contacted by a representative of the timber company that owned the hunting property to document the complaint to consider discontinuing the lease agreement with the subjects.

On November 11th, Corporal Dan Stiles conducted a night patrol of the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. No persons were located on the property. The same night Cpl. Stiles heard a dispatch call from Laurens County of a report of a woman screaming near a residence. Cpl. Stiles responded and met with a Laurens County Deputy on scene. The subjects involved were located and the situation was de-escalated.

TELFAIR COUNTY

On November 10th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne responded to a hunting without permission complaint. While patrolling the property with the complainant, RFC Rodney Horne located a vehicle near the property line of the complainant. After an investigation of the vehicle, RFC Rodney Horne located and arrested a person for hunting without permission and hunting rabbits out of season on the complainant's property.

On November 15th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne was inspecting Lumber City Meats Wildlife Storage Processor. RFC Rodney Horne conducted a license check of a person in possession of a deer that the subject had harvested. A citation was issued to the subject for failure to record a deer on his deer harvest record.

TRUETLEN COUNTY

On November 14th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne, Corporal Dan Stiles, and Ranger First Class Allen Mills were patrolling together near the Oconee River. RFC Allen Mills spotted a hunter hunting on a tree line near Highway 46. RFC Rodney Horne issued a citation to the hunter for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

EVANS COUNTY

On November 15, 2014, RFC Debbie Brannen responded to a possible hunting without permission complaint. Upon arrival three juveniles were located. The subjects were given verbal guidance for hunting without fluorescent orange, hunting without permission and hunting without a deer harvest record.

ATKINSON COUNTY

On November 11th, RFC Tim Hutto received a call to assist Atkinson County 3J on a traffic stop. Once on scene, RFC Hutto noticed fresh blood on the bumper and in the bed of the pickup truck. The officers also smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from the interior of the vehicle. A search of the vehicle turned up marijuana, a doe deer, raccoon hides, and raccoon carcasses. RFC Hutto initiated an investigation into the wildlife in the vehicle. On November 12th, misdemeanor and felony warrants were taken on the occupants of the vehicle for hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

LOWNDES COUNTY

RFC Keith McDonald responded to an unlawful dumping complaint on Sunday, the 16th. The investigation resulted in the issuance of a citation to the person responsible.



Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Nov. 15th, RFC Kiel Toney patrolled the northern end of Bryan County checking over 20 deer hunters. One deer-dogging hunter was cited for hunting from a public road and another was cited for hunting without a license.

On Nov. 15th, Cpl. Bill Bryson patrolled the Richmond Hill WMA to check hunters when he checked Mr. Joseph Craven of Bloomingdale, GA not long after Mr. Craven harvested an eight-point buck which was one of the largest bucks harvested on the WMA in recent years.



Mr. Craven (L) & friend with 8-pt. buck

LIBERTY COUNTY

On Nov. 13th, Ranger Jason Miller was patrolling the Liberty County Development Authority property off Cay Creek Road when he found a hunter hunting on the property with a .270 caliber rifle and a freshly-killed fox. The hunter was cited for hunting without permission and for hunting fox out of season. The fox was confiscated.

On Nov. 15th, RFC Jack Thain cited a local commercial crabber for failure to submit seafood harvest records to the Coastal Resources Division.

On the late evening of Nov. 15th and early morning of the 16th, RFC Jack Thain, Cpl. Bill Bryson, Sgt. Phillip Scott and Liberty Co. Deputy Scott Stevens worked a night hunting detail in the Fleming area. One vehicle shined the area and the two male subjects were stopped and charged with blinding/harassing wildlife. A second vehicle with a man and woman also shined the area then fled from the officers as they tried to stop the vehicle. After stopping the vehicle, it was determined that the male driver was intoxicated. The driver was cited for blinding/harassing wildlife by the DNR rangers, and arrested by the deputy for driving under the influence and fleeing/eluding from police. The female passenger was cited for violation of the open container law by the Liberty County deputy.



Rangers with poached 9-pt. buck (Liberty Co.)