

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
September 7-13, 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)

BARTOW COUNTY

On September 13, Cpl. Byron Young and Intern Matt Agee responded to an illegal hunting call on I-75 near Cartersville. Two subjects were seen dragging a buck from the woods to a white truck parked along I-75. Bartow County Deputy Ryan Tucker was able to make contact with the hunters as they were loading an 8 point buck into the back of the truck. Cpl. Young arrived and determined that the hunters had tracked the deer to the fence on I-75 where it expired. Cpl. Young saw evidence of corn in the immediate area. RFC Bart Hendrix arrived and the officers back tracked the blood trail to a ground blind. Less than 15 yards from the blind was approximately 50 lbs of corn on the ground. This was the hunter's second offense for hunting big game over bait in the last several years. The 8 point buck was confiscated and donated to a needy family. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait.



8 Point Buck Killed over corn in Bartow County

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On September 15th, RFC Bart Hendrix received information that a large 11 point buck was killed along the shore of Allatoona Lake on September 14th. The information RFC Hendrix received was that two hunters and a trailing dog ran the buck into Allatoona Lake. The two hunters then jumped in and drowned the buck. The area the deer entered the water was on US Army Corps of Engineers property closed to hunting. Cpl. Byron Young, RFC Bart Hendrix, and Intern Matt Agee patrolled the lake shore by boat to locate the area the deer was killed. The officers were able to locate blood and backtrack to a baited ladder stand just off the Corps property line. After several interviews the officer located the hunter's residence. The hunter admitted to making a bad shot and trailing the deer to the lake. When asked about the corn, the hunter stated that he thought that baiting was now legal. The hunter left to go out of town after killing the buck, the officers contacted the hunter and are waiting for his return to make charges in the case.

PICKENS COUNTY

On September 13th, Cpl. James Keener issued a citation to an individual for hunting big game over bait. Another subject was issued a written warning for hunting big game over bait later that day.

GILMER COUNTY

On September 13th, Cpl. James Keener issued citations to an individual for hunting big game over bait, hunting without license, and hunting without big game license. The subject was also given a written warning for hunting without permission.

FANNIN COUNTY

On September 13th, Sgt. John Vanlandingham and RFC Cody Jones were checking an area that was baited with corn near Maple Grove Rd. The Officers observed a hunter in the blind approximately 10 yards from the bait site. The Officers investigated and found that the hunter was hunting deer over bait. The Officers questioned the hunter about some violations from the 2013 hunting season that the suspect was involved in. The suspect admitted to killing two small bucks that had less than 4 points on one side of the antlers. He also admitted to killing the two bucks and two does over bait that year. The suspect was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait for a November 2013 incident, taking over the season bag limit of bucks for 2013, and hunting big game over bait on September 13, 2014.



Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On September 13th, RFC Kevin Goss along with Sgt. Mike Burgamy patrolled Barrow County for deer hunters. During the patrol they issued two citations for hunting big game over bait.

BANKS COUNTY

On September 13th, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk patrolled Banks County. During the patrol he checked a dove field with approximately 15 hunters. Two people on the field were giving verbal warnings for hunting without a HIP permit and taking non game species.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

RICHMOND COUNTY

On September 13, Cpl. Ben Payne and Sgt. Max Boswell patrolled Richmond County checking baited deer stands and without permission complaints. Three baited deer stands were checked in the county with 1 citation and 2 warnings written. One citation was written for hunting without permission.

Later in the morning the officers checked Spirit Creek and Phinizy WMA's. While checking licenses at Phinizy 2 citations were written. One citation was written for fishing without license and the other for possession of marijuana less than an ounce.

OCONEE COUNTY

On September 7th Sgt. Brian Carter and RFC Tim Butler followed shots to a dove field. As the Rangers approached, the lone hunter attempted to leave the field. Investigation of the area revealed that the field was baited. The individual was charged with hunting over bait.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On September 8th, Cpl. Ryan Swain conducted a Hunters Education Course at the Lincolnnton Clubhouse in Lincolnnton. 4 people were certified in Hunters Education.

WARREN COUNTY

On September 13th, Cpl. Brian Hobbins apprehended two subjects hunting deer over bait. The 13th was the opening day of deer archery season.

MORGAN COUNTY

On September 11, RFC Ricky Boles taught a hunter safety course at Morgan County Public Safety complex. Sixteen students were certified.

NEWTON COUNTY

On September 12, RFC Ricky Boles participated in the hunter appreciation night that took place at Walmart in Covington. Several vendors were there displaying their products and giving away some hunting products. Ranger Boles gave out hunting regulations, fluorescent orange vests and wrist bands. It was a busy night answering questions before the hunting season began.

GREENE COUNTY

On September 14, Cpl. Derrell Worth, RFC Brian Adams, and RFC Ricky Boles responded to a missing hunter on Oconee WMA in Greene County. The Hunter had got lost while looking for a hog he shot with his bow. The hunter had called in to Putnam Dispatch Center and dispatch was able to get his approximate location. Rangers searched the WMA for his vehicle and Ranger Adams was able to locate his truck. Sirens were sounded at the vehicles location and the hunter was able to follow the sound back to the truck's location. The hunter was unharmed but a little tired.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the morning of September 7th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford patrolled Baldwin County for dove hunting activity. Cpl. Stanford located a dove shoot behind a residence and began checking hunters. The field was discovered to be baited with sunflower seeds. The landowner was charged with unlawful enticement, 5 hunters were issued warnings for hunting over bait and 1 juvenile was charged with hunting without a license and hunting with an unplugged shotgun after giving a false date of birth and attempting to hide from Cpl. Stanford.

On the morning of September 8th, Ranger Matt Johnson located a hunter hunting doves over a food plot. Ranger Johnson discovered sunflower seeds and millet seeds scattered in the plot and the hunter admitted to placing the bait out. He was charged with unlawful enticement and hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

CLAYTON COUNTY

On Monday, September 8th, RFC Kevin Godbee held a hunter education course in Jonesboro where six students were certified.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

On the morning of September 13th, RFC David Fisher was conducting checks of deer stands that he had previously identified as being baited in violation of state law. During these checks, he encountered two individuals hunting the baited locations. Later that same morning, Fisher encountered a third hunter, in a different area of the county, who was found to be hunting over bait. All three individuals were cited for hunting big game over bait.

HENRY COUNTY

On Sunday, September 7th, RFC Kevin Godbee checked a dove field and issued two written warnings for failure to participate in the migratory bird HIP program.

HOUSTON COUNTY

On the morning of September 7th, Cpl. Robert Stillwell was on routine patrol for dove hunting compliance when he heard several shots. Stillwell proceeded to the location where he had heard the shooting, exited his vehicle, and walked through a wooded area in order to reach a field that was being hunted for doves. Just as he arrived at the edge of the field, Cpl. Stillwell observed an individual shoot a large pileated woodpecker that happened to be flying over the field. The officer then overheard another hunter jokingly advise the shooter "that's a go-to-jail right there". Cpl. Stillwell then stepped out and made contact with the hunters, four in total. In so doing, the Ranger also observed the field was baited with cracked corn. All of the hunters were subsequently cited for hunting over bait, and the individual who shot the woodpecker was charged for taking a protected, nongame specie.

MERIWETHER

On Sunday, September 7th, Cpl. Keith Waddell patrolled Joe Kurz WMA. He found three dove hunters hunting on the dove fields. Because the WMA was open to dove hunting on Saturdays only during this time period, he issued citations for hunting on a closed WMA to each of the hunters.

On Saturday, September 13th, Cpl. Keith Waddell patrolled a baited deer stand he had located on Joe Kurz WMA earlier in the week. He located a hunter and cited the hunter for hunting big game over bait.

On Saturday, September 13th, Cpl. Keith Waddell was called to western Meriwether County in reference to a trespasser. Cpl. Waddell conducted an investigation and determined that an adult was hunting over bait on a property he had permission to hunt. He had sent an 11 year old juvenile to another spot across the property line that was also baited. Cpl. Waddell cited the adult with hunting big game over bait and allowing a juvenile to hunt unsupervised.

On Saturday, September 13th, Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled Joe Kurz WMA checking both archery deer hunters and dove hunters. Twelve hunters' licenses were checked—no violations were noted.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On September 13th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen was patrolling for hunting activity, when a dove shoot was heard. Cpl. Bolen was able to locate the area and located several individuals on the field. After checking the area, Cpl. Bolen determined that the field had been baited with milo and wheat on top of the ground. Cpl. Bolen issued 5 warnings for hunting over bait, 2 citations for hunting without a license, 1 citation for hunting with an unplugged shotgun, and 1 citation for unlawful enticement of game.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the evening of September 8th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford worked a night hunting detail on a Canola field in the central part of the county. At approximately 2130 hours, Cpl. Stanford observed a truck on the public road travel past his location while illuminating the field with a light. Cpl. Stanford followed the vehicle and observed it shine both sides of the road numerous times. Cpl. Stanford initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle and identified the occupants and secured the firearms. It was discovered that one of the occupants was on a DNR crop damage permit but the other four occupants were not. Two of the occupants were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle. The subject on the permit was charged with violation of a deer control permit and the permit was revoked for that field because of the violation. The other two occupants, who were juveniles, were released to their parents.

On the evening of September 10th, Cpl. Stanford patrolled Cedar Creek WMA. During his patrol, Cpl. Stanford encountered a suspicious vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. Further investigation led Cpl. Stanford to arrest the subject for driving under the influence and open container violation. The subject registered a .127 on the INTOX 9000 and was turned over to the Putnam County Jail.

SPALDING COUNTY

On Tuesday, September 9th, Sgt. Brent Railey held a hunter education course in Griffin where eight students were certified.

TROUP COUNTY

On Saturday, September 13th, Sgt. Brent Railey and RFC Russell Epps held an HIN inspection at LaFayette Christian School in LaGrange. Three vessels were inspected.

WILKINSON COUNTY

On the morning of September 13th, Ranger Matt Johnson checked a dove field in northern Wilkinson County. Two hunters were found to be hunting on the field without a current H.I.P. permit. Verbal warnings were given on the matter.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

CRISP COUNTY

On September 13th, Cpl. Bob Holley observed the occupants of a vehicle hunting feral hogs from a county road. Two adults were cited for hunting feral hogs from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public road. One hunter received an additional citation for hunting without a license.

DOOLY COUNTY

On September 13th, Cpl. Clint Martin cited four hunters for hunting on a baited dove field. One of the hunters was also cited for hunting without a license. Seven birds were confiscated.

EARLY COUNTY

On September 13th, Ranger Quinn Fogle cited a dove hunter for hunting without a license and possession of over the limit.



Ranger Quinn Fogle with 32 confiscated doves.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LOWNDES COUNTY

On September 9th, Sgt. Morty Wood and RFC Tim Hutto presented a safety program for Georgia Power employees in Valdosta. The officers discussed hunter education, tree stand safety, gun safety, as well as hunting laws. Approximately seventy employees were in attendance.

ATKINSON COUNTY

On September 13th, RFC Tim Hutto patrolled Atkinson County for dove and deer hunting activity. The patrol resulted in numerous violations for hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting with an unplugged shotgun, hunting after obtaining the daily bag limit, and possession over the daily bag limit.

COFFEE COUNTY

On September 13th, RFC Hutto checked three subjects hunting dove in a clear cut in Mora. As RFC Hutto was checking the dove hunters, he noticed fresh cracked corn and wheat seed scattered on the ground near all three hunters. All three hunters admitted to knowing the field was baited and were cited for hunting dove over bait.

CLINCH COUNTY

On September 8th, Cpl. Jason Shipes, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, Ranger Daniel North, and Ranger First Class Mark Pool attended a meeting in Homerville to discuss emergency response procedures during events involving the local school system. GEMA Director Will Joyce laid out the response plan to officers at the meeting which included the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division, Clinch County Sheriff's Department, Homerville Police Department, Clinch County Fire Department, hospital staff, and school officials.

On September 12th, Cpl. Jason Shipes assisted the Homerville Police Department and the Clinch County Sheriff's Department with executing a search warrant. During the warrant officers located 3.2 pounds of marijuana, 8 grams of powder cocaine, and 3 grams of crack cocaine. One subject was discovered attempting to destroy evidence and was taken into custody.



Evidence seized during Clinch County search warrant.

On September 13th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree was conducting surveillance of a night deer hunting complaint area in the southwestern part of the county. Just after midnight, a pickup passed by Sgt. Dupree's location and a spotlight was shined from the vehicle across a clear-cut. Sgt. Dupree stopped the vehicle and secured the four occupants. The night deer hunters possessed a .30-.30 rifle and .22 magnum rifle. The spotlight that was used to shine the clear-cut was a cab-mounted, remote-controlled light. The violators were transported to Clinch County jail. Violations documented on the four individuals were hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.

PIERCE COUNTY

On September 7th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, RFC Mark Pool, Ranger Sam Williams, and Ranger Daniel North patrolled for dove hunting activity across eastern Pierce and north Bacon counties. One dove hunt was located near Little Satilla WMA with approximately eight hunters participating. One hunter was discovered hunting without a license and another was discovered hunting doves with an unplugged shotgun. Both hunters were issued citations for the violations.

LAURENS COUNTY

On September 13th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the public dove fields at the River Bend Wildlife Management Area. One violation for hunting without a Wildlife Management Area License was documented.

On September 13th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Allen Mills held a Hull Identification Number inspection site to assist vessel owners with vessel registration issues. The officers assisted vessel owners with vessel registration issues and requests for replacement Hull Identification Numbers.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

GLYNN COUNTY

On September 13, RFC John Evans checked a baited area on Paulks Pasture WMA. RFC Evans found two subjects hunting in the area and cited them for hunting big game over bait. While doing so another subject pulled into the area that RFC Evans was familiar with. That subject did not have any of the required licenses. He was cited for hunting big game w/o a license, hunting w/o a license, and hunting w/o a wma stamp.

BRYAN COUNTY

On September 12th, while patrolling the Ft. McAllister State Park, Ranger Miller found people drinking alcoholic beverages on the fishing pier. The three found were cited for consumption of alcohol on a state park. The people were too intoxicated to drive and had others come to pick them up from the park.

CHATHAM COUNTY

On September 12th, Ranger Jason Miller and Sgt. Phillip Scott conducted a Commercial dumping investigation in Chatham County. Several interviews were conducted in different locations. The investigation is on-going and no arrests have been made.

OFFSHORE/FEDERAL WATERS

On September 12th, Ranger Miller conducted a commercial fishing patrol offshore of St. Catherine's Island, Ossabaw Island, and Sapelo Island looking for illegal trawling. Several vessels were checked with no violations.