

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
April 12 - 18, 2015

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.

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Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)

BARTOW COUNTY

On April 12th, RFC Zack Hardy responded to the Etowah River with Bartow County Fire/ Rescue to a call for assistance. Five teenage females began a float trip down the river in blow up rafts at Douthit Ferry Rd. While on the river the water level began to rise and the females became concerned, stopped on a small island and called 911 for help. RFC Hardy assisted in getting the females off the river safely. The group did not have any PFD's (lifejackets), RFC Hardy took no enforcement action for not having PFD's. RFC Hardy did stress the importance of knowing water conditions, generation schedule and PFD's to the group.

On April 18th, Cpl. Byron Young, RFC Bart Hendrix and RFC Mark Puig attended a Wounded Warrior fishing event on Allatoona Lake. Volunteers and sponsors provided fishing opportunity for 4 Wounded Warrior's families. Cabela's provided rod and reels, The Dugout in Kennesaw provided bait, 4 pontoons were rented from Park Marina. The families enjoyed a day on the water, catered meals and overnight stay at the cottages at Red Top Mt. State Park.



Wounded Warrior fishing event on Allatoona Lake

COBB COUNTY

On April 16th, Cpl. Byron Young presented a boating safety program to employees at Georgia Power Plant McDonough in Atlanta. Cpl. Young covered boating under the influence, boater education, safe navigation, PFD use and light / night time navigation issues while on the water.

FANNIN COUNTY

On April 12th Cpl. James Keener, Cpl. Casey Jones, and RFC Joe Hill patrolled the delayed harvest section of the Toccoa River, Rock Creek, and Noontootla Creek for trout fishing violations. The Rangers receive numerous complaints concerning violations on these three trout streams. The Rangers checked approximately 50 persons fishing and issued citations and warnings for fishing without a license, fishing without a trout license, unlawful bait in an artificial stream/zone, unlawful possession of trout on a delayed harvest stream, and fishing with unlawful equipment.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

STEPHENS COUNTY

On April 18th, RFC Tim Vickery and Sergeant Stan Elrod responded to an illegal burn complaint on Hwy. 328 just inside Stephens County. The Rangers arrived at the residence and observed brush, plastic, and a mattress being burned in the yard. The subject at the residence was issued a citation for unlawful dumping of waste, burning.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

On April 18th, RFC Tim Vickery and Sergeant Stan Elrod were on vessel patrol in the Tugaloo River on Lake Hartwell. The Rangers checked several tournament fishermen. One of the tournament anglers did not have a fishing license. He was issued a citation for fishing without a license.

WHITE COUNTY

On April 12, RFC Anne Britt checked two hunters on the Chattahoochee WMA who had thought they were on the Dukes Creek Quota hunt. One hunter was warned for not having a big game license and for not signing in on the WMA. The other hunter was accompanying the other due to not being picked on the quota hunt therefore, he was given verbal guidance.

RFC Britt checked several fishing licenses on the Chattahoochee River off Poplar Stump Rd. She warned two adult males for fishing without permission on private property.

On April 13, RFC Anne Britt responded to a drowning incident that occurred on private property in Town Creek off Mill Creek Trail. A 76 year old male was cutting his lawn when he fell off an embankment into the creek. The lawnmower pinned him under the water's surface and he drowned. White County Sheriff's Department, EMS and Fire responded to the incident.

RABUN COUNTY

On April 12th, Corporal Derek Dillard and USFS Officers Jeff Angel and Derik Breedlove were checking trout fishermen on Warwoman WMA when they observed 2 men driving an SUV go by them and park and get out to start trout fishing in the Sarah's Creek area. The Officers checked the men's fishing licenses and creel since they said they had already been fishing in some other locations. The 2 men both had an open can of beer in the SUV. Both of them were cited for open container violations and one of the subjects was arrested and transported to the Rabun County Detention Center because he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

GREENE COUNTY

On April 18, Cpl. Derrell Worth was working a without permission complaint and located a truck parked on said property. Cpl. Worth was able to locate the subjects and it was determined they were surface collecting arrowheads. As Cpl. Worth identified himself, one of the subjects attempted to throw an item onto the ground. This item was a bagged green leafy substance which was suspected marijuana. One subject was cited for violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act and Criminal Trespass. The other subject was cited for Criminal Trespass.

LAKE OCONEE

On April 18, Cpl. Derrell Worth and RFC Ricky Boles responded to Sugar Creek Boat ramp in reference to an illegal fishing complaint. Upon their arrival, several Asian male subjects were engaged in the removal of game fish by the use of gill and cast nets. Four male subjects were properly identified, cited for fishing by illegal methods, and cited for illegal use of gill nets. The subjects were transported to the Putnam County Law Enforcement Center for booking. The netted fish were seized and given to a thankful family.

CLARKE COUNTY

On April 16th Rangers from Region II Gainesville and Region III Thomson responded to a request for assistance in the search for a 76 year old subject that suffers from Alzheimer's. The individual was located by searchers approximately a mile and a quarter from where he had been last seen on the previous day.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On April 18th, Cpl. Ryan Swain, RFC Brian Adams, and RFC Jeff Billups conducted Hull Identification Inspections at the Thomson Office. Eight vessels were inspected and issued HINs.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On April 15th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and RFC Russell Epps presented Information and Education programs to a group of Criminal Justice students at Columbus State University. RFC Epps presented the LED power point to the group which covers all the responsibilities of a Conservation Ranger. Cpl. Bolen spoke about DNR's K-9 program and performed a demonstration on wildlife searches and apprehensions.

On April 15th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen checked boating activity around Lake Oliver Marina. Approximately 45 minutes after sunset, Cpl. Bolen observed a boat entering the no wake zone of the marina not displaying the required navigational lights. After an inspection of the vessel, Cpl. Bolen also discovered the operator only possessed 2 life jackets on board for the 5 passengers. The operator was issued a citation for operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness and a written warning for operating vessel with insufficient PFD's.

On April 17th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver and Michael Barnett with Georgia Power presented 4 boating programs to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at Brookstone School. Cpl. Oliver spoke to the students about the recent changes to the laws pertaining to boater education and the mandatory wearing of PFD's for children under the age of 13. Mr. Barnett spoke about Georgia Power's 14 lakes and how they impact recreation around the state.

PIKE COUNTY

On Monday, April 13th, Cpl. Travis Sweat patrolled Still Branch Reservoir near Molena. He checked several boats and issued warnings for various boating safety violations.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On April 17th, Corporal Dan Stiles conducted two Information and Education programs to 49 fifth grade students at Trinity Christian School. Cpl. Stiles presented the Hunter Safety portion of the Choosing Healthy Activities Promoting Safety (CHAMPS) program administered by the Laurens County Sherriff's office for Elementary School youths.

On April 18th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Allen Mills patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. One vessel was checked for boating safety equipment and registration compliance and four subjects were checked for license and creel compliance. One violation for operating a vessel without Coast Guard Approved Personal Floatation Devices (life jackets) and one violation for fishing on a Public Fishing Area (PFA) without a Wildlife Management Area License was documented.

On April 14th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne observed a pedestrian walking down a state highway, empty a water bottle and throw the bottle onto the edge of the highway. RFC Horne stopped the pedestrian and issued a citation for littering.

JENKINS COUNTY

During the week of April 13- 18, Corporal Mike Wilcox investigated a hunting without permission complaint that he received while he was off duty. Cpl. Wilcox received a call from a Jenkins County Deputy on Saturday April 11, about hunting without permission. Cpl. Wilcox had the deputy take statements from the violator and the witness/complainant. Cpl. Wilcox followed up with complainants throughout the week. The case is still under investigation.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On April 12, Corporal Shaymus McNeely conducted a patrol of Tuckahoe WMA for turkey hunting, boating and fishing activity. Cpl. McNeely encountered two female suspects operating a metal detector at the Briar Creek landing off of Brannens Bridge Rd. Citations were issued for operating a metal detector on state property.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On April 18, Corporal Shaymus McNeely, Corporal Mike Wilcox, and Sergeant Don Dasher patrolled Screven County for boating and fishing activity on the Savannah River. The Officers checked eight boats and eight fishing licenses. Violations for registration and fire extinguishers were addressed.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On April 18th, Corporal Eddie Akins checked all the public landings on the Ogeechee River in Bulloch County for boating and fishing activity. His efforts resulted in nine boats and one fishing license being checked. One violation for operating a vessel without PFD's was detected and documented.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On April 12th 2015, Ranger Jordan Crawford received a call regarding a boat incident that took place early that morning on Abercorn creek. After investigating the incident Ranger Crawford was able to determine that all parties involved where ok.

On April 18th 2015, Ranger Jordan Crawford patrolled several boat ramps throughout Effingham County. Numerous boats were checked with one violation for fishing without a license documented.

APPLING COUNTY

On the night of April 11th, Cpl. Altman and Sgt. Barnard answered a call about two stranded vessels on the Altamaha River around 9:30 pm. They were two small kids on board and four total adults, who were stranded with motor trouble down river from Plant Hatch. Both boats were located and checked on, before loading all occupants aboard the patrol vessels and towing them and the boats back to the nearest landings. No one was injured or required medical attention.

CLINCH COUNTY

On April 14th, Corporal Jason Shipes received a call from Superior Pine Products in reference to a large amount of debris and house hold garbage being dumped onto their property. Cpl. Shipes responded to the area and inspected the site. The name and address was found within the debris of an individual who lived in Homerville. Cpl. Shipes was able to locate the subject at the residence. After a brief interview, the subject admitted to dumping the debris. A citation for littering was issued to the individual.



ECHOLS COUNTY

On April 18th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Corporal Jason Shipes, Ranger Judd Sears, and Ranger Sam Williams assisted Echols County Sheriff's Department and the Georgia State Patrol with a license and sobriety checkpoint near Statenville. As Ranger Williams arrived to assist, he noticed the driver of the truck in front of him begin to lean over in the seat and appeared to be hiding something in the floorboard of the truck as they approached officers standing in the highway at the checkpoint. While the subject was reaching down in the floorboard, Ranger Williams observed two objects fall from underneath the center of the vehicle onto the roadway. Ranger Williams immediately stopped his truck to determine what had fallen out of the vehicle and located a pipe and small bag containing a white substance suspected to be methamphetamine. Ranger Williams alerted the officers at the vehicle and a brief look inside the vehicle revealed a hole that had been cut in the floorboard behind the gear shifter which allowed the driver to drop the items from inside the truck. The driver of the vehicle was arrested on drug possession charges. Several other individuals were arrested during the checkpoint for various violations including possession of marijuana, DUI, and driver's license violations.

WARE COUNTY

On April 12th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and Ranger Judd Sears patrolled Suwannee River Sill recreation area for fishing and boating activity. Multiple anglers were encountered during the patrol. While checking fishing licenses and creel limits one subject was discovered fishing without a license and was issued a citation. The officers also documented a violation of fishing without a license on person on another individual.

On April 17th & 18th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Corporal Jason Shipes, Corporal Tommy Daughtrey, Ranger First Class Mark Pool, Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel, Ranger Sam Williams, and Ranger Judd Sears attended the Georgia Hunting & Fishing Federation's Outdoor Expo in Waycross. Officers assisted the visitors with enjoying the laser shot shooting simulator and answering many hunting, fishing, and boating-related questions in addition to providing public information literature to approximately 1400 attendees. Cpl. Shipes and Ranger Sears conducted a hunter education review and test session for several students and Sgt. Dupree gave a presentation on trapping laws and regulations for the Georgia Trapper's Association during the event.



2015 Georgia Hunting & Fishing Outdoor Expo DNR LE exhibit.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

MCINTOSH COUNTY

On April 17th, Cpl. Bobby White and Ranger Patrick Gibbs were assisting Darien Police Department with the annual Blessing of the Fleet Festival. While they were patrolling the Darien River along the water front they noticed a vessel traveling on the river close to the Hwy 17 Bridge. During a boating safety check they determined the operator was under the influence of alcohol. The operator proved to be uncooperative and was arrested and transported to the McIntosh County Jail. Violations for Operating a Vessel under the Influence and Operating a Vessel with Insufficient PFD's were documented.

On April 18th, Ranger Patrick Gibbs conducted a commercial fishing patrol specific to crab fisherman. Ranger Gibbs checked five crab boats and numerous recreational fishermen. Everyone was found to be in compliance and only one violation was documented for littering.

CHATHAM COUNTY

On 4/11/2015 CPL Buster Cooper and Kate Hargrove presented an information and education program during Take a Soldier Fishing Tournament at Lake Mayer in Chatham County. Wounded warriors and local sponsors participated in the event honoring World War II Veterans.

On 4/18/2015, CPL Buster Cooper, Kate Hargrove and RFC Jason Miller, patrolled Tybee Beach during Orange Crush Event.

