

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
April 19 - 25, 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 21st, RFC Bart Hendrix attended a career day event at Cartersville High School. RFC Hendrix spoke with students about a career opportunity as a Conservation Ranger with Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division. RFC Hendrix also addressed water safety concerns to students on local waterways (Allatoona Lake and the Etowah River).

POLK COUNTY

On April 12th, RFC Chad Cox completed a hunting from road investigation that resulted in a wild turkey hen being killed. After interviewing each subject and collecting evidence RFC Cox cited one subject for hunting from the road and hunting from a motor vehicle. The shooter was a juvenile and RFC Cox filed juvenile complaints against him for hunting from the road, hunting from a motor vehicle and taking totally protected wildlife. The third subject was also a juvenile and received a juvenile complaint for possession of illegally taken wildlife.

On April 12th, RFC Chad Cox received a complaint of someone dumping a truck load of trash at a hunting club gate in the eastern portion of Polk County. RFC Cox was able to locate a name and address in the trash pile and issued a citation for littering. The trash was removed the next day.

CARROLL COUNTY

On April 12th, Corporal Eric Brown was patrolling Carroll County for turkey hunting activity. One subject was cited for hunting big game over bait.

April 18th, Corporal Eric Brown was patrolling the southern portion of Carroll County for turkey hunting activity. One subject was encountered and cited for hunting with an unplugged shotgun. Later on in the morning, one subject was cited for hunting without a hunting license, hunting without a big game license, and hunting with an unplugged shotgun. Another subject was cited for hunting without a nonresident hunting license and hunting without a big game license.

FULTON COUNTY

On April 11th, 2015, Rangers Mark Puig and Shane Brown, Ranger First Class Chad Cox and several US Park Service officers conducted a joint special detail on the Chattahoochee River at the Morgan Falls Dam. Utilizing undercover and surveillance officers targeting state and federal resource crimes several violations were observed and addressed throughout the day.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

WHITE COUNTY

On April 25th, Sgt. Steve Seitz and RFC David Webb patrolled along the Chattahoochee River on Chattahoochee WMA checking for hunting and fishing activity. The officers issued one citation and three warnings for fishing license violations during the patrol of the WMA.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

GREENE COUNTY/LAKE OCONEE

On April 25th, Sgt. John Harwell and Cpl. David Allen patrolled around Lake Oconee checking fishing spots. Several people were checked and one cited for fishing w/out a license.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On April 25th, RFC Robert Timmerman conducted a boater education class for the Boy Scouts of America. Thirty young adults were certified in boater education.

On April 25th, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, Cpl. Brian Hobbins, RFC Brian Adams, and Ranger Michael Madden worked a marine event on the Savannah River below the Clarks Hill Dam. The event was a Kayak event that involved over 500 vessels.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

JENKINS COUNTY

On April 24th, Corporal Mike Wilcox and Sergeant Don Dasher received a call in reference to a missing boater on the Ogeechee River. Cpl. Wilcox and Sgt. Dasher responded to the area of Rogers Landing. The wife of the missing boater said that her and her husband's boat capsized while they were traveling up river. She made it back to shore but didn't know where her husband was. Cpl. Wilcox and Sgt. Dasher launched their patrol boat and both the husband and wife were located.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On April 24th, Ranger Jordan Crawford received a call regarding a person who had jumped off the Interstate 95 Bridge that crosses the Savannah River. The subject had been involved in a car accident on top of the bridge and was trying to flag down passing motorist when he was almost struck by another car. Fearing that he was going to be hit he jumped from the bridge. Luckily he was able to swim to shore suffering several major injuries. Ranger Crawford responded to the area by patrol vessel and was able to locate the person with the help of Rincon Fire Department. Ranger Crawford transported the subject by patrol vessel back to Abercorn Creek Landing where he was transported by EMS to Memorial Medical Hospital in Savannah.

On April 25th, Ranger Jordan Crawford assisted Effingham County Sheriff's Office with traffic control along Hwy 80 after severe storms knocked out several traffic lights throughout the local area.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On April 23rd, Corporal Shaymus McNeely responded to a call from the Screven County Sheriffs' Department regarding wildlife being held in captivity in a residence in the Oliver area. Cpl. McNeely located 7 opossums being held in a cage inside the house. A citation was issued to the home owner for holding wildlife without a permit. The opossums were turned over to Game Management personnel.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On April 25th, Cpl. Eddie Akins checked Oliver Bridge WMA for hunting activity. His efforts resulted in one hunter being checked and one violation being documented. The violation was for hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On April 23rd, Ranger Daniel North observed several individuals fishing from the bank of the Alapaha River at Mayday Bridge. Ranger North conducted a license compliance check and all but one of the individuals had fishing licenses. While checking on-line to see if the suspect had an active fishing license it was discovered that there was a warrant for his arrest. The individual was detained but the warrant was found to be no longer valid. The suspect was then released and a violation of fishing without a fishing license was documented.

WARE COUNTY

On April 25th, Corporal Jason Shipes and Ranger Daniel North were patrolling popular fishing and boating areas along the Satilla River. As Cpl. Shipes and Ranger North entered the Jamestown Landing boat ramp area, they observed a vehicle parked at the waterline. As the officers approached the vehicle they observed a male and female begin to quickly move about the vehicle. It was determined that the two were engaged in a sexual act while parked at the public landing. While speaking with the two subjects, their behavior ranged from calm one second to very nervous the next. A K-9 unit from the Ware County Sheriff's Department arrived at the landing and assisted with the situation. A search of the vehicle was conducted due to positive response indicated by the K9 on scene. While conducting the search, officers found a working meth lab in the bed of the



pickup truck concealed in a duffel bag. At that point, due to the dangers of a working meth lab, the search was suspended and part of the landing was blocked off to public access.

Agents from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation responded to the landing to process and properly dispose of the hazardous materials used to manufacture methamphetamine. After the lab was secure, officers found finished product, loaded syringes, and other evidence related to methamphetamine. The two subjects were arrested.

Meth & manufacturing components discovered during arrests at a public boat landing in Ware County.

COOK

On April 26th Sergeant Morty Wood and Ranger First Class Keith McDonald responded to a boating incident at Reed Bingham State Park. A boat had capsized and no one was injured. The incident is still under investigation.

BERRIEN

On April 26th Ranger First Class Keith McDonald patrolled Paradise Public Fishing Area for fishing activity. During this patrol three subjects were issued warnings for fishing on a public fishing area without a WMA Stamp.

WHEELER COUNTY

On April 24th Ranger First Class Rodney Horne patrolled Little Ocmulgee State Park looking for public safety, fishing, and boating violations on the States Parks Lake and Property. No violations were documented.

DODGE COUNTY

On April 23rd, Ranger First Class Allen Mills and Corporal Dan Stiles participated with career day at the Dodge County High School. The Two Officers spoke to four classes about job duties, hours, salaries, and pre-employment requirements as well as showing the Law Enforcements Division's power point presentation.

On April 25th, Ranger First Class Allen Mills patrolled the Dodge County Public Fishing area for boating and fishing violations. Verbal guidance was given for minor violations. A two hour litter detail was also conducted with no violations documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

LIBERTY COUNTY

On April 15th, RFC Jack Thain and Cpl. Bill Bryson investigated the killing of an alligator off of Mt. Olivet Church Road. A female subject stated that the alligator had been trying to attack her dog so she shot it. An investigation showed that the woman had been illegally raising and feeding the alligator which made the alligator unafraid of humans. She skinned the alligator to obtain the alligator meat, and threw the skull and hide onto an ant bed so that the ants would clean them of any remaining meat. The woman was advised that she should have called DNR to have the alligator removed from the property if it was dangerous. She was cited for killing an alligator out of season. The alligator meat, skull, and hide were confiscated.

BRYAN COUNTY

On April 19th, RFC Kiel Toney, Ranger Jason Miller, and Cpl. Jay Morgan overheard a radio call regarding a vehicle accident not far from their location on Hwy. 144 near Kilkenny Road. The rangers responded and were first on the scene of a single-vehicle accident where a truck had run off the roadway into the tree line. The rangers assisted the county deputy with traffic control and interviewing the driver who was unharmed.

On April 24th, Cpl. Bill Bryson and Ranger Jason Miller served arrest warrants on two commercial crabbers after an investigation that totaled over 100 man-hours that found that the two crabbers were using crab traps stolen from two other crabbers. Both crabbers were arrested and charged with two separate counts of theft by receiving. One crabber was also charged with commercial fishing with illegal gear and using improperly marked crab trap floats and for possession of marijuana. During the investigation, Cpl. Bryson, Ranger Miller, RFC Jack Thain, and Cpl. Jay Morgan checked and inspected over 150 traps and confiscated 24 illegally baited and illegally marked traps. Rangers in Chatham County also charged the two subjects for crabbing violations and confiscated traps in their county.

