

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report  
August 23 – August 29, 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.



## **Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)**

No significant activity to report.

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

### **STEPHENS COUNTY**

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Stan Elrod and RFC Shane Sartor patrolled Stephens Co. and Lake Hartwell for violations. During their patrol two boating violations were documented along with one environmental case for illegal burning.

### **HART COUNTY**

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Craig Fulghum patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating safety violations. During his patrol five boating violations were documented.

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

### **LAKE OCONEE**

On August 29, Rangers John Harwell, David Allen, Richard Tanner, and Jason Harrison patrolled Lake Oconee for boating violations. The Rangers documented several violations including Operating a PWC w/out a PFD, Operating vessel w/insufficient PFDs, Allowing child under the age of 13 in a moving vessel w/out a PFD, 100 foot violations, failure to obey regulatory markers, and operating vessel w/improper lights. The Rangers also charged two individuals for operating under the influence of alcohol.

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

On August 28<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Adams checked several fishermen and boaters on the Oconee River. All the violations that were detected were minor and handled with verbal guidance.

On August 29<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Adams checked a group of hog hunters on Agricola Rd. License were checked and permission from land owner was verified.

On the night of August 29<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Adams patrolled the Oconee River for alligator hunters. Three hunters were checked that had not had any luck.

### **CLARKE COUNTY**

On Saturday August 29, RFC Phillip Nelson observed a subject throw a Starbuck's cup out of the window of his vehicle while stopped at a red light. Subject was issued a citation for littering.

On Saturday August 29, RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Athens for boating and fishing activity. RFC Nelson issued a warning for operating a vessel without registration on Lake Chapman.

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On Saturday August 29, SGT. Brian Carter and CPL. Julian Wilkins patrolled Elbert County boat ramps and WMA's for fishing, boating and hunting activity. CPL. Wilkins issued a subject a citation for fishing without a license.

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain and Ranger Michael Madden performed a concentrated boating patrol of the Savannah River below Clarks Hill Dam. Several vessels were checked and several warnings were issued for various boating safety violations.

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

### **JASPER COUNTY**

On Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, RFC Keith Page and Cpl. Tony Wynne patrolled Jackson Lake for boating safety violations. Several boats were stopped and issued warnings for minor violations and one vessel operator was arrested for operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol.

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

### **DOUGHERTY COUNTY**

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Eric White located a large amount of household garbage which was illegally dumped along a railroad service road. Ranger White photographed the materials and collected evidence which identified a person associated with the debris. He then located the person whom admitted to dumping the items two weeks prior to White's finding the items. The subject was charged with unlawful dumping of egregious litter under 500 lb.



*Illegally dumped household garbage*

## Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

### BACON COUNTY

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Judd Sears and RFC Sam Williams conducted surveillance of a complaint area for night deer hunting activity. At approximately 2:00 AM, a vehicle was observed with a light shining from the driver's side into an agricultural field as it passed by Ranger Sears' and RFC Williams' location. The officers followed the vehicle as the light was continuing to be shined from both the driver's and passenger's windows. A traffic stopped was conducted on the vehicle that was occupied by one adult male with a head-mounted light. A loaded .243 rifle and loaded .22 magnum handgun was located in a readily-accessible location in his vehicle. The suspect was charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.



*Weapons & head-mounted light used by Bacon County night deer poacher*

### ECHOLS COUNTY

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree received a call from Echols Sheriff Randy Courson to assist in the search for a missing two-year old child that had walked away from his residence. After arriving on scene it was learned that the child had likely followed a pet dog into a nearby wooded area. In less than an hour the child and the dog was located in a

thick woodlot approximately ¼ mile from the residence and safely returned to his worried parents.

### **EFFINGHAM COUNTY**

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Ranger Jordan Crawford met with the local news media regarding a black bear sighting in North Effingham County. During the interview Ranger Crawford disused the state laws pertaining to black bears and the importance of conservation efforts to protect black bears.

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Ranger Jordan Crawford and Sergeant Don Dasher patrolled Ebenezer Creek and the Savannah River looking for fishing activity. A total of 8 boats and 13 fishermen were checked during the patrol. One violation for allowing an underage person to ride in a vessel without wearing a PFD was documented.

### **DODGE COUNTY**



On August 26<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Allen Mills noticed a large, black plume of smoke emanating from the rear of a business in Eastman. RFC Mills drove behind the building and located the fire burning next to the office structure. After alerting individuals in the building about the fire, RFC Mills used his fire extinguisher to contain the blaze until the Eastman Fire Department could arrive and completely put out the fire. The owner stated that if RFC Mills had not come by and reacted as quickly as he did, the building may have been lost.



*Fire due to an electrical short in external outlet burning a bicycle, mat, and other materials next to wall.*

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Dodge County Public Fishing Area. One violation was documented for operating a vessel without Coast Guard Approved Personal Floatation Devices (Life Jackets). Later in the afternoon, Cpl. Stiles stopped to check the fishing licenses of three individuals fishing in a creek near a bridge. It was determined that one of the subjects had an arrest warrant in another county. The subject was arrested and transported to the Dodge County Law Enforcement Center to await extradition to the county where the warrant was issued.

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles was patrolling boat landings in the county. Two vessels were checked for boating safety equipment and registration compliance. Five individuals were checked for fishing licenses and creel limits. Two violations for fishing without a license were documented.

### **COOK COUNTY**

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey taught a hunter safety class in Adel. Several students were proud of their perfect score on the hunter safety exam.



Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey with his hunter safety class in Adel

### **TATTNALL COUNTY**

On the night of August 28<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Altman and Sgt. Barnard patrolled Big Hammock WMA for any alligator hunting. The WMA is closed until opening of bow season. One vehicle was checked, but no violations documented.

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

### **BRANTLEY COUNTY**

On August 27<sup>th</sup> 2015, SGT. Chris Hodge, CPL Craig Smith, RFC John Evans, Ranger Colte Shaske and GSP Aviation assisted Brantley County Sheriff's Office with a Marijuana Eradication Detail. A small plot of Marijuana plants were found around a home. The suspect was arrested and turned over to Brantley County Sheriff's Office pending investigation.

On August 27<sup>th</sup> 2015, Ranger Colte Shaske was working a night hunting complaint in Brantley County. Ranger Shaske witnessed a vehicle exit a hunting club road and proceed down the public road. A few minutes later the vehicle returned in view of Ranger Shaske and began shining a spotlight out of the driver side window. The vehicle then turned back down the hunting club road and continued to shine the spotlight in the clear cut. Ranger Shaske initiated a traffic stop. Ranger Shaske found 2 spotlights and a .22 caliber long rifle in the passenger seat. The suspect was cited for Hunting Deer at Night, Hunting from a Vehicle, and Hunting from a Public Road.