

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
January 11 - 17, 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)

CARROLL COUNTY

On January 17th, Corporal Eric Brown was patrolling Carroll County for waterfowl activity. Two groups were located. The first group received verbal guidance for juveniles hunting without Hunter Education and hunting with unplugged shotguns. The second group was cited for hunting without a federal waterfowl stamp.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

MADISON COUNTY

On January 17th, RFC Shane Sartor checked several rabbit hunters. One subject was issued a citation for hunting without a license.

STEPHENS COUNTY

On January 16th, three hikers were reported missing and possibly lost in the Panther Creek area of Northern Stephens County. The Hikers had left their starting point in Habersham County at approximately 8:30am and were expected to reach their destination in Stephens County before 300pm. At approximately 600pm the family reported the hikers overdue. At approximately 900pm the hikers were located and escorted to their destination. The Hikers were cold and wet but uninjured. Corporal Josh Chambers, Sergeant Stan Elrod, Captain Thomas Barnard, and RFC Brandon Peirce all participated in the successful search and rescue.

WHITE COUNTY

On January 17th, RFC Anne Britt assisted Sheila Humphries with an educational program presented to the Cub Scouts at Smithgall Woods Education Center. The Scouts learned about identifying wildlife tracts, skulls, and pelts. RFC Britt told the scouts about her career as a Conservation Ranger.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

ELBERT COUNTY

On January 17th Cpl. Julian Wilkins and RFC Tim Butler checked several duck hunters. Six citations were issued for hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license and hunting without a federal duck stamp.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Corporal Micheal Crawley and K9 Storm responded to Baldwin County to assist RFC Matt Johnson with a possible baited duck pond. Corporal Crawley and RFC Johnson checked the hunters and no citations were written. The pond was checked for any bait, but none was found. Later in the morning Corporal Crawley observes a road construction vehicle parked on the side of the public highway. After further investigation Corporal Crawley finds the driver of the vehicle hunting geese on a nearby pond. Crawley later finds 3 more subjects hiding in the woods. The subjects are confronted and licenses are checked. Subjects are cited for hunting without license, hunting without waterfowl license, hunting without federal duck stamp, hunting waterfowl with lead shot, and warnings were issued for hiding from Corporal Crawley.

BURKE COUNTY

On January 17, RFC Jeff Billips patrolled Burke County for duck hunters. RFC Billips arrived at the Yuchi WMA boat ramp on the Savannah River shortly after a group of duck hunters launched their boat and headed down river. Moments later, RFC Billips heard the boat cut power and a shotgun was fired. The boat then continued down river and again a shot was fired. RFC Billips remained at the boat ramp until the hunters returned. On board were two juveniles and an adult. One of the juveniles admitted to shooting at a duck twice. RFC Billips issued a warning to the adult for hunting from a vessel.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On January 17th, Cpl. Ryan Swain, RFC Robert Timmerman, and Ranger Michael Madden conducted a concentrated waterfowl patrol in Southern Lincoln County near the Amity area. One subject was cited for failure to obey a regulatory marker. Another subject was arrested for driving with a suspended license and an expired tag. The case was turned over to Deputy Travis Comtois with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the morning of January 17th, Cpl. Michael Crawley and Ranger Matt Johnson located several waterfowl hunters on a small pond. One hunter received 2 citations for hunting without a license and hunting with lead shot and 2 warnings for hunting without a Federal Duck Stamp and Georgia Waterfowl license.

MONROE COUNTY

On Saturday afternoon, January 17th, Ranger Tyler Stone and Cpl. Tony Wynne patrolled Lake Juliette by boat. They checked several boats and fishermen and issued two written warnings for operating a boat with insufficient PFDs and one written warning for fishing without a license.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the evening of January 11th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford investigated an unlawful dumping case. Cpl. Stanford interviewed a suspect and issued a citation for unlawful dumping. Shortly after leaving the suspects house, Cpl. Stanford observed several people burning pressure treated wood in a yard. Cpl. Stanford issued an unlawful burning citation to the person whom started the fire.

UPSON COUNTY

On Saturday morning, January 17th, at approximately 8:00 a.m., Cpl. Tony Wynne received information about a duck shoot in progress. Ranger Tyler Stone and Cpl. Tony Wynne proceeded to the area. While driving by a residence, the rangers observed a man in camouflage holding a shotgun and standing by his truck. Two wood ducks were observed on the tailgate of the truck. The rangers stopped to check the hunter, who was found to have been hunting without a Federal Waterfowl Stamp, hunting without a Georgia Waterfowl license and hunting with lead shot. The hunter was given a written warning for not having the Georgia Waterfowl license and was issued citations for hunting with lead shot and hunting without a Federal Waterfowl Stamp.

On January 17th, RFC Keith Page and K9 Drake located six men duck hunting. RFC Page checked their hunting licenses and their bag limits. One hunter was issued a written warning for hunting without a Georgia Waterfowl license.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

MACON COUNTY

On January 14th, Ranger Jesse Harrison observed the occupants of a vehicle shoot at deer from a public road. A traffic stop was conducted, and after a brief investigation the driver was cited for hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and discharging a firearm from a public road. The passenger was cited for hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting big game from a public road.



Macon County Night Deer Hunting

EARLY COUNTY

On January 14th, Sgt. Rick Sellars conducted a patrol in an area where he had previously encountered a deer hunter, whom was later identified as a convicted felon. The suspect's truck was located, and contained a shotgun in the seat, along with an empty rifle case. Sgt. Sellars then tracked the subject to a deer stand, seized the suspect's rifle and shotgun and charged him for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

DECATUR COUNTY

On January 17th, RFC Tony Cox was patrolling Lake Seminole when he encountered a duck hunter who had taken over the limit of Canvasback ducks. The hunter was cited for taking over the limit, and the ducks were confiscated.

CLAY COUNTY

On January 16th, RFC Jim Atchley conducted a waterfowl patrol on Lake Walter F. George, issuing two citations for hunting from a moving vessel, one citation for hunting without Georgia Waterfowl stamp and warnings for hunting without WMA licenses.

On January 17th, RFC Jim Atchley and Ranger Quinn Fogle patrolled Lake Walter F. George for duck hunting activity. During the patrol the rangers issued four citations for over the limit, eleven warnings and confiscated fourteen Scaup (Bluebills).



Quinn Fogle with confiscated Scaup Ducks

RANDOLPH COUNTY

On January 18th, Sgt. Butch Potter and Ranger Quinn Fogle located roost duck shoot. Three subjects were issued citations and warnings for hunting waterfowl after hours, and other license violations.



Quinn Fogle with confiscated wood ducks

On January 13th, Ranger Quinn Fogle received an anonymous complaint in reference to a subject shooting over the limit of antlered deer. During the investigation the subject was found to have killed three antlered deer. He was issued various citations and two ten point racks were confiscated as evidence.

WEBSTER COUNTY

On January 12th, Sgt. Butch Potter checked seven deer hunters during a patrol, issuing five citations for license infractions, three for hunting without fluorescent orange and two warnings for failure to record harvest.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

ATKINSON COUNTY

On January 16th, Ranger Sam Williams observed an individual kneeling down while holding a rifle on the side of US Hwy 221 near a culvert pipe. When the officer stopped with the individual he observed a body-gripping type trap set near the end of the culvert. Ranger Williams asked the person if he was trapping and he stated he was trapping beavers. After an investigation Ranger Williams determined the individual was in violation of several trapping laws. Ranger Williams explained the state trapping regulations to him and the violations for trapping on public right of way, trapping without written permission, and failure to affix metal tag were documented.

On January 17th, Cpl. Tim Hutto responded to a night hunting complaint in Millwood around 10:45 p.m. Cpl. Hutto arrived in the area and observed three individuals on ATVs shining a cow pasture. Moments later Cpl. Hutto heard what sounded like .22 caliber rifle shots being fired in the pasture. As Cpl. Hutto was attempting to make contact with the subjects, he observed one of the men hiding something under one of the ATV's. After a brief search, Cpl. Hutto located a .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle, a 20 gauge shotgun, and seven rabbits. Three violations of hunting rabbits at night were documented.



EVANS COUNTY

On January 14, RFC Debbie Brannen received a complaint from a landowner that someone was trapping illegally on his property. After several hours of surveillance one subject was observed trapping. Violations documented include trapping without permission, trapping without a license, trapping with untagged traps, failure to carry a choke stick and failure to carry a .22 rim fire weapon.

PIERCE COUNTY

On January 17th, Cpl. Mark Pool discovered a duck roost shoot underway near Mershon, where four individuals were shooting a small pond after legal hours. Cpl. Mark Pool and Ranger Daniel North issued citations for hunting waterfowl after hours, hunting waterfowl with illegal ammo (lead shot) and multiple hunting license violations. Two illegally-killed wood ducks were seized.



On January 11th, Ranger Jordan Crawford was patrolling McCall road in Effingham County for hunting activity, when he observed several hunters conducting a deer drive using dogs. Knowing that the property in question was not permitted to use dogs while hunting deer, Ranger Crawford stopped to see what was occurring. After making contact with the hunters, three violations for hunting deer with dogs on unpermitted property were documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity to report.