

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**March 22 - 28, 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 March 28<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Brown was patrolling the southern portion of Carroll County for turkey hunting activity. He found two subjects that were coming out of the woods. One subject was cited for hunting turkey with an unplugged shotgun.

### **FULTON COUNTY**

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Mark Puig checked several turkey hunters in Fulton County with no violations observed. All hunters checked did not report seeing or hearing any turkey during the morning due to the sharp drop in temperature. Later that day Ranger Puig patrolled the delayed harvest section of the Chattahoochee River and checked several anglers with no violations either.

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, while patrolling the Chattahoochee River, Ranger Mark Puig assisted the Roswell Police Department with the apprehension of a man threatening a woman with a handgun who had run into the woods near the river. The man was located and successfully apprehended.

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

### **RABUN**

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Derek Dillard got a phone call from Rabun County Sheriff's Deputy Sgt. Kyle Shook. Sgt. Shook told Corporal Dillard that they got a phone call that a man shot at a turkey from his truck in the area of Germany Mountain Road. Sgt. Shook also gave Corporal the description of the vehicle and they began to look for it. Sgt. Shook located the truck in Clayton and stopped it. The driver, which was residing in North Carolina, had 2 shotguns and some turkey hunting equipment in his truck. While Corporal Dillard was speaking to the man, he told them that he saw a turkey strutting on the side of the road and that he couldn't stand it, so he shot at it. The man said he must have missed it because it ran off. Corporal Dillard checked the man's hunting license and it said he was a resident but his driver's license and current address said different. Corporal Dillard cited the man for hunting turkey from a public road, hunting turkey from a motor vehicle, and non-resident hunting with a resident license.

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Kevin Dyer and RFC David Webb were dispatched to a missing boater on Lake Burton in Rabun County. A Rabun County deputy had located the missing boater walking on Murray Cove Road. Upon arrival, Cpl. Dyer noticed a strong smell of alcohol coming from the operator. The operator admitted to flipping a kayak and operating it without any PFD's. RFC Webb conducted field sobriety and placed the operator under arrest for operating a vessel under the influence (under 21 years old) and operating a vessel without CGA approved PFD's.

### **UNION**

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, while on routine patrol Cpl. Kevin Dyer observed a subject fishing in a closed trout stream. Cpl. Dyer checked the subject's license and issued a citation for fishing in a closed trout stream.

### **HABERSHAM and WHITE**

On opening weekend of trout season, RFC Chad Chambers checked trout fishermen on the streams of the two counties. He encountered several violations including Fishing without a license, fishing without a trout license, Unlawful camping on a WMA and Unlawful bait on a delayed harvest stream (Smith Creek).

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

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

On March 28, RFC Matherly, Cpl. Payne, and RFC Billips checked a property of Hwy 68 in south Washington County. RFC Matherly had located bait on the property the previous weekend. Four subjects were observed hunting in blinds while the three officers were checking the bait sites. All subjects were issued citations for hunting big game over bait. One subject was also issued two citations for hunting without a hunting license and hunting without big game license.

### **BURKE COUNTY**

On March 28, Cpl. Payne and RFC Billips responded to private property along the Savannah River in Burke County. There was a report of illegally killed alligators in a campsite beside the river. After a brief investigation and evidence taken, the rangers set up surveillance on the area. After an hour of surveillance the Rangers heard a vehicle coming down the dirt road towards their location. Once the vehicles entered the campsite the rangers approached the poachers. As the rangers approached, one of the poachers began walking away with an alligator tale. While Cpl. Payne secured the scene RFC Billips recovered the alligator that was hidden. The poachers were issued citations for hunting alligators out of season. The alligators were taken for evidence.

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On March 28<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Julian Wilkins checked areas known to be baited for turkey. During this patrol three subjects were charged for hunting big game over bait.

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On March 28<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Mark Patterson patrolled areas known to be baited for turkey. One subject was charged for hunting big game over bait and was also found to be hunting with an unplugged shotgun. During a later patrol of the Fishing Creek Wildlife Management Area two violations of hunting from an open road were documented.

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

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On the afternoon of March 26<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Lynn Stanford checked 2 fishermen along Little River near Eatonton. It was determined that one of the fishermen did not have a fishing license and a citation was issued for the offense.

During the early morning hours of March 28<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Lynn Stanford received a complaint of illegal 4X4 riding on the BF Grant WMA property. With assistance from the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, the suspects were located and detained. The incident is still under investigation.

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

### **MITCHELL COUNTY**

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, RFC Tony Cox was on patrol when he encountered a turkey hunter in an area that was found to be baited. The subject was cited for hunting big game over bait.

### **GRADY COUNTY**

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Rick Sellars and RFC Tony Cox patrolled areas that had previously been documented as baited for turkeys. One hunter was cited for hunting big game over bait and hunting with an unplugged shotgun. A second hunter was cited for hunting with an unplugged gun.

## **Region VI- Metter (Southeast)**

### **CANDLER COUNTY**

On March 23rd, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen along with the Georgia Forestry Commission responded to an illegal burning complaint behind a residence. Upon arrival a resident of the home was interviewed about the illegal burn. The subject admitted to setting fire to their furniture and carpet due to an outbreak of bedbugs. One violation was document for unlawful burning of egregious litter less than 500 pounds.

### **EVANS COUNTY**

On March 22nd, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen patrolled the county for possible turkey hunting activity. Multiple hunters were checked and violations were documented for hunting without a license and hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

On March 28th, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen patrolled the county for possible turkey hunting activity. Multiple hunters were checked during the patrol. Violations for hunting without a big game license and hunting with an unplugged shotgun were documented.

### **TELFAIR COUNTY**

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Allen Mills patrolled the Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area for turkey hunting activity. No violations were detected.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles responded to a complaint from a resident of individuals shooting at vultures. Cpl. Stiles responded and patrolled the area of the complaint. No suspects were encountered.

### **WILCOX COUNTY**

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Corporal John A Stokes was checking baited turkey sites for hunting activity. One violation was documented for hunting without a license.

### **COOK COUNTY**

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey and Major Thomas Barnard checked several turkey hunters. One violation of hunting with an unplugged shotgun was documented.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey checked a subject turkey hunting in an area that was found to be baited with corn. The subject was charged with hunting big game (turkey) over bait.

### **BERRIEN COUNTY**

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, while doing a routine patrol at Paradise PFA, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey and Major Thomas Barnard checked several fishermen and boaters. Violations of operating a vessel with insufficient PFD'S and fishing w/o a license were documented.

On Saturday March 28, Sergeant Morty Wood checked 3 hunters in the Alapaha area of the county. One of the hunters had harvested a turkey. After checking licenses and looking at the area where the bird had been killed, it was determined that the shooter did not possess a big game license and that the area had been previously baited with shelled corn. Charges of hunting without a big game license, hunting big game over bait, and hunting without license on person were made against the trio and the turkey was confiscated by Sergeant Wood.



## **LAURENS COUNTY**

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne located an adult and a juvenile that were hunting turkeys over bait. The poachers had taken a gobbler while hunting over the bait. The poacher was charged with hunting turkeys over bait and for hunting without a big game license.



## **WHEELER COUNTY**

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne located two non-resident poachers while patrolling a baited hunting club. The two poachers were charged with hunting turkeys over bait and one was charged with hunting with a unplugged gun.

## **EMANUEL COUNTY**

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mike Wilcox and Sergeant Don Dasher were patrolling north Emanuel County for turkey hunting activity when they saw a truck parked in the back of a field. When the officers went to investigate, they encountered two individuals that were setting a leg hold trap. The land was family land of one of the individuals. Neither one had a trapping license. Several small issues were addressed verbally and one violation for trapping without a license was documented.

## **EVANS COUNTY**

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Shaymus McNeely assisted the GBI and the DEA with serving arrest and search warrants following a long term investigation. Multiple suspects were arrested in the Evans County area and a quantity of marijuana and cocaine was seized.

## **CANDLER COUNTY**

On the morning of March 28<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Eddie Akins, Corporal Mike Wilcox and Sergeant Don Dasher patrolled north Candler County for turkey hunting activity. Their efforts resulted in one hunter being checked. No violations were detected or documented.

## **JENKINS COUNTY**

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sergeant Don Dasher was patrolling north Jenkins County for turkey hunting activity. Sgt. Dasher checked one turkey hunter and documented one violation for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

## **EFFINGHAM COUNTY**

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Jordan Crawford patrolled Effingham County looking for turkey hunting activity. Several hunters were checked with two violations documented. Violations included, non-resident hunting without a license and non-resident hunting without a big game license.

## **WARE COUNTY**

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ranger Judd Sears patrolled popular fishing and boating areas along the Suwannee River Sill and Stephen Foster State Park. Ranger Sears encountered a number of boaters and fisherman during his patrol of the area. While checking for license requirements, creel limits and boating safety requirements in these areas, Ranger Sears found one individual fishing without a license. One citation for fishing without a license was issued during this patrol.

## **LANIER COUNTY**

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Ranger Daniel North were traveling on Hwy. 221 when they observed a vehicle parked on the side of the road. As they were approaching the vehicle, the passenger was observed tossing some trash into the ditch. Sgt. Dupree and Ranger North stopped and spoke with the occupants of the vehicle and a violation of littering was documented on the passenger. The passenger did pick up the discarded trash prior to leaving the area.

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

### **LIBERTY COUNTY**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, RFC Jack Thain and Ranger Jason Miller checked three turkey hunters on a hunting club near Hwy. 84 and Hwy. 196. One of the hunters was cited for hunting turkeys over bait.



### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Chris Hodge, Sgt. Mark Carson, Cpl. Chris Ridley, and RFC's John Evans and David Brady assisted the Coastal Resource Division and KBGIB (Keep Brunswick- Golden Isles Beautiful) with a Marsh cleanup along Hwy 17 near the Brunswick Office.