

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
March 29 – April 4, 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 March 29th at 6:00 p.m., Cpl. Young responded to hunting without permission call off Brooke Rd. A hunter was parked on private property along Boston Creek. Cpl. Young searched the area and located the hunter on Allatoona WMA. The hunter stated that he parked along a creek because it was a long walk to the area he wanted to hunt from Hwy 20. The hunter was also found to be hunting with an unplugged shotgun. Cpl. Young explained to the hunter that he could not walk through private property to access the WMA without permission. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting with an unplugged shotgun and a warning for hunting without permission.

On April 1st, RFC Zack Hardy received a complaint of possible hunting without permission. Information received was that a subject had already harvested a gobbler that morning. RFC Hardy responded to Bartow Beach Road where he met with Corps of Engineer Ranger Randy Flint and two turkey hunters. RFC Hardy determined that one hunter had started hunting on Corps of Engineer's property, but ended up on private property where he harvested a gobbler. The hunter had the proper permit to hunt the Corp of Engineer property, but not the adjacent private property. RFC Hardy was able to locate the exact spot the gobbler had been harvested on private property. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting without permission. The gobbler's beard, spurs, and tail fan were confiscated for evidence. The turkey's breast meat was given to a needy family.

On April 3rd, RFC Bart Hendrix responded to an overturned sailboat call on Allatoona Lake in the area of Park Marina. Other boaters on the water assisted in up righting the sailboat as RFC Hendrix arrived. No injuries were reported.

On April 4th, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix patrolled Allatoona Lake. The officers checked 17 boats and 36 fishing licenses. The officers also responded to a call of a 25 foot cruiser that struck a reef in the area of Allatoona Landing. The vessel was pulled off the reef by fishermen in the area. No injuries were reported. The officers issued citations and warnings for fishing without a license, operating a vessel without PFD's (Lifejackets), and operating a vessel without registration.

COBB COUNTY

On March 29, Sgt. Mike Barr patrolled the southern portion of Allatoona Lake and Lake Acworth in Cobb County. Sgt. Barr checked several fishermen and boaters, citations were issued for operating a vessel without PFD's (lifejackets) and fishing without a license.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

STEPHENS COUNTY

On April 4th, RFC Shane Sartor patrolled Lake Russell WMA for trout fishing violations. During his patrol he documented three violations. Two subjects were issued warnings for fishing without license and one subject was issued a citation for fishing without trout license.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

On April 4th, RFC Tim Vickery and RFC Shane Sartor responded to a fishing without permission complaint on the Broad River outside Franklin Springs. The Rangers met with the complainant, who led them to two individuals who were fishing on the complainant's property. The Rangers checked the fishermen. They did not have any fishing licenses. After talking to the complainant, the two men were each issued a citation for fishing without a license and a written warning for fishing without permission.

TOWNS COUNTY

On April 3rd, RFC David Webb and intern Christian Ayoob were requested by the Towns County Sheriff's Office to assist with searching for a 19 year old Young Harris College kid that had been missing from a residence since 4:00 a.m. The sheriff's office was dispatched out to the residence at that time in reference to a noise complaint. It turned out to be a college fraternity party and kids took off running in all directions. One male subject is in critical condition in Gainesville after jumping approximately forty feet off of a deck. RFC Webb assisted deputies with a search of the residence and surrounding properties. Approximately an hour later, the missing student walked down the road and told investigators that he had slept in one of the residences next door. The student did not have permission from the home owner and he was dirty and scratched up from where he had taken off running earlier this day. The Towns County Deputies arrested the student and at that time on various charges relating to the incident.

Later this same date, RFC Webb and Intern Ayoob were patrolling along the Hiawasse River near Lake Chatuge when they encountered 3 men fishing. Upon checking their fishing licenses, RFC Webb learned all the men were from Florida and did not possess a Georgia fishing license. RFC Webb issued all three men a citation for Non-resident fishing without a license.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On April 4th, RFC Chad Chambers received a fishing without permission complaint from a concerned citizen on the Soquee River off Ben Jones Road and Hwy. 197. After arriving in the area, RFC Chambers located two individuals fishing on the property in question. He was able to discover that they had permission from the family of the property owner. One of the individuals did not have a current fishing license or trout license. RFC Chambers charged the subject with Fishing without a license and issued him a warning for Fishing without a trout license.

WHITE COUNTY

On April 4th, RFC Anne Britt was patrolling the Chattahoochee River and WMA for fishing activity. RFC Britt located a person fishing on a private piece of the river where she has a landowner affidavit on file. RFC Britt issued the person a warning for fishing without permission.

Later this same date, RFC Britt assisted US Forest Service Officer Derrick Breedlove with a road check on Chattahoochee WMA. The officers checked several vehicles during the road check. RFC Britt wrote one person a citation for being a nonresident who was fishing with a resident GA fishing license and trout license. USFS Officer Breedlove wrote another person a citation for having an open container of alcohol in the vehicle while they were driving on the WMA.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On April 4, 2015, CPL Ryan Swain and SGT Doyte Chaffin responded to an in progress hunting without permission off Anderson Road. One subject was apprehended and cited for hunting without permission, hunting big game over bait, hunting turkeys using electronic calls, and hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

ELBERT COUNTY

On April 4, 2015, RFC Phillip Nelson cited a subject for turkey hunting over bait.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On April 3, 2015, CPL Ryan Swain performed a concentrated patrol of Fishing Creek on Clarks Hill Lake. Two subjects were cited for fishing without a license. One subject was cited for being over the daily creel limit. The subject had three oversized striped bass.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

HENRY COUNTY

On Monday, March 30th, Cpl. Travis Sweat and Sgt. Brent Railey responded to a complaint of illegal trapping in a subdivision. The complainant's daughter and some friends had found a beaver in a snare and multiple other snares in the area of a small creek that ran down multiple property lines. Cpl. Sweat located several other snares in the area and none of them were marked with the trappers name or trapping license number as required by law. All of the snares were pulled and confiscated. Because the rangers were unable to make contact with who they thought had placed the snares, Cpl. Sweat returned to the scene the next day. When he arrived he found a nuisance wildlife trapper setting more traps in the same area. None of the traps he was in the process of setting were marked as required by law. Cpl. Sweat issued the trapper a citation for failure to tag his traps.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On April 1st, Ranger Jordan Crawford received a call from Effingham County dispatch regarding a possible hunting without permission complaint off Highway 119. Ranger Crawford responded to the area and was met by Deputy Dawn Devoss. Ranger Crawford and Deputy Devoss performed a quick search of the area and found a shot Guinea fowl in the complaint's backyard. Ranger Crawford then informed the complainant that due to the fact that a Guinea fowl are not recognized as wildlife, the suspect could not be charged for hunting without permission. However, after talking with the suspect at the scene, Ranger Crawford and Deputy Devoss were able to learn that the suspect was a convicted felon and could not possess a firearm. The subject was arrested and charged with giving a false name to a law enforcement officer, discharge of a firearm near a public highway, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

EMANUEL COUNTY

On March 29th, Ranger Jordan Crawford and Corporal Mike Wilcox patrolled Emanuel County looking for turkey hunting activity. Several hunters were checked, with two violations documented for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On March 29th, Ranger Jordan Crawford received a call regarding a boat incident that took place on March 28th on the Ogeechee River. After investigating the incident Ranger Crawford was able to determine that all parties involved were ok. A report was taken on the incident.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On March 29th, Corporal Eddie Akins checked Oliver Bridge WMA for hunting activity. His efforts resulted in four licenses being checked and no violations being documented.

CANDLER COUNTY

On March 31st, Corporal Shaymus McNeely patrolled a property off Highway 121 that was known to be baited for turkeys. One poacher was encountered and charged with hunting big game over bait.

DODGE COUNTY

On March 30th, Ranger First Class Allen Mills responded to a land owner complaint in reference to littering. RFC Mills collected evidence and then made contact with the suspect. After a brief interview, one violation for littering was documented.



On April 3rd, Ranger First Class Allen Mills received a complaint of hunting turkeys with an illegal weapon. RFC Mills met with the complainant and then located and met with the suspect. After an extensive interview, violations of hunting with an illegal weapon/ammo, hunting from a vehicle, hunting without a license, and hunting big game without a big game license were documented. A turkey tail fan, beard, and spurs were confiscated.



7mm 08 caliber rifle used to take turkey.



Turkey tail fan, 11 inch beard, and spurs confiscated from poacher.

LAURENS COUNTY

On April 4th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Three boats were checked for registration and boating safety equipment and thirteen anglers were checked for licensing requirement compliance. No violations were documented.

IRWIN COUNTY

On March 29th, Corporal John A Stokes was checking baited turkey sites and patrolling for turkey hunting activity. One violator was found hunting with illegal ammo. He had 00 Buckshot in his shotgun and was cited for the violation.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

On April 4th, Corporal Kevin Joyce and Corporal Chase Altman responded to a possible fishing without permission on the Oconee River. Upon arrival several subjects were checked and violations for operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's were documented. Verbal guidance was given for the permission issue.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On April 4th, Ranger Sam Williams was checking a hunting lease that had numerous sites that were baited with bird seed to attract turkeys. During the patrol, he located a juvenile male that was hunting turkeys at one of the baited areas. After speaking with the juvenile, Ranger Williams located the juvenile's father hunting at a separate baited site. The adult poacher was charged with hunting big game over bait. He was also provided guidance on allowing the juvenile to hunt alone without completing a hunter education class and for hunting big game without a non-resident hunting license.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On April 3rd, Ranger Daniel North was patrolling for turkey hunting activity when he discovered a truck parked at a hunting club gate. Shortly, a subject returned to the truck with turkey hunting gear and advised that he had been scouting for turkeys for a future hunt. After the individual had left, Ranger North followed his tracks back to a food plot that had cracked corn spread around it. Surveillance of the food plot was conducted the following day and a different suspect was observed hunting only feet from where the cracked corn was on the ground. Violations of hunting turkey over bait and hunting without a license were documented on this individual. On April 5th, Ranger North again returned to the same baited food plot and watched two suspects, one of whom was the person he had spoken with on April 3rd. These individuals set up in two locations near where the cracked corn was located. Violations of hunting turkeys over bait were documented on both suspects.

WARE COUNTY

On March 29th, Corporal Mark Pool was patrolling landings along the Satilla River for boating activity when he encountered an individual with a 4-year old passenger in his vessel approach the US Hwy. 84 landing. The juvenile was not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD) and there was not a PFD in the vessel for the child. The individual was issued a citation for allowing underage an child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity to report.