

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**November 15 – November 21, 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)**

### **WHITFIELD COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup> Cpl. Casey Jones and Ranger Mark Moyer responded to a hunting complaint. The officers located a hunter without fluorescent orange, without license and hunting deer over bait. Citations and warnings were issued for the violations.

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Brown and RFC Daniel Gray were out working on complaints received in reference to spotlighting deer. RFC Gray had a truck come by his location and shine a spotlight five different times out of the window of the truck. Two individuals were cited for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, hunting from a motor vehicle and possession of marijuana.

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

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Sgt. Mike Burgamy and Ranger Chris Kernahan responded to a complaint of possible illegal duck hunting activity in Jackson County. The Rangers made contact with several duck hunters, who were found to have shot into an adjacent residential area. The subjects were given verbal guidance concerning the safe discharging of firearms. One hunter was issued a written warning for Failure to Sign Federal Migratory Bird Stamp.

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Sgt. Mike Burgamy and Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Barrow County for deer hunting activity. While on patrol, the Rangers made contact with a subject who was found to be hunting deer over bait. The subject was issued a written warning for Hunting Big Game Over Bait.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Sgt. Mike Burgamy and Ranger Chris Kernahan responded to a call concerning a 15 year old juvenile hunter who had accidentally been shot in the leg by a 30-30 cal. rifle round. The victim had been shot by his hunting partner, who was also a 15 year old juvenile. EMS responded, and transported the victim to a nearby hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Cpl. Jason Roberson went to the hospital to meet with the victim's family. The victim underwent surgery to repair significant bone damage, but is expected to recover. Through the course of the investigation, the Rangers determined that neither hunter had completed the required Hunter Education Course, were wearing fluorescent orange, or possessed a deer harvest record. The investigation is still on-going, and charges are pending.

### **HALL COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, RFC Kevin Goss checked duck hunters at Lula Bridge WMA. He checked ten different boats and over twenty hunters and found multiple violations including no WMA Stamp, No GA Waterfowl License, and insufficient PFD's.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Jason Roberson investigated a possible hunting without permission complaint on property owned by the city of Gainesville. He located two subjects hunting the property without wearing the required orange and both were hunting over bait. They received citations and warnings for the violations.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Jason Roberson located a subject who was hunting without permission, not wearing the required orange, and who was hunting over bait off of Hwy 53. He received citations and warnings for the violations.

## **RABUN COUNTY**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, RFC Joe Hill received a call in reference to possible missing campers at Sarah's Creek on War Woman WMA. RFC Hill spoke with the father of the missing camper's and he stated that his son, daughter-in-law and their three children went to Sarah's Creek camping. The father received a call from the camper's yesterday afternoon stating that they had ran out of either gas or propane and he had not spoken to them since. The father went to Sarah's Creek last night but could not locate the campers. The father tried calling the cell phones of the missing camper's but did not get an answer. RFC Hill responded to Sarah's Creek campground and located the campers. The campers were safe and had not called due to poor cell phone service.

## **TOWNS COUNTY**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, CPL Kevin Dyer observed an illegal burn on the eastern side of Towns County. RFC David Webb arrived on scene and it was determined that a subject was illegally burning trash in his front yard. The subject was issued a citation for unlawful burning of waste.

## **HART COUNTY**

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Tim Vickery patrolled Lake Hartwell for any boating safety/fishing activity. A total of one boat and two fishing licenses were checked. As a result, one warning was issued. The violation consisted of failure to obey regulatory marker.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, RFC Brandon Pierce, along with, Cpl. Craig Fulghum and Sgt. Stan Elrod patrolled the Lake Hartwell area for waterfowl violations. During their patrol numerous hunters were checked along with their equipment. As a result, two citations and two warnings were issued. The violations consisted of hunting without a license, hunting without a GA waterfowl license, and failure to sign federal duck stamps.

## **MADISON COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, RFC Shane Sartor patrolled the County for waterfowl violations. During his patrol two subjects were documented duck hunting with lead shot. Both subjects were issued citations for hunting waterfowl with illegal ammunition.

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

### **OCONEE COUNTY**

On November 15<sup>th</sup> SGT Brian Carter and RFC Tim Butler completed hunting without permission investigation involving a hunter who shot a deer across a property line. Violations of hunting without permission, hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

On November 20<sup>th</sup> RFC Tim Butler obtained arrest warrants on a hunter for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and hunting without permission.

On November 21<sup>st</sup> RFC Tim Butler cited an individual for hunting without permission. The hunter was later arrested for assault by the Oconee County Sheriff's Department after an investigation revealed he used a pistol to assault the landowner.

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On November 19<sup>th</sup> CPL. Mark Patterson responded to a complaint of hunting without permission and a report of unlawful dumping. Both complaints are still under investigation.

## **GREENE COUNTY**

On Saturday, November 21, Cpl. David Allen and RFC Richard Tanner patrolled the Oconee River by boat checking waterfowl hunting activity. Out of the 30+ hunters they checked, the Rangers cited several for various infractions. Violations noticed included; hunting with illegal ammunition (lead shot), hunting without a license, hunting without a Georgia Waterfowl license, hunting with an unplugged shotgun, and hunting without hunter safety certification.

On Saturday, November 21, WL Tech Kevin VonSeggern and RFC Richard Tanner patrolled the Oconee River by boat checking for evening duck hunting activity. The only infraction noted was one boater operating a vessel with improper navigation lights.

On Sunday, November 22, US Forest Service Officer Zach Nichols and RFC Richard Tanner patrolled the Oconee River by boat checking for duck hunting activity. Out of the 20+ hunters checked, the officers noticed a few infractions. Violation noticed included; hunting without Georgia Waterfowl license and allowing child under 13 to ride in moving vessel without wearing PFD.

## **MORGAN COUNTY**

On Saturday November 22, RFC Ricky Boles checked a bait complaint and found an individual hunting deer over bait. The subject was also not wearing an orange vest. RFC Boles cited him for the violations.

On Saturday November 22, RFC Boles was checking for duck hunters in the area of Sugar Creek. RFC Boles issued citations for vessel w/insufficient PFDs, No Federal and State Duck stamps, no hunting licenses, and had an individual with an unplugged shotgun.

Sgt. John Harwell and Cpl. Derrell Worth investigated a complaint of an individual shooting a buck in the early morning hours of darkness. The investigation led officers to charge one individual for Hunting Deer at Night and Hunting from Public Road. Rangers confiscated one 8 pt. buck and donated the deer meat to the feed the hungry program.

## **WALTON COUNTY**

On Friday November 21, Ranger Jason Harrison taught a hunter safety class at the WRCC headquarters. Ranger Harrison certified 11 students.

On Monday November 16, Cpl. David Allen and US Forest Service Officer Zach Nichols went to a residence in Walton County in reference to a hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public roadway. The officers interviewed the suspect and issued citations for the violations.

## **WARREN COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, RFC Robert Timmerman and Ranger Michael Madden apprehended one subject hunting big game over bait. The subject was cited for the baiting violation as well as an orange clothing violation and released.

After following up on an investigation from November 15, RFC Matherly found that a subject had been hunting without a license. RFC Matherly contacted the subject involved and charged him for hunting without license, hunting without big game license, and failure to record harvest. RFC Matherly also confiscated an 8 point buck that had been killed on Nov 14 by the subject while he was hunting without license.

## **RICHMOND COUNTY**

On Nov. 16, RFC Matherly responded to Grace Wood Hospital for a complaint of hunting without permission. When RFC Matherly arrived on scene it was found the subject was hunting on Spirit Creek WMA but had parked on the hospital property. After contact was made with the subject Hospital security addressed the issue of parking on the hospital property.

## **BURKE COUNTY**

On November 21, Ranger First Class Jeffrey Billips issued a citation and several warnings to a hunter. RFC Billips was investigating hunting without permission complaint from bow season on the adjoining property. The hunter's violations included hunting without license, hunting without big game license, and hunting without fluorescent orange. The hunting without permission investigation is still pending.

## **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

On November 15<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Adams, Cpl. Paine and RFC Matherly responded to an overdue hunter on the Ogeechee River. The hunter started floating down the river in a float tube at the Glascock Jefferson County line at 5:30am that morning. His hunting partners were going to pick him up 8 miles downriver at the Hwy 88 Bridge. Rangers called an aviation unit equipped with F.L.I.R. and night vision. The helicopter was able to find the lost hunter after about an hour of searching and guided the Rangers through the swamp to the hunter. An ambulance was standing by to treat the hunter for hypothermia. After talking to the hunter it was determined that he was hunting ducks out of season and hunting without permission. When the paramedics were through treating the hunter, Rangers issued him the appropriate citations.

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

### **HARRIS COUNTY**

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Mitch Oliver located a truck while patrolling for hunting activity and observed the antlers of an illegal buck in the bed of the truck. It appeared that the deer was killed recently and Cpl. Oliver waited for the hunter to exit the woods. When the hunter was eventually checked, he was not wearing any fluorescent orange and admitted to killing the illegal buck in Harris County the prior day. The hunter was issued a citation for the illegal taking of a noncompliance buck in a QDM county and Cpl. Oliver seized the antlers. The hunter was also given written warnings for failure to record deer harvest and hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange. The other hunter with him was issued a citation for hunting deer without fluorescent orange. The deer meat was also seized from the deer processor and donated to a local needy family.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Oliver checked a hunter that was hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and did not possess a big game license. The hunter was issued a citation for the orange violation and given a warning for the license infraction.

### **TAYLOR COUNTY**

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Josh Swain encountered a vehicle displaying a Florida license plate while patrolling Taylor County. Upon further investigation, the occupant was found to be hunting deer without a hunting license and without a big game license. The hunter was issued citations and instructed to purchase the necessary licenses before continuing to hunt.

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

### **CRISP COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Sgt. Al Greer observed a vehicle using its headlights to shine several fields along the roadway. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver was found to be in possession of two loaded rifles. The driver was cited for hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

### **MACON COUNTY**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Jesse Harrison observed the occupants of a vehicle hunting multiple fields along the roadway. Both occupants of the vehicle were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting big game from a public road.

### **LAKE SEMINOLE**

On November 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, RFC Tony Cox and Ranger Eric White conducted a boating and waterfowl patrol on the lake. Nineteen boat operators were cited for operating without lights and various other offenses.

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

### **TELFAIR COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne conducted a night time patrol on Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area. Verbal guidance was given to three persons for operating a generator after quite hours in the campground.

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Rodney Horne patrolled the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area for duck hunting activity. Two hunters were checked for license compliance. No violations were detected.

### **WAYNE COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Allen Mills witnessed a hit and run car accident near Jesup on US 341. RFC Mills initiated a traffic stop on the fleeing vehicle. RFC Mills detained the suspect until Georgia State Patrol Troopers and Wayne County Deputies arrived on scene. The suspect was arrested for driving on a suspended license, operating a vehicle without insurance, and leaving the scene of an accident. The other vehicle sustained minor damage, but the driver was unharmed.

### **WARE COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Judd Sears patrolled Dixon WMA shooting range. During this patrol six individuals were encountered using the range. Upon checking for license or Georgia outdoor recreational pass (GORP) requirements four of the individuals were found to not have any license or GORP. Ranger Sears explained to the individuals the requirements for using the range and how to obtain required permits. Four violations for entering a designated fee area without GORP were documented.

### **CLINCH COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, Ranger Daniel North, and Ranger Judd Sears patrolled the US Hwy 441-Holmes Chapel Road area due to recent complaints of hunting from a public road. Several deer-dog hunters were encountered with two hunters issued warnings for hunting big game from a public road and operating a motor vehicle without deer-dog permit number displayed.

## **COOK COUNTY**

On Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey responded to a call from Cook 911 in reference to a deer stuck in a fence just south of Lenox. Upon arrival in the area, Cpl. Daughtrey located a small buck tangled in some thick vines. Cpl. Daughtrey cut the vines from around the deer's antlers and freed the deer. The deer was so tired and disoriented he would not leave the area. The deer eventually gained his senses and went into the woods.



## **BERRIEN COUNTY**

On Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey checked numerous duck hunters at Ray's Mill Pond. Violations of hunting w/o a license, hunting w/o a federal duck stamp, hunting w/o a GA Waterfowl license and operating a vessel w/o PFD's were documented. Several other violations were addressed by verbal guidance.



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

### **BRYAN COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Bryson and RFC Miller assisted the Bryan county Sheriff's Office with a wreck involving a vehicle that rolled over on Belfast Road. The driver of the vehicle had to be transported for medical treatment.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Bryson conducted patrols of the Richmond Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA). While on patrol on the WMA, Cpl. Bryson found three deer dogs from a local hunting club running a deer. Cpl. Bryson was able to catch one of the deer dogs and return it to the owner. The owner was also cited for having dogs off of permitted property.

## **LIBERTY COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, RFC Miller conducted a patrol near Hinesville. RFC miller found two deer dogs on unpermitted property and two deer dogs that were not marked with permit numbers. The dogs were turned back to the owner and the owner was cited for the violations.

## **CHATHAM COUNTY**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Buster Cooper met with Hunter Army Airfield Rangers and Chatham County Mosquito Control Aviators to accept certificates of recognition on behalf of Chatham and Bryan County Rangers. DNR Rangers assisted in search and rescue efforts to find a missing Army Ranger who was ejected from his vessel following a boating incident in the South Channel of the Savannah River.

