

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
November 29 – December 5, 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)

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On November 29th, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix patrolled Allatoona Lake. The officers checked 3 duck hunters hunting a decoy spread on an island near Harbor Town Marina. The officers located whole corn scattered in the water and along the shore. The hunters were issued citations for hunting waterfowl over bait. The officers also checked 23 fishing license while on patrol. The officers issued citations and warnings for fishing without a license, operating a vessel with expired registration and operating a vessel without PFD's.

On December 5th, Sgt. Derek Dillard, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Mark Puig responded to a call of illegal hunting off Hwy 140 near the Cherokee / Fulton County line. The officers located an area baited with whole corn and evidence of a deer being killed. The officers located a hunter at a nearby residence. The officers discovered that the hunter had killed an 8-point buck just a couple hours before the officers arrived. The hunter also did not possess a valid hunting license. Further investigation found that the hunter had harvested a 6-point buck over the corn several days prior. The officers issued citations and warnings for hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license, failure to record deer harvest and hunting without obtaining a deer harvest record. The 8-point buck was seized as evidence.



Cpl. Young and RFC Puig with Cherokee County 8 point rack taken illegally

HARALSON COUNTY

On November 22nd, RFC Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray investigated a complaint of a deer being taken illegally at night. After interviewing both subjects a 10 point buck was confiscated and both men were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle.

FULTON COUNTY

On December 5th, Ranger Mark Puig worked a landowner complaint in Roswell involving illegal hunting. Ranger Puig located a stand with two hunters, a male and a female, hunting deer over bait. The hunters also had several license violations. The male was charged with hunting with an expired hunting license and hunting deer over bait. The female was hunting without a big game license and had not yet taken hunter education as required by law. She received citations on both and warnings for hunting over bait and for not having a harvest record.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

UNION COUNTY

On November 30th, RFC David Webb answered a complaint of illegal hunting activity on Fain Branch Road in Union County. RFC Webb arrived on scene and located a four door passenger car parked between two old chicken houses. A subject was observed walking across a field, carrying a shotgun and not wearing fluorescent orange. The subject admitted to hunting deer and he did not possess a hunting license or big game license. The subject was issued citations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange, hunting without a license and warned for hunting without a big game license. RFC Webb was also able to locate a second subject who returned to the property after dark. The second subject was issued a citation for hunting without a license and warned for hunting without a big game license.

On December 3rd, RFC David Webb interviewed a subject for Cpl. Kevin Dyer in reference to a doe deer that had been shot on opening day of firearms season in Union County. This was not a designated doe day. The subject confessed to shooting the deer and was issued a citation for Taking of antlerless deer.

On December 5th, Sgt. Steve Seitz and Cpl. Kevin Dyer completed an investigation involving a subject that had harvested a 6 point and a spike buck this deer season. The subject was issued citations for the antler restrictions and failure to record deer harvest.

On December 6th, Sgt. Steve Seitz and Cpl. Kevin Dyer were patrolling Union County when the rangers observed two deer carcasses in the yard beside a resident. The rangers observed one of the carcass was a doe deer. The rangers spoke to the homeowner and he admitted to killing a doe and a buck on December 5th in Fannin County. The doe had been shot with a rifle and the subject was issued a citation for taking an antlerless deer in a closed county.

HALL COUNTY

On December 3rd, RFC Kevin Goss received a complaint of a deer hunter seen entering the woods in Gainesville with no orange. RFC Goss found the truck parked by a gate and decided to wait for the hunter to emerge in order to check him. When the hunter came out a short while later he was wearing orange but admitted he didn't put it on until he got out of the tree stand. When asked to see his licenses the hunter couldn't produce a current license. A further check found the man hadn't bought a license in over 2 years. RFC Goss wrote a citation for the license issues and a warning for the orange.

BARROW COUNTY

On December 4th, at approximately 2200 hours Ranger First Class Mark Stephens was patrolling Barrow County off Booth Cir. Officer Stephens observed a black Ford pickup swerving in the roadway. Officer Stephens activated his emergency equipment in order to stop the vehicle. The driver was later determined to be under the influence of alcohol and was arrested for DUI.

JACKSON COUNTY

On December 2nd, RFC Isom, K9 Colt, and RFC Kevin Goss responded to a hunting related call near South Jackson Elementary. Jackson County Deputies were responding to a hunting without permission call near the school. They made contact with a subject wearing camouflage clothing and a backpack. He also was carrying a compound bow. When the Deputies attempted to talk to the subject the subject took off and a foot chase began. The subject was able to elude the deputies in the woods. A short time later, a homeowner spotted the subject when he scaled their backyard fence. RFC Isom arrived at the residence and deployed Colt on the track. Colt tracked the subject for approximately 700 yards before locating the subject hiding in over grown pasture. RFC Goss and Jackson County Deputies took the subject into custody. He did not have the backpack or the bow in his possession. Once the subject's identity was determined, it revealed that he had 12 outstanding warrants from various local counties. RFC Isom also utilized Colt to locate the subject's hidden backpack and bow. RFC Goss searched the backpack and discovered a syringe and narcotics inside the backpack. The subject was arrested and taken to Jackson County Detention Center. Warrants were taken for hunting without permission, hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange, obstruction of an officer, possession of drug related items, and violation of Georgia's controlled substance act.

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Region III- Thomson (East Central)

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On Saturday December 5, RFC Phillip Nelson and Tech III Kevin VonSeggern patrolled Redlands WMA. During the patrol violations of hunting deer on a closed WMA and failure to sign were documented.

WILKES COUNTY

On December 5th Cpl. Julian Wilkins and Cpl. Mark Patterson patrolled portions of Wilkes County including Fishing Creek and Clarks Hill WMA's. Several violations of failure to record deer harvest were documented during the days patrol.

GREENE COUNTY

Cpl. Derrell Worth and Ranger Schay cited one subject for hunting deer on a closed WMA and investigated a litter complaint on the Oconee Natural Forest where the subject was later cited.

NEWTON COUNTY

On 12-5, Ranger Schay and Cpl. Worth finished hunting without permission complaint that resulted in citations for hunting without permission, hunting deer without fluorescent orange, and failure to record.

Ranger Schay, Cpl. Worth and Sgt. Harwell responded to an in progress fishing without permission complaint. Two were cited for Fishing without permission.

On 12-6, Ranger Schay and Cpl. Worth patrolled a property with several baited stands. They issued citations for unlawful enticement of game.

Ranger Schay and Cpl. Worth finished hunting without permission complaint that resulted in citations for hunting without permission, hunting big game over bait and hunting without fluorescent orange.

On 12-4, RFC Ricky Boles completed a three week investigation, which resulted in two subjects hunting without permission, and the confiscation of 10-pt buck.

WARREN COUNTY

On December 5th, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, Cpl. Brian Hobbins, and Ranger Michael Madden apprehended one subject for hunting deer over bait. The subject was cited and released.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On December 6th, Cpl. Brian Hobbins apprehended two subjects for hunting deer over bait. The subjects were cited and released.

BURKE COUNTY

On November 29, RFC Billips patrolled Burke County and checked several hunting without permission complaints. RFC Billips and Corporal Ben Payne checked an illegal artifact digging complaint. No violations were found. RFC Billips patrolled an area known for duck roost poaching.

On November 30, RFC Billips patrolled Di-Lane Plantation WMA and checked the illegal artifact digging complaint. RFC Billips patrolled an area known for duck roost poaching. No violations were detected.

On December 4, RFC Billips conducted night hunting surveillance. No violations were detected.

On December 5, RFC Billips patrolled an area known for deer dog hunting violations. RFC Billips checked the illegal artifact digging complaint.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the morning of December 4th, Cpl. Bubba Stanford located a subject hunting deer who had harvested a doe. Further investigation led to the subject being charged with non-resident hunting without a license and warnings issued for a non-resident hunting without a big game license and failure to record deer harvest.

On the dates of December 3rd -5th, Cpl. Bubba Stanford and Sgt. Bo Kelly patrolled the BF Grant WMA quality buck hunt. Approximately 200 hunters were on the area and one hunter was issued a citation for killing an illegal deer on a quality buck hunt.

TALBOT COUNTY

On November 29th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and Cpl. Mitch Oliver conducted an interview on a subject from an anonymous complaint they previously received. The suspect allegedly killed 3 bucks and posted them on social media. After speaking with the individual, he confessed to killing a 7 point buck, 8 point buck, and 9 point buck so far this season. The subject received a citation for taking over the limit of bucks and the deer was confiscated from the taxidermist.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

SEMINOLE COUNTY

On November 28th, Cpl. Tony Cox and Sgt. Rick Sellars located a duck shoot being held on Sawdust Pond. After checking the hunters, the Rangers found the pond baited with sesame seeds. Cpl. Cox issued sixteen citations for hunting waterfowl over bait, and two citations for hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license.

MILLER COUNTY

On December 5th, Cpl. Tony Cox responded to a complaint of a subject hunting illegally on Mayhaw WMA. The subject was located, then arrested and charged for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and hunting without a WMA license.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On the night of November 29th, Corporal Dan Stiles was working a location of previous night hunting complaints. A vehicle approached Cpl. Stiles' location at a slow rate of speed and a light was shined into the wooded areas adjacent to the road. When the vehicle was in view of Cpl. Stiles he could see an individual riding in the bed of the pickup truck holding a rifle. The vehicle stopped and the subject in the rear fired a shot. Cpl. Stiles initiated a traffic stop and the vehicle fled the scene. Cpl. Stiles was able to stop the vehicle and the two occupants were arrested and transported to the Laurens County Law Enforcement Center. Both poachers were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting from a public road. The driver of the vehicle was also charged with fleeing and attempting to elude.

DODGE COUNTY

On December 5th, Ranger First Class Allen Mills conducted an area check when he encountered two deer hunters. RFC Mills noticed that the individuals were not wearing fluorescent orange. After completing a license check, noticing fresh blood in the back of their pickup truck, and conducting a brief interview with each suspect, violations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange, hunting without a license, hunting big game without a license, violation of recording and reporting requirements for game animals and birds, and hunting without a license on person were documented.

Later that day, RFC Mills heard a dove shoot off in the distance. RFC Mills located the dove field and checked eleven hunters for license compliance and counted 63 doves harvested. Violations for hunting without a license, and hunting with an unplugged shotgun were documented. Verbal guidance was given to two individuals for Harvest Information Program (HIP) license requirements.

WILCOX COUNTY

On November 29th, Corporal John A. Stokes and Sergeant James McLaughlin worked night deer hunting. At 1am, a vehicle came by shining a light into a field looking for deer. The vehicle was stopped and three violators were charged for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road and hunting from a vehicle.

PIERCE COUNTY

On December 5th, Corporal Mark Pool and Ranger Judd Sears patrolled deer dogging clubs in Pierce County for hunting activity. The officers encountered multiple hunters participating in a deer dog hunt while on patrol. A hunter was located that did not possess a deer dog hunting license which is required to hunt deer with dogs. One violation of hunting deer with dogs without deer dog license was documented.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On December 3rd, Ranger Daniel North received a call from a deputy that a six-foot alligator was in a citizen's yard. The citizen said that one of her dogs and a cat had gone missing in the last couple of weeks and thought the alligator was the reason. Sgt. Patrick Dupree, Ranger First Class Sam Williams and Ranger Daniel North arrived on scene, secured the alligator and relocated it to a new home where it would not disturb or be disturbed by people.



Nuisance alligator relocated in Echols County.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Nov. 29th, RFC Jack Thain and RFC Jason Miller received information about some teenage boys who had shot four feral hogs the day before on privately-owned marsh on the Ogeechee River downriver of King's Ferry boat ramp. The two rangers patrolled the river marsh and old rice field canals between the Ogeechee River and Rockfish Creek by boat. Cpl. Jay Morgan came by boat from the Ft. McAllister area. Cpl. Morgan found three juveniles in a small john boat in Elliot's Canal. A 12-year-old boy was standing on the bow of the boat with a shotgun loaded with buckshot. There was also a 16-year-old boy, and an 18-year-old boy driving the boat. The 12-year-old was not wearing a life jacket as required by law and there were not any life jackets in the boat. The 16-year-old boy did not have a hunting license. Both the 12 & 16-year-olds had not taken a Hunter Education course. The 18-year-old stated that he had a hunting license but had not taken the Hunter Education course which made his license invalid since he illegally obtained a license without taking the course. The 12 & 16 year-old boys were taken back to their dock and turned over to the custody of their parents since they were juveniles. The 18-year-old had been previously caught by DNR in 2013 for hunting deer at night and hunting without permission. He was arrested and transported to Chatham County jail by RFC Jason Miller and Sgt. Phillip Scott where he was charged with hunting without permission, hunting without a valid license, and operating a vessel without life jackets.

On the morning of Dec. 5th, Cpl. Jay Morgan and RFC Kiel Toney patrolled the northern part of the county, checking for deer hunters and deer-dogging hunting clubs. Cpl. Morgan cited one hunter on Cypress Bay Rd. for hunting big game from a public road.

On Sunday the 29th of November, Cpl. Bryson and RFC Toney were conducting patrols of waterfowl areas in Bryan County. The Rangers focused that Sunday evening on one swamp that they had reason to believe was going to have hunters shooting waterfowl after hours. After listening in the area for some time the shooting began to start. This shooting started well after the legal hours which end at sunset. The Rangers met three hunters coming out of the swamp when the shooting had ended. The hunters had all their licenses and proper firearms with legal ammunition. The hunters were cited for hunting waterfowl after hours. The hunters had recovered four Wood Ducks during their hunt.