

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
October 25 – October 31, 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)

BARTOW COUNTY

On October 30th, RFC Zack Hardy located an antlerless deer that had been killed in Pickens County. The hunter was unaware of the current antlerless hunting dates. The hunter was issued a citation for taking an antlerless deer.

On October 31st, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Zack Hardy patrolled western Bartow County. The officers located 2 hunters hunting without permission, 2 hunters hunting big game over bait and 1 hunter hunting without fluorescent orange. Citations and warnings were issued for the violations.

On October 31st, RFC Michael Crawley located a hunter off Wilderness Camp Rd near Allatoona WMA. The hunter was located on private property and had mistakenly gotten off the WMA. The hunter was issued a warning for hunting without permission and RFC Crawley assisted him with a map of the WMA.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On October 25th, RFC Bart Hendrix patrolled US Army Corps Property in the area of Little River Elementary School. RFC Hendrix was assisted by Cherokee County Sheriff Deputies in locating one hunter on the Corps property, this property is closed to hunting. The hunter was issued citations for hunting without permission, hunting without fluorescent orange and hunting without a big game license. The hunter was also issued a warning for hunting big game over bait.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HALL COUNTY

On Saturday October 31st, Sgt. Mike Burgamy and RFC Kevin Goss were patrolling Hall County off Hwy 129 when they noticed a Jeep parked near the side of the road, where a patch of woods had recently been cleared. Sgt. Burgamy ran the tag of the Jeep and was able to determine that the owner of the Jeep was not currently licensed to hunt. RFC Goss then walked into the clearing and found the hunter walking along a ridge line. RFC Goss brought the hunter back to his Jeep and after questioning issued citation for hunting without a license and warnings for not having a harvest record or big game license.

JACKSON COUNTY

On Saturday October 31st, Sgt. Mike Burgamy and RFC Kevin Goss responded to hunting without permission complaint in Jackson County. When the rangers arrived they found two young men being detained by Jackson County Sheriff Deputies. Sgt. Burgamy questioned the men while RFC Goss searched the truck. During the search four fire arms were found in the truck all with ammunition in the weapons. During Sgt. Burgamy's questioning both hunters admitted to hunting that morning. Both hunters had multiple license issues and one admitted to not wearing orange. Citations were issued for licenses and the orange violation, while both were given warnings for hunting without permission and trespassing.

HALL COUNTY

On Sunday, October 25th, Cpl. Jason Roberson located a subject hunting without permission on property owned by Elatchee Nature Center. He had numerous license issues and was also not wearing the required orange. Citations and warnings were issued for the violations.

On October 27th, Cpl. Jason Roberson attended the Governors GALA and represented the DNR LED. He answered questions and gave out literature for the department.

On October 28th, Cpl. Jason Roberson attended the trunk or treat program at Concord Baptist Church and gave out DNR LED literature and Ranger Hotline information to over 500 in attendance.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

RICHMOND COUNTY

On October 31, Cpl. Payne and RFC Matherly patrolled Richmond County checking baited deer stands and hunting without permission complaints. At the first property checked that morning the Rangers checked two hunters. One of the hunters was hunting over bait and was issued a citation. While talking to the hunters Cpl. Payne heard a shot come from the adjoining property where he had a road hunting complaint. The Rangers responded to the area and found two individuals hunting from a blind located at the end of the road. A buck was in the ditch beside the road. After investigating the road complaint it was found that the road was actually an abandoned dirt road that the county maintains. Both hunters were not wearing any fluorescent orange and were cited. The complainant was contacted and the case closed.

BURKE COUNTY

On October 26, RFC Jeff Billips was leaving his residence when he observed a suspect from a recent investigation drive past. RFC Billips arrested the suspect for driving while license expired. The suspect could not explain why he was driving by RFC Billips' residence.

On October 30, RFC Billips checked several hunting without permission complaints. RFC Billips patrolled Alexander and Yuchi WMA's. RFC Billips patrolled an area of known deer-dog hunting violations.

On October 31, RFC Billips patrolled Mead Farm and Yuchi WMA's. RFC Billips continued to check hunting without permission complaints. RFC Billips conducted night hunting surveillance.

ELBERT COUNTY

On Friday Oct. 30th, CPL. Wilkins patrolled Elbert Co., for deer hunting activity. During his patrol, violations of unlawful taking of antlerless deer and failure to record deer harvest were documented.

On Saturday Oct. 31st, during CPL. Wilkins patrol of Elbert Co. he made two charges of hunting deer over bait and one charge of failure to record deer harvest.

OCONEE COUNTY

On October 25th RFC Tim Butler noticed a man standing in a field on Colham Ferry Road. After approaching the man, RFC Butler determined the man was hunting deer. The hunter was not wearing fluorescent orange, and had marijuana in his possession. Based on RFC Butler's observations he determined the man was under the influence of marijuana. The hunter was arrested for hunting under the influence, misdemeanor possession of marijuana, and hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

WILKES COUNTY

On October 30th and 31st Cpl. Mark Patterson checked several areas known to have baited stands. Violations documented included hunting big game over bait, unlawful enticement of game, failure to record deer harvest, and violation of the Georgia Controlled Substance Act.

GREENE COUNTY

On October 30, after a two month investigation, Cpl. Derrell Worth secured five felony warrants on a subject for violation of Georgia waste control laws. The individual would remove construction and demolition material from jobs sites located in Athens and haul them to Greene County in his dump trailer (to dispose of) to avoid land fill fees.

NEWTON COUNTY

On October 30, Cpl. Derrell Worth and Ranger Dan Schay issued three citations for hunting w/out permission and four warnings for hunting out of season, hunting w/out fluorescent orange and hunting w/out a deer harvest record.

On October 31, Sgt. John Harwell, Cpl. Derrell Worth, and Ranger Dan Schay issued a citation for hunting big game over bait and issued a warning for not having a harvest record.

MORGAN COUNTY

On October 30 and 31, Sgt. John Harwell, RFC Ricky Boles and Ranger Jason Harrison assisted the Parks Division with their haunted festival. The Rangers provided security for the event and had approximately 300 individuals participate in the event.

TALIAFERRO COUNTY

On October 31st, Cpl. Brian Hobbins and Ranger Michael Madden apprehended six subjects who were hunting deer over bait. The subjects were cited and released.

WARREN COUNTY

On October 31st, Cpl. Ryan Swain responded to an in progress illegal hunting complaint off of Atlanta Hwy. in Northern Warren County. Cpl. Swain apprehended two subjects for hunting deer over bait and hunting without licenses. The subjects were cited and released.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On October 31st, Cpl. Ryan Swain responded to an in progress hunting without permission complaint. One subject was apprehended and cited for hunting without permission and hunting without being certified in hunter safety.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BIBB COUNTY

On October 25th, RFC David Fisher was patrolling Echeconee Creek WMA when he contacted a deer hunter. Upon inspection of the hunter's licenses, RFC Fisher discovered that the hunter did not have the appropriate licenses required. Warnings were issued for the violations.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On October 31st, Corporal Mitch Oliver was patrolling Standing Boy WMA when he checked a hunter leaving the woods after a morning hunt. The hunter had all necessary licenses, except for a valid wildlife management area license. The hunter said it was the first time he had ever hunted state property and wasn't aware that he needed an extra license. Cpl. Oliver issued the hunter a written warning for the violation. The hunter also received a current Georgia hunting regulation booklet to become more familiar with WMA regulations.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the morning of October 31st, Cpl. Bubba Stanford and Sgt. Bo Kelly contacted 3 hunters who were hunting deer over bait. Citations were issued and 2 of the hunters received additional warnings for not wearing fluorescent orange.

Later that morning, the officers stopped in and visited with the annual Special Youth Challenge hunt held at Georgia Power Plant Branch. Several lucky hunters bagged deer during the weekend hunt.

The officers also responded to Oconee WMA in reference to hunters hunting with rifles in the archery only area. Two hunters were issued citations and 1 buck deer was seized and donated to the hunters for the hungry.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

TOOMBS COUNTY

On October 31st, Sergeant Jon Barnard and Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen checked deer hunters off Vann Road resulting in violations for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On October 25th, Corporal Shaymus McNeely while on patrol off Harmony Road located two men hunting deer on opposite sides of a cotton field. Neither of the men were wearing an orange vest. Both individual were issued a citation for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

Later on October 25th, Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Ranger Jordan Crawford responded to the area of Oak Grove Road after a suspect fled a GA State Patrol road check, crashed his car, and ran into a wooded area. Cpl. McNeely and Ranger Crawford began a search for the suspect and located him running across a field about a mile from the crash scene. The Rangers apprehended the suspect without incident.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On October 31st, Ranger Jordan Crawford was working a night deer hunting patrol when he observed an individual shining a hand held light from a vehicle. The individual used the light to shine a large peanut field that Ranger Crawford was watching. Ranger Crawford then preformed a traffic stop on the vehicle. One violation for blinding wildlife with lights was documented.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On October 25th, with the assistance of Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Corporal Jason Shipes, Corporal Mark Pool, Ranger Daniel North, and Ranger Judd Sears, Ranger First Class Sam Williams concluded a week long investigation of a Folkston subject who had posted numerous promotional type videos on Facebook of the subject feeding wild alligators in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. On Oct. 19th, RFC Williams received an email with several links to videos that showed the subject hand feeding wild alligators at Suwannee Canal Recreation Area in the Okefenokee NWR. RFC Williams contacted Cpl. Shipes, and with his assistance, RFC Williams was able to identify and locate the subject's address in Folkston. RFC Williams continued the investigation through the week and obtained an arrest warrant for the subject. On Oct. 25th, Sgt. Dupree, Cpl. Pool, Ranger North, and Ranger Sears, along with a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Officer, a Charlton S.O. deputy, and a Folkston P.D., officer met RFC Williams in Folkston to serve the warrant. The subject was arrested without incident. U.S. Fish & Wildlife is conducting a separate investigation of other violations specific to National Wildlife Refuge regulations.

On Oct. 31st, Ranger First Class Sam Williams was patrolling for dog deer hunting activity near Folkston when he encountered a group of hunters catching dogs. RFC Williams stopped with the hunters to conduct a check of everyone's hunting license. It was discovered that one of the subject's did not possess all necessary licenses to hunt deer with dogs. When the officer requested the subject's driver's license, it was discovered that he also was no longer a resident of Georgia. The violations of a non-resident hunting with a resident hunting license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, and hunting deer with dogs without a deer dog license were documented.

COFFEE COUNTY

On October 28th, Corporal Tim Hutto worked an ongoing night deer hunting complaint. At around 10:00 p.m., Cpl. Hutto observed a truck approach the area he was watching and shine two fields in a manner associated with night deer hunting. Cpl. Hutto initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle and interviewed the driver and passenger. The driver was in possession of a .243 caliber rifle and admitted to night deer hunting in the area. Both subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and violation of Georgia's open container law.

ATKINSON COUNTY

On November 1st, Corporal Tim Hutto and Corporal Mark Pool finished an investigation into a subject who killed a buck deer with a .270 caliber rifle during the primitive weapon season for deer. The hunter was charged with hunting with an illegal weapon for deer and the deer recording law was explained when it was determined that the subject did not tag the buck. The deer was donated to needy families.

LAURENS COUNTY

On October 30th, Corporal Dan Stiles completed an investigation that began on October 18th. One individual was charged with hunting without written permission and hunting without a hunting license.

On October 30th and 31st, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area during a check-in big game hunt for hunting and regulation violations. Numerous hunters were checked without any violations detected. Cpl. Stiles also patrolled the camping areas after 10:00 p.m. for "quiet hours" violations after receiving a complaint.

On October 31st, while on routine patrol Corporal Stiles checked a deer hunter walking on a hunting club. One violation for hunting deer without fluorescent orange was documented. Later the same day, Cpl. Stiles checked several anglers fishing in a creek. One subject was issued a citation for fishing without a fishing license.

WHEELER COUNTY

On October 25th, Sergeant James McLaughlin assisted Wheeler SO with apprehending a home invasion subject. The individual broke into a residence and took some firearms and was trying to sell them at the local convenience store. The home owner chased the individual until authorities were able to end the chase. The subject was arrested and transported to the Wheeler County Jail.

DODGE COUNTY

On October 27th, Sergeant James McLaughlin and Ranger First Class Allen Mills investigated a criminal trespass complaint. A landowner had located a deer stand, feeder, corn, pears, and a game trail camera on his property. The officers secured a search warrant for the game trail camera and reviewed the photos and identified a suspect.

On October 30th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Allen Mills located the suspect and conducted an interview. The violator admitted to being on the property without permission and placing the corn, pears, deer stand, feeder, and game camera on property without permission. A violation for criminal trespass was documented. The violator also had a warrant for his arrest out of Bibb County and was transported to the Dodge County Law Enforcement Center.

On October 31st, RFC Mills encountered a deer hunter returning to his vehicle. The officer observed the hunter was not wearing any fluorescent orange and the violation was addressed.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

GLYNN COUNTY

On October 25, RFC David Brady was working an area for deer dogging and hunting from a public road activity. Brady observed one individual standing in the road with his shotgun waiting for a deer to cross. While making contact with the violator, Brady observed another subject also in the road with his shotgun. It was determined that one of the violators was a juvenile whom was released to his parent at the scene. The other was given a citation for hunting big game from a public road.

On October 30, 26 Rangers from Regions 6 (Metter) and Region 7 (Brunswick) assisted the Glynn County Police Department and Glynn County Sheriff's Office with the annual Georgia-Florida Beach Bash on St. Simons Island. Rangers aided in controlling the crowd of 4000 and provided water security and safety patrol off of East Beach at the Coast Guard Station.



On October 30, RFC David Brady conducted a check at the local fair in Brunswick for compliance with Wild Animal and Wildlife Exhibition Permits. Contact was made with three different exhibitors and one was found to be in violation. One subject was charged with failure to obtain wild animal exhibition license.

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On October 28th, RFC John Evans was working a night hunting complaint when he observed a vehicle pull into the field he was watching. The vehicle swept the field with its headlights twice, while the passenger shined a handheld light. RFC Evans stopped the vehicle which had two occupants and a shotgun loaded with buckshot. Both were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.

CHATHAM COUNTY

On October 29, Ranger Tim Morris and Corporal Buster Cooper received a hunting complaint. After investigation the following violations were documented: hunting of wildlife from boat, and taking of deer in body of water

On October 30, Ranger Tim Morris and Corporal Buster Cooper received a hunting complaint. After investigation the following violations were documented: hunting without permission, hunting deer without fluorescent orange, hunting license not on person, failure to record deer on harvest record.

On October 31, Sergeant Cindy Miller, Corporal Buster Cooper, Ranger Tim Morris and Critical Incident Reconstruction Team Investigator Kiel Toney, investigated a boating incident in the South Channel of the Savannah River in Chatham County. DNR Rangers, Savannah Chatham Metro Marine Patrol and United States Coast Guard began search and rescue efforts to locate the missing vessel operator.