

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report  
September 20 – September 26, 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)**

No activity to report.

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

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, RFC Eric Isom and his K9 partner Colt checked an archery hunter in the Jefferson area. The subject located hunting over a mineral lick and corn and was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait.

### **HALL COUNTY**

On September 26<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Mike Burgamy, RFC Eric Isom, RFC Kevin Goss, Ranger Matt Johnson, and Ranger Chris Kernahan conducted a marine toilet inspection at Aqualand Marina in Flowery Branch. The focus of the inspection was to insure compliance with toilet design and operation along with the proper documentation required by law. Throughout the operation 26 vessels were inspected and 15 warnings were given. The inspectors also discovered two vessels with marijuana onboard resulting in two citations for misdemeanor procession.

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Burgamy was patrolling a baited near Fuller Road and Talmo Road. This stand had been baited for the last 2 years but Rangers had been unable to catch the poacher. At approximately 0730, he encountered the violator hunting over two separate piles of corn that were located within 20 yards of the stand. Citations were issued for hunting big game over bait and hunting without a big game license. After issuing the citations, Sgt. Burgamy sold the violator new licenses and printed them out for him.

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

### **CLARKE COUNTY**

On September 20, RFC Tim Butler documented one case of hunting big game over bait.

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On September 25-26, CPL Julian Wilkins and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Clarks Hill WMA for early season rifle hunt. Violations documented during the patrol were hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road and failure to sign in for hunt.

### **OGLETHORPE COUNTY**

On September 26, CPL Wilkins and RFC Phillip Nelson located a subject with hunting privileges suspended under the Wildlife Violator Compact. RFC Nelson had previously caught subject hunting doves over bait on September 7, 2015. Officers documented violations of hunting while privileges are suspended and purchasing a license while privileges are suspended.

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, RFC Robert Timmerman responded to Mistletoe State Park in reference to a missing handicapped man. The subject was last seen on a handicapped off road scooter on a hiking trail. Timmerman located the subject on the hiking trail after a diligent search. The subject's scooter was stuck near the lake bed. Timmerman assisted the subject and helped him return to his vehicle.

### **MCDUFFIE COUNTY**

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, RFC Robert Timmerman apprehended one subject for taking over the limit of deer on a managed WMA Hunt. The subject was cited and released and the deer were confiscated.

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

### **HOUSTON COUNTY**

On the morning of September 26<sup>th</sup>, RFC Ronnie Beard and Sgt. Bo Kelly assisted with the Pond to Plate program at the Go Fish Center. Several hundred people participated and the officers talked about what DNR LED does as well as answered public questions.

### **JONES COUNTY**

On the morning of September 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jeremy Reese met with Channel 46 and conducted a TV interview in reference to archery deer hunting.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On the afternoon of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Bubba Stanford was conducting foot patrol in the southern part of the county. One archery deer hunter was located and it was determined he was hunting over bait and a citation was issued.

On the days of September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Stanford patrolled BF Grant WMA during the archery deer hunt. Several hunters were checked and no violations documented.

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

### **THOMAS COUNTY**

Ranger First Class Jon Penuel and Sgt. David Ruddell responded to a complaint of illegal hunting after several hunters were observed and confronted by the landowner for hunting geese without permission. The hunters had gathered their gear and left the area by the time Rangers arrived but the complainant provided the officers with numerous pictures of the subjects and their vehicles. Following an investigation, the subjects were located and issued warnings per the landowner's request and ordered not to return to the property.

## **DOUGHERTY COUNTY**

On September 26, Ranger Eric White participated in the annual Water, Wings and Wildlife Festival at the Flint River Aquarium. The event gave visitors an opportunity to learn about various types of outdoor activities and the environment. Ranger White spoke with visitors about wildlife and answered questions about hunting, fishing, and boating regulations.



*Ranger Eric White fielding questions*

## **BAKER COUNTY**

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Steve Thomas conducted a patrol on Elmodel WMA and located three subjects hunting dove. The subjects were cited for hunting dove on a closed WMA, as the area is only open for dove hunting on Saturdays during the first season.

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

### **BERRIEN COUNTY**

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Morty Wood, Corporal Tommy Daughtrey, Corporal Tim Hutto, Corporal Greg Wade, and Ranger First Class Keith McDonald participated in the annual Jakes Day at Paradise Public Fishing Area. The officers worked the sporting clays event which included youth shooting sporting clays with .410, 20, and 12 Gauge shotguns. The officers worked closely with the youth emphasizing the importance of gun safety. The officers also manned an information table, handing out regulation booklets, and answering questions related to hunting and fishing laws. Corporal Tim Hutto and K-9 "Titan" also performed a wildlife detection demonstration and explained to a group of around one hundred spectators the duties of the Law Enforcement Division's K-9's.



*RFC Keith McDonald providing instruction to a young shooter*



*Cpl Tim Hutto putting K-9 Titan through a training*

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Several anglers were checked for license and creel limit compliance. Two juveniles were given verbal guidance on violations. No other violations were detected. Cpl. Stiles also patrolled the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area during the Adult/Child Firearms Deer Hunt. Three adult hunters and three juveniles were checked for license and Wildlife Management Area regulation compliance. No violations were detected.

### **TELFAIR COUNTY**

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant James McLaughlin was called to assist with searching the river for a suicidal woman. Sgt. McLaughlin, Corporals Dan Stiles and Kevin Joyce were also called to assist. Before the Rangers could arrive on scene, the lady was located at a residence in Hazlehurst.

### **WHEELER COUNTY**

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant James McLaughlin patrolled Little Ocmulgee State Park. The park was having its annual Spanish Moss Arts and Crafts festival. Sgt. McLaughlin provided directions and instruction to several of the attendees.

### **BULLOCH COUNTY**

On September 26<sup>th</sup> 2015, Ranger Jordan Crawford conducted an I&E program at Anderson's General Store in Statesboro. Ranger Crawford answered questions and passed out hunting regulations to shoppers gearing up for the upcoming hunting season.

### **SCREVEN COUNTY**

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Shaymus McNeely patrolled Tuckahoe WMA for archery hunting activity. No serious violations were detected.



### **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Daniel North was patrolling the west portions of the county when he discovered three large piles of household garbage in the ditch spread out over about a mile along Donahue Road. Ranger North noticed that the same tire tracks and shoe prints were at each of the three locations. Ranger North was also able to locate the same name and address in each of the piles of trash. Ranger North traveled to the address but it appeared that the residents had moved. After speaking with neighbors it was discovered that the suspects were in the process of moving. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, Ranger North received information from neighbors that the suspects had returned for more items. Ranger North was unable to respond so Ranger First Class Keith McDonald was called to respond to the suspect's residence. RFC McDonald located the suspect and charged him with illegal dumping of egregious litter.

## **CHARLTON, CLINCH, ECHOLS, & WARE COUNTIES**

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, several officers from across the state patrolled for bear hunting activity around the Okefenokee Swamp. Captain Scott Klingel, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, Sgt. Brian Carter, Corporal Jason Shipes, Corporal Mark Pool, Corporal Josh Chambers, Corporal Mark Patterson, Ranger First Class Sam Williams, Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel, Ranger Daniel North, Ranger Judd Sears, and Ranger Colt Shaske encountered 253 bear hunters during the three-day opening weekend. The officers issued four citations for hunting bear without fluorescent orange. Two hog hunters were encountered hunting without licenses and citations were issued for the violations. More than 40 bears were harvested.



*Successful bear hunters in Clinch County.*

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

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Chris Ridley taught a Hunter Education CD class in Glynn County at the Brunswick LED office. Twenty- eight students were certified.

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Chris Hodge and Sgt. Cindy Miller were patrolling Clayhole Wildlife Management area when they encountered two subjects at one of the fishing ponds. Officers got out with these subjects due to vandalism in the area. Upon investigation, officers discovered that the two subjects had been drinking while on the WMA. Both subjects were cited for Consuming Alcohol on a WMA and escorted off the area.

On September 26, RFC David Brady was patrolling Sansavilla Wildlife Management Area for the annual Adult/ Child Firearms deer check-in hunt. RFC Brady encountered one subject hunting without a license and another adult that was not wearing an orange vest and after further investigation was participating in the hunt without a child. The subjects were cited for hunting without a license, hunting without fluorescent orange and violation of adult/ child hunt rules on WMA.

## **BRANTLEY COUNTY**

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Chris Hodge, Sgt. Cindy Miller, and Cpl. Craig Smith assisted the Brantley County Sheriff's Office with removal of several marijuana plants in north Brantley County. Deputies from the Sheriff's Office were contacted earlier in the evening after timber company workers located the plants in the woods. Officers were able to locate more than 75 plants.

