

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
September 6 – September 12, 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 September 6th, Cpl. Brooks Varnell and RFC Zack Hardy stopped a vessel on Allatoona Lake that was operating reckless in the area of Flamingo Cove. The operator was found to be under the influence. RFC Hardy placed the subject under arrest and he was charged with BUI

On September 7th, Cpl. Byron Young, Cpl. Brooks Varnell, RFC Bart Hendrix, RFC Micheal Crawley and RFC Zack Hardy responded to 2 separate boating incidents on Allatoona Lake. A female riding a PWC suffered a cut leg when she was stuck by another PWC. The female was transported to a local hospital for treatment. The other incident involved a boat being swamped by a large wake and sinking. No one was injured in the second incident.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On September 12th, Cpl. Byron Young responded to a complaint of subjects hunting over bait off Hwy 20 near Canton. Cpl. Young located a ladder stand baited with whole corn 30 yards from the stand. Cpl. Young discovered that a deer had been killed in front of the stand. After following the evidence to a nearby residence, Cpl. Young located 2 subjects that were hunting in the stand that morning. After interviewing the subjects it was discovered that a 4 point buck was shot just after sunrise. One of the hunters did not have a hunting license. Citations and warnings were issued for hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

COBB COUNTY

On September 7th, Cpl. Byron Young, Cpl. Brooks Varnell, RFC Micheal Crawley, RFC Bart Hendrix and RFC Zack Hardy responded to a call of a drowning on Allatoona Lake. A 28 year old male was swimming with friends south of the Hwy 41 Bridge and became distressed in the water. DNR LED officers and Cobb Fire/Rescue searched the area and recovered the victim within 25 minutes. The victim was rushed to Kennestone Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

RABUN COUNTY

On September 6th, RFC Joe Hill and Deputy Mike Mazarky, with Rabun County Sheriff's Office, patrolled Lake Rabun for boating safety violations. The Officers stopped many boats, and issued citations and warnings for operating a vessel without CGA PFD's, operating vessel within 100' of object above idle speed, operating vessel without lights during hours of darkness, failure to obey regulatory marker, operating vessel with improper lights, and violating rules of the road.

UNION COUNTY

On September 7th, SGT Steve Seitz and Cpl. Kevin Dyer were patrolling United States Forest Service Land on the South Eastern portion of Union County. The Rangers located a vehicle parked on the side of the Forest Service road. During the investigation the Rangers located two subjects that said they had been squirrel hunting and scouting for deer sign. During the license check and questioning Rangers located a total of 14 Ginseng roots that the subjects had harvested on United States Forest Service Land. The subjects did not have a permit from the United States Forest Service to harvest Ginseng. United States Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Jason Arrowood responded to the location and issued both subjects a citation for digging Ginseng without a permit.

JACKSON COUNTY

On September 10th, Sgt. Mike Burgamy, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk, RFC Eric Isom, and RFC Kevin Goss traveled to Bear Creek Reservoir to assist Jackson County Emergency Management Services search a portion of the Reservoir for a possible missing person. The DNR Officers utilized the DNR Sonar vessel along with sector scan equipment to image the bottom of the Reservoir.

HALL COUNTY

On Saturday, September 5, Corporal Jason Roberson arrested one subject for operating a vessel under the influence on Lake Lanier.

On Sunday, September 6, Corporal Jason Roberson arrested one subject for operating a vessel under the influence on Lake Lanier. He also arrested one person for possession of Marijuana and one person for possession of MDMA.

HART COUNTY

On September 6th, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Tim Vickery patrolled the lake for any boating safety/fishing activity. Several boats were checked for proper safety equipment, as well as, several fishing licenses were inspected. A total of two citations and warnings were issued. The violations consisted of towing a skier with PWC without an observer on board and allowing underage child to ride in moving vessel without wearing a PFD.

On September 6th, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Tim Vickery responded to a complaint on the Hart County WMA. Several hunting licenses and equipment was checked. A total of two citations and warnings were issued. The violations consisted of hunting on a closed WMA.

On September 7th, RFC Brandon Pierce and Sgt. Stan Elrod patrolled the county and WMA for any hunting activity. Numerous hunting licenses were checked, as well as, their equipment. A total of six citations and warnings were issued. The violations consisted of hunting on a closed WMA. Later that evening RFC Pierce patrolled the WMA again and checked several hunting licenses and equipment. A total of four citations and warnings were issued. The violations consisted of hunting on a closed WMA and failure to participate in migratory bird HIP program.

On September 12th, RFC Brandon Pierce patrolled the county and WMA for any hunting activity. Numerous hunting licenses and equipment were checked. A total of three citations and warnings were issued. The violations consisted of hunting without a WMA stamp and hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On the morning of September 6th RFC Phillip Nelson and CPL. Julian Wilkins located a dove shoot that was found to be baited. Violations documented included unlawful enticement, hunting over bait, failure to participate in the HIP program, and non-resident hunting without a license. Later that evening SGT Brian Carter and RFC Phillip Nelson located a dove shoot that was found to be baited. Violations documented included hunting over bait and failure to participate in the HIP program.

On the evening of September 7th CPL Mark Patterson and RFC Phillip Nelson located a dove shoot that was found to be baited. Violations documented included hunting over bait.

WILKES COUNTY

On the morning of September 6th CPL Mark Patterson located a dove shoot that was found to be baited. Violations documented included hunting over bait, failure to participate in the HIP program, and hunting without a license. Later in the day SGT Matt Garthright and CPL Patterson responded to an injured person call on the Clarks Hill WMA. An individual had fallen from a rope swing on Clarks Hill Lake near Holiday Park. The victim was transported to the hospital by Wilkes County EMS.

On September 12th, CPL. Mark Patterson patrolled portions of Wilkes County for waterfowl, archery, and fishing activity. Violations addressed during the patrol included hunting without a federal waterfowl stamp, failure to sign federal stamp, hunting big game over bait, fishing without a license, operating a vessel without personal flotation devices, operating a vessel without registration, and hunting within 50yds of a WMA road.

WALTON COUNTY

On September 8-9, Cpl. David Allen and Ranger Jason Harrison taught a Hunter Education class in Social Circle. Fifteen students were certified.

GREENE COUNTY

On September 12, Cpl. Derrell Worth and Sgt. John Harwell checked thirty hunters at Redlands WMA. Violations encountered were two unplugged shotguns and hunting without a license.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On September 12, RFC Richard Tanner and Sgt. John Harwell checked a juvenile who was archery hunting without his hunter safety certificate. An adult was warned for allowing the juvenile to hunt without hunter safety.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On September 12, Cpl. Payne and RFC Billips worked Richmond County checking baited deer stands and without permission complaints. Several areas were checked with no violations detected. Later in the morning the officers worked Spirit Creek WMA. In the afternoon Cpl. Payne apprehended two hunters hunting over bait. One of the hunters was hunting without permission and was given verbal guidance on hunting line trees.

BURKE COUNTY

On September 6, Ranger First Class Jeff Billips found hunters on the Alexander WMA Dove field. Ranger Billips explained to the hunters that the field was only open on dates specified in the regulations. The violation of "hunting on a closed WMA" was documented and the doves in the hunters' possession were confiscated.

On September 7, Ranger Billips located more dove hunters on Alexander WMA. Ranger Billips documented the same violations and confiscated the hunters' doves. Additionally, one of the hunters had not completed his hunter education requirements. This hunter was cited and his licenses were seized. Ranger Billips and Sgt. Max Boswell located two dove hunters on Di-Lane Plantation WMA. These hunters were also hunting on a closed WMA. The violations were documented and their doves were confiscated as well. All doves from these episodes were donated to needy families.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

HARRIS COUNTY

On September 6th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver and Sgt. Jim Bradfield were patrolling Harris County for dove hunting activity and located a small shoot. Eight hunters were checked and 2 were found to be hunting without a current hunting license. The 2 hunters were also hunting with unplugged shotguns. Citations were issued for hunting without a license and non-resident hunting without a license. Both hunters also received written warnings for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On September 12th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen was checking hunting activity on Standing Boy WMA. Several hunters were checked on the area, one hunter was issued a citation for hunting without a WMA license and a written warning for hunting without a big game license. Two other hunters were issued written warnings for hunting without a big game license.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

BAKER COUNTY

While conducting a patrol on the morning of September 7th, Cpl. Robbie Griner heard two separate dove shoots occurring on Elmodel Wildlife Management Area, which was closed to dove hunting on this date. Cpl. Griner located one of the groups himself and directed Cpl. Scott Carroll and Ranger Quinn Fogle to the other shoot. A total of nine hunters were charged with hunting on a closed WMA and 57 doves were confiscated.



L-R, Rangers Griner, Quinn and Carroll with confiscated doves.

BAKER COUNTY

On the evening of September 7th, Sgt. Rick Sellars conducted a patrol on Elmodel WMA and located two more subjects hunting on one of the prepared dove fields. The two subjects were cited for hunting on a closed WMA.

MILLER COUNTY

On September 7th, RFC Tony Cox located fifteen subjects hunting dove in a cow pasture that was baited with wheat. He cited the group for hunting over bait, one hunter for hunting without a license, and confiscated 148 dove.



Confiscated doves from a baited field

SEMINOLE COUNTY

On September 9th, Region V Rangers attended the annual Tri-State meeting at Seminole State Park. The meeting is hosted on a rotating basis between Georgia, Florida, and Alabama Wildlife Agencies, and is used to discuss mutual issues and concerns of the three states. Florida was this year's host, with their staff providing an overview of the recent shooting of a Florida Game Warden. They also discussed possible implications of their state's upcoming black bear season. Approximately 80 officers from the three agencies attended the meeting.

DECATUR COUNTY

On September 10th, RFC Tony Cox assisted Decatur Co. Sheriff's Office and GBI agents with a search warrant on a residence near the Florida line. While at the residence, RFC Cox located and seized the shells and skulls of 3 Alligator Snapping Turtles, which the suspect stated that he killed in Florida. The suspect also possessed numerous deer and turkey that he claimed he killed in Florida. The following day, Tony invited a FWCC Officer to sit in while he interviewed the suspect, who stated that he killed all of the animals in Florida, and that he possessed a Florida hunting license. The suspect was found to have been hunting with a resident license in Florida for the past several years, although he is a Georgia resident. The suspect was transported to jail for possession/manufacturing marijuana, and possession of cocaine. RFC Cox took three warrants for possession of illegally taken wildlife on the suspect, and charges will be filed in Florida by FWCC as soon as the suspect is released from jail in Bainbridge.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

BACON COUNTY

On September 12th, Corporal Jason Shipes and Ranger Judd Sears responded to Bacon County Memorial Hospital to investigate a possible hunting accident. Officers learned that the sixteen year-old victim was dove hunting with several friends when he was injured. It was determined that hunter was using an over and under 20-gauge shotgun with size 7 ½ bird shot. He was in the field with the muzzle resting on his right foot as birds began to fly. When he attempted to take a shot at the passing birds, his finger struck the trigger resulting in a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Other hunters on the field quickly transported him to the emergency room for treatment. Due to the injuries, he was transported to Savannah Memorial.

WARE COUNTY

On the night of September 12th, Corporal Jason Shipes and Ranger Judd Sears observed two trucks parked on the side of the roadway with their parking lights on but no one around the vehicles. The officers checked the area and found two subjects along the creek bank shining lights into the treetops. Cpl. Shipes and Ranger Sears could hear at least one hound barking and continued to observe the subjects. After several minutes had passed three to four shots were heard and the hunters began to exit the woods towards their vehicles. Cpl. Shipes and Ranger Sears made contact with the two subjects and determined that the two were hunting raccoons out of season and were in fact in possession of one they had just shot from the tree. Both of the subjects were issued citations and the raccoon was confiscated.



Raccoon taken out of season in Ware County

ECHOLS COUNTY

On September 3rd, Ranger Daniel North received information that some trash had been dumped at the public boat ramp near the Alapaha River. The trash was located and some of the potential violator's information was found. A brief investigation concerning the where the violator lived followed and Ranger North was able to locate the individual at her residence on September 9th. The violator was charged with illegal dumping of egregious litter.



Trash dumped near public boat landing in Echols County

On September 8th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Ranger Daniel North conducted surveillance for night hunting activity along Hwy. 94. At about 10:40 PM, the officers observed a vehicle driving slowly down the road and a light was shining from the passenger side of the vehicle. The truck was stopped and the driver and passenger were charged with hunting from a public road, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting hogs without a license. A loaded .223 rifle was discovered in the vehicle. Due to the fact that the driver's license was suspended, he was arrested and transported to jail. Also, while talking with the violators, dried blood and deer hair was located in the back of the truck. While talking with the passenger, it discovered that he had shot a deer two days prior in a field near his residence in Lowndes County. The violator was charged with hunting deer out of season. The deer meat was seized & given to needy family.



.223 rifle in poacher's vehicle in Echols County



Illegally-killed deer meat seized from poacher in Lowndes County.

DODGE/TELFAIR COUNTIES

On September 6th, officers J. McLaughlin, D. Stiles, J. Stokes, R. Horne, and A. Mills conducted a high intensity patrol on the Dodge/Telfair county line looking/listening for dove hunting activity. The officers checked 61 hunters on 14 fields resulting in 8 dove related violations which included unlawful enticement of game, hunting over bait, and hunting with an unplugged shotgun.



Clear cut baited with wheat.

On September 12th, Ranger First Class Allen Mills received a call at 11:00 PM from Dodge County 911 in reference to a large alligator in the yard of an apartment complex in Eastman. RFC Mills arrived on scene and located a 7 foot alligator lying in the ditch. After using a chock stick to subdue the alligator, RFC Mills transported the alligator to a more suitable habitat and released it unharmed.



RFC Mills releasing alligator.

WILCOX COUNTY

On September 7th, officers J. McLaughlin, D. Stiles, J Stokes, R. Horne, and A. Mills patrolled for dove hunting activity. Several hunters were checked and a group of juveniles was given verbal guidance for minor violations.

WHEELER COUNTY

On September 6th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne conducted a surveillance operation on a private boat ramp located on the Oconee River. RFC Horne cited one person for shocking fish. RFC Horne seized as evidence one electronic shocking device, two large dip nets, and 25 Channel and Flathead catfish.



Fish confiscated by RFC Horne.

APPLING COUNTY

On Sept. 7th, Cpl. Chase Altman and RFC Clint Jarriel patrolled parts of Appling County for dove hunting activity in the morning and evening. Four fields were checked, two of which were found to be illegally baited. Citations for hunting w/o a license, illegal enticement of game, and hunting with an unplugged shotgun were issued on these fields.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On September 6, 2015 RFC Clint Jarriel, SGT Jon Barnard, and RFC Debbie Brannen patrolled Tattnall County in the Cobbtown area for dove hunters. The officers checked a field on Weed Holland Road near Highway 23. After entering the field to check the hunters it was discovered the field was baited with wheat seed. The land owner was charged for the violation and the dove taken in this incident were confiscated and turned over to the Tattnall County Sheriff's Office. There were 138 birds altogether.

EVANS COUNTY

On September 7, 2015, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen, Corporal Kevin Joyce and Sergeant Jon Barnard patrolled the county for dove hunting activity. Several licenses were checked resulting in violations for hunting without a license, failure to participate in the migratory bird HIP program and hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

On September 11, 2015, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen and Sergeant Jon Barnard patrolled the Evans County Public Fishing Area checking alligator hunters. Violations for hunting alligators without an alligator license and hunting alligator with an illegal weapon were documented.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On September 12, 2015, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen and Sergeant Jon Barnard patrolled the county for dove hunting activity. Several licenses were checked resulting in one violation for hunting with unplugged shotgun.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

On Sept. 6, Cpl. Kevin Joyce and Cpl. Chase Altman inspected a field with 3 hunters on it that was found to be baited with wheat seed. Three citations for hunting over bait were issued.

LOWNDES COUNTY

On September 11th Ranger First Class Keith McDonald completed an investigation in reference to unlawful dumping. On July 24th RFC McDonald located debris and trash on a county road and a name and address was found in the trash. RFC McDonald met with the individual and learned another individual was paid to clean up around their residence. On September 11th RFC McDonald met with the individual who was paid to clean up. He admitted to dumping the debris on the county road and was issued a citation for littering.

COOK COUNTY

On September 12th, Corporal Tim Hutto responded to a complaint of hunting without permission outside of Adel. Cpl. Hutto located a climbing stand on the complainant's property that was baited with shelled corn and a salt block. Cpl. Hutto also saw where the suspect had killed a deer and drug it off of the property to a residence nearby. After interviewing subjects at the residence, it was determined that one of the subjects in the home was responsible for the incident. Violations were addressed for hunting without permission, littering, and hunting big game over bait "without landowner permission". The case is still under investigation and charges are pending on another suspect for the same charges.

COFFEE COUNTY

On September 2nd, Corporal Tim Hutto was traveling down a dirt road in the Wilsonville area when a white Ford Explorer passed his patrol truck at a high rate of speed. Cpl. Hutto caught up with the vehicle and performed a check of the vehicle tag, which revealed that the registration on the vehicle was suspended. Cpl. Hutto initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle to further investigate the issue. After a brief interview with the driver it was determined that his driver's license were also suspended. Cpl. Hutto was then advised by dispatch that the suspect had multiple warrants out of Coffee County and the City of Douglas. The officers located a small amount of methamphetamine and articles used to weigh and bag narcotics. The subject was turned over to the Coffee County Sheriff's Department for further investigation.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity to report.