

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
April 3 – April 9, 2016

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)

GORDON COUNTY

On April 4th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore was patrolling the Fairmount area and located a truck parked inside a hunting club on a road that lead to another property. Cpl. Elmore has had problems in the past in this same area of hunters walking this specific roadway to the adjacent property and hunting without permission. Cpl. Elmore walked out the roadway and located a Canton man hunting without permission. He was issued a citation for hunting without permission.



Can you find the person hunting without permission?

FLOYD COUNTY

On April 9th, RFC Ben Cunningham and Cpl. Shawn Elmore participated in a NWTF/LED Mentoring hunt for local kids. Berry College River Farm allowed the rangers to take the kids hunting on the property. Two siblings from Rome were able to go turkey hunting for the first time. Sabra Hester and Will Hester along with their dad, Daniel Hester hunted. No turkeys were harvested but both kids were able to hear gobbling. Will had a hen within 3 yards of the hunting blind and Sabra had a pair of wood ducks within 5 yards of her hunting blind. Both said they thoroughly enjoyed the hunt and look forward to hunting in the future.



Sabra Hester hunted with RFC Cunningham and Will Hester hunted with Cpl. Elmore

CHATTOOGA COUNTY

On April 3rd, Sgt. Mike Barr was patrolling Chattooga County. He located a hunter off Sloppy Floyd Lake Road who was hunting the US Forest Service property. The 20 year old hunter did not have proof of having completed the hunter safety certification. Sgt. Barr discussed with the hunter how to print out a new hunter safety card from the DNR website.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

RABUN COUNTY

On April 3, RFC Chad Chambers and Ranger Beth Gilbert patrolled the Tallulah Gorge State Park. The officers cited three adults for hiking inside the permitted area without having permits.

On April 9, while patrolling Wildcat Creek for fishing activity, RFC Chad Chambers warned one adult male for fishing without a license and trout license.

HALL COUNTY

On April 3, Ranger First Class Mark Stephens responded to drowning in Hall County on Lake Lanier. Officer Stephens assisted investigators with the incident.

BARROW COUNTY

On April 9, RFC Eric Isom and his K9 partner Colt were called to assist Barrow County Sheriff's Deputies who were involved in a chase that went into Clark County. The subject wrecked his vehicle and fled on foot. Barrow County Deputies discovered that two small children were inside the vehicle and were found unhurt. RFC Isom utilized Colt to track the subject who ran. Colt found the subject's wallet and a short time later located the subject. He was arrested and turned over to Barrow County Sheriff's Deputies.

On April 3, Ranger Chris Kernahan was patrolling the Fort Yargo State Park campground area, when he made contact with multiple subjects who were found to be in possession of marijuana. The subjects were issued citations for the violations.

On April 8, Ranger Chris Kernahan was patrolling the Fort Yargo State Park trailhead area, when he made contact with multiple subjects who were found to be in possession of marijuana. The subjects were issued citations for the violations.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

NEWTON COUNTY

On April 3, Ranger Dan Schay was checking fishing licenses in Newton County and one fishing without a license violation was documented.

On April 10, Rgr Schay was checking turkey hunters in the morning and one violation of hunting big game over bait (turkey) was documented. In the afternoon Rgr Schay and Rgr Harrison were checking fishing licenses and boaters in Newton County. Five fishing without a license violations were documented and one operating a vessel without PFDs was documented.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On April 2, Sgt. John Harwell and Cpl. David Allen checked a baited area in Hancock County off Jewell Road. One subject was cited for hunting turkeys over bait.

GREENE COUNTY

On April 9, Cpl. David Allen and Ranger Jason Harrison patrolled Redlands WMA for hunting and fishing activity. The rangers cited two individuals. One individual was cited for fishing without a license and the other was cited for operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

On the morning of April the 4th, Cpl. Adams was traveling from one baited area to another when a white truck recklessly passed him at over 100 miles an hour. Cpl. Adams conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. Two infants were found not to have car seats and the driver had an open container of alcohol. The passenger was also wanted for armed robbery out of Richmond County and considered armed and dangerous. Jefferson County Sheriff office was called to transport subjects to the County Jail.

BURKE COUNTY

On April 7, Ranger First Class Jeff Billips checked one of the baited turkey locations in Burke County. RFC Billips issued a citation for hunting big game over bait to a grandfather and provided verbal guidance to the juvenile grandson.

CLARK COUNTY

On Sunday April 3, RFC. Phillip Nelson patrolled Athens for boating and fishing activity at various public fishing areas around Clarke Co. No violations were documented.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On April 9th, Cpl. Ryan Swain apprehended two subjects for hunting turkeys over bait. The subjects were issued citations and released.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

On April 3rd, Cpl. Tony Cox and RFC Steve Thomas responded to a citizen's complaint of a subject shooting at turkeys with a .22 magnum rifle. The suspect was located and cited for hunting turkeys with an illegal weapon, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license.

On April 9th, RFC Steve Thomas cited a turkey hunter for hunting without a non-resident big game license.

EARLY COUNTY

On April 3rd, Sgt. Jim Atchley and Sgt. Rick Sellars responded to a landowner complaint of someone hunting turkeys without landowner permission. Three hunters were located on the property and it was determined that they were given permission by the farmer that leased the property. Two of the hunters were cited for hunting without a non-resident hunting license and big game hunting license.

BAKER COUNTY

On April 9th, Sgt. Rick Sellars conducted a patrol of baited areas that he had located the previous day. Two turkey hunters were located and cited for hunting big game over bait, hunting without a non-resident license, and hunting without a big game license.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

CLINCH COUNTY

On April 1st, Corporal Jason Shipes completed an investigation that began in January. Cpl. Shipes learned that several people were involved and possibly killed up to 20 antlered deer during the past season, well over the legal limit of two per person. With limited information at the time of the complaint, Cpl. Shipes began to investigate and eventually gathered substantial evidence that involved five different individuals. While working closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, each of the subjects were identified and interviewed. As a result, a total of seventeen cases were issued to four individuals ranging from non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, hunting without obtaining a harvest record, recording and reporting requirements, hunting deer with dogs without a deer dog license and taking over the season limit of antlered deer. A total of 19 sets of antlers, spanning over three seasons, were recovered by officers.



Multiple sets of antlers recovered during Clinch County investigation.

WARE COUNTY

On April 3rd, Corporal Jason Shipes and Corporal Mark Pool were contacted by Ware County 911 in reference to several subjects being stranded in the swollen waters of the Satilla River. Apparently, three adults and two children were out riding in their vehicle during the early morning hours in the area of Duncan Bridge Road. Due to current rainfall, the Satilla River was flooded with over three foot of water over the roadway. The driver of the vehicle decided to try to drive through the flooded area only to have their vehicle stall out as water began to seep through the doors. Cpl. Shipes and Cpl. Pool launched their patrol vessel in the roadway and were able to get each of the occupants to safety.

On April 4th, Corporal Jason Shipes, Corporal Mark Pool and Ranger First Class Daniel North responded to assist other agencies with searching for a missing person on the Satilla River in the area of Hwy 158. Two subjects launched their small aluminum boat with a six horse-power motor into a flooded river. The Satilla River was at 16.5 feet, well over flood stage. One subject was found early in the search clinging to tree tops by other boaters on the river. An intensive search involving agencies from Jeff Davis County, Coffee County, Ware Sheriff's Office, Georgia State Patrol and DNR LED was conducted throughout the night and into the next day using ground searches, helicopter searches, and vessels on the water. The second subject missing was able to walk out to a residence during the afternoon hours on April 5th. After spending a very cold night in the woods and after being checked out by EMS, he returned home safely.

On April 8th, Cpl. Jason Shipes received a complaint involving illegal dumping. Cpl. Shipes responded to the area after talking with the complainant and located several bags of household trash along with a plastic trash can that contained the leftovers of a feral hog. Cpl. Shipes was able to gather information from the trash that led him to a local business. He was able to locate the owner of the trash and issued a citation for littering.



Litter dumped in Clinch County.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On the evening of April 8th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams encountered an individual hunting turkeys near Folkston. While checking the subject's required licenses and equipment, the officer discovered that the person did not possess any hunting licenses and was hunting with an unplugged shotgun. The subject stated that he had been hunting from a blind that was nearby. When the officer returned to the blind with him, corn was located on the ground underneath a feeder that was located in front of the blind. Violations for non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, hunting big game over bait, and hunting with an unplugged gun were documented.



Turkey bait discovered in Charlton County.

On the morning of April 9th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Ranger First Class Sam Williams patrolled the St. George area for hunting activity. During the patrol, the officers encountered a group training bear hounds. While speaking with the hounds-men, the officer discovered that four of the individuals were in possession of loaded high powered rifles and shotguns that were placed in the vehicles where they were readily accessible. The violation for possession of illegal equipment while training dogs was documented on each subject.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On April 3rd, Ranger First Class Daniel North was patrolling for turkey hunting activity when he discovered a truck parked in the woods. After a short wait, three hunters emerged from the woods and returned to the truck. After speaking with the hunters and checking their licenses and guns RFC North discovered multiple violations of hunting big game without big game license, hunting without license, hunting with unplugged shotguns. The violations were documented. The hunters were educated on the new turkey harvest recording requirements.

On April 3rd, Ranger First Class Daniel North received information from Sergeant Patrick Dupree that a known local poacher was posting on social media a picture of himself with a recently harvested gobbler. RFC North checked the licensing system and found that the violator did not have a valid hunting license. RFC North and Ranger Judd Sears met the violator at his residence where he confessed to shooting the turkey that morning. Violations of hunting big game without a big game license and hunting without a license were documented.



Illegally-taken gobbler in Echols County.

LAURENS COUNTY

On April 9th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Game Management Technician Bobby Sanders patrolled the River Bend Wildlife Management Area. One hunter was encountered. No violations were documented.

On April 9th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Game Management Technician Bobby Sanders patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area for turkey hunting activity during the adult / child quota hunt. No turkey hunters were located. Thirteen anglers were checked for license and creel limit compliance and four vessels were checked for boating safety compliance. Five violations for fishing without a WMA license on a PFA were documented and one violation for fishing with a cast net was documented.

COFFEE COUNTY

On April 10th, Corporal Tim Hutto responded to a hunting alligator out of season call in Nicholls. Corporal Hutto arrived at a small pond in the Nicholls area and located two set hooks commonly used to catch alligators. Moments later Corporal Hutto located a subject on scene and interviewed him about the incident. The subject admitted to trying to catch a six foot alligator out of the pond with the hooks, as well as a rod and reel with a large treble hook. One violation of hunting out of season was documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On April 3, RFC Colte Shaske performed an area check of Atkinson Boat Ramp for fishing and boating violations. Although no violations were found, RFC Shaske encountered a man who had just caught this 19-inch Largemouth Bass.

