



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**April 23 – April 29, 2017**

**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- Acworth (Northwest)**

### **PAULDING COUNTY**

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, RFC Daniel Gray conducted a patrol on Paulding Forest WMA to patrol for turkey hunting activity. During the patrol one hunter was given a warning for hunting w/o WMA license.

### **HARALSON COUNTY**

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown, Cpl. Brooks Varnell and RFC Daniel Gray ran the fishing simulator and hunting simulator at the Providence Baptist Church in Tallapoosa for their 10th annual wild game supper. 400 people were in attendance for the event.

### **PAULDING COUNTY**

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray conducted patrols on Paulding Forest WMA and Sheffield WMA's. During the patrol Game Wardens checked two turkey hunters and three fishermen. One warning was issued for hunting within 50 yards of WMA road and one warning was issued for fishing w/o license.

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray patrolled on Sweetwater Creek State Park. During the patrol Game Wardens checked 24 fishermen and 5 vessels. One individual was arrested for an outstanding warrant and 3 individuals were issued warnings for fishing w/o license.

### **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On April 29, RFC Bart Hendrix and RFC Mark Puig patrolled Allatoona Lake. The Officers stopped a vessel in the area of Victoria Marina. The Officers immediately detected the odor of alcohol and observed several open containers in the boat. The operator was found to be under the influence of alcohol and also under the age of 21. The operator was placed under arrest for BUI.

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Region 1 Game Wardens went through 8 hours of Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) Seated Battery Transition Course. The training was held at Red Top Mountain State Park. The SFST Seated Battery is used in the marine environment to detect when boat operators are under the influence. These test have been implemented by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Below Sgt. Jason Roberson and Cpl. Shawn Elmore are instructing.



## **FLOYD COUNTY**

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ben Cunningham and RFC Rodger McConkey, participated in the DNR Law Enforcement Division Facebook "Hunt with a Game Warden" program. The Game Wardens took a 10 year old and a 13 year old turkey hunting on Berry College property. No turkeys were harvested, but a good time was had by all. Later that evening Cpl. Cunningham caught a subject hunting without permission off Melson Rd. The subject was issued a citation for hunting on land of another without permission.

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

No Activity to Report

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

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On April 29<sup>th</sup> CPL Julian Wilkins and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Lake Russell in the area of Coldwater Creek and Vans Creek. Violations documented during this patrol were fishing without a license, allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a coast guard approved life jacket, and operating a vessel without registration.

### **OGLETHORPE COUNTY**

On April 23rd RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Redlands WMA. Violations documented during this patrol were hunting turkeys with an unplugged shotgun and a verbal warning was given for hunting within 50 yards of the road.

On April 29th RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled for fishing activity. Three subjects were charged for fishing without a license.

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

No Activity to Report

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

### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On Sunday April 23, 2017 Cpl. Tony Cox respond to a hunting without permission complaint and located a 17 year old and a 16 year old on a local farm. Cpl. Cox meet with the parents and verbal guidance was given to the juveniles.

On Friday April 28, 2017 Cpl. Tony Cox presented several I&E program to Grace school in Decatur county on wildlife in the State of Georgia. He presented the program to Kids from Pre K through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, allowing the children to view and touch wildlife and furs and talk about the habit they live in.

On Saturday April 29, 2017 Cpl. Tony Cox, Sgt. Bob Holley and Cpl. Steve Robinson (C.I.R.T.) responded to a Boating Incident with a fatality on Lake Seminole. Investigation into the incident revealed a 66 year old male was fishing from a fiberglass canoe when it capsized in 6-8 feet of water approximately 20 yards from the nearest shoreline. Nearby residents heard him screaming and observed him slip under the surface of the water adjacent to his overturned canoe. They called 911 as they attempted to rescue him by vessel, but were unable to do so.

The victim was recovered within 10 minutes of the incident by local residents and a responding Deputy from the Seminole County Sherriff's Office. All attempts to resuscitate the victim by first responders and E.M.S. failed. He was pronounced dead on the scene by the Seminole County Coroner's Office. The vessel was recovered and no PFD's were found in the vessel or floating in the area of the incident.



## Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

### BERRIEN COUNTY

On Saturday April 29, 2017 Sgt. Morty Wood assisted with the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Dogwood Classic Fishing Rodeo in Nashville. The annual event had approximately 300 kids participating.



Age Division Big Fish award Winners



### **TOOMBS COUNTY**

On April 23rd Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel and SGT Jon Barnard patrolled the Altamaha River from Deens Landing. This patrol was an effort to find a missing person and also to check fishing and boating enforcement. Several boats and license were checked and citations written for operating a vessel without life jackets.

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sergeant James McLaughlin, Corporal Dan Stiles, and Ranger Lamar Burns patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Seven individuals were checked for license compliance and creel limit compliance. Two violations for fishing on a Public Fishing Area (PFA) without a Wildlife Management Area License and one violation for fishing without a license were documented.

### **WHEELER COUNTY**

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne patrolled the Oconee River checking for fishing and boating safety violations. One violation for fishing without a license on person was documented.

### **SCREVEN COUNTY**

On April 29 Corporal Shaymus McNeely patrolled the Savannah River. Cpl. McNeely conducted approximately twenty vessel stops. One suspect was investigated and subsequently arrested for boating under the influence. Citations issued during the patrol were operating a vessel without registration, operating vessel without throwable PFD, boating under the influence, and violation of GA controlled substance act (marijuana).

## **CANDLER COUNTY**

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Randell Meeks was completed an investigation on unlawful dumping of egregious litter.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Meeks received a complaint about several bags of trash and other items located off of Remer Road in Candler County. After inspecting the trash, Ranger Meeks found information that led to documentation of unlawful dumping of egregious litter on an individual.

## **EMANUEL COUNTY**

On April 29<sup>th</sup> Corporal Mike Wilcox responded to a boating incident that occurred on the Ogeechee River near Midville. When Cpl. Wilcox arrived at the scene paramedics were treating a victim with a head injury that occurred during the boat incident. The victim was transported to University Hospital in Augusta to be treated.

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

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Kate Hargrove took NOAA Agents on patrol of federal waters offshore St. Simons, Jekyll and Cumberland Islands. Officers checked commercial shrimping trawler activity.

### **MCINTOSH COUNTY**

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. John Evans and RFC Patrick Gibbs were patrolling the Altamaha River around the Barrington area. At just before midnight the game wardens encountered a boat with improper lights. They stopped the vessel and discovered it was being operated by a subject the game wardens had charged with BUI last year. His boating privileges were suspended. Further investigation showed the operator was again under the influence and was also in possession of crystal methamphetamine. The violator was arrested and charged with BUI, operating while privileges are suspended, improper lights, no registration, and violation of the GA controlled substance act (Felony possession of methamphetamine).

### **CAMDEN COUNTY**

On April 28th, Corporal Kate Hargrove investigated the sale of a Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*) in Camden County. The Cane Toad is an invasive species which requires a special permit to be kept in Georgia. The toad was released voluntarily and turned over to the Non-Game Division to be used for education.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, RFC David Brady was patrolling boating safety activity on the Satilla River in Woodbine and working the boating activity brought in by the annual Crawfish Festival. Brady observed a vessel with a female subject sitting behind the helm, but being operated by a man that was reaching over the female as she sat in the seat. Brady stopped the vessel and after a brief investigation was able to determine that he was under the influence of alcohol. Subsequently he was arrested for boating under the influence and transported to the Camden County Jail.

### **LONG COUNTY**

On April 21, RFC Patrick Gibbs conducted a night time vessel patrol on The Altamaha River between The Long County Landing and Upper Wayne County landing. Gibbs checked 7 vessels, and 15 people fishing. Gibbs addressed violations on two different boats which were operating without lights during hours of darkness. Gibbs also addressed one violation for a non-resident fishing w/o a license.