



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report December 10 – December 16, 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)

FANNIN COUNTY

On November 27th, Sgt. James Keener, Cpl. Jones and Ranger Travis Shrader conducted an inspection on a taxidermy studio and found that the taxidermist's license had been expired for 9 months. There were also numerous record violations. DNR records show that this same taxidermist was previously charged for not having a taxidermy license and given a warning for improper taxidermy records. On December 14th, Cpl. Cody Jones charged the taxidermist for not having a taxidermy license and failure to keep proper taxidermy records.

On December 15th, Cpl. Cody Jones charged a suspect for illegally bringing an intact Mule Deer head from Colorado into Georgia. Colorado is considered a CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) state making it illegal to bring in anything other than de-boned meat, hide, and a clean skullcap with the antlers. Bringing in brain matter, spinal column, and bones could potentially spread CWD in Georgia. Cpl. Jones also charged a different suspect for bringing in a White-tailed deer from Illinois which is also a CWD state. The skull plate of that deer was removed from the intact head by taxidermist upon seizure.

BARTOW COUNTY

On December 10th, Cpl. Byron Young, Warden Mark Puig and Warden Zack Hardy worked a detail looking for subjects hunting from a public road in western Bartow County. The Wardens observed a male shoot from a vehicle onto private property. The male was arrested and charged with fleeing and attempting to elude law enforcement, hunting from a public road and hunting from a vehicle.

On December 16th, Warden Zack Hardy participated in the annual Shop with a Cop / Hero event in Cartersville. Law Enforcement and First Responders from Bartow County provided over 300 families with a breakfast and Christmas shopping at Wal-Mart. Each child was given \$150 to spend.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On December 16th, Warden Mark Puig checked two hunters and issued 2 citations for hunting big game over bait. One of the hunters was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait earlier in the season by Warden Puig.

COBB COUNTY

On December 16th, Cpl. Byron Young responded to a call of a vehicle parked on US Army Corps Property on Allatoona Lake. The area is closed to deer hunting. Cpl. Young and Acworth PD Officer John Brogden located two hunters hunting with rifles on the Corps Property. Cobb County is closed to firearm deer hunting and designated as archery only. The two hunters were issued citations for hunting deer with a rifle in a closed firearm county and hunting without permission. One of the hunters was also issued a warning for failure to record deer harvest.

DADE COUNTY

On December 16th, Game Wardens Sgt. Mike Barr and Kalem Burns were patrolling a complaint area in Rising Fawn, Georgia. They found several hunters returning to their vehicles after a morning hunt. While checking their hunting licenses, Sgt. Barr noticed a distinct odor of marijuana. The game wardens obtained consent to search and found a marijuana pipe with suspected residue of marijuana. The suspect admitted to being a user of marijuana and stated he had smoked some last night. The individual was cited for possession of drug objects.



*Game Warden Kalem Burns completes a check of hunters.
One possessed illegal drug objects.*



Marijuana pipe with residue of suspected marijuana found by game wardens.

Game Wardens Sgt. Mike Barr and Kalem Burns checked a hunter on a side by side UTV in Rising Fawn with a unique way to display the rack of his harvested buck. The buck was properly reported on the Georgia game check system.



A unique way to display the rack of a harvested buck in Dade County.

Game Wardens Sgt. Mike Barr and Kalem Burns ran into a successful hunter in Dade County. Eddie Ford harvested the buck on his private property in the Wildwood area. He planned to have the buck mounted by a local taxidermist.

Eddie Ford harvested an older buck on private property near Wildwood, Georgia.



WALKER COUNTY

On December 15th, Game Wardens Sgt. Mike Barr and Nolan Callaway were patrolling Dade and Walker County on top of Lookout Mountain off Highway 157. They noticed a vehicle at the entrance to a woods road next to a pasture. They checked the vehicle for hunting related activity but found that the vehicle had been stolen out of Dade County. Further inspection found that the ignition was popped and started with a screw driver. The vehicle was turned over to the Walker County Sheriff's Office for processing and returned to its rightful owner.



A stolen vehicle was found and recovered by Game Wardens on patrol on Lookout Mountain.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On December 13th, Cpl. Eric Isom, Game Warden Chris Kernahan, and K9 Colt completed an illegal deer hunting investigation in Barrow Co. Through the course of the investigation, the Game Wardens determined that one suspect killed multiple deer illegally, hunted without a license, hunted without a big game license, hunted deer without fluorescent orange, violated recording and reporting requirements for game animals, concealed wildlife taken illegally, and operated a motor vehicle without a license. Game Warden Kernahan obtained warrants, and arrested the suspect. Additionally, the Game Wardens determined that the suspect had instructed two of his family members to illegally tag multiple deer they did not kill on their harvest records. Those two suspects were also apprehended, and the violations were addressed. Game Warden Kernahan seized multiple sets of deer antlers.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

MORGAN COUNTY

On December 9, RFC Ricky Boles received a call from a subject seeing duck hunters in the swamp in which he hunts. He thought he recognized one of the hunters. The hunters had already gone by the time RFC Boles received call. The landowner was contacted and she wanted the hunters prosecuted. On December 11, RFC Boles was able to track down the hunters and five citations were issued for hunting without permission.

On December 12, Capt. Stan Elrod and RFC Ricky Boles were working a complaint of persons hunting deer at night. Capt. Elrod had a vehicle drive by the field that he was set up in and witnessed a spotlight shine the field. RFC Boles was contacted by radio that the vehicle was headed his way. Capt. Elrod followed the vehicle until in the same location of RFC Boles. Both officers initiated blue lights and sirens at the same time. The vehicle refused to stop and a chase ensued. The vehicle was followed for about 3.5 miles until the driver lost control and struck a large oak tree. The driver immediately fled from the car, crawling out the passenger window and running into the woods. A female and a 10 month old baby was found to still be in vehicle unharmed. A rifle was recovered from the roadway where the driver had discarded it out the window. Several lights were in vehicle including a spotlight. The driver was identified and eight warrants were issued for his arrest.

LAKE OCONEE

On Sunday, December 10, Sgt. Matt Garthright and Cpl. Derrell Worth responded to a distressed boater call on Lake Oconee near the Dam. Two duck hunters had taken their boat into a marked timber area to retrieve a downed duck. They struck an underwater stump and became stuck on the stump. The boat was damaged and began to take on water. Game Wardens Garthright and Worth were able to get the two hunters into their patrol boat, hook to the stuck boat and pull it free of the stump. They then towed the vessel back to Lawrence Shoals Boat Ramp and returned the occupants to shore.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

MITCHELL COUNTY

On December 16th, Cpl. Jon Penuel was patrolling Mitchell County for duck hunting activity when he located a group of hunters shooting wood ducks in a swamp which was baited with shelled corn. Five hunters were issued citations for hunting ducks over bait, one subject was also cited for hunting migratory birds without a GA migratory bird license and fourteen wood ducks were confiscated.

WEBSTER COUNTY

On December 10th, Game Warden RFC. Quinn Fogle was patrolling Webster County when he encountered a subject hunting without a valid hunting license. After further investigation Game Warden Fogle was able to determine the subject had been hunting the last seven years illegally and during the last year had killed 10 deer all without a valid hunting license. The subject was issued several citations on site however this matter is still under investigation.

CALHOUN COUNTY

On December 15th, Game Warden RFC. Quinn Fogle and Sergeant Jim Atchley flagged two baited dove fields. The following day the officers encountered subjects hunting another baited dove field and issued citations and warnings appropriately.

STEWART/QUITMAN COUNTY

On December 16th, Game Warden Cpl. Steve Robinson was patrolling the county when he encountered and cited a subject hunting deer without a valid hunting license and not wearing an orange vest. Later in the afternoon while patrolling Quitman County Cpl. Robinson encountered and cited another subject hunting deer without license and not wearing an orange vest.

CRISP COUNTY

On December 10th, Game Warden Jesse Harrison observed two dump sites on a dirt road. Harrison determined the trash was from the same residence and it was found the owner of the trash had an active warrant for his arrest. The subject was arrested on the warrant and issued two citations for unlawful dumping.

LEE COUNTY

On December 14th, Game Warden Al Greer responded to a call from the Lee County Sheriff's Office in reference to a hunting deer at night complaint. The Lee County Sheriff's Deputies and the Georgia State Patrol located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Greer conducted a brief investigation, the two subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, hunting big game from a public road and hunting without permission.

THOMAS COUNTY

On the morning of December 13th, Cpl. Greg Wade responded to a hunting without permission complaint. The landowner did not wish to prosecute, but stated she believed there would be other violations. Cpl. Wade conducted surveillance on the property for approximately two hours, when the subject finally returned to his vehicle Cpl. Wade observed that he was not wearing fluorescent orange. After speaking with the subject for several minutes it was also determined he did not have a valid hunting or big game license. The subject was then charged with the above violations and advised that the landowner did not want anyone hunting her property.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On the morning of December 14th, Cpl. Greg Wade worked the waterfowl hunt on Paradise Public Fishing Area. Several subjects were issued citations for license violations and one subject was charged with hunting from the road.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

IRWIN COUNTY

On December 13th, Game Warden Lamar Burns patrolled the Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area during a sign in hunt. Six hunters were checked for compliance and one verbal warning was given for minor violation.

On December 15th and 16th, Game Warden Allen Mills patrolled the Alapaha River Wildlife management area (WMA) during a sign in deer hunt. Twenty four hunters were checked for license and regulation compliance. Violations for hunting without a big game license, hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road, hunting without obtaining deer harvest record, possession/transportation of a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a WMA, and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

WHEELER COUNTY

On December 16th, Corporal Kevin Joyce was patrolling for possible waterfowl hunting activity. Several hunters were checked resulting in violations for hunting without a license, hunting without Georgia migratory bird license, and hunting without a federal duck stamp.

APPLING COUNTY

On December 16th, Corporal Chase Altman responded to a hunting incident that involved a hunter being hit in the hand by a handgun bullet while in a deer stand. The hunter was transported to the Appling hospital and will make a full recovery. The bullet came from a nearby residence, from an individual who was target shooting in her yard.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On December 16th, Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders was patrolling the county for hunting activity when a deer hunter was encountered not wearing an orange vest, the violation was documented.

COOK COUNTY

On December 10th, Game Warden Tommy Daughtrey responded to a complaint at 5:58P.M. in reference to an illegal duck roost shoot in progress. Daughtrey was very close to the pond being shot when the call came in. Daughtrey caught seven subjects shooting ducks after hours. The seven hunters were all charged with hunting waterfowl after hours. The next morning wardens Daughtrey and Wood waded the swamp where the ducks were shot and picked up 26 ducks. Charges of taking over the daily bag limit of wood ducks were also documented.



BACON COUNTY

On December 16th, game wardens conducted night deer hunting surveillance in multiple locations across Bacon County. During the detail, 18 violations related to hunting deer at night were documented on several individuals.



Weapon & equipment used by Bacon County deer poachers.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On December 5th, Game Warden Daniel North completed an inspection of a local commercial fox pen. The pen owner was found to be in continued violation of several requirements for a permitted enclosure. Warden North issued warnings to the owner for the violations which included failure to maintain records and proper posting of enclosure boundaries.

On December 12th, Game Warden Daniel North received information that there was a pile of trash that had been dumped on private property off of GA Hwy 94. Warden North travelled to the location and was able to determine who had placed the trash at that location. Warden North went to the suspect's residence where a violation of littering was documented.

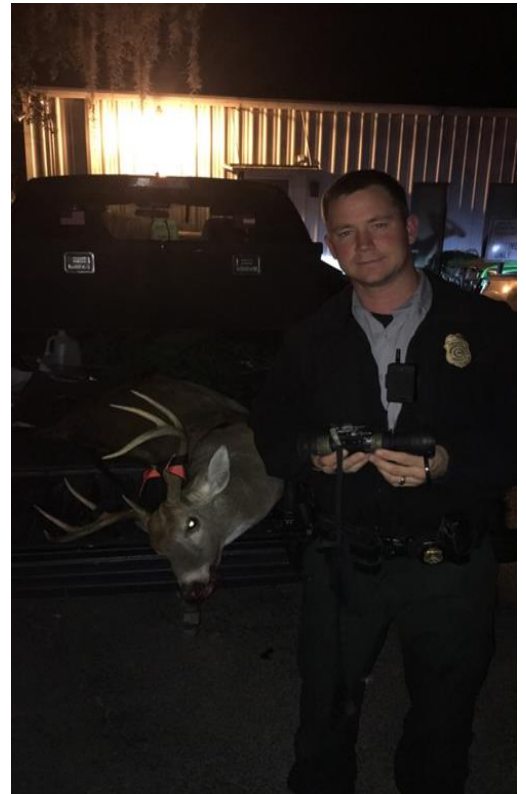


Household garbage dumped in Echols County.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

LONG COUNTY

On December 16th at 11:45pm Game Warden Patrick Gibbs received information that someone had just shot a deer out of a truck window from a public road and left at a high rate of speed. Gibbs responded to the area and found a freshly killed 8-point buck in a corn field. Gibbs waited in the area and observed someone wearing a camouflage jump suit get dropped off at the edge of the field at 12:45am. Gibbs followed the subject in the dark across the field. Gibbs observed the subject walk straight to the deer, tie a strap to the deer's antlers and begin dragging the deer to the wood line. Gibbs turned on his flashlight and identified himself as the Game Warden. The subject started running away from Gibbs across the field holding something black in his hand. After a 400-yard foot pursuit, Gibbs was able to catch the subject who was charged with: hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and obstruction. A night vision monocular was seized from the subject.



MCINTOSH COUNTY

On December 10th Sergeant Damon Winters responded to an in-progress call in reference to hunting deer at night. Winters arrived in the area and found a golf cart with two dead deer on the back. Winters and RFC Mark Day initiated an investigation which led to 4 subjects being charged with a total of 20 citations and the confiscation of two deer.