



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**July 16 – July 22, 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)**

No activity to report.

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

### **HABERSHAM COUNTY**

On July 20th, Cpl. Anne Wiley and RFC Joe Hill conducted a patrol on Lake Russell WMA. The Game Wardens came upon a suspicious vehicle parked in an area of the WMA that receives a high amount of unlawful dumping. The Game Wardens investigated the vehicle and after running the registration through GCIC, discovered the vehicle was stolen from a business in Cornelia several days earlier. The Game Wardens had the stolen vehicle towed from the WMA and turned it over to Cornelia Police Department for processing.

### **RABUN COUNTY**

On July 15th, Ranger Beth Gilbert and USFS Officer Derik Breedlove investigated a report of an illegal ginseng dig in northern Rabun County. Two adult males were found in possession of and admitted harvesting ginseng from USFS property. One male was issued citations for harvesting ginseng, providing false information, and possession of methamphetamine. The other male was arrested on outstanding warrants and the ginseng related charges are pending.

On July 15th, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Deputy Cody Sanders conducted two boating safety patrols on Lake Burton. The Game Warden and Deputy issued warnings throughout the day for operating vessel within 100' of person/object above idle speed and violation of rules of the road. RFC Hill and Deputy Sanders arrested one subject for creating a wake in no wake zone, operating vessel under the influence, and operating vessel without fire extinguisher. During a night patrol on Lake Burton, the Game Warden and Deputy issued citations and warnings for operating vessel with insufficient PFD's and operating vessel with improper lights.

On July 16th, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Deputy Tony Parrish conducted a boating safety patrol on Lake Rabun. The Game Warden and Deputy issued warnings for operating vessel within 100' of person/object above idle speed and violation of rules of the road.

On July 16th, Game Warden Tommy Crabb and Deputy Travis Gipson patrolled Lake Burton by vessel for boating safety violations. The officers wrote one citation for operating a PWC within a 100 feet of a person in the water, warnings for operating vessel with improper registration and fishing with expired license.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, while on foot patrol at Tallulah Gorge State Park, Ranger Beth Gilbert issued written warnings to four adults and citations to one adult for accessing the gorge floor without permits.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, while on foot patrol at Tallulah Gorge State Park, Ranger Beth Gilbert issued written warnings to one adult and citations to five adults for accessing the gorge floor without permits.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ranger Gilbert assisted Rabun County Sheriff's Deputies with the apprehension of four adults accused of exposing themselves to a group of kayakers on the northern end of Tallulah Lake. The four adults were swimming without clothing, drinking alcohol, and reportedly cursing at passersby's. All four adults were charged with public indecency and transported to the Rabun County Detention Center.

### **UNION COUNTY**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sgt. Steve Seitz and Cpl. Anne Wiley patrolled Lake Nottely by vessel. During the patrol, several warnings were issued for towing a skier without a mirror/observer, failure to display registration numbers, operating vessel without a throwable device on board, riding bow, and creating wake in no wake zone. One adult female was issued citations for allowing person age 12-15 to unlawfully operate a personal watercraft (pwc) and allowing another to operate pwc during hours of darkness.

## **WHITE COUNTY**

On July 20th, DNR Aviation, Sgt. Steve Seitz, RFC Mitchell Crump, and RFC David Webb responded to a call from White County dispatch about an injured hiker on the Appalachian Trail near the Low Gap Shelter. A male victim in his fifties had been stung by something and was having an allergic reaction. White County requested DNR Aviation to conduct a long line rescue to get the victim from the trail to an ambulance since the area is so remote. Major Doc Watson and RFC Crump successfully conducted a long line rescue of the 56 year old at last light of the evening. Sgt. Seitz, RFC Webb and White County EMS caught the victim on the long line at the LZ and put him in the awaiting ambulance for treatment of his allergic reaction and heat related problems. The victim was picked up from the Low Gap shelter on the Appalachian Trail on the border of Chattahoochee WMA and flown to a field in Union County where the ambulance could access. The victim was conscience and said he had been hiking the trail alone when he became ill and called 911.

On July 21st, Cpl. Anne Wiley received a call from White County dispatch requesting assistance from White County Fire Department in need of locating a lost hiker on the Appalation Trail near Raven Cliffs off Richard B. Russell Scenic Hwy. Game Warden Wiley met with the responding Fire Department personnel and was able to locate the lost hiker. The 23 year old, adult male was able to walk out to the road, on his own, near mile marker 6 on Richard B. Russell Scenic Hwy. He was not injured and did not need medical attention.

## **BARROW COUNTY**

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Chris Kernahan patrolled Fort Yargo State Park for Fishing, and Boating related activity. While he patrolled, Game Warden Kernahan documented violations that included Possession of Marijuana, Criminal Trespass by Alcohol Violation on a State Park, and numerous fishing and boating violations.

On July 19<sup>h</sup>, Game Warden Eric Isom and Colt conducted an area check on Ft. Yargo State Park. Cpl. Isom located two subjects drinking alcoholic beverages near the beach area. The subjects were instructed to pour out the alcohol and both subjects received documentation on the infractions.

## **HALL COUNTY**

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Isom and Game Warden Chris Kernahan patrolled Lake Lanier for boating and fishing activity. During the patrol, two subjects were arrested for Operating a Vessel While Under the Influence, Operating a Vessel While Under the Influence-Child Endangerment, Failure to Obey a Regulatory Marker, and several other boating related violations. The subjects were transported to jail.

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

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY / CLARKS HILL LAKE**

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, RFC Bobby Timmerman conducted a concentrated vessel patrol of the Little River and Cliatt Creek on Clarks Hill Lake from the HWY. 47 Bridge to Mistletoe State Park. Game Warden Timmerman stopped one vessel during the patrol. Game Warden Timmerman documented the following violations in Columbia County; operating a vessel under the influence and failure to obey regulatory maker.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Mark Patterson and Sgt. Brian Carter conducted a concentrated vessel patrol of the Little River and Cliatt Creek on Clarks Hill Lake from the HWY. 47 Bridge to Mistletoe State Park. Game Wardens stopped one vessel during the patrol. Game Wardens documented the following violation in Columbia County; operating a vessel under the influence.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Mark Patterson, Cpl. Julian Wilkins and Game Warden Michael Madden conducted a concentrated vessel patrol of Clarks Hill Lake. Game Wardens stopped approximately fifteen vessels during the patrol. Game Wardens documented the following violations in Columbia, Lincoln and McDuffie Counties; operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's on board, towing skier without mirror / observer, allowing person to ride bow / gunwale, allowing underage child to ride in moving vessel without wearing a PFD, operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness and operating a vessel under the influence.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Mark Patterson and Game Warden Michael Madden conducted a concentrated vessel patrol of Clarks Hill Lake. Game Wardens stopped approximately six vessels during the patrol. Game Wardens documented the following violations in Columbia County; towing skier without mirror / observer and allowing person to ride / gunwale. Game Wardens also confiscated and seized an illegal hoop net at Wildwood Park boat ramp on Clarks Hill Lake.

#### **MCDUFFIE COUNTY**

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Mark Patterson and Game Warden Michael Madden conducted a concentrated vessel patrol of Clarks Hill WMA in McDuffie County. Game Wardens documented the following violation during the patrol; illegal use of ATV on WMA.

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

#### **HARRIS COUNTY**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Mitch Oliver, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen, Ranger Ethan Franklin and Intern Jason Bennett were checking a complaint area along the Chattahoochee River. The property is privately owned and the landowner routinely has unwanted persons on the property accessing the river. Cpl. Oliver observed an individual that appeared to be attempting to hide a plastic bag near a child's PFD and other items. Cpl. Oliver walked over to where the subject had left the bag and could smell the strong odor of suspected marijuana. Without having to open the bag, Cpl. Oliver could see a baggie containing suspected marijuana and located a second bag of marijuana in a pack of cigars. The subject was issued a citation for possession of marijuana less than an ounce.

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

#### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tony Cox and Game Warden David Jones assisted with the City of Bainbridge Oscar Jackson Camp by teaching Hunter Education.

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tony Cox and Game Warden David Jones went to a local Radio Station that covers 5 different local southwest Georgia channels and completed two public service announcements related to boating safety.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Tony Cox and Game Warden David Jones were on vessel patrol on Lake Seminole when they observed a vessel with improper registration. It was determined that the operator was under the influence and charged with boating under the influence along with two counts of child endangerment.

#### **DOUGHERTY COUNTY**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Scott Carroll and RFC Eric White responded to a complaint on the Kinchafoonee Creek, in reference to an individual on a PWC operating recklessly. The officers searched the creek and made contact with the vessel where RFC White then interviewed the operator. The subject was charged with reckless operation of a vessel, operating a vessel above idle within 100 ft. of shore or object, operating a vessel without registration and warned for not wearing a PFD on a PWC. It was later found that the subject had taken a vehicle and the PWC without the owner's consent but the owner did not want to pursue charges for theft.

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

No activity to report.

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

### **LONG COUNTY**

On July 17 SGT Damon Winters, and Game Wardens Patrick Gibbs, and Jay Bright responded to a boating incident around 7AM on Cow House Lake, a lake that comes off of the Altamaha River on North Townsend WMA. The Game Wardens launched a boat within 30 minutes of the call coming out and recovered a body from the Lake. GBI was called in to investigate the incident. Game Wardens assisted with the investigation and provided GBI with transportation to and from the scene with a river boat.

### **MCINTOSH COUNTY**

On July 21 GWFC Patrick Gibbs presented a boating safety program to the Claxton Shrine Club in preparation of their Boating Poker Run Event by request from the Club President. Nearly 100 boats travelled together up and down the Intracoastal Waterway during this event.

On July 22 CPL Bobby White patrolled the inshore waters of McIntosh County. White checked a total of 12 boats, addressing 3 violations for fishing without a license, and 1 violation for not having enough PFD's.

### **CAMDEN COUNTY**

On July 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 CPL John Evans and RFC Colte Shaske taught 7 lucky students the fundamentals of archery at Crooked River State Park during the Junior Ranger Academy. Students learned the proper terminology, skill sets, technique and most importantly safety behind the popular sport of archery.



On July 22, RFC David Brady was checking a complaint area off White Oak Creek when he encountered several subjects fishing. After a thorough investigation he determined that the individuals were fishing a license and were in possession of undersize Red Drum. The two men were charged with fishing without a license and possession of undersize fish.

## **BRYAN COUNTY**

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Cpl. Morgan, RFC Thain, Ranger Morris, and NOAA Officer Hughes conducted a JEA patrol from offshore Ossabaw Island to Sapelo Sound. Several commercial shrimp trawlers were boarded. The shrimp trawlers were inspected to ensure their TEDs (Turtle Excluder Devices) were in compliance with all federal laws.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Game Wardens Cpl. Morgan, RFC Toney, and Ranger Morris conducted a JEA Patrol near Saint Catherine's Sound. Several fishing vessels were checked as they returned from offshore.



*James Lee and crew with a big King fish caught around one of the reefs off the Georgia Coast.*