



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
July 9 – July 15 , 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)

FLOYD COUNTY

On July 12th, Game Wardens Sgt. Mike Barr, Cpl. Ben Cunningham, and Ranger Kalem Burns responded to a report of a fight with a large knife involved at the Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area (PFA) near the beach. Sgt. Barr made contact with a male who he and his sister had been in an argument. Cpl. Cunningham and Ranger Burns stood by with the other parties. No one would admit they were involved in anything but a verbal dispute. The group was removed from the facility.

On July 13th, Sgt. Mike Barr found a collapsed person in the parking lot at Rocky Mountain Public Fishing area near the beach. The 17 year old male was having a seizure. Medical personnel arrived to assist and transported the male to a local hospital. Sgt. Barr talked to the girlfriend who admitted the young man had been involved with synthetic marijuana.

On July 14th, Sgt. Mike Barr witnessed a fight between two men on Rocky Mountain PFA near the beach. One person was intoxicated and arrested for under the influence on a PFA. Two other persons were cited for possession of alcohol on Rocky Mountain PFA. Six people total were involved in the incident and removed from the facility.

On July 15th, Game Wardens Cpl. Shawn Elmore and Ranger Nolan Callaway patrolled Johns Creek on Johns Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Game Wardens located a vehicle that had moved a barrier rock that was put there to prevent vehicular traffic. The group had also erected a camping tent to camp along the creek, which is prohibited. One man from Aragon, Ga. and another from Lindale, Ga. was located at the site. Both men admitted to moving the rock to gain access to the area. The Game Wardens also located several live trees that had been cut down and used to prop up a canopy. The Aragon man was charged with driving over/around a device to prevent vehicle traffic on a WMA and illegal camping on a WMA. The Lindale man was charged with damaging department property and illegal camping on a WMA.



Vehicles cannot go around barriers on a Wildlife Management Areas.

GORDON COUNTY

On July 9th, Game Wardens Cpl. Shawn Elmore and Ranger Nolan Callaway patrolled a complaint area in northern Gordon County. The Game Wardens located a vehicle parked at a private pond where there have been problems with fishing without permission. Three people were located fishing the pond. One man from Dalton, Ga. had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. All three were issued warnings for fishing without permission. The Dalton man was arrested and taken to the Gordon County jail.

WALKER COUNTY

On July 11th, Game Wardens Cpl. Shawn Elmore and Ranger Nolan Callaway met with Game Management Region Supervisor Chuck Waters at Pigeon Mountain WMA. The three met with a man from Lafayette, Ga. who had come upon Pigeon Mountain WMA property and cleared approximately ¼ acre without obtaining permission from the department. The Lafayette man was issued a warning for criminal trespass on DNR property. He was advised that he could be arrested if he came back on the property and violated any laws, rules or regulations.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

No activity to report.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

GREENE/PUTNAM COUNTY

On July 15th Sgt. Matt Garthright and Rfc. Tim Butler patrolled Lake Oconee. Two people were arrested for operating a vessel under the influence during the patrol.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

On July 10th, Game Warden Steve Thomas responded to a body floating in Lake Seminole. After responding, the investigation was turned over to the Decatur County Sheriff's Office for further investigation.

On July 11th, Sgt. Bob Holley, Cpl. Tony Cox, and Game Warden David Jones responded to a boating incident on Lake Seminole. The operator of the vessel failed to insert his boat's drain plug, causing the boat to fill with water and capsize approximately 300 yards from the landing. The occupants swam to the bank and then walked back to the landing and no injuries were reported.

BAKER COUNTY

On July 13th, Cpl. Tony Cox and Game Warden David Jones were working a fish shocking complaint on the Flint River. They came across two subjects at the landing and after an investigation it was determined that the two subjects were shocking fish. The fish shocking device was seized and both subjects were cited for shocking fish.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

COFFEE COUNTY

On July 15th, Corporal Tim Hutto and Ranger Chris Thompson worked an ongoing night deer hunting complaint around the Bridgetown area. At around 10:30 p.m., the officers observed a pickup truck approach a field they were watching. The passenger in the pickup truck shined a spotlight across the field and then the vehicle sped away. The officers performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and questioned the occupants. After a brief interview officers located a shotgun loaded with slugs and a loaded high-powered rifle along with a hand held spotlight. Two of the occupants were arrested and charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle. One female occupant in the vehicle was released at the scene with warnings for hunting deer at night and hunting from a vehicle.

LAURENS COUNTY

On July 9th, Game Warden Allen Mills conducted a patrol at the buckeye landing and checked two anglers for license and creel compliance. One violation for fishing without a license was documented.

Later that day, Game Warden Mills conducted a patrol at the Hugh Gillis Public Fishing Area for boating and fishing compliance. A violation for fishing without a license and a violation for operating a vessel without coast guard approved personal floatation device was documented.

WHEELER COUNTY

On July 9th, Game Warden Rodney Horne was patrolling the Oconee River looking for fishing and boating safety violations. One violator was taken into custody and charged for operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol and for operating a vessel without a personal flotation device readily accessible.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On July 3rd, Ranger First Class Sam Williams was traveling on US Hwy. 121 near St. George when he observed a vehicle in front of him weaving back in forth on the highway. A traffic stop was conducted and while speaking with the driver, RFC Williams could smell the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his person. The driver consented to completing several field sobriety exercises and was determined to be impaired. The case was turned over to a Georgia State Patrol Trooper nearby and the subject was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

WARE COUNTY

On July 4th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams was patrolling the area around the lake at Laura Walker State Park when he observed a vessel towing a tube with four occupants onboard and eight additional occupants inside the vessel. The vessel appeared to be near capacity, so a boating safety stop was conducted. During an inspection of the required safety equipment, it was determined that the operator did not have enough personal flotation devices (PFD's) of the right size for everyone onboard. The violation for operating a vessel with improper PFD's was documented.

On July 8th, Ranger First Class Daniel North was checking for boating and fishing activity at the Satilla River boat landing at Hwy 84. While checking one boater, it was discovered that there was only one wearable life jacket aboard with three individuals total in the boat. Violations of operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs was documented.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On July 14th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Game Warden Joseph Cowart were patrolling the Alapaha River near Statenville when they observed a boater throw trash and empty beverage bottles from his boat into the water. The officers initiated contact with the boat operator and learned that he had consumed several alcoholic beverages while on the water that afternoon. There was also a five-year old passenger in the boat. After performing field sobriety tests on the boater, he was arrested for operating a vessel under the influence, child endangerment (BUI), and littering.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

MCINTOSH COUNTY

On July 15, SGT Damon Winters, CPL Bobby White, and GWFC Mark Day Conducted a JEA patrol out of Meridian. The Game Wardens checked a large number of boats as there was also a King Fish tournament taking place along with weekend boaters/fishermen. A total of eight violations were addressed for: Taking undersized fish (5 red fish, 4 spotted sea trout, and 1 sheepshead), Fishing without a license, and Operating a vessel without current registration.