



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
Oct 22 – Oct 28, 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)

BARTOW COUNTY

On October 22nd, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Zack Hardy located a hunter off Dry Creek Rd hunting over whole corn and a salt block. The hunter also had an expired hunting license. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait and a warning hunting without a license.

On October 24th Cpl. Bart Hendrix and Warden Frank Pucci located a teenage hunter on Allatoona WMA. At the time the WMA was closed for deer hunting. The Wardens provided the teen with hunting regulation information and issued a warning for hunting on a closed WMA.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On October 22nd, Sgt. Jason Roberson and RFC Mark Puig checked US Army Corps Property around Allatoona Lake. The Wardens located a hunter in the archery only area hunting with a rifle. The hunter was not wearing hunter orange and did not have a permit for the Corps Property. The Wardens also located whole corn in the immediate area. Citations and warnings were issued for the multiple violations.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On October 28th, Game Warden Chris Kernahan conducted an area check on private property in Barrow County. During the area check, he located two subjects who were found to be hunting big game over bait, and hunting deer without fluorescent orange. The violations were addressed.

JACKSON COUNTY

On October 28th, Game Warden Eric Isom utilized his K9 partner, Colt, to locate a subject hunting without a license and hunting big game over bait.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On October 22nd Capt. Stan Elrod and RFC Tim Butler documented one violation of hunting big game over bait and one violation of allowing a child to hunt unsupervised without taking the hunter education course.

OCONEE COUNTY

On October 24th and 26th RFC Tim Butler taught a hunter education course that certified 15 people.

On October 28th RFC Tim Butler cited one person for hunting without permission.

WALTON COUNTY

On October 22nd Capt. Stan Elrod and RFC Tim Butler investigated a group of seven deer hunters. Numerous violations were documented including hunting big game over bait, illegal taking of antlerless deer, failure to record deer harvest, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and hunting without the hunter education course.

On October 28th, Rgr Schay patrolled Walton County for hunting activity. Violations of hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license were documented.

On October 28th, Rgr Harrison patrolled Walton County for hunting activity. Violations for hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license, failure to record deer harvest and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

WILKES COUNTY

On October 28th Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Mark Patterson documented one violation of hunting big game over bait. Additionally, one WMA violation was documented while patrolling WMAs in the county.

GREENE COUNTY

On October 28th, Cpl. Derrell Worth cited three subjects for hunting deer without a license and one subject for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

NEWTON COUNTY

On October 27th, Rgr Schay patrolled Newton County for hunting activity. Violations of criminal trespass and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

On October 29th, Rgr Schay patrolled Newton County for hunting activity. Violations of hunting big game over bait and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On October 28th CPL David Allen patrolled Hancock County for Deer Hunting Activity. A violation for Hunting Big Game Over Bait was documented.

LAKE OCONEE

On October 28, while patrolling boat ramps for activity, RFC Ricky Boles encountered two subjects fishing from an inflatable raft. The fishermen were checked and found to possess two cast nets, no fishing poles and 94 gamefish (bass, bream, catfish, and crappie). Both subjects were charged for taking gamefish by illegal methods. The two cast nets and fish were confiscated. The fish were given to a nearby needy resident.

MORGAN COUNTY

On October 27th, Game Wardens Cpl. Derrell Worth, RFC Ricky Boles and Ranger Dan Schay responded to a call of possible illegal hunting. Cpl. Worth was first on scene and was able to locate two hunters in the woods. Both hunters were hunting in areas where corn had been scattered on the ground and neither individual was wearing the required fluorescent orange for hunting deer during firearm season. Further investigation showed that the violators were hunting without permission and neither individual possessed a hunting license or a big game license. Both hunters received citations for each of their five infractions.

On October 29th, RFC Ricky Boles cited one hunter for hunting big game over bait.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

FAYETTE COUNTY

On October 22nd Cpl. Travis Sweat checked a hunter who was hunting with an air bow and was a non-resident hunting without a license and big game license. The hunter was cited for all violations.

HOUSTON COUNTY

On October 22nd CPL Robert Stillwell and Game Warden Payne apprehended two subjects hunting without permission along with several other violations. Additionally, officers recovered a trail camera and feeder that had previously been stolen from the owner of the property.

PULASKI COUNTY

On October 21st CPL Stillwell and Game Warden Payne apprehended two individuals hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

TROUP COUNTY

On October 22nd RFC Russell Epps checked two hunters who were hunting on the West Point WMA specialty hunt who were not eligible to hunt on the hunt. They were both cited for the violations.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

Game Wardens Cpl. Tony Cox and David Jones were patrolling the Lake Seminole area when they heard a vessel approaching Fireman's Cut Landing in the darkness. They heard the vessel's engine turned off and shortly thereafter a rifle shot. Several minutes later the vessel was restarted and it proceeded to Fireman's Cut Landing where it was met by the wardens. The investigation into the incident revealed that the three occupants of the vessel were travelling through Lake Seminole WMA when they saw in their lights a deer standing on an island. The operator then stopped the vessel and one of the passengers fired a shot at the deer with a .270 caliber rifle. Believing that they missed the deer, they continued on to the boat ramp where they were meet by the game wardens. During the interviews conducted by Cpl. Cox and G.W. Jones, it was determined that only two of the occupants were involved in the incident. The operator of the vessel and the shooter were both cited for hunting deer at night and for hunting from a vessel.

On October 25th, Cpl. Tony Cox and Game Warden David Jones completed an illegal dumping investigation which involved 6 hogs and 1 deer being dumped on a dirt road. After interviewing three suspects all were charged with unlawful dumping of waste less than 500 pounds.

On October 27th, while investigating a complaint of a convicted felon hunting with a firearm, Game Warden Steve Thomas located a suspect vehicle containing several firearms in the back of a cotton field. A check of the tag revealed that the vehicle was owned by the subject of the investigation, at which time Thomas placed the vehicle under surveillance and later observed two subjects get in the vehicle and attempt to drive away. Thomas stopped the vehicle and determined that both subjects were convicted felons and during a search quantities of Crystal Meth-amphetamine / Ice and Marijuana were found in the vehicle and on one of the persons. It was also discovered that the subjects were collecting native american artifacts on the property without permission. As a result of the investigation, both subjects were charged with possession of meth-amphetamine and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. One of the subjects was also charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime. Other charges are pending related to the artifacts.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

APPLING COUNTY

On the 27th, Corporal Altman spoke at the local Kiwanis Club in Baxley about new license fees and changes. On the night of the 29th, Cpl. Altman was working an area for night deer hunting. One vehicle was spotted shining a light out of the passenger side into a field. The truck was stopped, and an investigation followed. The driver was given a warning for blinding wildlife with a light.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On October 28th Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel responded to a landowner that caught some deer dogs on his property. Officer Jarriel talked with the landowner who had taken some pictures of the dog's collars and the names of the dog's owners along with their club hunting numbers. After a brief interview with the hunters, officer Jarriel wrote them citations for allowing dogs to hunt unpermitted property.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On October 28th Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders was patrolling for hunting activity when an individual was encountered fishing in the Ohoopee River at the Hwy 292 Bridge. It was discovered the individual did not have a fishing license, the violation was documented.

CANDLER COUNTY

On October 27th, Ranger Randell Meeks was working a night hunting complaint in the Eden Church Road area. Ranger Meeks observed a vehicle pass by his location with the driver shining a spot light into a field. Upon initiating a stop on the vehicle, Ranger Meeks found a Q-beam spot light in the possession of the driver along with an AR-15 platform rifle with a chambered round in the possession of the passenger. Violations of hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle and hunting big game from a public road were documented on both the driver and passenger.

JENKINS COUNTY

On October 28th, Corporal Wilcox was working a night deer hunting complaint in Jenkins County. At approximately 9:30 p.m. a truck passed by his location and shined lights out of both sides of the truck. Cpl. Wilcox made a traffic stop and documented three cases of blinding wildlife with lights. The violators did not have any weapons in the truck.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On October 28th, Corporal Wilcox and Ranger Meeks responded to a call in Bulloch County about a deer dog hunting complaint. A group of still hunters caught three deer dogs on their private hunting lease. The officers made contact with the owner of the dogs. The dogs belonged to a member of the deer dog hunting club that bordered the still hunting club. The officers returned the dogs to the owner and documented a case of failure to keep hunting dogs on permitted property. The deer dog club will also get a founded complaint against them.

LAURENS COUNTY

On October 25th, at approximately 7:00 p.m. Game Warden Dan Stiles received an in progress complaint of subjects hunting from a vehicle. Cpl. Stiles responded and met with the complainant. Approximately thirty minutes later Corporal Stiles encountered a vehicle matching the complainant's description near the complaint location. After a short investigation Cpl. Stiles charged two male subjects with hunting from a public road and hunting from a vehicle. A wounded deer was also located and euthanized at the scene. The driver was arrested for driving without a license and possession of marijuana. The passenger was arrested for an outstanding warrant.



On October 28th, Game Warden Dan Stiles was working at a location to detect night deer hunting activity. At 11:45 p.m. a vehicle drove past Corporal Stiles' location. Corporal Stiles heard the vehicle slow down and stop followed by two gunshots. The vehicle then quickly drove away from the location. Corporal Stiles stopped the vehicle a short distance away and detained three male subjects. Two firearms were located in the vehicle along with a light and two empty rounds of buckshot. The three subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle. The subjects stated that they had missed the deer. The following morning Cpl. Stiles returned to the location and no evidence of a dead or wounded deer was located.



IRWIN COUNTY

On October 28th, Game Wardens Dan Stiles and Allen Mills patrolled the Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area during a big game hunt. The officers checked 46 hunters for licenses and Wildlife Management Area regulation compliance. Fourteen violations were documented for the following violations; failure to obtain a deer harvest record, hunting without a big game license, hunting within 50 yards of a road, possession/transporting a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a Wildlife Management Area. Cpl. Stiles also assisted one successful hunter with retrieving a deer.



WHEELER COUNTY

On October 23rd, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne responded to an illegal hunting complaint. RFC Horne located five persons on the property. RFC Horne documented three violations. Two violations were for hunting deer without wearing a fluorescent orange vest, and one other violation was for accompanying a deer hunter without wearing a fluorescent orange vest.

On October 28th, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne responded to an illegal hunting complaint. RFC Horne located 3 persons (two adults and one juvenile) on the property. RFC Horne documented eight violations. Two violations were for hunting without permission, two counts of hunting without a license, two counts of hunting big game without a big game license, and two counts of hunting deer without fluorescent orange vest.

WARE COUNTY

On October 7th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams, Daniel North and Ranger Joseph Cowart were patrolling Ware County for bear hunting activity when they received information from a citizen that they had observed individuals picking palmetto berries on the side of US 1 on Dixon Memorial WMA. Upon their arrival to the area, three suspects were found with a small amount of berries they had just picked. Due to the small amount of berries, the three suspects were issued trespass warnings and were not allowed to keep the berries.



Illegal palmetto berry pickers on Dixon WMA in Ware County

ECHOLS COUNTY

On October 21st, Ranger First Class Daniel North was patrolling near the Mayday area for hunting activity when he encountered a deer dog hunter who had just released several dogs on a property. The hunter was on permitted property, but did not possess a valid big game hunting license. The violation for hunting big game without a big game license was documented.

CLINCH COUNTY

On October 22nd, Ranger First Class Daniel North and Ranger Joseph Cowart were notified that a female hunter was injured when she had fallen from her hunting stand. Upon arrival it was found that the hunter had climbed out of the stand and in the process of turning around on the steps to close the door to the stand, she had slipped, fell and landed on her back. The hunter was taken by local EMS to meet a nearby helicopter who then transported her to a hospital in Florida. The hunter survived the fall but suffered several back injuries.



Deer stand that hunter fell from in Clinch County.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On October 25th, Game Warden Joseph Cowart and Corporal Mark Pool were notified that a male hunter was injured by his own rifle while on a dog deer hunt. Upon arrival, it was determined that the hunter was placing his firearm back into his vehicle after a deer race when the gun discharged a round into his upper left thigh. The hunter was taken by helicopter to a hospital in Florida. The hunter survived the gunshot and is recovering well.

On Saturday, October 28th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams patrolled the northern end of Charlton County for deer hunting activity. During the patrol, numerous hunters were encountered. There were also several violations observed and documented. The violations were two non-residents hunting without a license, two non-residents hunting without a big game license, and one subject hunting deer while not wearing the required fluorescent orange.

PIERCE COUNTY

On October 27th, Game Warden Judd Sears attended career day at Patterson Elementary school. Game Warden Sears brought a patrol vessel to display for the kids. Game Warden Sears talked with the kids about what a Game Wardens job duties are and how to become a warden when they grow up.

On October 28th, Game Warden Judd Sears patrolled Pierce County for deer dogging activity. During this patrol Game Warden Sears came into contact with three vehicles parked along the side of the county road deer dogging. Upon checking for license and permit requirements Game Warden Sears discovered these subjects' deer dogs were off of their permitted property. Violations of failure to keep hunting dogs on permitted property were documented.

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On October 28th, Game Warden Judd Sears was traveling on Hwy 82 outside of Hoboken when he observed a vehicle failing to maintain their lane. Game Warden Sears initiated a traffic stop on this vehicle. Game Warden Sears observed signs of impairment while talking with the driver, a Georgia State Trooper that was in the area was notified. GSP conducted field sobriety test on this subject. Violations of driving under the influence were documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

GLYNN COUNTY

On October 27th, Cpl. John Evans responded to a deer dogging complaint in the Thalman area. Cpl. Evans went into the neighboring dog hunting club and encountered a man hunting close to the property line and trying to retrieve a dog. While checking his license, Cpl. Evans noticed a strong odor of alcohol on the man. He conducted a hunting under the influence field screening and determined that the man was in fact intoxicated. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Glynn County Detention Center. He was charged with hunting under the influence and allowing dogs on unpermitted property.

CAMDEN COUNTY

On October 28th, RFC Colte Shaske received a complaint that multiple Deer-dogging hunters were lined down a Public road in Camden County. RFC Shaske quickly responded to the area and found a truck with the owner in the doorway with multiple shotguns in the seat. RFC Shaske advised the subject that he could not be hunting from the roadway. The subject was cited for hunting from a public road.

On October 27th, RFC Colte Shaske was checking a popular fishing spot for fishing activity. Upon arrival he found multiple subjects fishing. RFC Shaske was able to check for fishing licenses and catch for the day. RFC Shaske found 2 subjects that did not have a fishing license. Both subjects were cited for fishing without a license.