



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**September 17 – September 23, 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)**

### **DADE COUNTY**

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Game Wardens (GW) Sgt. Mike Barr, Cpl. Shawn Elmore, GWFC Roger McConkey, and GW Nolan Callaway participated in Aviation Long Line Rescue Training at Cloudland Canyon State Park. The class was taught by DNR Aviation Captain Steven Turner. Included in the class were DNR Park personnel and members of the New Salem Fire Department. Midway through the class, a real situation emerged of a missing couple in their 50's in Walker County. The couple had sent a text to their family member that they were going to the "Pocket" on Johns Mountain at 1030am on September 20<sup>th</sup>. No one had heard from them since. The couple had limited mobility. Game Wardens and Aviation immediately responded with the use of the DNR helicopter and by truck. Joining the search was Game Management personnel. The couple was found by Game Management Senior Biologist David Gregory in a campground on Johns Mountain. The family of the missing couple was notified. The couple stated they just decided to go camping but failed to notify their family. All were in good health.



**Captain Steven Turner teaching Aviation Long Line Rescue Training at Cloudland Canyon State Park to DNR personnel and members of the New Salem Fire Department.**



**From classroom to the real world as DNR searched for and found a missing couple from LaFayette, Georgia.**

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Sgt. Mike Barr was patrolling Dade County off Highway 11. He noticed a train travelling southbound on tracks adjacent to the highway. As the train passed, it made contact with a low hanging powerline. The powerline may have been damaged by the recent storms. The force of the train on the power lines and guide wires broke two power poles and left live lines on the roadway. Sgt. Barr contacted the Dade County Sheriff's Office and assisted with working traffic in the area until power repair crews could arrive.



**A train hit a power line which broke two power poles on Highway 11 in Dade County.**

### **FLOYD COUNTY**

On September 23rd, Cpl. Ben Cunningham and Game Warden (GW) Kalem Burns participated in the Outdoor Adventure Day held at Sloppy Floyd State Park. Outdoor Adventure Day coincides with National Hunting and Fishing Day and offers kids the ability to get involved and build interest in outdoor activities. Children had the opportunity to fish in a stocked reservoir, shoot BB guns, rock climb, see a reptile show, and participate in other outdoor activities. Multiple state agencies participated in the event including the Georgia Forestry Commission, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Resources Division, DNR Fisheries Division, and the DNR Law Enforcement Division. Cpl. Cunningham and GW Burns represented DNR Law Enforcement Division and set up a display with a patrol vessel and answered questions for the public about hunting, boating, fishing, and environmental situations.

### **GORDON COUNTY**

On September 23rd, Cpl. Shawn Elmore and GW Nolan Callaway checked an area baited with corn that the game wardens had previously located. They found a man from Fairmount, Ga. hunting deer with a crossbow in the baited area. He was charged with hunting big game over bait. This was the second time in 6 months the man had been caught hunting big game over bait. He was also charged opening weekend of turkey season 2017.



**Game Wardens frequently patrol on foot and locate illegally baited hunting sites.**

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

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On the morning of September 24<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Chris Kernahan conducted an area check on private property for illegal hunting activity in Barrow County. While on the area check, he made contact with a subject who was hunting without permission, hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, in possession of marijuana, and illegally in possession of alcohol. Ranger Kernahan furthered the investigation and located two additional subjects who had hunted big game over bait, hunted without licenses, and hunted without big game licenses. Also, Ranger Kernahan found that one of the subjects had shot a deer earlier that morning over bait. RFC Mark Stephens assisted. The violations were addressed.

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

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On September 19<sup>th</sup> RFC. Tim Butler and RFC. Shane Sartor completed an investigation that led to three individuals being charged with violating a deer depredation permit. The individuals on the permits had been illegally shooting antlered deer, when the permit only allowed the taking of antlerless deer. An 8 point and 9 point buck were confiscated from a local deer processor. Additionally, another velvet 9 point buck was confiscated from a local taxidermist.

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

No activity to report.

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

No activity to report.

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

### **IRWIN COUNTY**

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Allen Mills patrolled the Alapaha River WMA during the Archery deer season. 11 hunters and 1 angler were checked for license and regulation compliance. One violation for hunting without a license and one violation for fishing without a license was documented. No other activity was detected.

### **WHEELER COUNTY**

On September 22, 2017 Game Warden Rodney Horne investigated a complaint of two violators poaching an alligator. Game Warden Horne documented two violations for hunting alligators and for the illegal possession of alligator parts.

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

No activity to report.