



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
August 26 – September 1, 2018

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 August 26th, GWFC Mark Puig and CPL Bart Hendrix were on patrol on Allatoona Lake near Glade Marina. The Game Wardens noticed a large cabin cruiser traveling on the water with no visible starboard, green, side light. The Game Wardens drove around to the starboard side to check the light and still did not see a visible light. CPL Hendrix activated the blue lights to stop the boat. The driver of the boat poured a drink from a cup over the side and then stopped a short distance later. While performing the safety inspection the driver displayed signs of impairment. CPL Hendrix completed the field sobriety tests and determined the operator to be under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested for operating vessel under the influence and operating vessel with improper lights.

On August 30th, GW Frank Pucci responded to a boat incident with injuries near Bethany Bridge. A passenger on a PWC fell off after hitting a large wave. During the fall the passenger broke her ankle after striking the gunwale. The passenger was taken to Cartersville Medical Center for treatment.

On September 1st, GWFC Mark Puig and GW Frank Pucci responded to a call of a body floating on Allatoona Lake near Bethany Bridge. The officers located a male that appeared to have been in the water for several days. The Bartow County Sheriff's Office Investigators arrived and are following up on the case.

On September 1st, Sgt. Jason Roberson and Cpl. Byron Young located an adult and juvenile shooting doves over a mowed area baited with cracked corn, wheat and sunflowers. The adult was issued a citation for hunting doves over bait.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On September 1st, GWFC Chris Kernahan conducted a State Park patrol at Fort Yargo. While on patrol, he made contact with multiple suspicious subjects who were under the influence of stimulant drugs. GWFC Kernahan determined that the subjects had snorted methamphetamine earlier that date, and were still in possession of the substance. One subject, who had felony arrest warrants out of multiple counties, attempted to flee the scene, but was quickly apprehended while trying to hide behind the historic old fort. GWFC Kernahan arrested the subjects, transported them to jail, and obtained arrest warrants.

MADISON COUNTY

On September 1st, GWFC Shane Sartor patrolled Madison County for dove hunting activity. During his patrol he found a dove field that was baited. The owner of the field advised GWFC Sartor that he was responsible for the bait and that the people he had invited did not know about it. The owner was cited for unlawful enticement and 14 warnings were issued for hunting over bait. There were also two warnings issued for hunting doves without a Migratory Bird License.

HART COUNTY

On September 1st, Corporal Craig Fulghum and Sergeant Derek Dillard patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating violations. During their patrols they documented five violations. The violations consisted of two counts of VGCSA for misdemeanor marijuana possession, allowing underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD, operating a vessel with improper lights, and one subject was arrested and taken to the Hart County Detention Center for BUI.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

OCONEE COUNTY

On September 1, Sgt. Brian Carter and Gwfc. Mark Stephens were patrolling Oconee County for opening day of dove season. Sgt. Carter and Gwfc. Stephens checked several hunters throughout the patrol. One hunter was determined to be hunting under the influence. The hunter was arrested for the offense.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

PIERCE COUNTY

On August 26th, Game Warden First Class Sam Williams was at the Highway 121 boat landing where he observed two kayakers paddle up to the boat ramp. The officer observed that one of the subjects seemed reluctant to beach his kayak at the landing because he saw the officer standing nearby. After the second subject eventually exited his kayak and the two began loading and securing gear in a nearby vehicle, the officer checked to see if they had the required personal flotation devices (PFD's) onboard, which they did not. After obtaining the information required to document the violations on each subject, the officer learned that the subject who seemed reluctant to initially beach his kayak had warrants in Ware County. The violations for operating vessel without Coast Guard Approved PFD's was documented on each operator, and the subject with warrants was arrested and turned over to Ware County Sheriff's Office.

LOWNDES COUNTY

On September 1st, Sergeant Morty Wood, Game Wardens Daniel North and Joseph Cowart attended an annual fund raiser dinner and dove shoot for The Eunice Foundation. Approximately one hundred hunters attended the dinner and dove shoot. \$11,000 was raised for the scholarship fund. Attending Game Wardens provided information pertaining to hunting requirements and presented some hunting safety tips, instructions and reminders.



Sgt. Wood, Wardens Cowart and North with the Eunice family and host Tom Newbern

LAURENS COUNTY

On September 1st, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne responded to a hunting complaint about hunters illegally entering River Bend Wildlife Management Area dove field prior to the legal hours of 10:00 A.M. Two hunters were interviewed, and two violations were documented for violations of DNR board approved regulations.

WILCOX COUNTY

On September 1st, Game Warden Allen Mills and Game Warden Rodney Horne patrolled for Dove hunting activity. Several fields were checked including one that was baited. Violations for hunting over bait, hunting without a license, and hunting without a Georgia migratory bird stamp were documented. 54 doves were confiscated.

On September 1st, Game Wardens Chris Thompson and Sergeant James McLaughlin worked dove hunting in Wilcox County. Two dove shoots and seventeen hunters were checked. One citation was issued for hunting without a license and two warnings were issued for hunting without a Georgia migratory bird license. Also, while working dove hunting, six hog hunters were checked and twelve citations were issued for hunting without a license and hunting from a public road.

IRWIN COUNTY

On August 27th, Game Warden Chris Thompson received a call from Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area manager in regards to an in progress complaint of several subjects picking palmetto berries inside the management area. Upon arrival, Game Warden Thompson met with deputies and spoke to the subjects about picking palmetto berries and discovered there were three large burlap sacks filled with berries along with two buckets and several other empty sacks and equipment. The subjects stated that they were from Ocala, Florida and were on their way back looking to pick more berries to sell to market buyers. After further investigation, all five subjects were arrested and taken to Irwin County detention center and charged with theft by taking and criminal trespassing.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On August 30th, Game Warden First Class Jason Miller was patrolling the Oliver Bridge WMA. RFC Miller discovered multiple large garbage bags and cardboard boxes that had been illegally dumped on the property. Upon investigation, GWFC Miller was able to identify the suspect and found out the suspect had been recently released from prison. The suspect was determined to have moved to another county and failed to notify their probation officer of their whereabouts. Warrants have been taken for the dumping violation.

EMANUEL COUNTY

On September 1st, Game Warden First Class Jason Miller and Sergeant Brian Hobbins were patrolling Emanuel County for dove hunting activity. The Game Wardens located several hunters on one field and GWFC Miller investigated and subsequently arrested one subject for hunting under the influence. Several hours later, the Game Wardens located another field with multiple hunters. GWFC Miller cited two hunters for hunting w/o migratory bird license. Additionally GWFC Miller investigated and arrested another subject for hunting under the influence.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On August 26th, Corporal Kevin Joyce patrolled multiple sections of Bullard Creek WMA for a variety of activities. Multiple individuals were checked and violations were documented for fishing without a license, illegal consumption of alcohol on WMA, illegal use of ATV, and entering user fee area without required lands pass.

On September 1st, Corporal Kevin Joyce and Corporal Chase Altman patrolled the southern area of the county for possible dove hunting activity. Several fields and individuals were checked for compliance. Multiple charges were made including the unlawful enticement of game (doves), hunting without a license, and hunting without a Georgia Migratory Bird License.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On September 1st Game Wardens Bobby Sanders and Randell Meeks patrolled Toombs County for dove hunting activity. Violations for hunting without a Georgia Migratory Bird Stamp were documented as well as one arrest for an outstanding warrant out of Vidalia.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

LIBERTY COUNTY

On the morning of Saturday September 1, 2018, Cpl. Bryson and Captain Lynn Patrolled Liberty County. During their checks of hunting and fishing areas they checked a small saltwater boat ramp. One fisherman had 23 undersized blue crabs. Blue crabs must measure 5 inches across the back except mature female crabs, which may be taken of any size. This fisherman was cited for undersized crabs and for not having a fishing license.

BRYAN COUNTY

On the afternoon of Saturday September 1, 2018, Cpl. Bryson and Captain Lynn patrolled the Richmond Hill WMA and shooting range. The two game Wardens checked the dove field that had been planted for dove hunting. There were about a dozen or more hunters on the field and several dove were harvested. Two hunters did not have a Georgia migratory bird stamp and were cited for the offense.