



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

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

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, SGT Eric Brown, GW Ryan Shorter, and GW Garrett Pownall responded to a hunting complaint in progress. Upon further investigation, two individuals were arrested and charged with: possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, hunting without permission, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and hunting without orange.

### **HARALSON COUNTY**

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, CPL Brooks Varnell and GW Ryan Shorter participated in the annual Shop with a Cop in Bremen. This year's event was able to provide a Christmas shopping experience for 107 underprivileged children.

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

### **STEPHENS COUNTY**

On December 16, Game Warden Jonathan Segars was checking duck hunters on Lake Hartwell. GW Segars encountered a group hunting from a canoe near highway 123 bridge. While checking the hunters and their vessel, several violations were observed. Two individuals were issued warnings for operating vessel without a CGA PFD, and one citation was issued for hunting without federal waterfowl stamp. Later that same day, GW Segars encountered an individual kayaking in Toccoa Reservoir without a life jacket onboard his vessel. He was issued a warning for operating a vessel without a CGA PFD.

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On December 21, GWFC Chris Kernahan completed an illegal hunting investigation, which stemmed from the 2017 deer season, and 2018 deer season. The investigation concerned a subject who harvested multiple deer illegally, failed to complete game-checks, hunted without a license, hunted without a big game license, hunted deer without fluorescent orange, and hunted without permission. GWFC Kernahan made contact with the subject at his residence, and conducted an interview. GWFC Kernahan presented the evidence to the subject, and he admitted to the violations. The subject also provided a sworn written statement. GWFC Kernahan determined the location where the violations occurred, as well as which processor the deer were taken to. He also obtained photographs and videos of the subject harvesting the deer, and posing with the deer. Additionally, GWFC Kernahan seized deer parts. The violations were addressed.

Later that night, GWFC Kernahan patrolled Barrow Co. for deer night hunting activity. While patrolling, he apprehended a group who were spotlighting deer with a vehicle, and hunting with a rifle. GWFC Kernahan addressed violations with the group that included reckless driving, possession of marijuana, hunting deer at night, hunted from a public roadway, and hunted from a motor vehicle.

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Sargent Mike Burgamy, Cpl Eric Isom, and RFC Kevin Goss finished a tire dumping investigation that was occurring in an empty subdivision. The subdivision had 30 individual tire dumpsites, each site contained between 100 to 200 tires. Two subject were caught in a box truck in the subdivision with attempting to dump approximately 200 tires. Both subjects were arrested and the truck was impounded. Felony arrest warrants were obtained for both subject and a search warrant of the box truck.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Game Warden Eric Isom utilized his K9 partner Colt to locate a subject who was hunting without permission and two other stand locations. Colt also assisted Isom to find evidence where a deer was killed. Isom was able to identify the other person hunting the property, where the deer was taken to be processed, and the location of the rack. After interviewing the other subject, he admitted to killing the 10-point buck. Both subjects received citations for hunting without permission. The 10-point buck was seized as evidence.

Later that evening Game Wardens Ryan Locke and Isom witnessed two subjects enter a developing subdivision. The Game Wardens witnessed two subjects get out of their truck and grab a large black object a toss it 10 yards into the woods. The subjects were tossing out empty beer cans from a recent party. Both subjects received citations for littering.

### **HART COUNTY**

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Corporal Craig Fulghum patrolled Lake Hartwell for waterfowl violations. During his patrol on Lake Hartwell Cpl. Fulghum documented three violations. The violations consisted of a subject hunting waterfowl without a federal duck stamp, operating a vessel without PFD's on board, and operating a vessel within 100' foot of an object in the water.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, GWFC Brandon Pierce ended an investigation that began on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Cpl. Tim Vickery and Sgt. Derek Dillard assisted with the investigation and enough evidence was gathered to talk to the suspect. The suspect was interviewed and, as a result, two citations and two warnings were issued. The violations consisted of failure to record deer harvest and taking over the season limit of antlered deer. GWFC Pierce seized two eleven point buck racks, an eight point buck rack, and a nine point buck rack that was intended to be mounted. All for evidentiary purposes.



### **HABERSHAM COUNTY**

On December 21, game wardens Joe Hill and Beth Gilbert investigated an over the limit buck kill complaint in Habersham County. The suspect, an adult male, admitted two of the bucks were killed with archery equipment while the third was a roadkill deer. The man was charged with hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and hunting without a harvest record. He was arrested on an active probation warrant.

### **RABUN COUNTY**

On December 22, game wardens in Rabun County were notified by a Georgia State Patrol trooper of a deer kill identified during a traffic stop. Game wardens Sgt. Derek Dillard, GWFC Joe Hill, GWFC Beth Gilbert and GSP SFC Chad Johnson discovered the deer was killed by a convicted felon with a rifle on Chattahoochee National Forest property in Rabun County. The adult male was arrested and charged with possession of firearm by convicted felon and a harvest record violation.

## **UNION COUNTY**

On December 22, Sgt. Steve Seitz and GWFC David Webb patrolled the Jones Creek area of Union County for hunting activity and located a truck parked on the side of the road. While the game wardens were checking the truck and area, they located an adult hunter and his juvenile daughter walking out of the woods without wearing any orange and carrying a rifle and crossbow. The adult hunter was cited for not wearing orange and issued a warning for not having his big game harvest record.

Just after dark on this same date, Sgt. Seitz and GWFC Webb checked some other hunters who stated they just saw a vehicle in a field across the Nottely River from their location, heard a gunshot, and then the vehicle turned their headlights off. The game wardens went to the location and located two subjects at a residence behind a gate and questioned them about the incident. After lying to the game wardens for a few minutes, they finally confessed to shooting at a deer from their vehicle and took the game wardens to the area where they shot at the deer. The game wardens searched the area and found a doe deer that had been shot from their private driveway. The two subjects were each charged with hunting from a motor vehicle and killing an antlerless deer when it was not a doe day in Union County.

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

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On December 19<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Brian Carter and Gwfc. Mark Stephens investigated a night hunting complaint from the previous night. Charges resulting from the investigation were hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road, hunting without permission, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting without a harvest record, failure to record deer harvest, and taking over the limit of deer.

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

### **BIBB COUNTY**

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens David Fisher and Jason Bennett located three individuals hunting ducks with firearms on Echeconee Creek WMA. Due to this Wildlife Management Area only being open to archery hunting, the individuals were issued citations for the offense.

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, Game Warden David Fisher was patrolling Echeconee Creek WMA for hunting activity. After locating a vehicle and determining that the owner was no longer hunting on the WMA, the officer located the individual hunting on private property that bordered the WMA. The hunter was cited for hunting without permission.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sgt. Jeremy Bolen and Game Warden David Fisher were patrolling for duck hunting activity. The officers located two individuals hunting a pond that was later determined to be baited with corn. Both hunters were cited for hunting ducks over bait. Later that morning the two officers located three different individuals duck hunting another piece of property in the area. After checking the swamp, it was also determined to be baited with cracked corn. The hunters were issued citations and warnings for hunting ducks over bait and hunting without the required licenses.

### **HOUSTON COUNTY**

On the evening of December 22<sup>nd</sup> Cpl. Robert Stillwell responded to Oaky Woods WMA in reference to a lost hunter. The Houston County Sheriff's Office, Houston County Fire Department, and Georgia State Patrol aviation unit responded as well. The hunter was located approximately two hours later and found to be in good condition with no medical issues

## **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On the evening of December 16<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Bubba Stanford encountered three juveniles hunting waterfowl after hours on Lake Sinclair. The juveniles were hunting from a vessel and were not in possession of the required boating safety equipment. Cpl. Stanford met with the youths' parents concerning the violations and gave verbal guidance regarding the matter.

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

### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On December 17, Wardens Tony Cox, Quinn Fogle, Philip Stout and Ryan Cleveland were working several night hunting complaints when Sgt. Cox and Cleveland observed the occupants of a truck engage in night hunting. A doe was shot from the vehicle and all three occupants were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting big game from a public road.

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, Sgt. Tony Cox and Ryan Cleveland completed a two week investigation on a subject suspected of killing three deer without permission. After the investigation, the suspect was charged with hunting without permission, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and unlawful concealment of wildlife.

### **EARLY COUNTY**

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Quinn Fogle, Steve Thomas, Philip Stout, and Taylor Brown were patrolling when they located a dove shoot. Wardens quickly determined that the field was baited, stopping the shoot. A total of 17 citations were issued and 71 doves confiscated.

### **MILLER COUNTY**

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Quinn Fogle, Steve Thomas, Philip Stout, and Taylor Brown received a complaint in reference to hunting without permission. Wardens arrived and the complainant stated that they were hunting and heard a shot that they thought was on their property. The complaints stayed in their stand and could hear the subjects say that they had just killed a 10 point deer. Wardens were able to find two deer stands on the border of the property line along with a glove on the complaints' side of the property. Wardens went to the residence across the woods from the complaints' location and found several subjects surrounding a 10 point deer that had just been killed. Wardens obtained confessions from two individuals stating that they had indeed shot the deer on the complaints property without permission. A third individual on scene, was found to be in possession of methamphetamine. Wardens charged a total of three subjects two for hunting without permission, hunting without license, and hunting without big game license. The third individual was charged with possession of methamphetamine and was turned over the Miller County Sheriff's Office.

### **MACON COUNTY**

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Clint Martin and Bryan Price responded to a night hunting complaint where landowners located a vehicle and two subjects on their property. Montezuma Police Officers went to the incident location and detained the subjects, until Price and Martin arrived. After interviewing the subjects it was determined the two subjects were hunting deer at night and were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle and hunting big game from a public road.

## **TURNER COUNTY**

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sgt. Al Greer and Logan South observed a vehicle stopped on the side of a dirt road. The wardens pulled beside the vehicle and asked the two occupants what they were doing. The occupants stated they were getting honey, and it was then the wardens noticed a bee box tied with a rope behind the vehicle. The suspects' then sped off jumping a three foot ditch to elude the officers. Game Wardens chased the vehicle to a hunting club road where the two suspects fled on foot into the woods. Turner County and Wilcox County Sheriff's Deputies arrived to assist along with a K-9 from the Turner County Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Greer contacted aviation pilot Captain Steven Turner and Game Warden Mark Puig for aviation assistance. The aircraft flew the area but was unable to locate the suspects. Officers located a small bag of suspected Methamphetamine, a loaded rifle, and night vision goggles inside the vehicle. One suspect has been identified at this time and the investigation continues.

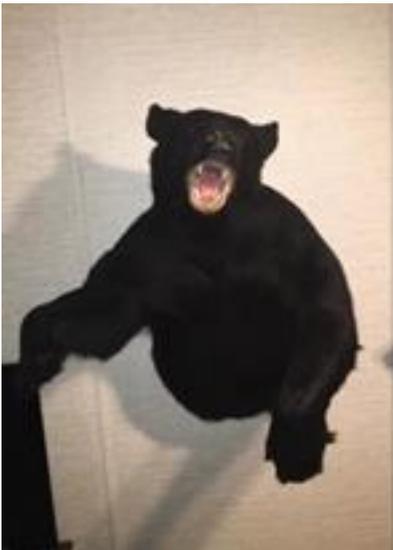
## **Region VI- Metter (Southeast)**

### **CLINCH COUNTY**

On December 18th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Corporal Jason Shipes, Game Wardens Sam Williams and Daniel North accompanied Florida FWC officers to multiple locations in Florida to make contact with several poachers involved in killing bears illegally in Georgia and Florida. During the investigation it was found that one of the poachers had also killed a turkey across the county line near Mayday Georgia in the spring of 2018. At the time that the Turkey was killed, the poacher did not have a valid license at the time, nor had she obtained a harvest record or reported the kill. Violations of non-resident hunting without a big game license, non-resident hunting without a license, and failure to report to DNR within 72 hours were documented on the individual.

### **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On December 18th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Corporal Jason Shipes, Game Wardens Sam Williams and Daniel North accompanied Florida FWC officers to multiple locations in Florida to make contact with several poachers involved in killing bears illegally in Georgia and Florida. Georgia Game Wardens addressed violations that were found using surveillance cameras during the 2018 bear season near Mayday Georgia. Four citations were issued to two poachers for hunting big game over bait on two separate accounts, and one citation was issued for hunting bear without fluorescent orange. While conducting this investigation, it was also discovered that one of the poachers had killed a bear during the 2017 season without a license and had her husband, who had a license at the time, check in the bear instead. Violations of non-resident hunting without big game license, non-resident hunting without license and concealment of illegally taken wildlife were documented and the mounted bear was seized.



On December 21st, Game Warden Joseph Cowart was working night hunting on Hwy 441 South near the Florida state line. GW Cowart witnessed a vehicle driving slowly past his location. Moments later, GW Cowart heard a gunshot and pulled out of his location onto Hwy 441 and initiated a traffic stop. GW Cowart had the poachers take him back to the location of the shot. Once at the incident location. GW Cowart located blood near the side of the road. GW Cowart tracked the blood trail and located a small buck deer that had been shot. Citations for hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle were documented.



### **WILCOX COUNTY**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Allen Mills was contacted by Corporal Robert Stillwell reference to a hunter from Florida harvesting a deer in Georgia and not tagging it. During this time, the landowner was located and interviewed. Additional information was discovered about the suspect as well as three other suspects hunting in Georgia without licenses and other violations. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, Game Warden Mills met with the suspects and conducted interviews. It was determined that four individuals from Florida came to Georgia to hunt deer. Several deer were killed including a 10-point buck. Three of the men were unlicensed and none of the deer were tagged. Twenty-one violations were documented including non-resident hunting without a hunting license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, hunting without obtaining a deer harvest record, recording and reporting requirements for game animals and birds, non-resident possessing big game without a big game license, and taking over the season limit of antlered deer.



*Game Warden Mills and Game Warden Travis (Florida) with ten-point deer.*

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden John Kennedy and Corporal Dan Stiles made contact with two duck hunters who were hunting waterfowl over bait. The hunters were cited for hunting ducks over bait and one hunter was cited for hunting without a federal duck stamp. The ducks were seized and donated to a local family in need.



### **TATTNALL COUNTY**

On December 19th Game Warden First Class Clint Jarriel and Game Warden Cameron Dyal responded to a hunting complaint. After a brief investigation the two officers were able to determine that a deer had been shot from a public road. The subject was charged for hunting from a public road and not obtaining a deer harvest record.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

On December 22nd, Game Sergeant Jon Barnard and Game Warden First Class Randell Meeks were patrolling Montgomery County for hunting activity. After hearing several volleys of shotgun shots, they located an illegal roost shoot for waterfowl. After checking the three hunters, violations for hunting waterfowl after hours were documented on all three hunters. Two violations for hunting without a Federal Waterfowl Stamp and one violation of hunting without Georgia Migratory Bird Stamp were also documented.

### **TOOMBS COUNTY**

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Game Warden First Class Bobby Sanders was patrolling the eastern part of the county when he encountered deer dog hunters from neighboring Tattnall County. Toombs County is closed to hunting deer with dogs and one violation for failure to keep dogs on permitted property was documented.

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

No activity to report.