



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**December 30 – January 5, 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**

December 30<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray, and GW Ryan Shorter, were patrolling Sweetwater Creek State Park when they encountered two individuals fishing. Upon further investigation one of the individuals was charged with possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

December 31<sup>st</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray and GW Ryan Shorter patrolled Lake Seaton and Lake Carroll. One subject was issued a warning for fishing w/o a license.

December 31<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Chad Cox responded to a call about some waterfowl hunters that were possible hunting without permission. Cpl. Cox issued one citation for hunting without a federal waterfowl stamp.

### **POLK COUNTY**

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray and GW Ryan Shorter responded to a complaint of a possible drowning in Polk County. The body of the individual was recovered in Cedar Creek. The cause of death was undetermined.

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, GWFC Zack Hardy was patrolling Taylorsville area off John Kay Road. GWFC Hardy located four bags of house hold garbage at an entrance to a hunting club. GWFC Hardy investigated the unlawful dumping. GWFC Hardy located information that led to a suspect in Rome, GA. GWFC Hardy interviewed the suspect at the address located on several pieces of mail found in the trash. The subject was issued a citation for littering/unlawful dumping.

### **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, SGT Jason Roberson and CPL Bart Hendrix responded to a hunting incident that occurred off Yellow Creek Rd. The shooter and victim, son and father respectively, were already at Piedmont Mountainside Hospital when the Game Wardens received the call. According to statements from the shooter and the victim, they were rabbit hunting on a powerline when the incident occurred. A rabbit ran into a briar patch between the shooter and the victim. The shooter shot at the rabbit not knowing exactly where the victim was standing. The victim was struck with six to eight pellets in his leg below the knee.

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

### **TOWNS COUNTY**

On December 28, Cpl. Anne Wiley was patrolling Swallow Creek during a sign-in managed bear and deer hunt. During the patrol she located one adult male who was standing on Indian Grave Gap Road and another woods road accessible to vehicles. The male was in possession of a firearm and he was not wearing fluorescent orange. Cpl. Wiley asked what he was doing and he told her he had just finished hunting. Cpl. Wiley checked his .308 rifle and found it loaded. When questioned about his orange vest, the male said it was in the truck which was parked further down the woods road. Cpl. Wiley told him she would cite him for hunting without orange and give him a warning for hunting within 50 yards of WMA road. When Cpl. Wiley was preparing the paperwork she found the male had an active warrant for his arrest in Habersham County. The male was arrested and transported to Towns County Detention Center. His vehicle was impounded due to not having valid insurance or a valid tag.

## STEPHENS COUNTY

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, Corporal Tim Vickery and Game Warden Jonathan Segars finished up a months long investigation into an illegal hunting complaint. In August, Cpl. Vickery received information that a subject had killed a deer illegally during the previous season. The information Cpl. Vickery received was that the subject had no licenses and was possibly a convicted felon. After investigating, Cpl. Vickery confirmed that the subject had no license, but the reason was because he had his hunting privileges suspended for failure to pay child support. Throughout the season Cpl. Vickery and GW Segars tried to catch the subject in the act of hunting with no success. It was later found that the subject had been in an accident and had not hunted during the current deer season. On December 30<sup>th</sup>, after gathering additional information from social media, Cpl. Vickery and GW Segars went to the subject's residence to talk to him about the deer he had killed. The subject was not home. However, the Game Wardens spoke to the subject's wife and told her to have the subject call them. On December 31<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Vickery and GW Segars were finishing up another complaint in Toccoa when they noticed the subject's vehicle at an intersection with the road they were traveling on. Corporal Vickery turned around and attempted to get the tag number to ensure that it was the subject they were looking for. When he did, however, the subject fled. Corporal Vickery and GW Segars managed to keep the subject in sight but did not pursue him with blue lights on through town. They followed the subject down a couple of roads and lost contact at one point, but picked the vehicle up again as it doubled back to where it came from. Corporal Vickery at that point turned on his blue lights to stop the vehicle. It continued through a residential area, running a stop sign before finally coming to a stop. The subject was removed from the vehicle and placed under arrest. The subject admitted to killing the deer the previous year while his hunting privileges were suspended. He also stated that he had talked to his wife that morning and that he knew the Game Warden was after him, and that he had run after seeing them pass by him. The vehicle was searched and a .45 caliber handgun was secured, along with a .308 caliber rifle. The Game Wardens were then advised by the subject's passenger that the subject had a glass pipe in his hand that he had thrown out the window right before they had stopped. The Game Wardens went to the area where the passenger had indicated and found two glass pipes containing a white residue, which was suspected to be methamphetamines. The vehicle was released to the passenger and the subject was transported to the Stephens County Jail. It was determined that the subject was not a convicted felon. After talking to the District Attorney, warrants were taken and the subject was charged with Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act (Felony), two counts of Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony (Felony), Possession of Drug Related Objects, Fleeing and Attempting to Elude Police Officer, Failure to Stop at Stop Sign, Hunting While Privileges Suspended, Possession of Illegally Taken Wildlife, and Littering. The deer was confiscated for evidentiary purposes.



*Game Warden Segars with confiscated deer*

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Corporal Vickery finished up a hunting without permission complaint. A subject had called Cpl. Vickery about two individuals hunting without permission on his property outside of Royston. The two subjects were not wearing their fluorescent orange vests when the complainant had confronted them. The complainant found the subjects a second time and decided to contact Law Enforcement. When the complainant told Cpl. Vickery who the subjects were, Cpl. Vickery recognized them from a previous complaint on the same subjects for hunting on City of Royston property. That particular incident resulted in Game Warden First Class Brandon Pierce issuing two warnings to each subject for hunting without permission and hunting without fluorescent orange. This was the second consecutive year that the subjects had been caught on city property and the third complaint in two years of hunting without permission. On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Vickery and GWFC Pierce met the complainant to have him sign a request for prosecution. The Game Wardens then went to the magistrate judge and had arrest warrants issued for the subjects. They were each charged with Hunting without Permission and Hunting Deer without Wearing Fluorescent Orange.

On Thursday January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Tim Vickery and Game Warden First Class Brandon Pierce met with a subject who had failed to record a doe that he had killed on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The violation was discovered when Cpl. Vickery and GWFC Pierce were investigating a separate complaint. After checking, the subject was also found not to have a harvest record. The Game Wardens met with the subject on the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and issued him a citation for Failure to Record Deer Harvest. He was also issued a warning for Hunting without Obtaining a Harvest Record.

On January 5, 2019, Game warden Jonathan Segars patrolled Lake Russell WMA. He checked four hunting licenses and issued one warning for blocking access road on WMA.

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

### **WALTON COUNTY**

On 1/1/19 GWFC Schay worked a night hunting investigation. Violations of hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle were documented as a result of the investigation. A deer was confiscated and donated to the hunters for the hungry program.

On January 5<sup>th</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Jason Harrison Patrolled Walton County for Hunting and Fishing Activity. Violations for Operating a Vessel with Insufficient PFD's, Hunting without a license, Hunting without Big Game License, and Hunting Waterfowl with Lead Shot were documented.

### **NEWTON COUNTY**

On 12/31/18 GWFC Schay worked a hunting without permission investigation. Violations of hunting ducks over bait and hunting without permission were documented as a result of the investigation.

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

### **COWETA COUNTY**

On January 3<sup>rd</sup> Game Warden Charles Follin was contacted by the Coweta County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) in reference to non-game bird skulls and feet being discovered by the Sheriff's Office during a search of a residence near Grantville. The subjects were subsequently arrested for drug charges by the CCSO. Upon interviewing the subjects about the non-game bird parts it was discovered that one subject was in possession of a hawk, owl, vulture, and woodpecker skull and hawk feet. Another subject who was also arrested at the residence was interviewed and found to have knowingly failed to record two antlered deer taken in Meriwether County. One subject was charged with possession of non-gamebird parts and the other subject with failure to record deer harvest.

## **JONES COUNTY**

On the evening of January 2<sup>nd</sup> Corporal Bubba Stanford patrolled Cedar Creek WMA. One subject was arrested for DUI, possession of marijuana and possession of methamphetamine. The subject was transported to the Jones County Jail.

## **PIKE COUNTY**

On December 30th GW Ken Lalumiere checked a hunter and, upon investigation, determined he was not a resident of Georgia but he was hunting with a resident license. The hunter was charged with Non Resident Hunting with a Resident License and warned for hunting without fluorescent orange.

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

### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On January 4, 2019, Game Wardens Tony Cox and Ryan Cleveland were working a night hunting complaint in Decatur County when they had a subject head light a field three separate times. The Wardens performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and discovered that the subjects inside had thermal and night vision handheld devices on the dash of the vehicle. Both occupants in the truck stated they were hunting hogs and had one in the back of the truck. They were both charged with hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

On January 5, 2019, Game Warden Ryan Cleveland received information on a group of hunters shooting ducks after hours. He arrived to the location and made contact with 3 subjects who admitted to hunting waterfowl after legal hours. All three were charged with hunting waterfowl after hours.

### **GRADY COUNTY**

On January 3, 2019, Capt. Rick Sellers and Game Wardens Quinn Fogle and Ryan Cleveland received a complaint in reference to a subject hunting waterfowl after hours almost every evening. They worked the area that evening and were able to locate the subject hunting on the Ochlockonee River. The subject was cited for hunting waterfowl after hours, hunting waterfowl with lead shot, hunting without license, hunting w/o GA migratory bird license, operating vessel w/o PFDs, and operating vessel w/o lights during the hours of darkness.

### **SEMINOLE COUNTY**

On January 3, 2019, Game Wardens Quinn Fogle and Ryan Cleveland received information on 3 subjects that were stopped by a State Trooper the previous night for shinning. During the traffic stop the Trooper found a .308 rifle in the backseat of the vehicle. The Trooper collected the information and turned it over to the Wardens the following day. Wardens interviewed the subjects involved and they confessed that they looking for hunting deer. The subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

### **COLQUITT COUNTY**

On Saturday January 5, Game Warden David Jones was patrolling in North Thomas County for hunting activity when he heard several volleys of shotgun blasts coming from a local shooting preserve, in Colquitt County. GW Jones made contact with several groups of hunters and inspected their licenses. After inspecting all parties' licenses it was determined several hunters did not possess a hunting or shooting preserve license. In total four hunters were charged with hunting without a shooting preserve license.

## **DOOLY COUNTY**

On Saturday, January 5, 2019 Game Wardens Clint Martin and Bryan Price responded to a hunting from the road complaint in Dooly County. Dooly County Sheriff's Deputies also responded to the complaint and located the subject walking across a field. A witness saw the subject shoot from the road at the first deer he attempted to kill. The subject dove down the road and shot at a second deer, which he killed. The subject was charged with 2 counts of hunting from a vehicle, 2 counts of hunting big game from a public road and 2 counts of hunting without permission.

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

### **TELFAIR COUNTY**

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden First Class Rodney Horne and Cadet Austin Biggers patrolled Horse Creek Wildlife Area for illegal hunting activity. RFC Horne observed a vehicle blocking a gated roadway. RFC Horne waited on the hunter to return to the vehicle. RFC Horne documented two violations on the hunter for hunting without wearing a fluorescent orange vest and for blocking an access gate on a wildlife management area.

### **DODGE COUNTY**

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles was working night hunting activity. A vehicle drove past Cpl. Stiles' location and he observed a light from the driver's side of the vehicle illuminate a pecan orchard. Cpl. Stiles stopped the vehicle with one occupant. A flashlight, a spotlight, and a loaded semi-automatic rifle were in the passenger seat. The subject was charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

### **IRWIN COUNTY**

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Chris Thompson and Cadet Luke Rabun checked a previous dumping complaint on private property. Upon checking the location and with further investigation and circumstances, one warning was documented for littering.

### **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On December 19th, Corporal Mark Pool and Game Warden First Class Sam Williams assisted the Charlton County Sheriff Office with the Shop-with-a-Cop program. Forty-one kids were transported to Wal-Mart in Waycross and teamed up with an officer. The officers and kids spent over an hour Christmas shopping. It was a rewarding experience watching the kids purchase items for Christmas, most of whom purchased for other family members before themselves.



### **CLINCH COUNTY**

On December 30th, while working night hunting, Game Warden First Class Sam Williams observed a light shining from inside the passenger compartment of a vehicle as it drove past a pecan orchard. The officer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. During the traffic stop, a hand-held light and a loaded .308 caliber rifle was observed in the vehicle. Violations for hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle were documented.

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

No activity to report.