



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**December 9 – December 15, 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)**

### **PAULDING COUNTY**

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Chad Cox and Game Warden Garrett Pownall checked two hunters during the Paulding Forest WMA hunt. After questioning one subject who had just harvested his second buck of the season, it was apparent that neither of the deer had been recorded. The subject was cited with failure to record harvest.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Chad Cox and Game Warden Garrett Pownall investigated a subject in reference to a hunting after obtaining his bag limit of bucks. The hunter had hunted during Paulding Forest WMA's buck only hunt and was cited for hunting after obtaining a bag limit.

### **POLK COUNTY**

December 15<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray responded to a complaint in Polk County in reference to hunting w/o permission. One subject was charged with hunting w/o permission and hunting w/o a license.

December 15<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Chad Cox and GWFC Daniel Gray responded to a spotlighting complaint in the west side of the county. They were able to locate the shooter and a dead eight-point whitetail buck. The subject was arrested for hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public road. The deer was given to a needy family.

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

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

On Friday December 14<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Vickery received a call from an officer with the Lavonia Police Department requesting assistance with an illegal burn. A subject cleaning out a business at the Silo Centre in Lavonia had pushed a load of building material off of the loading dock and set it on fire. When Cpl. Vickery arrived, the subject admitted to burning the building material. The subject was issued a citation for unlawful dumping/illegal burn.

### **HART COUNTY**

On the morning of December 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Craig Fulghum worked a landowner's complaint of hunting without permission that had occurred the previous day. Cpl. Fulghum investigated the complaint and interviewed a subject about the violation. It was determined that an antlerless deer had been taken on a buck only day in Hart County. After the investigation was complete a total of three violations were documented which included hunting without permission, failure to record deer harvest, and taking an antlerless deer on a buck only day. The deer was taken and given to a family in need in the county.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden First Class Brandon Pierce was investigating a matter at a local deer processor. While there, a vehicle pulled in and then immediately turned around and left. GWFC Pierce stopped the vehicle a short distance away. The subject was found to have two doe deer in the truck and admitted to not recording them. As a result, a citation for failure to record deer harvest was issued.

Later the same evening, a subject brought several deer to the processor. Two of the deer were spike bucks and the subject admitted to killing them both. As a result, a citation of taking over the season limit of antlered deer was issued. The buck was confiscated and donated to a family in need.

### **MADISON COUNTY**

On December 12<sup>th</sup> Game Warden First Class Shane Sartor checked the Broad River WMA and encountered a subject deer hunting. The WMA closed on November 30<sup>th</sup> for deer hunting so the subject was issued a warning for hunting on a closed WMA.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> Game Warden First Class Shane Sartor encountered a subject in possession of parts of a bird of prey that he had taken off road killed birds. The subject was issued a warning for possession of bird parts and the parts were confiscated.

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

#### **WILKES COUNTY**

On December 9<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Brian Carter and Gwfc. Tim Butler located a pile of trash and a sofa dumped on the side of a county road. On December 15<sup>th</sup> Gwfc. Butler located the person responsible and issued him a citation for unlawful dumping.

#### **GREENE COUNTY**

On 12/11, Cpl. Derrell Worth started an investigation in Greene County reference hunting violations and various thefts of personal property. Cpl. Worth was able to identify one of the violators along with a current address. The investigation led to a search warrant being written and executed on the violator's home where several of the reported stolen items were recovered. Investigation is ongoing with charges to follow.

On 12/16/18, Cpl. Derrell Worth and Game Warden John Rhodes cited two subjects for hunting on a closed WMA. One subject for hunting without hunter education and one subject is being investigated for possessing a firearm by convicted felon.

Cpl. Derrell Worth and Game Warden John Rhodes cited two subjects for hunting ducks after hours. One subject hunting without Georgia Waterfowl license and one subject for possession of marijuana less than one ounce.

#### **WALTON COUNTY**

On December 15<sup>th</sup> Game Wardens Jason Harrison and Dan Schay responded to a Duck Hunting complaint in Gwinnett County. A violation for Hunting Waterfowl without a GA Water Fowl License was documented.

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

#### **COWETA COUNTY**

On December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Brent Railey, GW Russell Epps, GW Kevin Godbee and GW Charlie Follin worked the Chattahoochee Bend State Park quota hunt, issuing one citation for hunting in a safety zone.

#### **HOUSTON COUNTY**

On December 14<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Stillwell and GW Hurley responded to Flat Creek in reference to possible illegal duck hunting. Two subjects were located and charged with Hunting on a Closed WMA/PFA.

#### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On the evening of December 10<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Bubba Stanford apprehended an individual hunting deer without permission. Further investigation led to the hunter being charged with 2 counts of hunting without permission, hunting without a license, hunting without big game license and warnings for game check violations and hunting without fluorescent orange. The meat from three previously killed deer as well as the head of an 8 point buck were seized as evidence.

On the morning of December 15<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Stanford and Sgt. Bo Kelly patrolled BF Grant WMA. Numerous hunters were checked and one hunter was issued a warning for accompanying another hunter without wearing fluorescent orange.

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

### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Tony Cox and warden Ryan Cleveland were patrolling Silver Lake WMA when they made contact with a subject who was deer hunting. The WMA was closed to deer hunting at that time and the subject was charged with hunting on a closed WMA.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Tony Cox and warden Ryan Cleveland were patrolling Silver Lake WMA when they encountered two subjects duck hunting. The WMA was closed to all small game and waterfowl hunting. Both subjects were charged with hunting on a closed WMA and one subject was charged with hunting without a Georgia Migratory Bird stamp and hunting without a federal duck stamp.

### **GRADY COUNTY**

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Tony Cox and warden Ryan Cleveland received a complaint from a landowner stating someone had shot a deer on his property. The wardens made contact with the suspect, and following the interview the suspect was charged with hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, failure to record harvest, and hunting without permission.

### **LEE COUNTY**

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Clint Martin and Bryan Price were working duck hunting activity when two hunters were located. After checking the pond it was determined to be baited. A merganser and four ducks were confiscated and the two hunters were charged with hunting ducks over bait.

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

### **BACON COUNTY**

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne was on patrol working night deer hunting. RFC Horne observed a vehicle shining a field and made a traffic stop on two subjects who had been consuming alcohol and driving with open containers of beer inside the vehicle. The two poachers were each charged with driving with an open container, hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle.



## **TELFAIR COUNTY**

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden John Kennedy, Corporal Dan Stiles, and Sergeant James McLaughlin attended Telfair County Elementary School for Career Day. Six programs were presented for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes by Game Warden Kennedy and Corporal Stiles with 120 children in attendance. Game Warden Kennedy and Corporal Stiles talked to students about the everyday tasks of being a Game Warden.

## **TELFAIR COUNTY**

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Allen Mills patrolled Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area during a sign-in deer hunt. Twelve deer hunters and two waterfowl hunters were checked for license and regulation compliance. Violations for operating a vessel without navigation lights during hours of darkness and possessing/transporting a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a WMA were documented.

## **TELFAIR COUNTY**

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Allen Mills and Game Warden John Kennedy responded to a call of an abandoned vessel at Dodge Lake landing. The officers arrived on scene and checked the vessel's registration. The officers determined the vessel is being used for logging activity and is often left at various landings.



*Game Warden Kennedy checking vessel registration.*

## **JENKINS COUNTY**

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mike Wilcox served a warrant on a suspect for hunting deer with dogs on unpermitted property. The suspect was involved in an illegal deer dog hunt that Cpl. Wilcox investigated during Thanksgiving weekend. After several failed attempts to meet with the suspect, Cpl. Wilcox took a warrant for the violation. The suspect also had two outstanding warrants for unrelated events in other counties.

## **EMANUEL COUNTY**

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Game Warden Ben Reese began an investigation on a night hunting incident that occurred in the Nunez area. The officers searched for the suspect in the case at multiple residences. The officers ultimately contacted the suspect in the case by initiating a traffic stop on the suspect's vehicle on GA Hwy 57. The suspect was found to be in possession of marijuana and was arrested at the scene. The antlers of two whitetail deer were confiscated as well as a small amount of marijuana. The suspect was charged with hunting deer at night, failure to record deer harvest, violation of GA controlled substance act, and possession of drug related object.



### **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On December 13th, Game Warden First Class Sam Williams was working night hunting when he observed a handheld light being shined out the passenger window of a vehicle as it traveled along the highway. GWFC Williams conducted a traffic stop, at which time a loaded .22 caliber rifle and light was located. The two subjects in the vehicle were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.

On December 15th, Game Warden First Class Sam Williams encountered a deer hunter exiting his stand. The hunter was not wearing the required fluorescent orange. A violation of hunting deer while not wearing fluorescent orange was documented.

On December 15th, Game Warden Joseph Cowart met with a subject that in previous months had taken a deer and failed to record and report his harvest. Game Warden Cowart interviewed the subject and he admitted to not recording and not reporting the harvest in time. Violations of failure to record harvest before moving the carcass, and failure to report kill within 72 hours of harvest were documented.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens' Cameron Dyal and Bobby Sanders conducted an investigation in Toombs County in reference to a set of seven-point deer antlers that were located at a local taxidermist. The deer had not been checked in through game check and after further investigation it was determined that the hunter did not possess a valid hunting license. Dyal and Sanders interviewed the subject at his residence in Toombs County. During the interview the subject stated that he had killed the deer on private property in Montgomery County. Violations were addressed for hunting without a license and failure to report and record harvest. One set of antlers were seized and tagged as evidence.

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

No activity to report.