



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
January 14-20, 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)

COBB COUNTY

On January 20th, Sgt. Mike Barr attended the Greater Atlanta Chapter of the Safari Club International Banquet in Smyrna, Georgia. Several DNR Law Enforcement Officers were recognized for their accomplishments during this past year including the division's leader Colonel Eddie Henderson (center).



Corporal Bart Hendrix (L), Colonel Eddie Henderson (C), and Corporal Mark Patterson (R), were recognized by the Atlanta Chapter of the Safari Club International during their annual Banquet in Smyrna, Georgia held at Adventure Outdoors.

FLOYD COUNTY

On January 20th, Game Wardens Cpl. Ben Cunningham and GW Travis Shrader patrolled areas around the Coosa River for waterfowl hunting activity. The officers checked multiple groups of hunters. All of the hunters reported seeing a few ducks but only one group harvested a hen Mallard and a hen Wood Duck. The officers issued a citation for operating a vessel without Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs-life jackets) and two warnings for vessel registration issues. Life jackets are especially important in cold water environments that duck hunters experience during duck season.

On January 20th, Game Wardens Cpl. Ben Cunningham and GW Travis Shrader assisted a group of fisherman that were having a very hard time loading their vessel at the Brushy Branch boat ramp. Boaters are having a difficult time launching and loading their vessels at boat ramps along the Coosa River due to low water levels and should use caution.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

WHITE COUNTY

On January 14th, Sgt. Steve Seitz, Cpl. Anne Wiley, RFC Chad Chambers, Ranger Tommy Crabb, and USFS LEO Jeff Angel held a road check on Tray Mountain at the intersection of the Appalachian Trail and Swallow Creek WMA. The officers checked several hikers using the trail and a lot of off road vehicles that were riding through the area on this bitterly cold day. The officers found one unlicensed driver wanted out of Florida for felony drug violations. The officers contacted GSP Gainesville to check the status of the arrest warrant and the warrant was confirmed, but the issuing agency did not want to extradite the suspect back to Florida. USFS LEO Angel issued the suspect a federal citation for driving without a license and let a licensed driver take control of the vehicle. The officers found another vehicle with a small child sitting in a drivers lap helping them drive. USFS Angel issued this driver a citation for not having the child in a safety seat.

On January 20th, Sgt. Steve Seitz, Cpl. Kevin Dyer, and RFC David Webb patrolled Smithgall Woods/Dukes Creek State Park and checked several fishermen fishing on the trophy stream. The game wardens found two fishermen using barbed hooks and one did not have any fishing licenses. The game wardens issued one fisherman a citation for possessing unlawful equipment (barbed hooks) and the other fisherman a citation for using unlawful equipment (barbed hooks), a citation for fishing without a trout license, and a warning for fishing without a license. Later on this same date, the same game wardens patrolled Unicoi State Park including the Smith Creek Delayed Harvest stream for fishing activity. The game wardens checked several more fishermen on the park and found two of them using unlawful equipment (power bait) in the delayed harvest stream and issued them citations for the violations.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On January 20th, RFC Joe Hill and RFC Chad Chambers investigated a complaint RFC Chambers received in reference to a subject putting multiple deer carcasses in his weekly trash for a company to pick up. The Game Wardens checked the subject's harvest record online, since the complainant said "multiple carcasses," and found the subject had killed two deer this season. The most recent deer was a seven point buck and the subject did not have a valid big game license when this deer was killed. The Game Wardens issued the subject a citation for hunting without a big game license and seized the antlers as evidence.

HART COUNTY

On January 17th, Cpl. Craig Fulghum was patrolling Hart State Park for any suspicious activity. He noticed a small car parked in an area with the parking lights on near an area where vandalism had occurred in the weeks prior. Cpl. Fulghum proceeded to the area without lights to investigate. When approaching the car Cpl. Fulghum smelled an odor consistent with marijuana and observed three females smoking marijuana inside the car. After making contact with the subjects approximately 3 grams of marijuana was seized as evidence and the three subjects were all charged with possession of marijuana less than an ounce. A phone call was made to allow a sober driver to come and get the vehicle to drive it safely out of the Park.

On January 20th, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Tim Vickery responded to assist a Hart County Deputy with several individuals at the Gum Branch Mega Ramp. Upon arriving at the scene it was determined that one of the subjects failed to obtain a valid fishing license. The subject was issued a citation for fishing without a license.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

GREENE COUNTY

On January 20th, Cpl. David Allen and Ranger 1 John Rhodes patrolled the Redlands WMA for hunting, fishing, and boating violations. The rangers documented the following violations: illegal target practicing on a WMA, fishing w/out a license, hunting w/out a license, operating w/out a throwable device and a fire extinguisher.

On January 21st, Cpl. David Allen and Ranger 1 John Rhodes Cited an individual for hunting w/out a license on Redlands WMA.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On January 21st, Cpl. David Allen was patrolling behind Wallace Dam when he saw a occupants of a vessel not wearing there PFD's in a hazardous area. Cpl. Allen cited the vessel operator for failure to wear PFD's in a hazard area.

CLARKE COUNTY

On January 14th RFC. Tim Butler located a vehicle hidden in the woods where there were previous complaints of hunting without permission. After dark, a deer hunter exited the property. RFC. Butler issued the hunter citations for hunting without permission and hunting without fluorescent orange.

NEWTON COUNTY

On January 20th, Ranger Dan Schay and Ranger John Rhodes completed a dumping investigation in Newton county. A violation of unlawful dumping of egregious litter less than 500 pounds was documented.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

RANDOLPH COUNTY

On January 14th, Game Warden Fogle located a afternoon baited dove shoot in which seven individuals were cited and forty-nine doves were confiscated.

On January 15th, Game Warden Fogle received a call in reference to hunting without permission. Fogle responded and met with the landowner who had obtained video from a trail camera of to vehicles entering his property. It was apparent that the subjects were hog hunting. The hunters broke a lock on the landowners' gate to obtain entry into the property. Fogle was able to use the video of the vehicles to locate and interview the subjects involved. Three subjects were cited for hunting without permission and agreed to buy the landowner a new lock for his gate.

BAKER COUNTY

On January 15th, Cpl. Scott Carroll located a dove shoot that was determined to be baited for doves. Twelve hunters were cited for hunting over bait and two were cited for taking over the daily bag limit. Several license infractions were also cited and eighty-three doves were seized and delivered to the Anchorage recovery center in Albany.

On January 14th, while responding to a complaint of deer hunters not wearing required orange clothing game wardens Scott Carroll and Quinn Fogle cited two hunters for no orange and uncovered multiple license infractions which led to an investigation into an illegally killed buck.

STEWART COUNTY

On January 15th, Cpl. Steve Robinson was patrolling Providence Canyon State Park when he encountered five people over one of the fences on the park. Cpl. Robinson observed the subject's smoking marijuana and cited all for the offenses.

CRISP COUNTY

On January 20th, Game Wardens Jesse Harrison and Al Greer checked 5 duck hunters and determined the hunters were hunting without permission and over bait. The juvenile hunters were given verbal guidance. The three adults were charged with hunting ducks over bait and hunting without permission. Fourteen wood ducks and six mergansers were confiscated.

WILCOX COUNTY

On January 18th, Game Wardens Clint Martin and Dan Stiles responded to a hunting incident. Martin interviewed the subject involved in the incident at the hospital and Stiles investigated the area where the incident occurred. It was determined that while squirrel hunting the subject placed the muzzle of his shotgun on top of his foot and pulled the trigger. The resulting blast severely injured his foot.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

EMANUEL COUNTY

On January 20th, Sergeant Brian Hobbins responded to a complaint of people shooting ducks after hours. Corporal Mike Wilcox responded to Sgt. Hobbins' location. The Game Wardens located seven suspects exiting a pond off of Wadley Coleman Lake Road. The violators admitted to shooting ducks after hours and they had one duck over the limit. All seven violators received citations for hunting after legal hours and one violator also received a citation for taking over the daily bag limit.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On January 17th, Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Game Warden First Class Jason Miller assisted the United States Marshal Service and The Bulloch County Sheriffs' Department with an arrest warrant at a residence on the Nevils Daisy hwy. The target of the warrant was apprehended along with three other suspects. A large number of firearms and stolen property was recovered and remains under investigation by the Bulloch County Sheriffs' Dept.

LAURENS COUNTY

On January 20, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne responded to a hunting without permission complaint. RFC Horne located eight hunters hunting hogs. One violation for hunting without a license was documented.

DODGE COUNTY

On January 20th, Game Warden Allen Mills conducted a vessel patrol at the Dodge County Public Fishing Area. Nine vessels were inspected for safety equipment and twenty-two anglers were checked for license and regulation compliance. One violation for operating a vessel without a throwable device was documented.

LANIER COUNTY

On the morning of January 20th Ranger Chris Thompson was travelling to listen for early morning duck hunters when he received a call from the Lanier County Sheriff's Office about a subject they stopped for DUI who told deputies he shot a deer and possessed it in a cooler in the truck. Ranger Thompson then travelled to the location to investigate and located the deer in the cooler, gun in the truck, and fresh blood in the truck bed. Ranger Thompson spoke to the subject at Lanier County Sheriff's Office and after further investigation determined that the subject shot the deer out of season. The subject was issued a citation for hunting out of season.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Saturday, January 20th, Game Wardens RFC Toney, Cpl. Morgan, and Sgt. Scott patrolled the salt water areas of Bryan and Liberty Counties. Boats were checked inshore and offshore for boating and fishing violations. Numerous vessels were stopped and checked with no violations. The Game Wardens also noticed a commercial crabber and stopped the vessel to check for compliance with commercial fishing regulations. The two men on board did not have a commercial fishing license and were cited for the violations.