



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
June 17 – June 23, 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)

No activity to report.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

RABUN COUNTY

On June 17th, GWFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Deputy Tony Parrish conducted a boating safety patrol on Lake Rabun. One citation was issued for operating an overloaded vessel and warnings were issued for 100' rule violations and violating rules of the road.

On June 23rd, GWFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Deputy Cody Sanders conducted a boating safety patrol of Lake Burton. The Game Warden and Deputy arrested one subject for violating rules of the road and boating under the influence after his boat capsized. Warnings were issued throughout the day for 100' rule violations and registration violations.

HART/FRANKLIN/STEPHENS COUNTY

On June 18th, Cpl. Craig Fulghum received word from a Hart County investigator that he had arrested a suspect that had broken into the pay boxes at both Victoria Bryant State Park and Hart State Park. Two suspects had been caught by a camera placed on Victoria Bryant State Park by Game Warden First Class Brandon Pierce and Sergeant Derek Dillard earlier the previous week. Corporal Fulghum and Cpl. Tim Vickery went to the Hart County Jail to interview the subject. At that time he admitted to breaking into the boxes with his brother. The brother had fled the scene when the investigator stopped to talk with them. After identifying the brother, warrants were taken for both subjects in both Franklin County and Hart County for Theft by Taking and Interference with Government Property. Based on information obtained during the interview, Cpl. Tim Vickery and Sgt. Derek Dillard went into the Lake Russell Wildlife Management Area in Stephens County on Thursday June 21st, to look for the brother who had run. The Game Wardens located the suspect and arrested him. He was transported to the Stephens County Jail, then transported to Franklin County and then Hart County to answer charges on the warrants.

On June 19th, RFC Brandon Pierce finished up an investigation involving an illegal burn initially started by RFC Shane Sartor. The subject was found to be in violation and issued a citation consisting of unlawful burning of egregious litter.

On June 23rd Cpl. Craig Fulghum and GWFC Shane Sartor patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating safety violations. During their patrols they documented eight violations. The violations consisted of allowing underage children to ride in moving vessel without pfd's, towing skier without mirror or observer, registration issues, and reckless operation of a vessel.

On June 23rd, RFC Brandon Pierce, along with Sgt. Derek Dillard, patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating violations. A total of seven warnings and citations were documented. The violations consisted of failure to obey regulatory marker, towing a skier without a mirror/observer, operating an overloaded vessel, operating a vessel with improper lights, operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's, and operating under the influence. One subject was arrested and booked into the Hart County Jail.

MADISON COUNTY

On June 22nd, RFC Shane Sartor was working the Broad River when he observed two subjects smoking what he believed to be marijuana. RFC Sartor called the subjects over and they admitted to smoking and having marijuana. The subject that was in possession of the marijuana was issued a citation for Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

LAKE OCONEE

Between June 15-17, CPL Allen, CPL Worth, Game Warden Rhodes, and Game Warden Schay patrolled Lake Oconee for boating activity. During these patrols, multiple violations of allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD, towing without an observer onboard, operating a PWC within 100' of an object in the water above idle speed, failure to obey regulatory marker, failure to meet boater education requirements, and operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs were documented.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

JONES COUNTY

On the afternoon of June 22nd Game Warden Stephen Payne followed up with a criminal trespass complaint by meeting with several subjects and issuing citations for criminal trespass.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

Game Warden Ken Lalumiere received an in-progress complaint of fishing without permission on a closed county pond in Meriwether County. He issued two citations for fishing without permission.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the evening of June 23rd Corporal Bubba Stanford and Sergeant Bo Kelly patrolled Lake Sinclair. Numerous boats were stopped with warnings and citations issued for various boating violations. One boat operator was arrested for boating under the influence and transported to the Putnam County Jail.

TROUP COUNTY

On June 17th Cpl. Keith Waddell, Game Warden Steven Martinez and Sgt Brent Railey patrolled West Point Lake. They issued a citation for a person operating a PWC without wearing a PFD while simultaneously towing a skier without an observer on board. They also issued a citation to a boat pulling a tuber under the HWY 109 bridge at full speed through the no wake zone.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

TURNER COUNTY

On June 17th, Sergeant Al Greer and Turner County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a drowning in Turner County. Two Hispanic males were swimming in a drainage pond when one of them went under and failed to resurface. SGT. Greer and Turner County Deputies recovered the victim's body which was released to the Turner County Coroner's Office.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On June 23rd, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Oconee River by vessel. Nine vessels were checked for registration and boating safety equipment. Seven anglers were checked for fishing licenses and creel limit compliance. One violation was documented for failure to meet boating education requirements. Cpl. Stiles also conducted a night patrol at the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Two vessels were checked and six anglers were checked for fishing licenses. No violations were documented.

IRWIN COUNTY

On June 22nd, Game Warden Thompson and intern Gibbs were patrolling Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) when they were notified about two subjects and their vehicle being stuck on a sand road inside the WMA. The vehicle was located and Game Warden Thompson and company assisted the two subjects pulling their car out of the sand and assisting them back to the main road. The subjects drove past two posted "No Vehicle Access" signs before becoming stuck in the sand. A citation was issued for driving in an unauthorized area on a WMA.

ATKINSON COUNTY

On June 21st, Corporal Tim Hutto and Ranger Thomas Sibley concluded a hunting without permission investigation on Gopher Plantation in Axson. The two-week investigation led to one subject being charged with hunting without permission.

On June 10th, Corporal Tim Hutto and Ranger Thomas Sibley patrolled areas of the Satilla River in Atkinson County for boating and fishing activity. The patrol resulted in numerous citations and warnings issued for fishing without a license, operating a vessel without life jackets, and operating a vessel without registration.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On June 17th, Stephen Foster State Park staff was notified of two canoeists that did not return from a two-night camping trip in the interior of the Okefenokee Swamp. Several DNR Law Enforcement officers began to prepare for the nighttime search, when they were notified by family members that the canoeists had exited the swamp at a closed park, but were not at their planned destination of Stephen Foster State Park. Game Warden First Class Sam Williams checked the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area near Folkston and located the two subjects. They were approximately 20 miles from their planned take out location. The subjects were provided with water and sports drinks due to mild dehydration. GWFC Williams transported them and their gear back to Stephen Foster State Park.

On June 21st, Game Warden First Class Sam Williams and Game Warden Joseph Cowart presented the Charlton County Board of Commissioners with an annual update at the June public meeting. The officers presented board members and county citizens with an update on the department's response during and after Hurricane Irma, during the West Mims Fire, and updates in the work section. The presentation was well received.

On June 23rd, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Game Warden First Class Sam Williams conducted a vessel patrol on the St. Mary's River from Colerain to a few miles north of St. George. During the patrol several boaters and kayakers were encountered. While ensuring that the kayakers had personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board, it was discovered that one of them was not in possession of a PFD. The officers loaned the subject a PFD for his return trip and the violation of operating a vessel without a PFD was documented.

WARE COUNTY

On June 18th, Game Warden First Class Judd Sears and GWFC Sam Williams conducted a boating safety presentation for Camp Reveille at Laura Walker State Park. Approximately 80 kids were in attendance. The officers demonstrated the proper way to wear different types of personal flotation devices (PFDs) and how to choose the right size. They also showed the participants other types of boating safety equipment and how it is used.

On June 17th, Corporal Jason Shipes conducted a boating safety patrol at Laura Walker State Park Lake. Cpl. Shipes discovered on boat operator failed to have the required fire extinguisher onboard as well as unserviceable personal flotation devices as required by state law. Cpl. Shipes documented each of the safety issues and provided the operator of the vessel with the most current boating safety handbook.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

GLYNN COUNTY

On June 23rd, SGT Chris Ridley, RFC Colte Shaske, and Cadet Cassidy Gerstorff were patrolling Paulk's Pasture WMA when SGT Ridley found sign of ATV use on the management area. The Game wardens were able to track 2 ATVs operating in the area. The subjects were cited for Illegal Use of ATV on Wildlife Management Area.