



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
March 18 – March 24, 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)

HARALSON COUNTY

March 24th, Sgt. Eric Brown and GWFC Daniel Gray checked a baited turkey hunting site that they had previously discovered. While checking the site game wardens checked 4 hunters and two of them were issued a citation for hunting big game over bait. Game wardens also located a truck in another area while they were out patrolling. While approaching the vehicle they heard two shots close by. Cpl. Chad Cox and Cpl Brooks Varnell along with K9 Taz were called in to assist. Game wardens located a subject turkey hunting. The subject was arrested and charge for possession of firearm by convicted felon, non-resident hunting with resident license and resident big game license, using unlawful equipment (electronic call), and hunting out of season. The subject had illegally killed two wood ducks.



CARROLL COUNTY

March 23rd, Cpl. Chad Cox and GWFC Daniel Gray checked Lake Paradise for fishing activity. During the patrol game wardens checked two fishermen, and no violations were detected.

FULTON COUNTY

March 19th, Sgt. Eric Brown and GWFC Daniel Gray continued working on an illegal dumping investigation from the previous week. Two individuals were cited for several illegal dumpsites at the HWY 166 DNR boat ramp.

PAULDING COUNTY

March 24th, Cpl. Chad Cox responded to a call about two individuals target practicing on Paulding Forest WMA. When Cpl. Cox arrived he located two males leaving the area. After talking with them they admitted to shooting several guns at clay and wooden targets. They had left all their trash at the location on the power lines. Each of them was issued a citation for illegal target practicing on a WMA. After cleaning the area Cpl. Cox also warned them for littering.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BANKS COUNTY

On March 20th, Game Wardens Mike Burgamy, Adam Loudermilk, and Ryan Locke worked a concentrated fishing enforcement detail at Commerce watershed for fishing violations. During the detail the Game Wardens identified 8 individuals who had caught 456 Crappie over their limit. The individuals were issued citations for the violations and the fish were donated to needy families. One individual was also charged with littering after attempting to throw a bag of fish into the lake.

BARROW COUNTY

On March 18th, GWFC Chris Kernahan conducted a State Park patrol at Fort Yargo. While on patrol, he made contact with a suspicious subject who was under the influence of a stimulant drug. GWFC Kernahan determined that the subject had injected methamphetamine earlier that date and was still in possession of the substance. GWFC Kernahan arrested the subject and transported him to jail.

HALL COUNTY

On March 22nd, Sgt. Burgamy encountered a subject in Rabbittown who was in possession of marijuana. Game Warden Goss responded for assistance. The subject was cited and released.

On March 23rd, GWFC Kernahan patrolled Hall Co. for hunting activity. While on patrol, he observed a suspicious subject operate a pick-up truck full of scrap building materials in an area known for illegal dumping activity. GWFC Kernahan surveilled the subject for a short period and observed him dump the building materials in a wooded area on private property. GWFC Kernahan observed the subject leave the area, and then he conducted a traffic stop on the subject. The subject admitted that he dumped the building materials to circumvent paying the appropriate landfill fees, and that he had dumped various debris at that location previously. GWFC Kernahan apprehended the subject and addressed the violations.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On March 18th, Game Wardens Beth Gilbert and GWFC Chad Chambers responded to a report of fishing without permission along Hardman Road. Two adult males admitted to fishing without permission on private property on Hardman Road. Each man received a citation for fishing without permission. Two trout were seized from the men and donated to a needy family.

On March 24th, GWFC Joe Hill checked a group of five turkey hunters in Habersham County. Four of the five subjects did not possess a valid hunting license or big game license. Two of the subjects were found to be hunting over bait. The Game Warden issued a total of four citations for hunting without a license, two citations for hunting big game over bait, and four warning for hunting big game without a big game license.

RABUN COUNTY

On March 20th, while patrolling public access ramps on Lake Burton for fishing and boating activity, game warden Beth Gilbert observed two boats with a commercial tree company operating near the Lake Burton Trout Hatchery boat ramp. Both vessels lacked PFDs, fire extinguishers, and one vessel had no registration, while the other had expired registration. Two adult males with the tree company received citations for operating a vessel without PFDs, and written warnings for operating a vessel without serviceable fire extinguishers and with no/expired registration.

WHITE COUNTY

On March 18th, Sgt. Steve Seitz and GWFC Joe Hill checked trout fishermen on the Chattahoochee River on Chattahoochee WMA. The Game Wardens issued one nonresident a citation for nonresident fishing without a license and a warning for nonresident fishing without a trout license.

On March 24th, Sgt. Steve Seitz and Cpl. Anne Wiley patrolled the Chattahoochee River, Dukes Creek and Smith Creek for fishing activity. The game wardens checked several fishermen on all streams. One written warning was issued for fishing without permission on the private section of the Chattahoochee River on Poplar Stump Rd, two fishermen were warned for fishing without a license and trout license, and one fisherman on Dukes Creek was warned for fishing with unlawful equipment (barbed hooks) in the special regulation stream.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

NEWTON COUNTY

On March 19th, Game Warden Dan Schay completed a trespassing investigation and a violation of criminal trespass was documented.

On March 23rd, Game Warden Dan Schay patrolled Newton County for fishing activity and a violation of fishing without a license was documented.

On March 25th, Game Warden Dan Schay patrolled Newton County for hunting activity and a violation of hunting big game over bait (turkey) was documented.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On March 24th, Cpl. David Allen responded to a hunting without permission complaint in Hancock County. Two Subjects were cited for hunting without permission.

MORGAN COUNTY

On March 24th, Game Warden Ricky Boles patrolled Morgan county for Turkey Hunting Activity. A violation for Hunting Big Game Over Bait (Turkey) was documented.

GREENE COUNTY

On March 24th, CPL. Derrell Worth patrolled Greene county for Turkey Hunting Activity. Violations for Hunting Big Game Over Bait (Turkey) were Documented.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On March 25th, CPL Derrell Worth and Game Warden Jason Harrison Patrolled Oglethorpe County for Turkey Hunting Activity. Violations for Hunting Big Game Over Bait (Turkey) and Illegal Hen Turkey Harvest were Documented.

On March 24th RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Oglethorpe County for turkey hunting activity. One violation of hunting big game over bait was documented.

WALTON COUNTY

On March 23rd and 24th, Game Warden Jason Harrison patrolled Hard Labor Creek Reservoir for Fishing and Boating Activity. Violations for Fishing Without a License, Operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's and Operating Vessel w/o registration were documented.

WILKES COUNTY

On March 24th Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Mark Patterson patrolled portions of Wilkes County for turkey hunting activity. During this patrol the Game Wardens documented violations of hunting big game over bait, non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, hunting turkey with an illegal weapon, hunting within 50yds of a WMA road, and failure to sign in on a WMA.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the afternoon of March 18th Game Warden Jon Segars and Corporal Bubba Stanford worked a boating incident on Lake Sinclair. Two fishermen were traveling the lake and were ejected from their vessel. Both fishermen were treated for minor injuries.

On the afternoon of March 22nd Corporal Bubba Stanford located two subjects fishing on Bartram WMA. It was discovered both subjects had driven into a restricted area and citations were issued.

WILKINSON COUNTY

On the morning of March 24th Game Warden Josh Cockrell patrolled private property in Wilkinson County. Three turkey hunters were located hunting turkeys over bait and appropriate citations were issued.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

COLQUITT COUNTY

On March 20th Game Warden David Jones received a tip of a turkey being killed out of season. Jones located the suspect's address and evidence of the kill in plain sight. When interviewed, the suspect admitted the turkey was killed around 8 am on that day. The suspect was charged for hunting out of season and hunting without a big game license.

BROOKS COUNTY

On March 24th, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey and Sgt. David Ruddell checked several areas previously located that had been baited for turkey. During this patrol, four subjects were charged with hunting turkey over bait. Later that day, two kayakers were checked on the Little River at the Miller Bridge ramp. One subject, a juvenile, was given verbal guidance for fishing w/o a license and operating the kayak without a PFD. The other subject was warned for operating a kayak without a PFD.

MITCHELL COUNTY

On March 24th, Corporal Jon Penuel encountered two hog hunters parked on the side of the road. During a check of the hunters' license and identification, Cpl. Penuel discovered that one of the subjects had an active arrest warrant for failing to appear in court for a previous traffic citation. Cpl. Penuel placed the subject under arrest, and during a search of the subject, Cpl. Penuel located a pipe used for smoking methamphetamine as well as a small bag of marijuana. The subject was taken into custody for the outstanding warrant and also charged with possession of marijuana.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

On March 24th, Corporal Jon Penuel and Sergeant Bob Holley patrolled Lake Seminole during the late afternoon hours. During the patrol, the officers observed a boat under way occupied by a male and female, with the female subject holding a small child in her lap. The child was not wearing a life jacket, so the officers stopped the boat to speak with the operator about the violation. After speaking with the two subjects about the violation, the male operator was charged with allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD (life jacket).

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

DODGE COUNTY

On March 23rd, Corporal Dan Stiles and Game Warden Allen Mills conducted a patrol at the Dodge County Public Fishing Area. Several visitors to the area were checked for license and regulation compliance. Verbal guidance was given for minor violations.



Corporal Stiles interacting with a visitor to DCPFA.

On March 24th, Game Warden Allen Mills checked baited locations he had found earlier in the week. A suspect was located in a blind that was over bait and was on property he did not have permission to hunt. Violations for hunting big game over bait and hunting without written permission were documented.



Baited blind located on property w/o permission.

Later that day, Game Warden Mills patrolled McCranies boat landing. Game Warden Mills checked three anglers for license and creel compliance. Violations for fishing without a license and take/possess illegal size fish (striped bass) were documented.

LAURENS COUNTY

On March 24th, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne patrolled an area baited with corn and millet seed on a hunting lease. RFC Horne located two poachers hunting turkeys over the baited area. RFC Horne documented two violations for hunting big game (turkey) over bait.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On Sunday March 18, Sergeant Morty Wood was patrolling in Berrien County and checked several anglers fishing in a creek on the shoulder of Ernest Sumner Road in the West Berrien community. Four of the five anglers did not possess a valid fishing license. One of the anglers had active warrants out of Nashville. He was taken into custody and transported to the Berrien County Jail without incident.

ATKINSON COUNTY

On Saturday March 24, Sergeant Morty Wood patrolled areas in Atkinson County for turkey hunting activity. Sergeant Wood checked several hunters that morning and found three hunters to be hunting in baited areas. Citations were issued for hunting big game over bait, hunting with unplugged shotgun, and hunting with unlawful equipment (electronic call).



Atkinson County Baited areas

EVANS COUNTY

On March 18, Game Warden Patrick Gibbs patrolled Evans County PFA. A total of 15 license were checked. 2 subjects were issued warnings for fishing without a license. 1 subject was arrested after a license check determined the subject had 3 active warrants out of Bulloch County.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On March 23rd, Game Warden First Class Bobby Sanders and Game Warden Randell Meeks were patrolling Bullard Creek WMA. The Game Wardens checked several people fishing with one violation of fishing without a license being documented.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On March 24th Game Warden First Class Bobby Sanders and Game Warden Cameron Dyal were patrolling landings along the Altamaha River. Several boaters were encountered and one violation for operating a vessel without a life jacket was documented at Dead River Landing.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Sunday the 18th of March, Cpl. Morgan was patrolling the Ogeechee River near King's Ferry and I-95. A personal watercraft (PWC) was stopped for going under the I-95 bridge while running at a speed that had the PWC on plane. By law, all vessels must slow to idle speed within 100 feet of a bridge. The operator was cited for the offense.

On Tuesday the 20th, RFC Morris patrolled Bryan County. While on patrol he found a person burning without a permit on Dunham Marsh Road. The man was collecting debris from others and burning the debris on his property. This man also has a landscape business. It is believed that the man was burning the debris as a part of his business. The man was cited for burning without a permit.

RFC Morris also found a man dumping a large pile of trash in a ditch off of Bryan Co-op Road. This person was cited for unlawful dumping. Unlawful dumping is a charge that has penalties that are higher than a littering charge.

LIBERTY COUNTY

On the evening of March 24, 2018, Cpl. Bill Bryson was notified that a 3-year-old autistic child that went missing earlier in the day in Liberty County. The child was last seen on a playground that was a part of a subdivision. Shortly before his arrival, Cpl Bryson was notified that the child was recovered in a nearby pond. It is believed that the child drowned.