



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**May 13– May 19, 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)**

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown and GWFC Daniel Gray patrolled on Lake Seaton and Lake Carroll for fishing and boating activity. During the patrol 15 violations were detected. Citations and warnings were issued for fishing w/o license, fishing w/o permission, operating vessel w/o registration, and operating vessel w/o PFD's.

### **HARALSON COUNTY**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown, Cpl. Brooks Varnell and GWFC Daniel Gray assisted with the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Haralson County Trout Rodeo. During the event youth and seniors get to fish for trout and catfish, shoot bow and arrows, and learn to shoot BB guns. The event is free and offers breakfast, lunch and prizes for all participants. The event is sponsored by the Haralson County Wildlife Association.

### **FLOYD COUNTY**

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens GWFC Roger McConkey and Cadet Jeffery Turner completed an investigation into turkey hunting over bait. During the investigation, two hunters were found to have hunted big game over bait in violation of Georgia State law. One hunter was charged with hunting big game (turkey) over bait during the previous week. Evidence was also found showing a second hunter who had hunted deer over bait during deer season. This hunter was also charged with hunting big game (deer) over bait.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens GWFC Roger McConkey and Cadet Jeffery Turner patrolled Rocky Mountain PFA for fishing and boating activity. During the patrol, two anglers were located fishing a closed area of the PFA. The two anglers were husband and wife who had walked from another lake, open to fishing, to the closed, no public access lake. A citation was issued to one of the anglers and a warning issued to the second.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Cpl. Shawn Elmore and Cadet Kevin Hurley patrolled John's Mountain WMA and located a couple camping illegally along John's Creek. The couple was issued a warning for illegal camping on a WMA.

### **DADE COUNTY**

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Cpl. Shawn Elmore and Cadet Kevin Hurley participated in the Dade County Ag Day. The wardens showed the students furs from several indigenous species. Each group was able to hold and learn about the animals and their habitat. There were approximately 400 students that attended the Dade County Ag Day 2018. Students were from the local elementary schools and the middle school.

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

### **HALL COUNTY**

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Ryan Locke and Corporal Eric Isom were patrolling Lake Lanier by vessel and encountered a subject found to be operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol. The subject was arrested for operating vessel under the influence and failure to obey a regulatory marker.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Ryan Locke and Corporal Eric Isom were patrolling Lake Lanier by vessel and encountered a subject found to be operating a vessel under the influence. The subject was arrested for operating a vessel under the influence, child endangerment (BUI), allowing underage child to ride in moving vessel without wearing PFD, and failure to obey a regulatory marker.

### **UNION COUNTY**

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Kevin Dyer and Sgt. Steve Seitz responded to a boating incident on Lake Nottely near the area known as the "S" curves. A single vessel struck a floating log causing the vessel to turn abruptly and run into the bank ejecting one of the passengers. Occupants of the vessel sustained minor injuries and Cpl. Dyer completed the necessary reports.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Kevin Dyer and a DNR Intern patrolled Nottely Lake for boating and fishing violations. Citations or warnings were issued for towing a skier/tuber without wearing a personal floating device, operating a vessel w/o personal floating devices and fishing without a license.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Steve Seitz patrolled Cooper Creek WMA for illegal activity. Multiple fishing license were checked and citations or warnings were issued for fishing without a license and fishing without a trout license. Cpl. Kevin Dyer and Sgt. Steve Seitz later patrolled Nottely Lake for boating and fishing violations. Citations or warnings were issued for creating a wake in a no wake zone and operating a vessel with an expired registration. Then Cpl. Kevin Dyer responded to a boating incident that occurred near the mouth of Young Cane Creek on Lake Nottely. A single vessel struck a submerged log floating in the lake which caused major damage to the lower outrigger of the vessel. No injuries were reported and Cpl. Dyer completed the necessary reports.

### **RABUN COUNTY**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Beth Gilbert was notified by Tallulah Gorge State Park staff of several people in the bottom of the gorge in the Sliding Rock area. Permits are required to access the gorge floor. No permits were issued on this date due to training. GW Gilbert located 7 adults exiting the gorge on the Sliding Rock Trail and issued 3 citations and 4 verbal warnings for criminal trespass.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Rabun County Sheriff's Deputies performed a traffic stop on a vehicle suspected to be connected to recent parkpass box breakins at Tallulah Gorge and Black Rock Mountain State Parks. GWFC Chad Chambers, Game Wardens Tommy Crabb and Beth Gilbert, and Cpl. Anne Wiley responded to the scene where a consent roadside search of the vehicle was performed. Both the driver and passenger in the vehicle were charged by Rabun County Sheriff's Office with possession of burglary tools, possession of drug related objects, and trafficking methamphetamine. Further charges may be pending.

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

### **CLARKE COUNTY**

On May 6<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Mark Patterson and Gwfc. Tim Butler documented several violations of fishing without a license and operating a vessel with insufficient pfd's. During the patrol one person was found to be in possession Xanax, marijuana, concentrated THC (felony), and drug related objects. The subject was arrested and turned over to the University of Georgia Police Department. Another person was found to have an active arrest warrant. The subject was placed into custody and turned over to the Clarke County Sheriff's Department.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> GWFC Tim Butler investigated a complaint of an individual possessing whitetail deer heads that had not been recorded on the hunters harvest record. A ten point deer head was confiscated and hunter was charged with failure to record harvest.

### **MORGAN COUNTY**

On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> Game Wardens, Sgt. Matt Garthright and Cadet John Rhodes were patrolling Swords Boat Ramp when they encountered two individuals that sparked their attention. One of the subjects was a male whom the Game Wardens determined was fishing without a license. The other subject, a female, was found to be in possession of marijuana. The male was charged with Fishing without a License and the female was charged with Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, Possession of Marijuana Less than One Ounce.

## **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> Game Wardens, Sgt. Matt Garthright and Cadet John Rhodes was patrolling the area of Sugar Creek Boat Ramp on Lake Oconee when they observed a small boat operating without lights after sunset. Further investigation of the boat revealed that all occupants were under the age of 21 and that there was alcohol beverages on the boat. The Game Wardens could also smell what they believed to be burnt marijuana. Search of the vessel revealed that one of the female passengers had some marijuana in her pocket book. The operator was given field sobriety exercises and arrested for Operating the Vessel under the Influence of Alcohol. Two passengers were charged with Underage Consumption of Alcohol and one was charged with Possession of Marijuana.

## **HANCOCK COUNTY:**

On Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, CPL. Worth patrolled in the area of Wallace Dam on Lake Sinclair. Two violations of failure to wear a PFD in a hazard area were documented.

## **LAKE OCONEE:**

Between Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, CPL. Allen taught two boater education classes and certified 69 people. Game Warden Schay and Game Warden Segars assisted.

On Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, CPL Worth patrolled Lake Oconee for boating activity. A violation of operating a PWC without wearing a PFD was documented. Later that day, CPL Worth and Game Warden Schay patrolled Lake Oconee for boating activity and violations for operating a vessel with improper lights and allowing underage persons to ride in a moving vessel without wearing PFDs were documented.

On Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, CPL. Allen and Game Warden Schay patrolled Lake Oconee for boating activity. Violations of failure to obey regulatory marker and operating a vessel within 100 feet of an object above idle speed were documented.

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

No activity to report.

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

No activity to report.

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

No activity to report.

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

### **BRYAN COUNTY**

On May 13th, Game Warden Jay Morgan patrolled the Ogeechee River downriver from King's Ferry boat ramp. Five boaters were cited for Failure to Obey Regulatory Markers at the idle speed zone at the boat ramp.

On May 15th, Game Warden Tim Morris received a call about an injured barred owl which he picked up and took to the rehabilitation center at Jekyll Island Sea Turtle Center.

### **LIBERTY COUNTY**

On May 18th, Game Warden Tim Morris presented an Information and Education program at Ft. Stewart Military Base for Family Safety Day which was attended by nearly 800 soldiers and their families.

## **OFFSHORE/FEDERAL WATERS**

On May 13th, Game Wardens Bill Bryson, Kiel Toney, and Jack Thain conducted a Joint Enforcement Agreement patrol, checking offshore fishermen at the CAT and DUA reefs. No violations were found.

## **GLYNN COUNTY**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Chris Ridley, RFC's David Brady and Colte Shaske worked a drowning at the Georgetown boat ramp. An elderly male drowned while attempting to load his boat in the early morning hours. His vehicle was backed down on the ramp with the driver's door open. He and his boat were discovered floating just beyond the boat ramp.

On May 12, Sgt. Chris Ridley and RFC David Brady attended the 80<sup>th</sup> annual Blessing of the Fleet in Brunswick. This celebration blesses the shrimping fleet just before the opening of shrimp season.

On May 13, Sgts. Mark Carson, Sgt. Chris Ridley, RFC David Brady, and RFC Colte Shaske responded to Massingale Park on East Beach on St. Simons Island for a drowning. Ridley, Brady, and Shaske patrolled the waters searching for a subject that had went in the water to save several people who were struggling with swimming. He got out a toddler before the current took him under. Sgt. Carson was on the beach and discovered that a female that was taken out of the water had also drowned. The female's body was at the hospital. The body of the male was located the next morning May 14<sup>th</sup>.