



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**November 11 – November 17, 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)**

### **FULTON COUNTY**

November 17<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray and GW Ryan Shorter were patrolling in Fulton County and observed someone hunting on a powerline. The hunter began to climb down the tree when he saw the game wardens approaching him. He left his stand and crossbow in the woods and left the area. The hunter was called and eventually met with game wardens. The hunter stated the reason he left his stand was because he knew his hunting license were expired. The hunter was charged with hunting w/o license, hunting w/o big game license, and failure to allow inspection.

### **HARALSON COUNTY**

November 17<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray and GW Ryan Shorter were conducting surveillance in a field where they had been receiving night deer hunting complaints. During the patrol one vehicle was observed shining a handheld light out of the vehicle's window. One individual was charged for blinding wildlife with a light.

### **PAULDING COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Chad Cox was patrolling Sheffield WMA and located a tent in the campground of the WMA. He contacted Sgt. Eric Brown and determined the campers had been at the same site for almost a month. They were then issued a citation for illegal camping on the WMA.

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Frank Pucci was patrolling Pine Log WMA in Bartow County. He came across four individuals in a green Jeep stuck in a ditch on the side of the main road. The driver told Game Warden Pucci he was, "...just hitting mud holes and splashing around." Game Warden Pucci told the driver they cannot drive off the main road while on the WMA. The driver was given a citation for driving in an unauthorized area on the WMA.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Byron Young and Warden Tyler Lewis checked an area near Adairsville that has received several complaints of subjects hunting waterfowl without permission. The officers located one waterfowl hunter hunting from the CSX railroad. The hunter did not have permission to hunt any property in the area. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting without permission.

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

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Vickery responded to a call to check duck hunters on a watershed lake in Franklin County. Four hunters were located and their licenses were checked. One subject was issued a citation for hunting without a license. He was also issued a warning for hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license and hunting without a Federal waterfowl stamp.

### **HART COUNTY**

On the evening of November 11<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Derek Dillard and Corporal Craig Fulghum worked a landowner's complaint of hunting without permission that had occurred the previous day. The Game Wardens made contact with multiple hunters and found two subjects hunting without a license and hunting without big game licenses for which citations were issued. A citation was also issued to one subject for hunting without permission for the incident which had occurred the previous day.

### **STEPHENS COUNTY**

While checking hunters on Chattahoochee National Forest on November 15<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Jonathan Segars made contact with an individual who had taken a four point buck. While checking the hunter's harvest log, it was discovered that the hunter had already taken a buck with less than four points on one side. The hunter was issued a citation and the deer was confiscated. It was turned over to local processor for donation to a needy family.

On Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Jonathan Segars checked several duck hunters on Eastanollee Creek in Stephens County. The hunter's licenses were checked and as a result three warnings were issued for hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license.

#### **HABERSHAM COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Jonathan Segars responded to an environmental complaint on Lake Russell WMA. Once on-scene, it was discovered that an individual had dumped flooring debris, including carpet. After a brief investigation, the individual was located and interviewed. During the interview, the individual admitted to dumping the debris. A citation was issued for dumping of egregious litter.

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

#### **MADISON COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup> Gwfc. Tim Butler cited one person for illegal burning of egregious waste.

#### **OCONEE COUNTY**

On November 11<sup>th</sup> Gwfc. Tim Butler patrolled the county for hunting and fishing activity. One person was arrested during the patrol for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug related objects, hunting without permission, hunting deer over bait without permission, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting without fluorescent orange, and hunting without hunter education. During the patrol two additional people were found fishing without a license.

On November 17<sup>th</sup> Gwfc. Tim Butler cited one person for illegal burning of egregious waste.

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

#### **HARRIS COUNTY**

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Dean Gibson and Cpl. Mitch Oliver were working the quota hunt at Blanton Creek Wildlife Management Area. A hunter was found to be in possession of an illegal size buck for the county and management area. The hunter was issued a citation for taking/possession of an illegal antlered deer from a QDM/antler restricted county.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Mitch Oliver and Game Warden Dean Gibson were patrolling the county for hunting activity when they observed a truck parked in the edge of a field. The officers located a freshly sawed off 9 point rack in the bed of the truck and found where the deer had been field dressed close by. The tag of the truck provided the owners information and allowed the officers to check the owners hunting license. It appeared that the owner of the truck lived in Alabama and was hunting with resident licenses. He did not have a deer recorded on his harvest report either. The officers began searching for the hunter and located a subject in a deer stand. The hunter was not the owner of the truck, but admitted to killing the deer the evening before. He was also from Alabama and was in possession of resident hunting license. That subject made contact with the owner of the truck and he soon met the officers at the vehicle. It was verified that he was in possession of resident hunting license as well. Both hunters were charged with non-resident hunting with a resident license and given warnings for non-resident hunting without non-resident big game license. The hunter that killed the deer was issued a warning for failure to participate in the recording and reporting requirements for game animals.

#### **LAMAR COUNTY**

On Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Keith Page completed an investigation on three subjects for hunting deer at night. Previously, one suspect was caught dumping a deer carcass on the side of a county road in Lamar County. Page apprehended that suspect and through his investigation found that the deer was killed at night from the road in Crawford County. His investigation identified two more suspects who were involved in multiple cases where deer had been shot at night and from the roadway in Crawford County. Through his investigation Page identified

a total of three suspects who had shot three deer (1 buck, 2 does) from the roadway at night on three different occasions. When interviewed and presented with the evidence against them, all three confessed to their crimes. Page charged all three suspects with multiple counts of hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle. One suspect was also charged with unlawful dumping, for discarding a deer carcass on someone's private property.

## **MUSCOGEE COUNTY**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Mitch Oliver and Game Warden Dean Gibson were checking for hunting activity when they located a truck parked on city property in Columbus. The officers walked into the property to attempt to locate the subject they believed was hunting and ultimately discovered that three subjects were hunting on the property. One of the subjects was a known violator to Cpl. Oliver and had been charged for hunting on the property in the past. Two of the subjects did not have a current hunting license and none of the three were wearing fluorescent orange. The subject who had been caught in the past was charged with hunting without permission, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange. The second subject was charged with hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and given a warning for hunting without permission. The final subject was issued a citation for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and issued a warning for hunting without permission.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Ethan Franklin was notified by Technician Mike Crumbley of three deer (1 whole, and 2 skulls) that were dropped off at a local deer processor in Columbus. The deer were said to have been brought from Kansas. Franklin spoke with the owners of the deer cooler and advised them of the law and protocols of handling/disposing of deer from CWD positive states. Franklin then contacted the subject who had brought the deer into Georgia and gathered details on the incident. On November 16<sup>th</sup>, the subject was charged with the offense of illegal importation of cervid carcass or parts from a CWD-positive state.

## **TAYLOR COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens from Region 4 participated in a multi-work unit effort to apprehend night deer hunters throughout the county. Two subjects were found to be illuminating crop fields in an attempt to shoot deer after legal hunting hours. Both subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road and hunting from a vehicle.

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

### **WORTH COUNTY**

On the evening of November 16<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade encountered a subject walking across a cotton field and returning to his truck after an evening hunt. Cpl. Wade determined the subject was in possession of marijuana and issued the subject a citation for VGCSA (Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act)

On the morning of November 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade investigated a complaint of a subject hunting from the roadway. The complainant stated that a subject had parked near the roadway and shot a deer just before it crossed the road. After a thorough investigation the subject was charged with hunting from a public road and the deer was confiscated and donated to a local mission.

### **LEE COUNTY**

On the afternoon of November 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade investigated a possible over the limit of antlered deer complaint. Cpl. Wade made contact with suspect and it was determined that he had previously taken two antlered bucks prior to shooting a five pointer on this morning. The subject was charged with taking over the limit of antlered deer and the deer confiscated.

## **MITCHELL COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Warden Eric White encountered five subjects (four adults and one juvenile) hunting ducks. While observing the hunters, White witnessed one subject shoot at a heron that was circling the area. Later, while White was inspecting the hunters licenses, he found the area baited with corn. The four adult hunters were cited for hunting ducks over bait and a warning was issued to the hunter that attempted to shoot the heron. Twelve wood ducks were confiscated from the hunters.

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

### **WILCOX COUNTY**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Chris Thompson was working a hunting complaint in Abbeville. Upon checking the complaint location, one subject was located in a deer stand on the property. The subject was not wearing any fluorescent hunter orange and was cited for the violation. Other suspects in the complaint were given verbal guidance.

### **WHEELER COUNTY**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden First Class Rodney Horne was on patrol and checked a hunter not wearing fluorescent orange. GW Horne detected that the hunter had been consuming alcohol. GW Horne determined the hunter was impaired and the hunter was arrested for (HUI) hunting under the influence and hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden First Class Rodney Horne apprehended a hunter who was hunting deer without wearing a fluorescent orange vest and issued a citation to the hunter for the offense.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles Game Warden First Class Rodney Horne checked four vessels and nine waterfowl hunters on the Oconee River in Wheeler County. Corporal Stiles and GW Horne documented one violation for operating a vessel without personal flotation devices readily accessible, and three violations for hunting migratory birds without a GA migratory bird license.

### **IRWIN COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal John Stokes and Game Warden John Kennedy patrolled the Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area during a firearms big game check-in hunt. Twenty hunters were checked for license compliance. Five violations were documented for transporting a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a Wildlife Management Area.

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Allen Mills conducted a patrol at Hugh Gillis Public Fishing Area. One vessel and one angler were checked for safety equipment and license compliance. Violations for operating a vessel with expired registration and operating a vessel without a throwable device was documented.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden First Class Rodney Horne and Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled Laurens County for hunting activity. Two deer hunters were checked for licenses. Violations for hunting without a big game license, hunting without a hunting license, hunting big game without a harvest record, hunting without hunting safety certification, and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

### **TELFAIR COUNTY**

On November 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Mills conducted patrols at Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area during a check-in big game hunt. 38 hunters were checked for license and regulation compliance. Nine violations were documented which included possession/transportation of a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a WMA, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license. Verbal guidance was given for other minor violations.

## ATKINSON COUNTY

On Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto and Game Warden Thomas Sibley worked a complaint related to someone shooting an eight-point buck from a county maintained road in the Axson area. The investigation led to several warnings and citations being issued to two subjects for hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a vehicle. The meat from the deer was donated to a needy family in the county.



## LANIER COUNTY

On Friday November 16, 2018, Sergeant Morty Wood was working an area in northern Lanier County for night deer hunting activities. During this stakeout, Sergeant Wood observed a truck approach his location and saw lights being shined out both the driver's window and the passenger's window of the truck. The occupants of the truck continued to shine the fields, ditches, and cut overs for approximately two miles before Sergeant Wood stopped the truck. Two loaded rifles were found in the cab of the truck. Corporal Tim Hutto and Game Warden Thomas Sibley were called in to assist with the stop. Charges were made against both of the truck's occupants for hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, hunting big game from a public road, and possession of an open container of alcohol.



## **BERRIEN COUNTY**

On the morning of November 17<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Morty Wood patrolled the Enigma-Alapaha areas for morning waterfowl hunting activities. Sergeant Wood located a duck shoot and found it to be baited with shelled corn. Charges were made against seven hunters for hunting over bait and one hunter received a warning for hunting without a Georgia migratory bird stamp.

## **PIERCE COUNTY**

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Shipes, Game Warden First Class Daniel North, and Game Warden First Class Judd Sears attended career day at Blackshear elementary school. Approximately 300 kids were in attendance. These game wardens spoke with the kids about how to become a game warden and the daily things they encounter.



## **CLINCH COUNTY**

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree encountered a dog deer hunter on Ga Highway 187 right-of-way with a loaded rifle in his hands. The violation of hunting big game from a public road was documented.

## **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Shipes and Sergeant Patrick Dupree heard a high-powered rifle shot close to their location while listening for early morning duck hunting activity in west Echols. While checking the area the officers located a vehicle parked off the roadway with several people standing around it. Upon speaking with them, it was determined all had been hunting that morning. Officers located a young antlered deer laying in the food plot and determined that one of the subjects had killed it. No one could produce a valid license when asked. Three of the subjects were issued citations for non-resident hunting without a license and non-resident hunting big game without a big game license.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Shipes and Sargent Patrick Dupree were patrolling in West Echols for deer dogging activity. After locating several hunters actively involved in a deer race, the officers checked each for the required license and permits. Two citations were issued for operating a vehicle without properly displaying the permit number.

## **WARE COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Shipes received a call from a still hunting club. The club stated that they had caught one of the neighboring dog hunting club's dogs in the middle of their club. Cpl. Shipes turned the call over to Cpl. Pool. Cpl. Shipes and Cpl. Pool responded to the club and located the dog. The owner of the dog was contacted by calling the number on the dog's collar. Cpl. Pool and Cpl. Shipes met the owner of the dog, whom then admitted that the dog got past them while chasing a deer. Cpl. Pool issued the owner a citation for, failure to keep hunting dogs on permitted property.

## **BULLOCH COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup> Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Game Warden First Class Jordan Crawford patrolled Bulloch County for waterfowl hunting activity. One pond that the Wardens checked was found to be baited with shelled corn. The illegal hunt netted a total of nine violations. Violations included hunting ducks over bait, hunting without a license, hunting without a federal duck stamp and hunting without Georgia migratory bird and waterfowl stamp. Four illegally taken ducks were also confiscated and given to a needy family.



#### **EFFINGHAM COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup> Game Warden First Class Jordan Crawford patrolled Effingham County looking for hunting activity. During the patrol a total of six violations were documented. Violations included hunting deer without florescent orange, hunting without a license, and failure to keep deer dogs on permitted property.

#### **SCREVEN COUNTY**

On November 12<sup>th</sup> Corporal Shaymus McNeely completed an investigation of a night hunting incident that occurred on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The investigation of the incident resulted in two suspects in an adjoining county being identified. Both suspects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.

#### **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On November 11<sup>th</sup> at approximately 20:30 hours Game Warden Cameron Dyal and Corporal Kevin Joyce were patrolling Jeff Davis County near the Graham area for night deer hunting activity. Game Wardens encountered a vehicle parked on JP Hall Road and observed the passenger holding a spot light out of the vehicle illuminating a clear cut. Game wardens observed the driver fire a shot from the driver side window. Violations were addressed for night deer hunting, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle. A female white tail deer that had been shot was seized.

#### **APPLING COUNTY**

On November 13<sup>th</sup> Corporal Chase Altman responded to a call about shots fired after dark. One hunter was found to be in possession of a doe deer that had been killed illegally at night. One citation for hunting deer at night was documented.

#### **TATTNALL COUNTY**

On November 16<sup>th</sup> at approximately 20:15 hours Game Wardens Cameron Dyal and Patrick Gibbs were conducting patrols in Tattnall County on Area Line Road in reference to a night deer hunting complaint. Game Wardens observed a vehicle actively shining a peanut field. Game Wardens stopped the vehicle and the subjects advised they were hunting coyotes and hogs. Violations were addressed for hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road, hunting without permission.

### **APPLING COUNTY**

On November 16<sup>th</sup> at approximately 22:00 hrs. Game Wardens Cameron Dyal and Patrick Gibbs responded to a land owner complaint of night deer hunting on Wilbur Road. The land owner provided a vehicle tag number as well as a name of one of the subjects that were participating in the activities. After further investigations Game Wardens contacted the three subjects involved and interviewed them. Violations were addressed for hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

### **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Kevin Joyce and Sergeant Jon Barnard were patrolling the county for after-hours waterfowl hunting activity. Shortly after sunset Cpl. Joyce heard several shots not far from his location. Cpl. Joyce moved several times, each time closing the distance to the area of the shots. Upon arrival at the hunting area Cpl. Joyce located four hunters. All hunters were checked for licenses and bag limit compliance. Several violations were documented including hunting waterfowl after hours, hunting without a license, hunting without a Georgia Migratory license, and hunting without a Federal Duck Stamp.

### **TATTNALL COUNTY**

On November 17<sup>th</sup> at approximately 07:15 hrs. Game Wardens Cameron Dyal and Patrick Gibbs were patrolling Tattall County for waterfowl hunting activity. Game Wardens encountered five subjects hunting waterfowl on Slader Durrence Road. Violations were addressed for hunting waterfowl without federal migratory bird stamp and for hunting without a license.

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

No activity to report.