



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations  
Weekly Report  
November 4 – November 10, 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)**

### **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, CPL Bart Hendrix checked a complaint that Game Warden Frank Pucci had received several weeks earlier of hunting over bait and hunting a closed area of US Army Corp of Engineer property off Mill Creek Rd in Woodstock. GW Pucci was able to locate several tree stands, a blind, and a trail camera in the area on the initial call from the complainant. CPL Hendrix located a hunter, not wearing fluorescent orange as required by law, in a tree stand and hunting directly over whole corn. The hunter admitted to knowing the area was closed for hunting and the stands, blind, camera, and corn he had put out earlier. He was issued citations for hunting without permission and hunting big game over bait. He was warned for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and hunting big game without a license.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, SGT Jason Roberson and CPL Bart Hendrix conducted a foot patrol on Allatoona WMA near Old Shoal Creek Trail in Canton. As the Game Wardens returned to their patrol truck a group of hikers told the Game Wardens they had seen some men dragging a deer from the woods. The Game Wardens were able to locate drag marks on the trail and back tracked the blood evidence to property owned by Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority; this property is closed to hunting. SGT Roberson and CPL Hendrix had previously heard a shot nearby and were attempting to locate the hunters. The Game Wardens had documented the license plates and parking area of the vehicles parked at the gate. They were able to locate the owner of the suspected truck the deer had been loaded in. After speaking with the owner, the Game Wardens learned the name of the hunter and asked him about his hunting activities. The hunter admitted to hunting on the county property and was cited for hunting without permission.

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

November 3rd, GWFC Daniel Gray and Game Warden Ryan Shorter patrolled on Sweetwater Creek State Park. During the patrol two citations were issued for fishing without a license.

### **PAULDING COUNTY**

November 4th, Cpl. Chad Cox and Game Warden Garrett Pownall was investigating a complaint of a hunter killing over the limit of bucks. During the investigation it became apparent that one of the deer was killed by another hunter. The hunter purchased the required licenses after harvesting the deer. The game wardens issued the hunter a citation for hunting without a hunting license and hunting without a big game license. The ten-point deer was confiscated and was given to a needy family.

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

November 6<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray and Game Warden Ryan Shorter responded to a hunting w/o permission complaint in Whitesburg. One individual was cited for hunting without permission and hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

### **GORDON COUNTY**

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Corporal Shawn Elmore was checking a hunting without permission complaint on Red Bud area and located a vehicle parked near the complaint area. While on foot patrol, Cpl. Elmore heard a shot from the area of the vehicle. Cpl. Elmore went to the area of the vehicle and located three hunters (2 adults and 1 juvenile) leaving the area. Cpl. Elmore made contact with the hunters. It was found they had been hunting deer without wearing the required fluorescent orange and neither adult had taken hunter education. Further investigation revealed one of the Calhoun men had killed a gobbler turkey with a high powered rifle. Citations were issued for hunting deer without fluorescent orange, hunting without hunter education, and hunting turkeys out of season. The Calhoun man that killed the turkey was issued warnings for hunting turkey with an illegal weapon and contributing to the delinquency of a minor for allowing the child to hunt without wearing fluorescent orange. The gobbler was confiscated and donated to a family in the Gordon County area.



*Confiscated gobbler killed out of season in Gordon County*

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

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On November 10, GWFC Chris Kernahan conducted an area check on private property for illegal hunting activity. During the area check, he made contact with multiple subjects who were hunting without permission. Through further investigation, GWFC Kernahan located evidence on the ground that indicated a deer had recently been harvested on the property. GWFC Kernahan confronted the subjects with the evidence, and one of the them admitted to illegally harvesting a doe with a modern firearm during an antlered buck only opportunity date. The subject also failed to game check the deer. GWFC Kernahan addressed the violations.

Later that afternoon, GWFC Kernahan completed an illegal hunting investigation. The investigation concerned multiple subjects who hunted without permission. On September 20, GWFC Kernahan conducted an area check on private property where no one had permission to hunt, and located multiple baited deer stands. GWFC Kernahan observed sign that led from the stands, back to multiple adjacent residences. He also noted that trail cameras were also illegally placed on the property. On September 22, GWFC Kernahan attempted to make contact with the subjects actively hunting from the stands. He proceeded to locate multiple subjects hunting without permission, hunting big game over bait, hunting without licenses, and hunting without big game licenses. The subjects admitted to knowingly hunting without permission on the property dating back to the 2009 deer season. GWFC Kernahan detained the subjects, and secured the trail cameras into evidence. GWFC Kernahan mirandized the subjects, and requested that they provide written confessions. The subjects voluntarily agreed, and admitted to illegally harvesting 18 total deer from the property. GWFC Kernahan advised the subjects that he would continue the investigation, and file formal charges at a later date. GWFC Kernahan secured search warrants for the trail cameras, and the subjects' social media accounts. Upon examining the evidence, GWFC Kernahan found further proof of the subjects hunting without permission, taking over the limit of antlered deer, unlawfully enticing game animals, hunting deer with unlawful equipment, taking of totally protected species, recording and reporting requirement violations for game animals, hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange, and taking over the limit of waterfowl. At the conclusion of the investigation, GWFC Kernahan addressed the violations with the subjects, and seized antlers.

## **JACKSON COUNTY**

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Isom utilized his K9 partner Colt to locate a subject hunting without permission, without orange, and the subject had just placed out whole corn in front of the stand. The subject was issued citations and was advised to remove his equipment from the property.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Isom and Colt located a subject who was hunting deer without a big game license. The subject received documentation for his infraction and released from the scene.

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

### **OCONEE COUNTY**

On November 10<sup>th</sup> Gwfc. Tim Butler patrolled the county for deer hunting activity. Violations addressed during the patrol were hunting w/o a license, hunting without a big game license, and hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

### **WALTON COUNTY**

On November 10<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Jason Harrison and Game Warden John Rhodes patrolled Walton County for hunting and fishing activity. Violations for Hunting without Fluorescent Orange, Hunting without License on Person, Hunting Without a License, Hunting Without Big Game License, and Operating Vessel with Unserviceable PFDs were documented.

On November 11<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Jason Harrison patrolled Walton County for hunting. Violations for Hunting without Fluorescent Orange, Hunting Without Permission, Hunting Without a License and Hunting without a Big Game License were documented.

### **NEWTON COUNTY**

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Schay and GWFC Harrison worked a hunting investigation in Newton County. Violations of hunting without permission and hunting big game over bait without land owner's permission were documented as a result of the investigation.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Schay completed a hunting investigation. Violations of hunting without permission, hunting while suspended for child support, making false statements and writings were documented as a result of the investigation.

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

### **HOUSTON COUNTY**

On the night of November 4<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Stillwell and Game Warden Hurley were patrolling Oaky Woods WMA for hunting violations when they came into contact with two suspected night deer hunters. The driver fled on foot but was apprehended a short time later. Both occupants of the vehicle were arrested and charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public road. The driver had additional charges of Obstruction of an Officer and driving without a license.

### **LAMAR COUNTY**

On the morning of November 6<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Keith Page investigated a complaint of someone shooting a deer from the roadway. Through his investigation he was able to identify a suspect, locate him, interview him, and bring charges by the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup>. The suspect was charged with hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle. Page was able to locate the small 7 point buck and donate it to a family in need.

On November 12<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Page received a call about someone shooting a hog from a public road. Page interviewed several people and was able to identify a suspect. Page located the suspect later in the evening and was able to charge him with hunting from a public roadway and hunting from a motor vehicle.

#### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On November 10<sup>th</sup> Sgt Kelly issued a citation for driving in an unauthorized area on BF Grant WMA.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Stanford, while patrolling Cedar Creek WMA during the firearms deer hunt, found multiple violators including hunting without license and hunting without a big game license. A warning was also issued for transporting a loaded firearm on a WMA.

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

#### **MITCHELL COUNTY**

On the night of November 9<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Tony Cox and Ryan Cleveland observed the occupants of a vehicle engaged in night hunting activities. After stopping the vehicle and interviewing the occupants, one of the subjects was charged for hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, hunting without permission, and hunting from a motor vehicle.

#### **MACON COUNTY**

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jesse Harrison and Cadet Logan South conducted an investigation on an illegally killed buck. The buck was confiscated and the subject was charged with hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license. A warning was given for failure to record deer harvest.

#### **SUMTER COUNTY**

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Al Greer and Cadet Bryan Price conducted a night hunting investigation on an illegally killed deer. The deer was confiscated and the subject was charged with hunting deer at night.

#### **TIFT COUNTY**

On the morning of November 4<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade and Cadet Kristie Carpenter were patrolling Tift County when the game wardens located several bags of household trash in a ditch. The wardens were able to locate the owners address and phone number in the trash and contact was made. After speaking with the suspect, it was determine he had paid two friends to clean out his truck. Game wardens were able to locate the two friends and they were both charged with littering.

November 10<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade was patrolling for hunting activity when he located a truck parked behind a gate. Cpl. Once the hunter exited the woods, it was apparent he was not wearing the required orange vest. A citation was issued for the infraction.

#### **COLQUITT COUNTY**

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden David Jones received a tip that an unlicensed hunter had harvested a buck. A brief investigation revealed that the subject did not have a big game or hunting license. Jones was able to make contact with the subject as he was walking in to the area where he had previously harvested the buck. The subject confirmed he did not have a license and it was determined his friend who was with him did not have a license as well. The first subject was charged with hunting without a license and a warning was given to his friend for hunting without a license. Warnings were issued for hunting without a big game license to both subjects.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden David Jones was patrolling Doerun Pitcher Plant Bog WMA when he observed a suspicious vehicle parked at the gate. Jones set up surveillance on the vehicle and a short time later observed two subjects walking through the woods carrying fishing poles. After making contact with the subjects it was determined that they were fishing a pond located on the backside of the WMA. Both subjects were charged with fishing without license.

## **BAKER COUNTY**

On the afternoon of November 10<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade and Cadet Kristie Carpenter were patrolling the quota hunt on Chickasawhatchee WMA when they received a complaint of a hunter possibly hunting an adjoining property without permission. The game wardens made contact with the complainant and were lead to the area in question. It was determined the subjects were within the WMA boundary but there were signs that they had driven on closed roads and littered. At the conclusion of the hunt, Wardens meet the suspect and charged him with driving on a closed WMA road and littering.

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

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On November 9<sup>th</sup> Corporal Dan Stiles and Game Warden John Kennedy patrolled the River Bend Wildlife Management Area (WMA) during a firearms big game check-in hunt. Four hunters were checked for licenses. Violations were documented for hunting within 50 yards of a road on a WMA, hunting without license on person, and possession/transportation of a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a WMA.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles and Game Warden John Kennedy responded to a hunting incident where a subject fell from a deer stand. The victim was transported to a local hospital for injuries sustained in the fall.

### **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On November 10th, Game Wardens Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Daniel North were patrolling south east Echols County for deer hunting activity when they encountered a group of hunters using dogs. Upon checking the hunters, it was found that one of the individuals did not have deer dog permit numbers displayed on his truck. The violation of operating a vehicle without permit numbers was documented.

On November 10th, Game Wardens Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Daniel North were checking a hunting club near Statenville when they encountered several deer dog hunters. All the hunters in the party were checked and one individual was discovered to be hunting without any valid licenses. Violations of non-resident hunting without a hunting license and non-resident hunting without a big game license were documented and the hunter was told that his hunt was over until he purchased his license.

### **WARE COUNTY**

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mark Pool was patrolling Dixon Memorial WMA during a check-in deer hunt. Two of the hunters checked were found to be in possession of loaded firearms in their vehicle. Violations of possession/transportation of a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a WMA were documented.

On November 10th, Corporal Mark Pool and Game Warden Joseph Cowart were patrolling Dixon Memorial WMA during the check-in hunt. One of the hunters that was checked was found to be transporting a loaded firearm on the WMA road. Possession/transportation of a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a WMA was documented.

## **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On November 4th, Game Warden First Class Sam Williams was patrolling for dog deer hunting activity. A group of hunters was encountered near the Winokur Road area. During a check for all required licenses, it was discovered that several of the subjects were hunting without obtaining a harvest record and the required licenses. Officer Williams gave verbal guidance to the party on updating their harvest records. One violation for hunting big game without a big game license was documented.

## **EFFINGHAM COUNTY**

On November 6<sup>th</sup> GWFC Jordan Crawford received a complaint from several hunters in the area of Mill Pond Road regarding someone stealing several stands and trail cameras. Warden Crawford along with deputies from the Effingham County Sheriff's office received a tip that night about a suspicious person walking along Mill Pond Road. Warden Crawford and the deputies responded to the area and met the subject. After several minutes of conversation with the suspect he admitted to stealing the stands and trail cameras. The case and suspect were turned over to the Sheriff's office.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> GWFC Jordan Crawford, GWFC Jason Miller and GW Ben Reese conducted a patrol of Effingham County. During the patrol several hunters were checked with one violation for hunting without license on person documented

## **SCREVEN COUNTY**

On November 4<sup>th</sup> Corporal Shaymus McNeely responded to an in-progress road hunting complaint on Plantation Road. A deer hunter had reported seeing the same vehicle repeatedly driving up and down the road, and a gunshot was heard from that direction. Cpl. McNeely located a truck matching the description parked on the shoulder of Plantation Road. Cpl. McNeely made contact with the truck's occupants and determined that they had shot a small doe deer and had just loaded it as the officer approached. The two suspects were charged with hunting without permission, hunting from a public road., hunting from a vehicle, and hunting without license.

## **TOOMBS COUNTY**

On the morning of November 4<sup>th</sup> Game Warden First Class Bobby Sanders patrolled north Toombs County for hunting activity. One individual was located and found to be hunting deer without an orange vest as well as hunting without license on person. The violations were documented. Later that morning two more individual were located and found to be hunting without obtaining a harvest record. Those violation were documented as well.

## **TATTNALL COUNTY**

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Cameron Dyal, Clint Jarriel, Corporal Chase Altman, and Sergeant Jon Barnard conducted an operation on Big Hammock WMA to address a littering problem at the shooting range. During this operation, four littering violations were addressed as well as six additional violations for entering into designated WRD lands without a valid lands pass or license.

## **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On November 9<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Dyal and Corporal Joyce were performing a WMA patrol on Flat Tub WMA in Jeff Davis County. The Game Wardens encountered an unattended vehicle parked in a wooded are on Rocky Hammock Landing. Upon further investigation, Game Wardens observed a pack of rolling papers in plain view laying on the driver's seat of the vehicle. Two subjects were located fishing on the bank of the river a short distance away from the vehicle. Upon speaking with the subjects, it was determined that the vehicle belonged to them. When asked about the rolling papers, one of the male subjects admitted to using them to smoke marijuana. Game Wardens asked if the subject had any marijuana in his possession and the subject admitted to having marijuana in his pocket. Game Wardens were given the marijuana. The subject was transported to Jeff Davis County Detention Center and charged with a violation of the Georgia controlled substance act. The second subject was released on a citation for entering upon WRD lands without a valid lands pas or license.

## **EVANS COUNTY**

On November 10th, Game Warden Patrick Gibbs was working an area in the south part of Evans County in reference to a complaint he received about deer dog hunters hunting from the public road. Gibbs observed a dozen or so trucks lined up on the side of the public road and could see 3 different hunters standing in the road holding their guns as the dogs began to run the deer toward the public road. Gibbs made contact with the hunters and addressed 3 violations for hunting big game from a public road. After dark, Gibbs was working in an area on the east side of the county when he observed a truck shining a spotlight out of the passenger window. Gibbs observed the beam from the spotlight follow multiple deer as they ran into the woods. Gibbs initiated a traffic stop and found two subjects with a spotlight, a shotgun loaded with buckshot, a loaded .243 rifle, a .22 rifle, and another .243 rifle. Violations were addressed to each subject for hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.

## **TATTNALL COUNTY**

On November 10th, just before dark, Gibbs located a truck parked on the edge of a field next to a dirt road. Gibbs waited at the truck to see if a hunter would return. Right at dark, Gibbs observed a white male carrying a long gun walking toward the truck. When the male looked and saw Gibbs, he turned and ran. Gibbs chased the subject down the dirt road where he jumped over a fence and ran through the woods. The subject was identified but has not been apprehended yet, though he has made contact with a local deputy and is willing to turn himself in. Pending violations include hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting without obtaining deer harvest record, hunting without florescent orange, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and obstruction/fleeing.

## **APPLING COUNTY**

On November 10th, Corporal Chase Altman patrolled Moody Forest WMA on an open hunt. Several hunters were checked resulting in one warning for a license violation.

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

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On 11/02/2018, Corporal Kate Hargrove responded to call reporting an injured Red Tail Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). Corporal Hargrove transported the hawk to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center for rehabilitation.



On 11/03/2018, Corporal Kate Hargrove responded to call reporting a stranded porpoise on Sea Island. Corporal Hargrove arrived and secured the scene confirming the stranded marine mammal was a Pygmy Killer Whale (*Feresa attenuata*). Non-game Biologist Clay George arrived on scene to assist in the rescue and recovery.

## **BRYAN COUNTY**

On 11/4/18 Game Wardens Morris and Sgt Scott patrolled several tracts of Richmond Hill WMA. The following violations were documented: blocking access road on WMA, hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road, and fishing without a license at an adjacent river.

On 11/10/18 Game Warden Morris patrolled several hunting clubs and surrounding areas in Bryan County. One hunter was cited for failure to keep hunting dogs on permitted property. Cpl Bryson patrolled Richmond Hill WMA checking hunters for license and game. All hunters checked were in compliance with the law.

## **LIBERTY COUNTY**

On 11/5/18 Game Wardens Cpl Bryson and Sgt Scott investigated the illegal dumping deer carcasses. Several subjects were interviewed. During the investigation property belonging to the Liberty County road department was discovered. The possible stolen property was turned over to the Liberty County Sheriff's office. The dumping investigation involves at least two persons and is still on going.