



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
February 24 – March 2, 2019

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

February 24th, GWFC Daniel Gray patrolled in Haralson County for fishing activity. During the patrol one individual was issued a warning for fishing w/o license.

CARROLL COUNTY

March 2nd, Cpl. Chad Cox and GWFC Daniel Gray patrolled at Lake Carroll for boating and fishing activity. During the patrol Game Wardens checked 8 individuals fishing and one individual was issued a warning for fishing w/o a license.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On February 24th, Game Wardens Chris Kernahan and Jeffery Turner completed an illegal dumping investigation. The investigation concerned a subject who dumped a large amount of commercial plumbing refuse, and household garbage on government property. The Game Wardens determined who the responsible subject was, and an interview was conducted at the subject's residence later that date. Once presented with the evidence, the subject admitted that he illegally dumped the items the previous week, because the landfill had already closed on that particular date. The violation was addressed, and the waste was cleaned up.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On February 27th, Corporal Anne Wiley investigated an illegal burning incident off Hwy 105 in Demorest. Habersham County Fire Department had responded and extinguished the fire. HCFD told Cpl. Wiley the owner of the property had burned two outbuildings behind the residence she owned. Cpl. Wiley met with the home owner and found she was trying to clean up the property in order to sell the residence. The outbuildings had burned to the ground. There was evidence of other debris contained in the fire that was not natural. One of the buildings contained asbestos siding. Cpl. Wiley cited the homeowner for unlawful burning of egregious litter 1st offense (greater than 500 lbs/100 cubic feet). Cpl. Wiley contacted the Environmental Protection Division and reported the issue. EPD responded the next day and met with the homeowner. EPD directed the landowner to clean up the site and take the debris to an accepted landfill which accepts asbestos material.

On March 1, Corporal Anne Wiley received a complaint at Nancy Town Lake on Lake Russell Wildlife Management Area where two fishermen had been fishing after obtaining their limit of trout. Cpl. Wiley checked the two suspected fishermen and found they were fishing for trout with two poles. The fishermen did not have more than their limit of trout in their possession. Cpl. Wiley cited them for fishing with unlawful equipment (two poles).

WHITE COUNTY

On March 2, Corporal Anne Wiley checked several fishermen on the delayed harvest section of Smith Creek at Unicoi State Park. Cpl. Wiley cited one fishermen for fishing without a license and warned him for fishing without a trout license. Cpl. Wiley also patrolled Dukes Creek at Smithgall Woods State Park. Cpl. Wiley checked several fishermen who did not have their fishing licenses on their persons. Dukes Creek is in a remote area where internet service is not available. Cpl. Wiley gave verbal and written warnings after taking time to locate internet service and having the fishermen cease in fishing activity in order to locate their licenses.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

WALTON COUNTY

On February 23rd, GWFC Schay patrolled Walton County for fishing activity. During this patrol, a violation of fishing without a license was documented.

February 24-25, Game Wardens Rhodes, Schay, Callaway, CPL Worth, CPL Patterson, SGT Garthright, and SGT Harwell assisted the Walton County Sheriff's Department search for a missing boater at the Hard Labor Creek Reservoir.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the evening of March 2nd Game Wardens Josh Cockrell and Sgt. Bo Kelly were at Little River Marina on Lake Sinclair checking for lighting violations after sunset. After observing a vessel with no lights creating wake in a no wake zone, they contacted the vessel after it docked and spoke with the operator. While doing so, officers detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage about the person of the vessel's operator. He was screened and found to be boating under the influence. The individual was taken into custody and charged with operating a vessel under the influence (under 21) and failure to obey regulatory marker.

HOUSTON COUNTY

On the afternoon of February 25th Game Warden Robert Stillwell observed two anglers at Mossy Creek in Houston County. After making contact with the individuals, the Game Warden found they did not possess a fishing licenses. Both subjects were charged for the offense.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On February 27th Cpl. Keith Page, his K9 Rio and Game Warden Steven Martinez assisted the Meriwether County Sheriff's office and GBI narcotics officers with conducting a search warrant at a residence. The Game wardens utilized K9 Rio to apprehend two suspects that fled on foot into the woods. One suspect, tracked by Rio for over a mile, was located hiding in a nearby abandoned house.

MONROE COUNTY

On February 24th Game Warden Jessica Spencer and Game Warden Zachary Griffis were patrolling High Falls State Park when they encountered two individuals bank fishing near the campground. Game Wardens asked to see both individuals' fishing licenses. One individual could provide proper documentation while the other failed to do so. Game Wardens ran the individual's name that could not provide a fishing license and found the suspect had outstanding warrants in Arkansas. The individual was cited for fishing without a license and was taken into custody to extradite.

SPALDING COUNTY

On February 25th Cpl. Keith Page was patrolling several local fishing holes. He found one fisherman who had warrants out for his arrest locally. He was arrested and turned over to the Spalding County Sheriff's Office.

TROUP COUNTY

On February 26th Cpl. Keith Waddell and GW Steven Martinez were patrolling West Point Lake. They checked a fisherman and determined he did not have a valid fishing license. They also determined he had multiple warrants out of multiple jurisdictions. He was arrested and turned over to the Troup County Sheriff's Office.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

IRWIN COUNTY

On Friday March 1, Game Warden Chris Thompson patrolled the Alapaha River WMA for illegal ATV riding along with illegal snake hunting activity. No activity was detected and found.

LAURENS COUNTY

On Saturday March 2nd, Game Warden John Kennedy and Corporal Dan Stiles conducted a boat patrol on Hugh Gillis Public Fishing Area. A total of 12 boats were checked for boating safety equipment as well as 20 anglers checked for license and creel compliance. Violations were documented for Operating a vessel without PFD and operating vessel without registration.

On Saturday March 2nd, Game Warden John Kennedy and Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Oconee River. Nine boats were checked for boating safety equipment and seven fishermen were checked for license and creel compliance. Violations were documented for operating vessel without PFD.

WILCOX COUNTY

On February 25th, Corporal John A Stokes received a call about someone quail hunting without permission in the Five Point area, one man was found and charged for hunting without permission.

JENKINS COUNTY

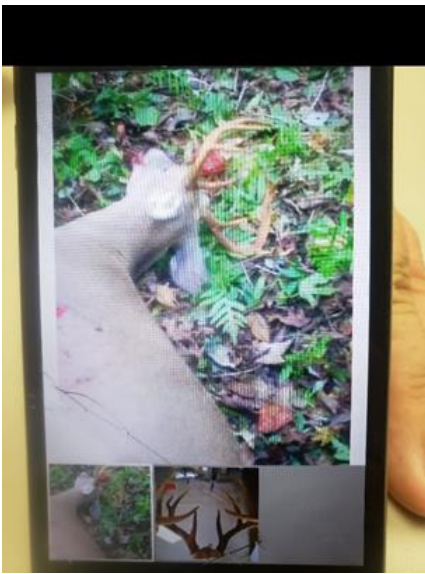
On March 2nd, Corporal Mike Wilcox conducted a vessel patrol on the Ogeechee River near the Bull Hole Landing and Rogers Landing. Cpl. Wilcox checked several boats during his patrol. He documented violations for operating a vessel without Coast Guard Approved PFDs and fishing license violations.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On February 24th, Game Warden First Class Jason Miller was able to close an investigation of illegally taken deer. One individual was arrested and charged for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, theft by taking, and theft by receiving stolen property. The same individual was also cited for hunting w/o license, hunting w/o big game license, failure to obtain a harvest record, and recording and reporting requirements for game birds and animals. During the investigation, another subject was cited for two counts of recording and reporting requirements for game birds and animals. Evidence of numerous illegally taken deer was collected and a mounted 12-point buck was located at a local taxidermist and seized.



Also, this week, Game Warden First Class Jason Miller and Corporal Shaymus McNeely made numerous charges that stemmed from several months of gathered information of night hunting complaints and a month-long joint investigation with the Bulloch County Sheriff's Office. Suspects were identified to also be involved in a large crime ring that occurred in several other counties and jurisdictions. The suspects had been involved in multiple felonious crimes across the area and included many wildlife violations, the illegal killing of a local farmer's livestock, and the shooting of a police car. Nine suspects have been arrested.



Charges from the Sheriff's Office include: (9 counts) aggravated cruelty to animals, (11 counts) possession of firearm by convicted felon, (2 counts) theft by taking, (3 counts) criminal damage to property in the 2nd degree, (9 counts) theft by receiving stolen property, (2 counts) fleeing and attempting to elude, (3 counts) obstruction, (2 counts) driving while privileges suspended, cruelty to children in the 3rd degree, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of drug related objects, possession of marijuana < 1 oz., driving with no insurance, and numerous other traffic violations. Other charges from DNR are: (5 counts) hunting without license, (5 counts) hunting without big game license, (5 counts) hunting without obtaining harvest record, (5 counts) recording and reporting requirements of game birds and animals, (6 counts) hunting deer at night, (6 counts) hunting big game from a public roadway, (6 counts) hunting from a vehicle, hunting without required hunter safety certification, hunting with illegal weapon, and discharging firearm from a public roadway. Several other suspects are still at-large and the investigation continues. Numerous firearms, stolen firearms, and evidence of illegal hunting were recovered and confiscated during the investigation.





Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No significant activity to report.