



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
March 24 – March 30, 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)

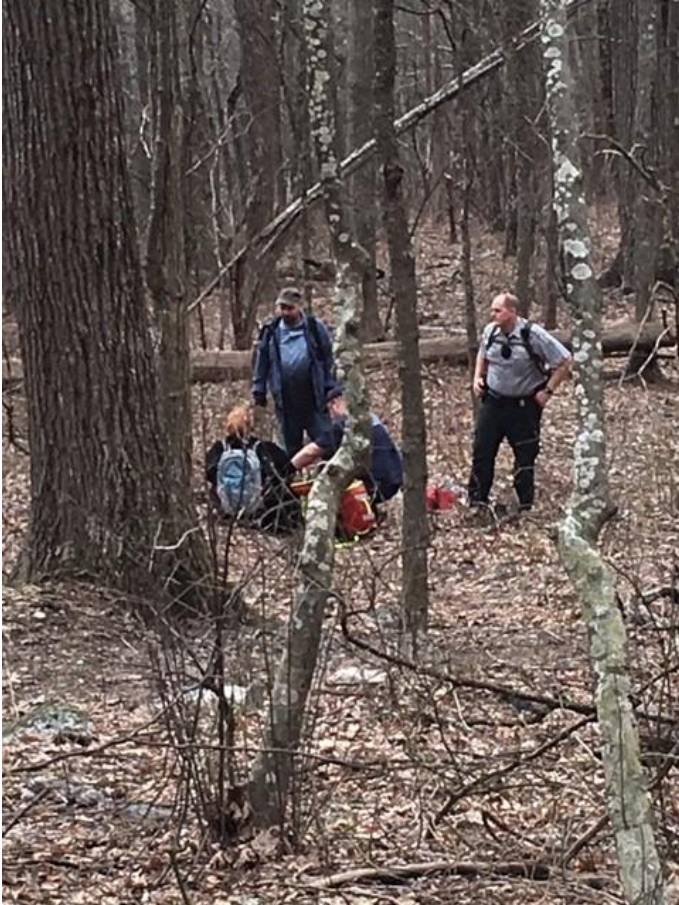
MURRAY COUNTY

On March 24th Cpl. Cody Jones and Game Warden Ryan Thomas were checking fishing licenses in Murray County when Jones noticed the smell of marijuana coming from the vehicle of the fishermen. One of the occupants, a 17 year old female, admitted to having a small quantity of marijuana, and a smoking pipe. Citations were issued for possession of less than 1oz of marijuana, and possession of drug related objects.



FANNIN COUNTY

On March 30th, Game Wardens (Sgt. James Keener, Cpl. Cody Jones, Ryan Thomas, Will Smith and Kalem Burns) responded to SAR in the Cohutta Wilderness Area on Cohutta WMA. Sgt. Keener, Burns, and Smith coordinated with DNR Aviation for a long line rescue while Cpl. Jones and Thomas went in on ATV and foot to make contact with the victim. The victim was physically unable to hike the 6 miles, over rough terrain, to get out of the wilderness due to medical issues. Thomas transported EMS to the victim by ATV and then transported the victim out by ATV. The victim was transported to a local hospital for evaluation.



PICKENS COUNTY

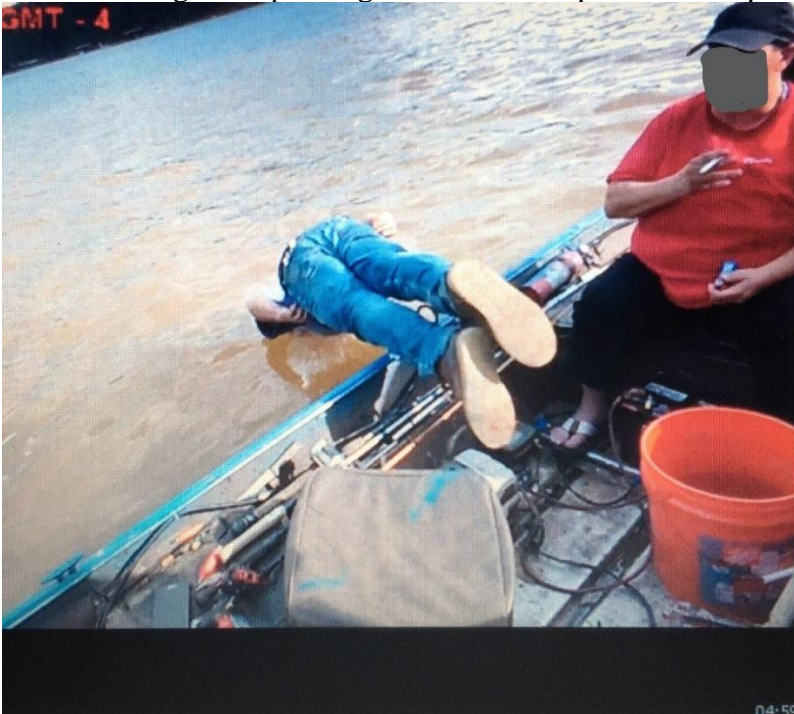
On March 30th, about an hour before daylight, Cpl. Cody Jones and GW Ryan Thomas set up surveillance on an area baited with corn. About an hour later, a hunter came in but hunted a different area of the property. The hunter shot and came walking back to his truck with a dead Jake turkey. The hunter took the wardens to an area where he claimed to have shot the turkey. After investigating the area, it was clear that the turkey was killed somewhere else. Jones started searching the area while Thomas continued interviewing the hunter. Jones was able to locate the kill site in a different area that was also baited with cracked corn. The hunter then confessed to killing the turkey over bait. A citation was issued and the turkey was confiscated. The turkey was donated to a local charity.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On March 27, Game Warden Frank Pucci was off duty and traveling on Highway 20 passing Sutallee Baptist Church. He noticed a car behind him running off the road and crossing over the double yellow line. GW Pucci slowed down to let the vehicle pass him and got in behind the vehicle. After observing the vehicle run off the road multiple times and almost hit three other vehicles, GW Pucci called Cherokee County Dispatch. He informed 911 of the driver's reckless behavior and followed the vehicle until deputies could stop the driver. The driver was subsequently arrested for DUI by the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office.

On March 28, CPL Bart Hendrix presented an I/E program to the Cherokee County Game and Fish Club about boating safety. CPL Hendrix spoke to the group about the importance of lights for night time navigation, following the rules of the road for navigation, and boating under the influence. Attendees then asked questions about hunting and fishing laws all while enjoying dinner and socialization.

On March 30, SGT Jason Roberson, CPL Bart Hendrix, and GW Frank Pucci were patrolling Allatoona Lake for fishing and boating activity. The Game Wardens pulled up to check a man and woman fishing from a small jon boat near Kellogg Creek. The couple did not have any licenses on them and CPL Hendrix checked the anglers on his computer. The man had an active warrant out of Cobb County. When the officers tried to talk to him about the warrant he dove over the side of his jon boat in an attempt to elude the Game Wardens. As he began to surface a small leather pouch surfaced as well, which later contained a crystal like substance that tested positive for methamphetamines. The man said he was not going back to jail. He was pulled from the water, which was only 60 degrees at the time. He was charged with fishing without a license and obstruction of a law enforcement officer. Charges are pending for the methamphetamines upon analysis from the GBI.



PAULDING COUNTY

March 24th, GWFC Daniel Gray and GW Ryan Shorter patrolled on Paulding Forest WMA for turkey hunting activity. During the patrol the game wardens checked four hunters and issued one warning for a vehicle which was blocking the WMA gate.

HARALSON COUNTY

March 27th, GWFC Daniel Gray conducted a program for the Bremen First United Methodist Church Men's Supper. During the program Gray talked about several upcoming DNR Law Enforcement Division events and answered many hunting and fishing questions.

POLK COUNTY

On March 30, Cpl. Chad Cox was patrolling the Treat Mtn Area of Polk County. He checked several turkey hunters and issued a citation and multiple warnings for license violations.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HART COUNTY

On March 27th, GWFC Brandon Pierce, with the assistance of Sgt. Derek Dillard, ended an investigation on an illegal turkey hunting complaint that started on March 23rd. GWFC Pierce initially responded to the complaint area and found evidence that turkeys were being baited. Throughout the investigation enough evidence was gathered to interview the subjects involved. As a result, two subjects were interviewed and admitted to violations. A total of eight violations were issued. The subjects were issued citations and warnings for failure to record turkey harvest, hunting big game over bait, unlawful enticement of game, hunting without obtaining harvest record, and hunting without permission. A "Jake" turkey was seized as evidence.



On March 27th, GWFC Brandon Pierce and Sgt. Derek Dillard handled a dumping violation. GWFC Pierce found evidence to make a determination that the individual was responsible for the violation. The subject was issued a citation of unlawful dumping of egregious litter.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On March 24, Sergeant Steve Seitz and GWFC Joe Hill patrolled Lake Russell WMA where they located one turkey hunter that did not have a big game license and issued him a citation for the violation. Later this date the game wardens patrolled Unicoi State park on the Smith Creek Delayed Harvest section. They checked several fishermen on the special regulation stream and issued citations to two Non-resident fishermen who were fishing without a licenses and warnings for fishing without trout licenses. The game wardens then patrolled the Chattahoochee River outside of Helen, GA and on the Chattahoochee WMA. They checked several fishermen during the patrol. The game wardens issued citations to three fishermen who were fishing without a trout licenses and one non-resident fisherman for fishing without a license. They also issued the non-resident fisherman a warning for fishing without a trout license.

WHITE COUNTY

On March 30, Sergeant Steve Seitz and Corporal Anne Wiley checked several fishermen on the delayed harvest section of Smith Creek at Unicoi State Park. Cpl. Wiley cited three fishermen for fishing with unlawful bait in an artificial lure stream, one fisherman for fishing without a license, and warned two fishermen for fishing without a trout license and fishing with unlawful bait.

The game wardens later patrolled the Chattahoochee Wildlife Management Area and checked several fishermen on the Chattahoochee River. Cpl. Wiley cited one fisherman for fishing without a license and warned them for fishing without a trout license. They located two men who had parked behind a closed to vehicle sign at Jasus Creek in the camping area which restricts vehicles. Both men were issued warnings for driving in an unauthorized area on the WMA. The game wardens also located two other people fishing on private property just south of the Chattahoochee Wildlife Management Area boundary line on Poplar Stump Rd and issued them warnings as well.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On March 24th Gwfc. Tim Butler patrolled the county for fishing and boating activity. Violations documented during the patrol were fishing without a license, operating a vessel with insufficient personal flotation devices, and allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a personal flotation device.

On March 30th Gwfc. Tim Butler patrolled portions of the county for turkey hunting activity. Two turkey hunters were located hunting over wild bird seed. Both hunters were cited for hunting big game over bait. During the patrol one violation of hunting without a big game license was documented. After patrolling for turkey hunting activity Gwfc. Butler observed a passenger in a vehicle throw a cup out of the window. Gwfc. Butler initiated a traffic stop and issued the passenger a citation for littering.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

HARRIS COUNTY

On March 26th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver and Sgt. Jeremy Bolen checked a baited area that was located the day before. The area had corn and birdseed scattered out. As the officers approached the area, 2 turkey decoys could be seen in the middle of the bait and a hunter was sitting against a tree approximately 10 to 15 yards away. The hunter admitted to placing the bait. His license was also expired. The subject was issued citations for hunting big game over bait and hunting without a license. A warning for hunting without a big game license was also issued.

On March 30th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver, Game Warden Ethan Franklin, and Game Warden Dean Gibson responded to a boating incident on the Chattahoochee River that resulted in a fatality.

PULASKI COUNTY

On March 30th 2019, Game Warden Kevin Hurley checked the Hawkinsville boat ramp for fishing activity. One citation was issued for fishing without a license.

TAYLOR COUNTY

On March 24th, Cpl. Josh Swain was patrolling for turkey hunting activity when he encountered a vehicle parked off the roadway. Upon further investigation Cpl. Swain was able to make contact with four hunters. Sgt. Jeremy Bolen joined Cpl. Swain during the investigation. Two of the hunters did not have any hunting license and one of the hunters had shot a bobcat out of season. The hunters were issued citations and warnings accordingly.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

TREUTLEN COUNTY

On March 24th, Game Wardens Corporal Kevin Joyce and Game Warden First Class Randell Meeks finished an investigation into a person selling deer meat in Treutlen County. Violations of selling game species or parts thereof and hunting without a license were documented.

APPLING COUNTY

On March 28th, Corporal Chase Altman was on patrol for turkey hunting on Moody Forest WMA. Several hunters were checked, resulting in two violations for failure to obtain a harvest record. On the evening of the 28th, Cpl. Chase Altman patrolled landings along the Altamaha River for boating safety violations. One violation for towing a skier on a PWC without an observer was documented and one violation for allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel was documented as well.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On March 24th, Game Warden Cameron Dyal performed a WMA patrol on Flat Tub WMA in Jeff Davis County. While on patrol Dyal checked Rocky Hammock Landing for boating, fishing, and compliance with WMA regulations. While checking Rocky Hammock, nine violations were addressed for illegal consumption of alcohol, littering, fishing without a license, and entering WRD lands without a valid lands pass.

On March 29th, Game Warden Cameron Dyal attended a career day at Jeff Davis County Middle School. Dyal provided information to students about the Department of Natural Resources and the Law Enforcement Division's role in conservation of Georgia's natural resources. Dyal also provided students with information on different pathways to take to obtain employment with the Law Enforcement Division.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On March 30th, Game Warden First Class Bobby Sanders patrolled north Toombs County when two turkey hunters were encountered. After a brief compliance check two violations were documented for not possessing a harvest record.

WILCOX COUNTY

On Saturday March 24th, Game Warden Chris Thompson and Corporal John Stokes patrolled for turkey hunters. Two subjects with loaded shotguns were located and observed in an area where there were feeders full of corn. The two subjects were checked for license compliance and issued warnings for hunting turkeys over bait.

On March 24th, Game Warden Allen Mills checked a baited turkey blind. There was a feeder full of corn near the blind as well. The suspect moved and hunted between the blind and the feeder. One violation for hunting big game over bait was documented.



On Saturday March 30, 2019, Game Warden John Kennedy and Game Warden Allen Mills patrolled Wilcox County for turkey hunting activity. Six hunters were checked for license compliance. Multiple violations were documented, as well as, two citations for hunting big game over bait.

DODGE COUNTY

On March 24th, Game Warden Allen Mills conducted a patrol at the Dodge County Public Fishing Area. Three vessels and seven anglers were checked for license and regulation compliance. Two violations for fishing without a license were documented.

On March 30th at approximately 5:40 a.m. Corporal Dan Stiles was traveling on a four lane divided highway and witnessed a male walking in the roadway wearing only pants and socks. Cpl. Stiles stopped to conduct a welfare check on the individual who then fled from Cpl. Stiles. Dodge County Sheriff Deputies arrived on scene and the subject was apprehended after he attempted to run across a tract of land that had been recently logged. The officers attempted to identify the person without success. The individual was transported by Dodge County deputies and charged with fleeing or attempting to elude, obstructing or hindering law enforcement, and giving false name to law enforcement.

WHEELER COUNTY

On March 30th, Corporal Stiles responded to the Little Ocmulgee State Park along with a Wheeler County deputy to investigate a report of a vehicle that had been broken into. Two vehicles were broken into near the golf course and a purse was taken from one of the vehicles. No witnesses were located. After searching the area, no property or evidence from the crimes were recovered.

JENKINS COUNTY

On March 24th Corporal Mike Wilcox and Game Warden Ben Reese patrolled Jenkins County for turkey hunting activity. One hunting license violation was documented.

On March 29th Cpl. Wilcox patrolled Big Dukes Pond WMA / Natural Area for turkey hunting activity.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On March 27th Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Game Warden First Class Jordan Crawford responded to Tuckahoe WMA in reference to a 911 call made by two Turkey hunters. The hunters had become stranded and lost in the flooded Savannah River swamp. Game Wardens McNeely and Crawford began a search for the lost hunters in the Little Fish Lake area of the WMA, eventually locating the hunters. The hunters were wet and very cold after swimming several sloughs. Game Wardens evacuated the hunters from the swamp to an area where they were seen by Screven County EMS and treated for hypothermia.

PIERCE COUNTY

On March 24th, Game Warden First Class Judd Sears patrolled Little Satilla Wildlife Management Area for turkey hunting activity. During this patrol multiple hunters were checked. Upon checking one subject's license it was found that he did not possess a big game hunting license. A violation of hunting without a big game license was documented. While checking another hunter GWFC Sears observed two firearms in the front seat area of his vehicle. This subject was transporting a loaded 12-gauge shotgun and loaded .22 magnum rifle. A violation of possession/transportation of a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a WMA was documented.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On March 29th, Game Warden Sam Williams observed a boat pull up to Camp Pinkney Boat Landing on the St. Mary's River without navigational lights after dark. The officer conducted an inspection of the vessel and discovered that there was only one life jacket onboard for the two occupants. The subjects had been fishing and neither one possessed a fishing license. The violations for operating a vessel during hours of darkness without navigation lights, operating vessel with insufficient PFD's (personal flotation devices), and fishing without a license were documented.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On March 25th, Corporal Jason Shipes and Game Warden Daniel North encountered one subject actively hunting turkeys in the Fargo area. Upon checking, Cpl. Shipes found that the subject failed to purchase any of the required licenses needed to hunt turkeys in the State of Georgia. Each of the violations were documented.

On March 30th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree was patrolling for turkey hunting activity near Tom's Creek when he encountered two individuals training hounds. There was a loaded .17 caliber rifle in the truck seat and one of the individuals did not possess a hunting license. Two warnings were issued for the violations of possession of a firearm while training dogs and non-resident training dogs without a hunting license.

CLINCH COUNTY

On March 30th, while patrolling in Clinch County, Corporal Jason Shipes located several subjects actively hunting turkeys. Upon checking the subjects, Cpl. Shipes found that three of the subjects failed to purchase any of the required licenses needed and two of the four were hunting over cracked corn. All violations were documented by Cpl. Shipes.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity to report.