



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# NEWS RELEASE



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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

*Law Enforcement Off The Pavement*

Contact:

Mark McKinnon, Public Affairs Officer  
Office: (706) 557-3106 Cell: (404) 387-7780  
[mark.mckinnon@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:mark.mckinnon@dnr.ga.gov)

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## 2017 GA DNR Game Warden of the Year and Darnell Award Winners Announced

SOCIAL CIRCLE – Recently, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division named Cpl. Brian Adams from Glascock County as their 2017 Game Warden of the Year. Cpl. Jason Shipes, who is assigned to Clinch County, received the James R. Darnell Award as the runner up to Game Warden of the Year.

"These officers have proven themselves as leaders among their peers this past year," said DNR Commissioner Mark Williams. Their hard work every day to enforce the conservation laws of the state and to ensure public safety is a great asset to Georgia citizens and I applaud their contributions."



Cpl. Brian Adams

Cpl. Adams is a Game Warden dedicated to public outreach and education, and solid enforcement efforts. Assigned to Glascock County, he also covers Warren, Taliaferro and McDuffie counties. Education for young people is high on his priority list. One of his very impressive educational efforts is with Glascock County Public Schools, where he worked with school officials to adjust the curriculum to include Hunter Ed for all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and Boater Ed for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, ensuring that every student can be certified in both before graduation. His enforcement numbers are strong with 209 hunting license checks, 162 fishing license checks, 210 vessel inspections, 25 Wildlife Management Area patrols, 22 State Park patrols and 12 Public Fishing Area patrols. Adams is also a proven investigator and initiated four lengthy investigations this year, resulting 89 violator contacts and the seizure of 14 vehicles, over \$30,000 in cash, 22 firearms, and illicit drugs with a street value of over \$310,000.



Cpl. Jason Shipes

Cpl. Shipes has a solid track record as a Game Warden with his exceptional efforts during the past year. He is well versed in computer and electronics investigations, social media investigations, and information sharing within the Division and with other LE agencies. During the past year, Cpl. Shipes recorded 19 violations for hunting deer at night and 27 violator contacts for deer dogging and hunting without permission. He was also named DNR Law Enforcement's Investigative Game Warden of the Year this year for an illegal deer hunting case he solved, gathering nearly all of the evidence by computer and through social media. The case garnered nationwide attention with articles published in *International Game Warden* magazine and *International Wildlife Crime-Stoppers* newsletter.

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*The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division is committed to conserving our natural resources and protecting the people we serve through fair and vigorous law enforcement, quality education, and community involvement.*

TRUST, FAIRNESS, PROFESSIONALISM.

Georgia DNR Conservation Rangers – Law Enforcement Off the Pavement!