



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NEWS RELEASE

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 30, 2017

NWTF - Georgia Chapter Presents Top Award to Burke County Game Warden

Cpl. Jeff Billips Wins National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year Award



SOCIAL CIRCLE – Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Corporal Jeffrey Billips, who is assigned to Burke County, is the 2017 recipient of the Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year Award, presented annually by the Georgia Chapter of the organization. Cpl. Billips' dedication to the protection of Georgia's Wild Turkeys, and his commitment to communicate with hunters about hunting safety and best practices in managing the turkey population, made him a clear choice for the award.

"Jeff is an officer who takes the initiative and believes in pro-active law enforcement," said DNR Law Enforcement Director Colonel Eddie Henderson. "His efforts this past year have been outstanding and he is certainly deserving of this award."

Billips conducted 145 hours of turkey hunting patrols across his five-county work area and concentrated enforcement efforts on state owned lands by performing 23 different patrols on Wildlife Management Areas. He arranged his schedule to patrol during peak hunting times in an effort to interact with as many hunters as possible. His time and efforts weren't wasted as he documented numerous violations including hunting turkey over bait, hunting without permission, license violations, failure to record a harvest, taking over the limit, hunting without hunter safety certification, and making false statements to obtain a license.

Billips is an outstanding investigator as well. Throughout the year, he conducted several investigations of hunting complaints and also in his role as a member of the Division's Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT). One investigation he worked stemmed from a landowner complaint that four turkeys had been killed on his property without permission. Following solid investigative work at the scene and through following tips and leads, he identified two violators. When they heard the complete and well-organized evidence against them, they confessed and were charged with a number of violations.

Cpl. Billips has been with Georgia DNR Law Enforcement since 1997 and resides in Burke County.

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Law Enforcement Off the Pavement