

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report  
September 8-14, 2013

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- Calhoun (Northwest)**

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Mike Barr received a call from Cpl. Lee Burns relaying information from a bow hunter on Allatoona WMA. The hunter had heard a rifle shot hear him about 730am. Sgt. Barr went to the area and met with the hunter who pointed to an area on the WMA that he thought the shot came from. Sgt. Barr foot patrolled and met a lady in the back yard of her adjacent residence who also heard a loud shot around 730am. She pointed to a house in an adjacent subdivision. Sgt. Barr went to that area and foot patrolled behind the house in question. There he found two climbing stands with bows still in the stands. One stand even had a bow holder still up in the tree and an arrow nocked in the bow. Both stands were directly over a pile of whole kernel corn. Sgt. Barr and Cpl. Burns made contact with three men who stated they had hunted the area earlier that morning and admitted hunting over bait. They said they normally hunted in south Georgia and thought it was legal to hunt deer over bait in north Georgia. They stated they hunted until a neighbor discharged dynamite next to their location around 730am. Cpl. Burns issued three citations for hunting big game over bait. As Sgt. Barr was leaving, another neighbor advised him that the man in the adjacent house often discharged “tannerite” which sounds like dynamite and explodes when shot with a projectile and that he had done so that morning around 730am.



**Stand baited for deer with whole kernel corn.**



On September 14<sup>th</sup>, RFC Zack Hardy worked the HIN inspection site at the Allatoona Corp of Engineers parking lot at Allatoona Lake. Due to Sgt. Barr and Cpl. Burns being on an illegal hunting investigation, RFC Hardy worked the site mostly by himself. He had 31 vessels come through the site needing assistance and inspection of their vessel to complete the registration process. RFC Hardy checked all boats to ensure they were not stolen and completed and forwarded the necessary paperwork to get all boats properly documented for registration.



**RFC Zack Hardy assisting boaters with their HIN inspection.**

### **PICKENS COUNTY**

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Casey Jones and RFC Joe Hill investigated a bear killed in Pickens County. The bear was killed on September 14<sup>th</sup> and was killed in an area known to have been baited in the past. The rangers were able to locate the kill site and found it to be baited with cakes and icing. The Rangers issued citations for hunting big game over bait and possession of illegally taken wildlife. The bear was confiscated.

### **GILMER COUNTY**

On September 14<sup>TH</sup>, Cpl. James Keener and RFC Joe Hill checked an area in Gilmer County that was baited with corn, sweet feed, frenzy, buck jam, protein pellets, molasses, and grease. The Rangers found three subjects hunting in very close proximity to the bait. Citations were issued for hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license, and

nonresident hunting with a resident license. Warnings were issued for hunting without a big game license, nonresident hunting without a big game license, and hunting on a closed WMA.

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Casey Jones and RFC Joe Hill investigated a possible illegal bear kill. The rangers were patrolling and observed a Gilmer County man dragging a bear into a local deer cooler. The Rangers stopped to inspect the bear and license of the hunter. While speaking with the hunter Cpl. Jones observed whole kernel corn in the back of the hunter's truck. After interviewing the hunter the rangers determined that the bear had probably been taken illegally over bait. Shortly after leaving the cooler the ranger met with the hunter in the area where the bear was killed. It was determined that the bear had been baited with the use of corn and "Swamp Donkey" attractant. The hunter was charged with hunting big game over bait and possession of illegally taken wildlife. The bear was confiscated.



### **WHITFIELD COUNTY**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Casey Jones and Wildlife Tech. Larry Etheridge charged a Whitfield County man for hunting over bait. The rangers observed the hunter, in a tree stand, hunting over Deer Cane, apples and peanut butter.



## **POLK COUNTY**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, RFC Chad Cox was patrolling the eastern part of Polk County for dove shoots. He was able to locate a field with four subjects hunting over bait. The landowner was charged with hunting over bait after he admitted to spreading birdseed on a pond dam. The others were warned for hunting over bait.

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, RFC Chad Cox received a call from the Polk County Sheriff's Office requesting assistance with a marijuana field that a helicopter had located. With the assistance of Cpl. Tommy Gentry, RFC Roger McConkey and other local agencies they pulled and destroyed over 4600 marijuana plants. The Georgia Forestry Commission also assisted with building a road to the plants. The marijuana had a street value of 9.2 million dollars.



## **HARALSON COUNTY**

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, RFC Daniel Gray and Ranger Mark Puig were conducting a routine patrol in when they encountered two individuals fishing. The individuals were cited for fishing w/o a license.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Ricky Dempsey and RFC Daniel Gray conducted a routine patrol and apprehended two individuals hunting deer over corn and apples. One of the individuals was also hunting with a rifle. The two individuals were cited for hunting big game over bait and illegal possession of a firearm during archery season.

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Brown and Ranger Mark Puig patrolled Carroll County for dove activity. Two fields with 19 hunters were checked. One of the fields was found to be baited with wheat and four subjects were charged with hunting dove over bait.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Brown was patrolling for illegal deer hunting activity. While patrolling the Villa Rica area, one subject was encountered hunting without permission. The subject was cited for hunting big game over bait, hunting without permission and possession of marijuana less than an ounce.

### **PAULDING COUNTY**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Ricky Dempsey and RFC Daniel Gray responded to a possible illegal dove shoot in Paulding County. Upon investigation citations were issued for hunting dove over bait and unlawful enticement of a game animal. Rangers also confiscated 37 illegally taken doves.

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

### **HART COUNTY**

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, RFC Brandon Pierce responded to a call from the Sheriff's Office in reference to a warrant being served at a residence. While searching the residence, a dismembered red-tailed hawk was located. RFC Pierce seized the hawk and investigated the matter. As a result, a citation consisting of unlawful possession of birds or parts was issued.



On September 6<sup>th</sup>, RFC Brandon Pierce and Cpl. Craig Fulghum responded to a call in reference to two fawn deer being held in a fence. The officers arrived at the location and found the deer. The owner of the residence was located and spoke with. As a result, the subject was issued a citation of hold/possession of game animal without a permit. The two fawns were confiscated, relocated, and released into a safe environment.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, RFC Brandon Pierce presented a firearm/hunting safety program to approximately 115 hunters before they entered the field on opening day.

#### **MADISON COUNTY**

On September 8<sup>th</sup> RFC Shane Sartor and Cpl. Bill Bunch heard a dove shoot off Hwy. 72 in Colbert. Two subjects were seen in a soybean field and were checked by the rangers. A total of 6 citations were issued, 2 for hunting without license, 2 for hunting without permission, 2 for hunting without hunter safety. Both subjects were arrested due to having no proof of residency and one was also charged with felony possession of cocaine. The subjects' truck, guns and cash were also seized by the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

#### **STEPHENS COUNTY**

On September 14<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Bill Bunch was patrolling the upper Tugaloo river area of Lake Hartwell for waterfowl activity. Cpl. Bunch heard some shooting and was able to locate the hunters. Cpl. Bunch noticed blood on a live well in the boat and asked about what was killed. The subject stated that it was fish blood. Cpl. Bunch continued to investigate and learned that a wood duck had been killed. He was issued a citation for possession of illegally taken wildlife.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bill Bunch found a small dove shoot in progress. The field was closed down due to bait and a citation was given to the land owner along with a Dove field pamphlet with planting guidelines.

#### **DAWSON COUNTY**

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, RFC Barry Britt and Ranger Shane Brown conducted an On-Line Hunter Education Class. During this class a total of 8 students were certified in Hunter Education.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Lee Brown, Wildlife Technician III David Shattuck and two State Troopers conducted a road check on Dawson Forest WMA. Several vehicles were checked with verbal guidance given for minor infractions.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Wildlife Technician III David Shattuck was at the Dawson Forest WMA Check Station when he checked a hunter who had killed an undersized bear. A citation was issued for the killing of an undersized bear and the bear was confiscated.

### **DEKALB COUNTY**

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Sanders conducted an On-Line Hunter Education Class at the Tucker Park and Recreation Department. During this class a total of 20 students were certified in Hunter Education.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Sanders and RFC Kevin Goodbee were checking sites baited for deer. The rangers issued two citations for hunting deer over bait and two warnings for hunting without permission.

### **ROCKDALE COUNTY**

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Eric Sanders and three volunteer Hunter Education Instructors conducted an On-Line Hunter Education Class at Johnson Park. During this class a total of 29 students were certified in Hunter Education.

### **WHITE COUNTY**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, RFC Kevin Dyer and Corporal Derek Dillard conducted a hunter development program for the Women for the Woods at Buck Shoals State Park. Twelve members of Women for the Woods were taught firearms safety and the fundamentals of shooting. The group shot .22 caliber rim fire rifles and clay pigeons with shot guns.

### **HALL COUNTY**

On September 14, Cpl. Jason Roberson was working a night hunting complaint in Hall County. He set up surveillance in a freshly cut hay field with an open gate. At approximately 9:30 PM. A motorcycle came down the paved road and pulled into the field with no lights. The driver continued to within forty yards of Cpl. Roberson's truck then spotted the DNR truck. Cpl. Roberson illuminated the driver to identify him and turned on his blue lights to identify himself. The driver of the motorcycle turned around and sped out of the field and onto the paved road. Cpl. Roberson followed after him with his blue lights on for approximately one mile before the suspect came to rest in a ditch. The suspect was driving with a suspended license and was in possession of numerous burglary tools including an empty gas can, siphon hose, flashlights, and other items. He was charged with fleeing and attempting to elude and driving while privileges are suspended. He is currently under investigation by Hall County Sheriff's office for burglaries in the area.

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Burgamy was on morning patrol for dove activity when he heard shots off Dee Kennedy Road. He went to investigate and located a dove shoot with 6 hunters. As he was checking the hunters, he noticed the field was baited. The landowner confessed to "sweeting" the field the night before. He was charged with unlawful enticement and the others were issued warnings for hunting over bait and possession of illegally taken wildlife. Twelve doves were confiscated and the field was flagged.



## **BANKS COUNTY**

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, RFC Eric Isom held a Hunter Education Class at Wal-Mart in Banks Crossing. Thirty-five students were certified from the class.

## **JACKSON COUNTY**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, RFC Eric Isom patrolled for hunting activity near the Jackson and Clark County line. RFC Isom located a large dove shoot with approximately thirty subjects hunting the field at 5:30 PM. The field had a freshly plowed strip going through the middle. RFC Isom entered the field towards bottom end and commenced checking the hunters. A short time later RFC Isom noticed that subjects were leaving the field and driving off. RFC Isom headed towards the vehicles and while crossing the plowed strip, found millet seed on top of the bare ground. RFC Isom informed the hunters that the field was baited. The landowner admitted to scattering the millet. RFC Isom issued the landowner a citation for unlawful enticement of game. Warnings for hunting over bait, possession of illegally taken wildlife, hunting with an unplugged shotgun, hunting without a license, and hunting without a HIP permit were issued to the remaining twenty-six hunters. Thirty-two doves were confiscated from the field.



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

### **COWETA COUNTY**

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:44 PM Cpl. Travis Sweat was working a hunting w/o permission complaint in Senoia. As Cpl. Sweat patrolled on Old Hwy 85 he quickly identified a hunter standing on the wood line of the field in question. Cpl. Sweat quickly apprehended the suspect and a second hunter on the field across the road. The hunters told Officer Sweat that they had just been checked by Cpl. Waddell two hours prior. Cpl. Sweat knew that this was a lie and proceed with his investigation. Once Cpl. Sweat stepped onto the one field he found cracked corn and wheat scattered in the mowed areas of the field. After making contact with the owners of the fields Cpl. Sweat charged one of the hunters for hunting over bait and gave one a warning for hunting w/o permission.

### **JONES COUNTY**

On the afternoon of September 8<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Jeremy Reese and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Officer Tom Payne patrolled Jones County for dove hunting activity. The officers located a small dove shoot with 6 hunters. Further investigation led to the landowner being charged with unlawful enticement and warnings issued to the other hunters for hunting doves over bait. A total of 45 doves were confiscated and donated to the county jail.

### **MERIWETHER COUNTY**

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Cpl. Keith Waddell was patrolling the Lodge Road Dove Field at Joe Kurz Wildlife Management Area when he encountered 4 suspects hunting doves on the field. Cpl. Waddell began to unload the first hunter's gun and ejected 4 shotgun shells from the gun. While engaging the first two hunters, Cpl. Waddell observed one of the other two hunters harvest a mourning dove. The first two hunters were not in possession of any doves. Upon a check of the second group of hunters, Cpl. Waddell observed a total of three harvested mourning doves. Cpl. Waddell confiscated the three doves, issued all 4 hunters citations for Hunting on a Closed WMA, and issued one written warning for Hunting with an Unplugged Shotgun.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On the morning of September 10<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Derek Cobb and Cpl. Josh Copelan taught a boating safety refresher class to Georgia Power employees at the Land Management Office located at Wallace Dam.

### **WILKINSON COUNTY**

On the afternoon of September 14<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Derek Cobb and Cpl. Lynn Stanford taught a hunter safety class at the Wilkinson County High School. A total of 10 students were certified in hunter safety. Later that afternoon, the officers patrolled Ball's Ferry State Park. Several fishermen were checked and two subjects were issued warnings for possession of open containers at a state boat ramp.

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

### **DOOLY COUNTY**

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, RFC Clint Martin and RFC Chad Hulsey investigated the illegal dumping of shingles on a property in Dooly County. During the investigation it was revealed that the shingles were taken off a building in Crisp County and were hauled to a property in Dooly County to be dumped. Rangers were able to identify a suspect and during a subsequent interview he confessed to illegally dumping the shingles. He was cited for the unlawful dumping of shingles.

### **BAKER COUNTY**

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Randy Davis assisted Newton P.D. and G.B.I. with perimeter security at the scene of a homicide in Newton, GA.

### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Rick Sellars assisted with water security during the ODBA "Flint River Showdown" boat drag races. Approximately 4,000 spectators attended the event.

### **CLAY COUNTY**

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jim Atchley conducted an alligator hunting patrol on Lake George. Several hunters were checked and one issued a citation for non-resident hunting without a license.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, RFC Atchley and Ranger Quinn Fogle patrolled Lake George for waterfowl hunting. One hunter was cited for hunting without a license.

RFC Atchley and Ranger Fogle returned to Lake George the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> to check alligator hunters. At approximately midnight they responded to a disturbance at a wedding reception being held at a residence on the lake shore. No arrests were made.

### **STEWART COUNTY**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Butch Potter encountered three alligator hunters hunting within the boundaries of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge on Lake George. They were cited for hunting alligators in an unauthorized area. One of the hunters had been cited the night before by RFC Atchley for hunting without an alligator license. He had since purchased his alligator license but had failed to obtain a general hunting license. The hunter was issued a warning for the infraction and shown how to purchase the license on his smartphone. After completing the transaction the hunters were given directions to areas they could legally hunt.



## **COLQUITT COUNTY**

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, RFC Chris Carlisle located a dove shoot taking place behind a residential area. The Ranger issued citations for unplugged shotguns and taking over the limit of doves.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade was conducting a patrol for dove hunting activity when he noticed a dove blind placed in a tobacco field. Realizing a tobacco field would hold little attraction for doves; Wade performed a closer inspection and discovered that the field was baited with cracked corn. He also found the hunters had unsuccessfully attempted to harrow the bait under just prior to hunting. The seven hunters participating in the shoot were charged for hunting doves over bait.

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

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl John A Stokes received a call about a man falling out of a deer stand. EMS was picking him up and taking him to the hospital to be checked out. Cpl. Stokes met with the hunter at the hospital and the injuries were limited to bruising. The hunter had climbed up a ladder stand fifteen feet high and went to sit down when the binder strap broke.

### **IRWIN COUNTY**

On the morning of September 10, Sgt. David Reckley drove into a corn field to check a dove shoot. He found a hunter that was not part of the organized shoot on another part of the field. The subject was hunting with an unplugged gun, had no license and was hunting without permission. Upon checking it was found that he was wanted for failure to appear to court on several traffic tickets stemming from a DUI. He was arrested and turned over to the Irwin County Sheriff's Office.

### **BULLOCH COUNTY**

On Friday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, RFC Jamey O'Brien and SGT Don Dasher monitored boating and fishing activity at Rocky Ford Landing at the Ogeechee River. Numerous vessels were checked as well as creel limits. Violations noted were for operating vessel without PFD's and operating vessel without fire extinguisher.

On Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 RFC Jamey O'Brien and SGT Don Dasher patrolled areas for dove hunting activity, no violations were detected. Later that night, RFC O'Brien and SGT Dasher responded to the Ogeechee River where two subjects were reported missing and were overdue at their destination. Several county units from Bulloch and Effingham and GSP also responded to assist. Just before midnight the subjects were located and were reunited with family without incident.

On Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup> 2013, RFC Jamey O'Brien responded to a call of an alligator in the middle of a roadway. Officer O'Brien attempted to get the 8 foot alligator to go back into the woods numerous times without success. Due to the fact that this incident was in a residential neighborhood with several homes, people and pets close by; Ranger O'Brien captured the alligator and safely relocated it nearby to a remote portion of the Ogeechee River.



### **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and RGR Daniel North located a dove shoot while patrolling the western portion of the county. Violations of hunting with unplugged shotgun, hunting without license, and failure to participate in harvest information program were addressed.



## **PIERCE COUNTY**

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jason Shipes and RGR Sam Williams checked a dove shoot off Hwy 121 south of Blackshear. The officers were able to locate a small group of hunters shooting doves in a sunflower field. As Cpl. Shipes started to enter the field he could see a large amount of cracked corn mixed with bird seed spread onto the field. Citations for hunting over bait, possession of illegally taken wildlife and hunting with an unplugged shotgun were documented. Seventy-eight illegally-taken doves were confiscated.



**RGR Sam Williams inspects dove bait on the illegal field in Pierce County.**

## **WARE COUNTY**

On September 8th, Corporal Josh Chambers conducted a morning dove hunting patrol across the northern portion of the county. During this patrol fourteen hunters were compliance checked. One hunter was issued a citation for hunting with an unplugged shotgun, and one warning was issued for hunting without a license. Two hunters were given verbal guidance for not participating in the harvest information program.

## **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On September 9th, Ranger Patrick Gibbs received a complaint from an individual in reference to a potentially baited dove field. After investigating the area with Cpl. Kevin Joyce, the two of them determined that the field was indeed baited with oats. The landowner was contacted and issued signs to be placed around the field notifying any possible hunters that the field was baited.

On September 12th, Ranger Patrick Gibbs and Sgt. Jon Barnard patrolled Bullard Creek WMA for GORP compliance. One citation was issued at the archery range, and one citation was issued at the rifle range.



### **COFFEE COUNTY**

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Cpl. Morty Wood, Sgt. Damon Winters, and RFC Tim Hutto concluded an investigation into a boating accident on the Ocmulgee River. RFC Tim Hutto obtained two arrest warrants for a suspect out of Broxton, Georgia for shocking fish and boating under the influence. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, RFC Hutto was able to locate and arrest the subject without incident.

### **LANIER COUNTY**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Hutto was dispatched to a residence on highway 122 West in Lakeland to assist Lanier County Sheriff's Department and Lanier County Fire Department with an illegal burn. One subject was questioned and issued a citation for unlawful burning of waste after he caught two yards on fire trying to burn household trash and other items.

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

### **CAMDEN COUNTY**

On September 12<sup>th</sup> Captain Doug Lewis, Sergeant Chris Hodge, Corporal Craig Smith, Corporal Bobby White, and RFC David Brady were involved in an emergency exercise involving Kings Bay Naval Base. Some of the Rangers were in boats while others were at the command post. This exercise involved personnel from all agencies around Kings Bay and from the Federal Government.