



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
April 9 – April 15, 2017

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)

BARTOW COUNTY

On April 9, Sgt. Jason Roberson and RFC Zack Hardy patrolled Allatoona Lake. The Wardens checked 21 boats and 11 fishing license, 3 citations were issued for operating a vessel without PFD's and allowing an underage child to ride a moving vessel without a PFD.

On April 10, RFC Zack Hardy located 12 bags of household garbage dumped on Old Grassdale Rd. RFC Hardy was able to locate the responsible person for dumping the trash. The subject was charged with unlawful dumping of waste.

On April 15, Sgt. Jason Roberson and Cpl. Byron Young patrolled the Upper Etowah River. The Wardens checked several boaters and fishermen, 11 citations and warnings were issued for operating a vessel without PFD's, fishing without a license, Non-resident fishing without a license and illegal use of an ATV on a WMA. Later in the afternoon the Wardens patrolled the southern portion of Allatoona Lake. One BUI arrest was made near Red Top Mt State Park.

COBB COUNTY

On April 12th and 13th RFC Bart Hendrix and RFC Mark Puig attended Career Fair's at the Cobb Galleria and Kennesaw State University. The Wardens answered questions from students about a career with Georgia DNR Law Enforcement.

PAULDING COUNTY

On Sunday, April 9th Sgt. Eric Brown and RFC Daniel Gray patrolled on Paulding Forest WMA for turkey hunting activity. During the patrol six hunters were checked and 2 citations were issued for hunting w/o a license and hunting with an unplugged shotgun. Four warnings were issued for hunting w/o big game license, hunting w/o WMA license, hunting with unplugged shotgun and hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road.

POLK COUNTY

On Friday April 14th, RFC Daniel Gray checked a baited turkey hunting blind Game Wardens had found earlier in the season. Two individuals were cited for hunting w/o hunting license, hunting w/o big game license, and hunting turkey over bait.

PAULDING COUNTY

On Saturday April 15th, Cpl. Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray conducted a patrol on Paulding Forest WMA. During the patrol the Game Wardens encountered five fishermen and one turkey hunter. The hunter was issued citations for hunting w/o license and hunting w/o WMA license and issued a warning for hunting w/o big game license.

POLK COUNTY

On Saturday April 15th, Cpl. Chad Cox was patrolling the western part of the county when he located a truck behind a gate in a small field. Cpl. Cox waited at the truck for the hunter to return. When the hunter returned Cpl. Cox issued him a citation for hunting without a license and hunting with an unplugged gun. He was also warned for hunting without a big game license.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On April 16th, Game Warden Chris Kernahan patrolled Fort Yargo State Park for fishing and boating activity. While on patrol, he found multiple subjects to be in possession of alcoholic beverages, operating vessels without lifejackets, fishing without a license, and swimming illegally. The violations were documented.

On April 14th, Game Warden Chris Kernahan patrolled Fort Yargo State Park for fishing and boating activity. While on patrol, he made contact with multiple subjects who were found to be fishing without a license, and in possession of marijuana. The violations were documented.

On April 10th, Game Warden RFC Eric Isom and his K9 partner Colt conducted an area check for fishing activity on the Middle Oconee River. Two subjects were located fishing along the river. One subject was found to be fishing without a license and felony warrants out of Gordon County for trafficking meth. He was taken into custody for the warrants and fishing without a license. The other subject was released from the scene.

JACKSON COUNTY

On April 15th, Game Warden Chris Kernahan patrolled Bear Creek Watershed for fishing and boating activity. While on patrol, he made contact with multiple subjects who were found to be fishing without a license, and in possession of marijuana. The violations were documented.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

WILKES COUNTY

On April 14th Cpl. Mark Patterson concluded an investigation on illegal trapping activity that had begun on March 28th. During the course of the investigation, surveillance of the area was conducted along with interviews of individuals involved. Violations documented in this case were non-resident trapping without a license, trapping with an illegal device, failure to inspect traps within 24 hours, and failure to tag traps.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On May 13th, Capt. Stan Elrod and Cpl. Ryan Swain conducted a concentrated patrol of McDuffie PFA. Over 35 anglers were inspected. During the inspection, eight violations were detected. Two subjects were screened for illegal drugs. No drugs were detected but the subjects stated they had “smoked all they had” before they were checked by the Game Wardens. It was also discovered that one angler had a suspended driver’s license. The subject was not observed driving and was advised to call someone to come pickup his vehicle and drive it home for him. No further action was taken by the Game Wardens.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On April 13th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. One angler was checked for license compliance. No violations were documented.

On April 15th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the River Bend Wildlife Management Area. One hunter and one angler were checked for license compliance. No violations were detected.

WHEELER COUNTY

On April 17th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne conducted four Information and Education programs related to hunter safety and boating safety at the Wheeler County Elementary School Champs students.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

MCINTOSH COUNTY

On April 15, RFC Mark Day patrolled Altamaha WMA after dark for illegal activity. Day's efforts resulted in two violations being detected. One for illegally camping on a WMA and another for failure to obtain GORP pass in a user fee area.

WAYNE COUNTY

On April 15 Corporal Bobby White patrolled the Altamaha River for illegal fishing/boating activity. White checked 25 boats and addressed violations for fishing without a license and violation of the 100' rule.

BRYAN COUNTY

On April 9, 2017 Game Warden B. Bryson responded to an in progress complaint from the Ranger Hotline of people taking exceptionally small crabs at a Bryan County fishing pier. When Game Warden Bryson arrived the person was still there apparently keeping any crab that was caught. The man was cited for fishing without a license and possession of undersized crabs.

On April 12, 2017 Game Wardens Thain and Morris completed a JEA Patrol with NOAA officers Mitchell and Hughes. During the patrol a commercial shrimp trawler was boarded and TED's were measured to ensure they were in compliance with all federal regulations.

On April 13th, Ranger Tim Morris, RFC Jack Thain, and Cpl. Jay Morgan patrolled the St. Catherine's Sound area checking boaters and fishermen. One boat with two fishermen was found to have taken six undersized spotted seatrout on board. The boat captain was cited for possession of undersized fish, operating a vessel without any life jackets, operating without a throwable PFD, and operating without a fire extinguisher.



On April 14, 2017 Game Wardens Toney, Morris, Thain and K9 Case, patrolled the coastal waters of Bryan and Liberty Counties. Several anglers were checked for compliance with state laws. Fishing license and boating safety equipment violations were documented.

On Friday evening of April 14th, Game Warden Morris received a call from Fort McAllister State Park regarding an intoxicated individual. Upon arrival Game Warden Morris found the individual in a public area of the park and was so intoxicated it was difficult to get any information from him. After determining that there were no medical concerns, he was arrested for being intoxicated on a state park and his vehicle was removed from the park.

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On April 14th, Cpl. John Evans was patrolling the Ava Strickland boat ramp on the Satilla River in Atkinson. Cpl. Evans checked a boat coming into the ramp just after he arrived. While checking the safety equipment, Cpl. Evans noticed a very strong odor of alcohol coming from the operator and several empty beer cans in the boat. Cpl. Evans conducted a BUI Screening on the operator and determined him to be impaired. The operator was arrested and charged with Operating a vessel under the influence. He was transported to the Brantley County Jail where he blew a 0.121 on the Intox 9000.

CAMDEN COUNTY

On April 15th, Cpl. John Evans and Sgt. Chris Ridley were patrolling the northwest part of the county for turkey hunting activity. The game wardens went to a piece of property they had caught illegal hunters on in the past and encountered a parked truck across the road. One hunter was asleep in the truck. Cpl. Evans tracked another hunter and found him hunting over bait and without licenses. Sgt. Ridley tracked the other hunter and his son. They too were hunting over bait. Both of the adult hunters had had previously killed turkeys but had not recorded them on their harvest records or checked them out in the Game Check system. Both hunters were charged with hunting big game over bait, Failure to report harvest, and hunting without a hunting license. The hunter who was asleep in the truck had gotten sick on the up from Florida that morning. He also did not have any hunting licenses.

