



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
August 6 – August 12, 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 August 8-10th, Game Wardens Sgt. Mike Barr, Cpl. Ben Cunningham, and Ranger Kalem Burns participated in several days of Incident Management Training at Red Top Mountain State Park. The training utilized the standard incident command system to respond to significant events such as tornados, missing persons, hurricanes, and boat crashes.



Ranger Kalem Burns (left) and Cpl. Ben Cunningham (right) work with several other DNR employees on a simulated tornado response in the role of incident command.

CHATTOOGA COUNTY

On August 6th, GWFC McConkey patrolled Rocky Mountain PFA in Floyd County. One resident from Alabama was found on this patrol who was fishing with a Georgia resident fishing license. It was found the subject had purchased multiple resident licenses using a Georgia address. The subject was charged with violation.

On August 12th, Game Warden RFC Roger McConkey received an award from the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Safari Club International. The award recognized RFC McConkey's contributions to wildlife enforcement in North Georgia during 2016-2017. Game Warden McConkey attended the event in Chattanooga, Tennessee and was accompanied by Sgt. Mike Barr, Cpl. Shawn Elmore, and Ranger Nolan Callaway. Congratulations to Game Warden McConkey!

GORDON COUNTY

On August 12th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore responded to a fishing without permission complaint in the north end of Gordon County. Cpl. Elmore located three adults and two children fishing in the pond. They were issued warnings for fishing without permission and told not to return.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On August 6th, Cpl. Anne Wiley, RFC Joe Hill, and RFC Chad Chambers responded to the Tallulah Gorge State Park at Sliding Rock access trail in reference to a possible drowning that occurred on the gorge floor at Bridal Veil Falls. Major Doc Watson and RFC Mitchell Crump were requested for a helicopter long line patient extraction. Assistant Park Manager Jessica James, Tallulah Falls Police Officer Matt Nall, Habersham County and Rabun County responders and medical personnel assisted the patient. The 38 year old patient slid down into the pool off Sliding Rock with his year old 12 son. The patient assisted his son to safety with another adult friend. The patient struggled and went under the water for approximately 4 minutes. The patient was located and pulled out of the water by a friend and bystander. CPR was given to the patient. Medical responders arrived and continued medical treatment. It is with deep sympathy to report, the patient did not survive the incident.

On August 6th, Tallulah Falls Police Officer Matt Nall contacted Cpl. Anne Wiley in reference to several adults accessing Sliding Rock Trail and the gorge floor, at Tallulah Gorge State Park, without obtaining a required gorge floor permit. Cpl. Wiley and RFC Chad Chambers were collecting information for a CIRT investigation involving a drowning at the same location, so RFC Joe Hill responded to the complaint. RFC Hill was able to locate the adults from the description given to him by Cpl. Wiley. RFC Hill issued five adults a citation for criminal trespass on a state park (No gorge permit).

WHITE COUNTY

On August 5th, Major Doc Watson, Sgt. Steve Seitz, RFC David Webb, and RFC Mitchell Crump received a call from White County EMS requesting assistance to rescue an injured hiker on the Smith Creek trail about one and a half miles above Anna Ruby Falls. A 53 year old female fell and broke her ankle and was unable to walk out of the rugged terrain. Major Watson and RFC Crump used a DNR helicopter to extract the patient off of the trail by using a long line. Sgt. Seitz and RFC Webb caught the patient from the long line. Sgt. Seitz and RFC Webb assisted her into an awaiting ambulance where she was then taken to the hospital to treat her injuries.

MADISON COUNTY

On August 6th, RFC Shane Sartor patrolled the Broad River for violations. While on foot patrol RFC Sartor observed two subjects smoking what he believed to be marijuana. RFC Sartor made contact with the subjects and they admitted to having marijuana in their possession. Both subjects were issued appearance citations for Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act.

HART COUNTY

On August 5th, Cpl. Craig Fulghum and RFC Tim Vickery patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating safety violations. During their patrol they conducted a stop of a vessel for violations of rules of road. After the stop a field sobriety test was given and failed. The subject was arrested for BUI and read Georgia's implied consent. The subject was transported to the Hart County Detention Center after failing the Intox 9000 test with a BAC of .102. The subject was charged with BUI, rules of road violation, and operating vessel with unserviceable fire extinguisher.

On August 6th, RFC Brandon Pierce received a complaint that an individual had possibly killed some mourning doves. On August 8th, RFC Pierce, along with RFC Tim Vickery, interviewed the subject in question. It was determined through the investigation that the subject had killed thirty-two doves and disposed of them on the property. The subject was issued a citation for hunting doves out of season.

On August 12th, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Shane Sartor patrolled Lake Hartwell for any boating safety/fishing violations. Numerous boats were checked for proper safety equipment, as well as, several fishing licenses were inspected. As a result, seven warnings were issued. The violations consisted of operating a vessel without a fire extinguisher, towing a skier without a mirror/observer, and operating vessel within 100 foot of object in water above idle speed.

On August 12th, Cpl. Craig Fulghum and Sgt. Derek Dillard patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating and fishing violations. During their patrol a total of 8 violations were documented. The violations consisted of fishing without licenses, towing skier without mirror/observer, and failure to obey regulatory marker.

HALL COUNTY

On August 6th, RFC Kevin Goss and Cpl. Eric Isom, while on vessel patrol on Lake Lanier, encountered a boat creating a wake in the no wake zone at Sunset Cove. RFC Goss stopped the boat and discovered that the operator had been drinking heavily. RFC Goss screened the man and placed him under arrest for BUI.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

ELBERT COUNTY

On August 12th Sgt. Brian Carter, Cpl. Julian Wilkins, and RFC Tim Butler patrolled Lake Russell. Violations documented were operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness, operating a vessel without personal flotation devices, operating a vessel with insufficient Pfd's, allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a Pfd, and fishing without a license.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On August 12th, Cpl. Ryan Swain, RFC Bobby Timmerman and Game Warden Michael Madden conducted a concentrated vessel patrol of Clarks Hill Lake. Game Wardens stopped approximately nine vessels during the patrol. Game Wardens documented the following violations; towing skier without mirror/observer, allowing underage children to ride in a moving vessel without a PFD, operating a vessel without a throwable device, operating a vessel without a fire extinguisher, operating a vessel with improper registration and towing a skier without a PFD.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

On August 6th, RFC Steve Thomas received a complaint of fishing without permission in Decatur County. Two subjects were cited for fishing without permission.

On August 12th, Cpl. Tony Cox and warden David Jones apprehended two subjects on Silver Lake WMA who were fishing in Panic Pond. This particular pond is closed during the months of July and August.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

On August 12th, Cpl. Tony Cox and warden David Jones observed a vessel on Lake Seminole attempting to avoid the officers at a local landing. The operator was later contacted at a nearby residence, after a brief investigation it was determined that the operator was fishing with an illegal fish basket with no commercial fishing license. Subject was cited for fishing without a commercial fishing license.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On August 11th RFC Jordan Crawford was working a night deer hunting complaint when he observed an individual on an ATV use a hand held spotlight to shine the field he was watching. RFC Crawford performed a traffic stop on the ATV and the individual was charged with blinding wildlife.

CANDLER COUNTY

On August 12th, Ranger Randell Meeks was working a night hunting complaint on Hendricks Road. Ranger Meeks observed an ATV with a LED light bar on front sweep a peanut field twice. Upon stopping the ATV, no weapons were found. One violation for blinding wildlife was documented.

DODGE COUNTY

On August 6th, Game Warden Allen Mills was checking creeks and bridges for fishing activity. Two anglers were checked for creel and license requirements. Two violations for fishing without a license were documented.

LAURENS COUNTY

On August 6th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Nine anglers were checked for licenses and creel limit compliance. Verbal guidance was given to two non-anglers who did not possess a fishing license or a Georgia Land Pass required to be present on the Public Fishing Area.

TELFAIR COUNTY

On August 11th, Game Warden Lamar Burns received a report of an alligator attack from Sergeant James McLaughlin and the Georgia State Patrol Dispatch. The alleged victim was transported by Emergency Medical Services to Dodge County Hospital. The victim was treated and released with minor lacerations to their forearm. On August 12th, Game Warden Lamar Burns, Corporal Dan Stiles, and Sergeant James McLaughlin interviewed the alleged victim about details leading up to the incident. After an investigation of the scene, Game Wardens could not locate a scene or any evidence of alligator attack. The incident was reported to Game Management Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Telfair County Officials.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

GLYNN COUNTY

On August 11, RFC David Brady was patrolling for boating and fishing activity around Brunswick. While checking several fishermen in one location, he noticed a truck parked in an odd place over to the side of the creek. When Brady completed his license and creel checks he investigated the vehicle further. After a thorough investigation the subject was found to be in possession of Marijuana. The subject was arrested for VGCSA (Marijuana less 1oz) and Littering.