



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
December 03 - December 09, 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)

WHITFIELD COUNTY

On December 8th, RFC Mark Moyer issued citations to an individual for hunting without permission and hunting without fluorescent orange. Warnings were also issued for hunting without license on person and criminal trespass. On December 9th, RFC Moyer issued two citations for violation of US Forest Service Rules on a WMA. On December 10th, Cpl. Casey Jones and Warden Travis Shrader issued citations to five non-resident waterfowl hunters. Violations included non-resident hunting without license, failure to participate in migratory HIP program, hunting without federal waterfowl stamp, and hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

MURRAY COUNTY

On December 8th, Sgt. James Keener and Cpl. Casey Jones responded to a hunting without permission complaint in the Ball Ground area. Sgt. Keener tracked two subjects through the snow after dark to a nearby subdivision. Cpl. Jones met Sgt. Keener in the subdivision and after talking to a local resident where the tracks ended, gathered information about the suspect's identity and residence. Both Wardens went to the residence and made contact with one suspect. That suspect was issued citations for hunting without permission, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license. He was also issued a warning for a harvest record violation. The other suspect has been identified and additional charges are pending.

FANNIN COUNTY

On December 7th, Cpl. Cody Jones was called in reference to a deer that had been shot from the roadway. The complainant had pursued the suspects from the scene into North Carolina after the deer had been shot. The suspects called 911 to report the pursuit as a road-rage incident. The suspects and complainant were then stopped by the North Carolina Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol then notified North Carolina Wildlife Resources who also notified Georgia DNR. Wardens David Webb and Cody Jones responded to investigate. The three suspects were issued citations and warnings for several violations including hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road, hunting without permission, non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, harvest record violation, hunting without fluorescent orange, and possession of illegally taken wildlife. A 7-point buck was seized and the meat was donated to a family in need. The complainant was also subsequently charged by North Carolina Highway Patrol for several traffic offenses.



On December 8th, Sgt. James Keener, Cpl. Casey Jones, and Warden Travis Shrader assisted the Georgia State Patrol from the Blue Ridge Post with emergency response during the inclement weather.



BARTOW COUNTY

On December 3rd, Cpl. Bart Hendrix and Warden Frank Pucci patrolled Pine Log WMA. The Wardens located a male and female parked along Stamp Creek. The Wardens located a small amount of marijuana, a large amount felony drugs and 47 hypodermic needles. Both subjects were arrested and charged with several drug violations. On December 9th, Cpl. Byron Young, Cpl. Bart Hendrix, Warden Zack Hardy and Warden Frank Pucci patrolled Pine Log WMA. The Wardens issued a citation for illegal use of ATV on a WMA and a warning for hunting 50 yards from a WMA road.

On December 9th, Cpl. Byron Young and Warden Zack Hardy located 3 men fishing in a private lake off Hwy 411. The men were issued citations for fishing without permission.

GORDON COUNTY

On December 3rd, Sgt. Jason Roberson, Cpl. Bart Hendrix and Warden Frank Pucci responded to a call of 4 subjects hunting rabbits without permission off Miller's Ferry Rd. The hunters were issued citations for hunting without permission.

FLOYD COUNTY

On December 9th, Corporal Ben Cunningham and Game Warden Kalem Burns were out at a residence trying to locate an individual in reference to a hunting without permission investigation on Thanksgiving week. After talking with several individuals in the residence, the game wardens noticed a man in camouflage walking out of the wood line. The game wardens went over to the individual and asked if he had been hunting. The individual denied hunting at first but eventually admitted to hunting and agreed to take the game wardens to the spot he had hid his shotgun. On the way, the game wardens noticed a salt block in the line of sight to a tree stand. Once the game wardens reached the area where the shotgun was, Cpl. Cunningham notice a second set of footprints in the snow. Cpl. Cunningham then saw a second individual hiding behind a tree. Cpl. Cunningham asked if that individual was hunting and the individual said he couldn't because he was a convicted felon. Cpl. Cunningham then located a loaded rifle from where the subject was hiding. Neither individual had hunting licenses. One individual admitted to having killed a 10 point and a spike deer recently. Both individuals were arrested. One was charged with convicted felon in possession of firearm, nonresident hunting without license, nonresident hunting without big game license, hunting deer without fluorescent orange and hunting big game over bait. The second individual was charged hunting without license, hunting big game without license, and hunting deer without fluorescent orange. From the earlier hunting without permission investigation from Thanksgiving week the second individual also received citations for hunting without permission, hunting without hunting license, hunting without big game license, hunting without fluorescent orange, hunting with illegal weapon/ammunition, failure to record harvest and also received multiple warnings. A rifle and the deer heads of the 10 point and spike were also confiscated.

GORDON COUNTY

On December 6th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore received a call from SGT. Phillips of the Gordon County Sheriff's Office about a vehicle he located beside his residence on property owned by the Gordon County Government. SGT Phillips said the vehicle was occupied by two Calhoun men and they had been raccoon hunting prior to getting stuck. CPL Elmore responded to the scene and SGT Phillips had already placed both men under arrest. They were both booked into the Gordon County Jail. Charges were filed for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, hunting without permission, possession of less than 1 ounce of marijuana, driving while license suspended, littering, and hunting with illegal ammunition.



Raccoon hunters stuck on powerline on Roland Hayes Parkway.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BANKS COUNTY

On December 6th, RFC Chris Kernahan conducted an investigation concerning the illegal baiting of waterfowl at Commerce Watershed in Banks County. At the conclusion of the investigation, Game Warden Kernahan located one suspect who was found to have interfered with a lawful hunt. The violation was addressed. Because of the suspect's actions, the watershed was posted as a baited area, and subsequently closed to hunting for a period.

JACKSON COUNTY

On December 7th, Cpl. Eric Isom finished an illegal hunting investigation. Cpl. Isom traveled to the Jackson county jail to interview a subject who was in jail on other non-game related charges. After the interview, the subject admitted to killing an eight-point buck. The subject received citations for hunting without license, big game license, and failure to record deer harvest. The deer meat was given to a family in need.

On the same day, Jackson County Sheriff's Department in reference to canine request contacted Cpl. Isom. On 12/04/2017, a murder occurred in the Jackson County. After the sheriff Department apprehended him, they could not locate the gun. Cpl. Isom deployed his K9 partner Colt, who located the gun. It was turned over to Jackson County Sheriff's Department.

RABUN COUNTY

On December 9th, RFC Chad Chambers and Ranger Tommy Crabb assisted Georgia DOT and Georgia Power crews with gaining access to Hwy 28 through Warwoman Road. The two officers assisted with traffic and crowd control while crews cleared downed trees and powerlines that came down during the recent snow storm. Rabun County sheriff deputies were busy with similar details in other parts of the county when the two Game Wardens decided to step in and assist. Rabun County Sheriff Chad Nichols was very appreciative of the assistance. Later that same afternoon, RFC Chambers and Ranger Crabb checked a baited deer stand in the north part of Rabun County. The Game Wardens encountered two men hunting over a pile of corn in an attempt to harvest deer. The two men were each cited for hunting big game over bait and hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

GREENE COUNTY

On December 9th, Cpl. Derrell Worth cited one subject for hunting deer over bait and violation of antler restriction, one subject for hunting on a closed WMA, and one subject for hunting without Federal Migratory License and State Migratory License.

On December 5th, Ranger Dan Schay patrolled Redlands WMA for hunting and fishing activity. A violation of fishing without a license was documented.

NEWTON COUNTY

On December 9th, Ranger Dan Schay worked an illegal hunting investigation in Newton County. During the course of the investigation violations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license were documented.

WALTON COUNTY

On December 9th, Ranger Jason Harrison Patrolled Walton County for Deer Hunting Activity. A violation for Hunting Deer Without Fluorescent Orange was documented.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On December 1st - 4th game wardens from Region 3 assisted with the investigation of a serious boating incident on Clarks Hill Lake.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

On December 8th, Game Wardens Tony Cox and David Jones completed an investigation regarding an illegally harvested deer. After an interview with the suspect it was determined that she did not have a valid hunting license at the time of the harvest. The suspect was issued citations for hunting without a resident hunting license, hunting without a big game license, and recording and reporting requirements for game animals and birds. The cape of the illegally harvested whitetail buck was seized as evidence.

On December 9th, Wardens Tony Cox and David Jones were patrolling for duck hunting activity when they encountered several subjects in a flooded duck pond. After a brief investigation two subjects were found to be in excess of the daily bag limit and were issued citations for possession over the daily bag limit. Nineteen ducks were confiscated as evidence as a result of the investigation.

LEE COUNTY

On December 9th, Game Warden Jesse Harrison stopped a vehicle for hunting deer at night. Harrison conducted a brief investigation and the two subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle and hunting big game from a public road.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

APPLING COUNTY

On December 4th, Cpl. Altman finished up a two day investigation from a video obtained through social media on a complaint. The investigation resulted in warnings for illegal trapping and an arrest warrant being obtained for a convicted felon possessing a firearm. The warrant was issued on Monday and one subject was arrested and transported to the Detention Center.

BEN HILL COUNTY

On December 9th, Corporal John Stokes and Ranger Lamar Burns encountered two subjects while patrolling. Upon interviewing the subjects two citations were issued for non-resident hunting without a hunting license and non-resident hunting without a big game license along with two warnings for hunting without florescent orange and failure to obtain a harvest record. Later that day another hunter was issued a warning for hunting without florescent orange.

DODGE COUNTY

On December 3rd, Corporal Dan Stiles received a complaint from a landowner of someone fishing without permission on his property. Cpl. Stiles responded to the scene, but the subject had left. After interviewing a witness and checking several residences in the area a suspect was located. After a brief interview the suspect was charged with fishing without permission.

On December 9th, Game Warden Allen Mills was patrolling Dodge County Public Fishing Area for boating and fishing activity. Three anglers were checked for license and regulation compliance. One violation for fishing without a license was documented.

LAURENS COUNTY

On December 5th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Allen Mills responded to a report of a hunter who had fallen from a tree stand. The victim was transported by ambulance to a local hospital with a broken leg and ankle. Cpl. Stiles investigated the incident. The victim fell approximately ten feet while descending a ladder stand. On December 7th, Corporal Dan Stiles received a report of a subject who had fallen from a tree stand. Ranger Randall Meeks responded and began the investigation. Cpl. Stiles arrived on scene later to finish the investigation. The victim was hunting on the River Bend Wildlife Management Area and fell approximately seven feet from a climbing tree stand. The victim sustained multiple fractures to vertebrae and ribs. He also had two lacerations.

On December 9th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the River Bend Wildlife Management Area during a big game sign-in hunt. Seven hunters were checked for license and regulation compliance. Two verbal warnings were given to two hunters for minor violations.

TELFAIR COUNTY

On December 9th, Ranger Lamar Burns and Corporal John Stokes encountered four hunters while patrolling a tract of land. They hunters were checked for compliance where one warning was issued for not wearing fluorescent orange while hunting. Later that evening another hunter was issued a warning for not documenting his deer on harvest record.

CLINCH COUNTY

On December 2nd, Game Warden Sam Williams & Sgt. Patrick Dupree were patrolling for hunting activity near Argyle. During the patrol, the officers observed a hunter sitting in a tripod stand hunting deer while not wearing any fluorescent orange. The violation for hunting deer while not wearing fluorescent orange was documented.

On December 8th, 9th, & 10th, Game Wardens Corporal Mark Pool & Joseph Cowart represented the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division at a “Becoming an Outdoors Woman” event. The two officers served as fishing and hunting guides in and near the Okefenokee Swamp area near Fargo. Twelve women learned how to fish in the black waters of the swamp and hunt deer with handguns in the piney-woods. Over the three day period the fisherwomen caught approximately 40 brown bull-head catfish, 30 warmouth, 8 flyer bream, and 50 bowfin. The huntresses killed 4 deer with their Glock 10 mm handguns.



2017 Becoming an Outdoors Woman fishing event in the Okefenokee Swamp.





2017 Becoming an Outdoors Woman handgun deer hunt event near Fargo.

PIERCE COUNTY

On December 9th, Game Warden Judd Sears conducted night hunting surveillance on a clear cut where he had received a complaint. While working this location, Game Warden Sears observed a vehicle come to stop near his location and turn out a hunting dog. Game Warden Sears proceeded to the location and spoke with individuals that were raccoon hunting. Upon checking for license requirements, once hunter was found to not have a valid hunting license. Violations for hunting without a license were documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

LIBERTY COUNTY

On December 3, 2017 at 0700 Cpl. Bryson was notified of possible night hunting activity in Liberty County. Game Warden Bryson responded to the area and began an investigation. RFC Thain also responded to assist with a K-9 if needed. Based on the evidence available and the statement of the suspect, it was discovered that the deer was shot in the early morning hours well before daylight. The suspect charged with hunting deer at night and was then transported Liberty County Jail for processing. The deer was taken to Hunters for the Hungry.

On December 9, 2017 Game Wardens Morris and Sgt Scott checked duck hunters in Liberty County. Pictured below is 15 year old Malone Tompkins with his first duck, a drake gadwall.

