



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
March 26 – April 2, 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)

No activity to report.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

No activity to report.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On March 26th Sgt. Brian Carter and RFC Tim Butler patrolled local fishing areas in the Athens area. Several violations were encountered including operation of a vessel with insufficient personal flotation devices, operation of a vessel without personal flotation devices, possession of illegal size fish, and fishing without a license.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On March 26th RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled areas known to be baited for turkey. One case of unlawful enticement and one case of allowing a juvenile to hunt without hunter safety certification were documented.

On March 26th Sgt. Brian Carter and RFC. Tim Butler patrolled areas known to be baited for turkey. Two cases of hunting big game over bait were documented.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

TOOMBS COUNTY

On March 26th Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel and Sergeant Jon Barnard patrolled Hwy 292 for turkey hunting activity. One hunter was checked and citations written for hunting without big game license and hunting without a license.

TREUTLEN COUNTY

On March 31st Corporal Kevin Joyce patrolled several properties in search of turkey hunting activity. During the patrol, a vehicle was located in a wooded area. While checking the area surrounding the vehicle Cpl. Joyce located a freshly harvested hen turkey. Cpl. Joyce continued his search of the woods around the truck and located a hunter that was in possession of a Savage .243 centerfire rifle, which was used to take the turkey. It was also determined that the hunter was not licensed due to the suspension of hunting privileges for non-payment of child support. Violations were documented for; taking a protected game species, hunting with an illegal weapon, and hunting while privileges suspended. The turkey was donated to a local youth home.



COOK COUNTY

On March 26th, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey documented several violations while on vessel patrol at Reed Bingham State Park/Little River. The violations included operating a vessel w/o PFD'S, consuming alcohol on a state park, operating a vessel with expired registration, and fishing w/o a license.

On March 30th, Cpl. Daughtrey and RFC Jon Penuel responded to a stranded vessel call at Red Roberts Landing. After recovering the stranded vessel, Cpl. Daughtrey and RFC Penuel noticed a subject asleep in a vehicle parked at the State Park Landing. The subject was intoxicated and had been sleeping at the park. The subject was charged with consuming alcohol on a state park and warned for littering.

BEN HILL COUNTY

On April 1st Game Wardens Lamar Burns and Corporal John Stokes encountered a turkey hunter during an area patrol. The hunter was cited for hunting turkeys over bait, hunting without a hunting license, and hunting without a big game license.

On April 2nd, Game Warden John A. Stokes and Allen Mills patrolled for turkey hunters and checked baited locations. One violator was found and a violation was documented for hunting big game over bait.

IRWIN COUNTY

On April 1st Game Wardens Lamar Burns and Corporal John Stokes patrolled the rear border and creek along the edge of the Alapaha Wildlife Management Area. Two fisherman were checked for compliance. No violations were documented.

LAURENS COUNTY

On March 26th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the River Bend Wildlife Management Area. Four anglers were checked for fishing licenses and creel compliance and three vessels were checked for registration and boating safety equipment. One violation was documented for operating a vessel without Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices (life jackets). No hunters were encountered during the patrol.

On March 27th, Corporal Dan Stiles received a complaint stating that an alligator had been illegally killed in a private pond. Corporal Stiles, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne, and Ranger Lamar Burns responded to the location and investigated the incident. After interviewing the complainant and several other persons who lived in the vicinity of the area, a suspect developed and was interviewed. At the conclusion of the investigation, it was determined the alligator had been killed on March 21st. One individual was charged with hunting alligators out of season and hunting without permission. A local permitted nuisance alligator trapper was contacted to take possession of the carcass, but due to the degree of decomposition of the carcass he was unable to salvage the animal.



TELFAIR COUNTY

On March 31st, Game Warden Lamar Burns conducted an area patrol at Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area for turkey hunting activity. Four hunters were checked for compliance. No violations were documented. On April 1st, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Seven hunters were checked for license compliance. Additionally, two boat landings were checked on the WMA, and one angler was checked for license and creel compliance and boating safety equipment. No violations were detected.

On April 1st Game Warden Lamar Burns checked two fishermen under Sugar Creek Bridge for compliance. No violations were documented.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On March 26th Sergeant Brian Hobbins, Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford and Ranger First Class Jason Miller patrolled Effingham County for turkey hunting activity. During the patrol the Game Wardens located three poachers hunting over bait. While interviewing one of the poachers. Wardens determined that a fourth poacher, had killed a turkey over one of the bait sights the previous day. Later that afternoon Wardens Crawford and Miller were able to locate the fourth suspect and after a brief interview he admitted to killing the turkey over bait. In total four violations for hunting big game over bait were documented and one wild turkey gobbler was confiscated. The turkey was donated to a local needy family.



CHARLTON COUNTY

On March 23rd, Ranger First Class Sam Williams presented a yearly update to the Charlton County Board of Commissioners at a regularly scheduled meeting in St. George. RFC Williams provided information on law enforcement activity for the past year in the county and other topics of interest related to job duties off the pavement. After the presentation, a short discussion was held due to questions related to illegal dumping of trash and burning of illegal material.

On March 26th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams was patrolling for turkey hunting activity in the St. George area when he encountered a poacher hunting in an area where bait was present. A check of the subject's licenses and equipment was conducted and no other violations were observed. The violator was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait.

On April 1st, Ranger First Class Sam Williams was patrolling near the Okefenokee Swamp when he observed a vehicle parked near an area where turkey bait had been recently found. One violator was located hunting near the bait and issued a citation for hunting big game over bait. No other violations were observed.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On March 18th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree & Ranger First Class Daniel North served as hunting guides during the annual youth turkey hunting school. Several gobblers were harvested by the young hunters that participated in morning's hunt.



Youth Turkey Hunting School Success!

On March 20th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree presented a program at the Echols Public Library to 200 students from Echols Primary School. The youngsters learned about the duties of a game warden.

On March 26th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree encountered three turkey hunters in a blind near Mayday. The three hunters were a father, his juvenile daughter and her juvenile friend. Sgt. Dupree located a small amount of cracked corn 15 yards in front of the blind. The father stated that he was hoping his daughter could harvest a gobbler. Sgt. Dupree explained the baiting law thoroughly to the father and issued him a written warning for the violation.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On March 26th, Game Warden Bill Bryson patrolled Bryan County checking turkey hunters on the Richmond Hill WMA. Cpl. Bryson saw two turkey hunters and checked their hunting licenses. The hunters had not harvested a turkey that morning. One hunter however did not have a WMA stamp and was cited for the violation.

On the afternoon of March 31, 2017, Game Warden Tim Morris responded to a call from GSP dispatch stating that US Coast Guard had received a call about an overturned boat on the Canoochee River on Ft. Stewart Military Base and that the USCG helicopter was hovering over the boater. The coordinates given indicated that the boat was actually in Bryan County on the Ogeechee River. Sgt. Cindy Miller and Cpl. Jay Morgan responded to the call to assist. Game Warden Morris launched a boat at King's Ferry ramp and proceeded to the area with a deputy from Chatham County Marine Patrol. The 21-year old boater was found to be safe but holding on to his overturned 15-foot boat and was transported to King's Ferry ramp. The boater stated that he had struck an underwater object which ejected him from the boat and the boat ran into the shoreline where it overturned. The boater plans to recover the boat the next day. Game Warden Morris will be completing the report.

LONG COUNTY

On March 26, RFC Patrick Gibbs checked several areas where he had knowledge of grain sorghum, oats, sunflowers, and cracked corn being put out to attract turkeys. Gibbs found individuals hunting turkeys over bait in three different locations. Gibbs addressed violations for hunting turkeys over bait, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license.