



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**October 1– October 7, 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)**

### **CATOOSA COUNTY**

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Mike Barr assisted Game Warden First Class Roger McConkey in the seizure of a stolen vessel in Ringgold, Georgia. GWFC McConkey received a call for a Hull Identification Number (HIN) inspection in September. On arrival, GWFC McConkey immediately noticed that the HIN plate had been altered changing the proper HIN number. The HIN number is the vessel's identification number. GWFC McConkey investigated the vessel for weeks working with the manufacturer and a law enforcement agencies in multiple states. After extensive research, it was discovered the vessel was stolen in 2006. Once confirmed, the vessel was seized and returned to its rightful owner.



**A stolen vessel is recovered in Catoosa County and returned to its rightful owner.**

### **FLOYD COUNTY**



**Fishermen Emanuel Johnson age 10 (left) and Malik Barton age 8 (right) show the fish Malik caught at Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area.**

## **WALKER COUNTY**

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Shawn Elmore checked an area on Old Villanow Rd where he had hunting without permission complaints in 2016. Upon his arrival on Old Villanow Rd, CPL Elmore saw the owner of the property next to the United States Forest Service property. While speaking with landowner, Cpl. Elmore learned the owner had heard several high-powered rifle shots. There was a black Dodge truck parked near the property line. CPL Elmore told the owner he would walk his property with him in an attempt to locate anyone on that property. As CPL Elmore and the owner began to walk the property, they encountered a man from Chickamauga returning from hunting the national forest on the owner's property with a locked and loaded crossbow. The owner asked that he be issued a written warning and to remain on the national forest as he entered and exited the area. The Chickamauga man was issued a warning for hunting without permission.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Shawn Elmore and Game Warden Nolan Callaway were patrolling Pigeon Mountain WMA and located three individuals from Cobb County camping in an unauthorized camping area. They were issued warnings for illegal camping on a WMA. The wardens also checked two Lafayette men fishing from boat in the ponds off of Rocky Lane and issued a warning for operating a vessel without Coast Guard Approved (CGA) Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs).

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

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On the evening of October 8<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Chris Kernahan responded to a complaint of illegal hunting activity on private property in Barrow County. Game Warden Kernahan located three subjects who were hunting without permission, hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and violating reporting and recording requirements for big game. Game Warden Kernahan furthered the investigation and found evidence that one of the subjects had harvested deer the previous week illegally. The violations were addressed.

## **Region III- Thomson (East Central)**

### **MORGAN COUNTY**

On October 1, RFC Ricky Boles received a call from a hunter standing that someone had just walked by his stand and wasn't supposed to be there. RFC Boles responded and after several hours located the person in question. The individual did not have permission to be hunting where he was and was cited for Hunting without Permission. While checking for fishing activity at Swords Boat Ramp during the early morning hours of October 8, Sgt. Matt Garthright located one individual in possession of a cast net. The individual stated he had not caught any fish with it. Upon further investigation of the area, Sgt. Garthright located a red in color bag containing 78 small game fish. The individual was charged with Taking Game Fish by Illegal Methods.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

While working ongoing illegal fishing complaints around Lake Oconee on October 8, Sgt. Matt Garthright encountered a boat taking out of the lake at Sugar Creek boat ramp. The subjects stated that they had not caught any fish. The only fishing gear in the boat was a cast net. While speaking with the individuals, Sgt. Garthright heard fish flop around in the boat's live well. Further investigation revealed that the fish were caught and kept with the cast net. One individual was charged with Taking Game Fish by Illegal Methods.

### **GREENE COUNTY**

On October 7, Sgt. Matt Garthright and RFC Ricky Boles was patrolling Redlands Boat Ramp when they observed one individual standing next to his vehicle smoking a marijuana joint and drinking a beer. The Game Wardens approached the individual and he threw down the joint. Further search of the individual and his vehicle produced more marijuana. The individual was charged with Violating Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, misdemeanor.

## **NEWTON COUNTY**

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Dan Schay was patrolling Newton county for hunting and fishing activity and a violation of hunting big game over bait was 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 Sunday October 1, 2017 in the early morning hours RFC Clint Jarriel and RFC Bobby Sanders were in the area of a night deer hunting complaint when a vehicle drove by on a county road and a light was shined into a peanut field from the vehicle's window. A traffic stop ensued and a spot light and three loaded firearms were found. The individuals involved were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting from a public road.



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

#### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On October 7 Game Wardens from Region VI and VII assisted in the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Coast Fest. This event was held at the Coastal Regional Headquarters in Brunswick. Game Wardens provided traffic control, parking, and security for the event. Over 7500 people attended this event.

## LONG COUNTY

On October 7 Game Warden Patrick checked two fishermen taking their boat out at Beards Bluff landing. The fishermen had 31 largemouth bass in their cooler. After talking with the fishermen, Gibbs discovered that they were aware of the 10/person creel limit on bass. Gibbs also discovered 4 bass that were undersized. Violations were addressed for keeping over the creel limit and possession of undersized fish. The fish were confiscated and donated to a needy family.

