



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
September 2 – September 8, 2018

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)

GORDON COUNTY

On September 3rd, Game Warden Corporal Shawn Elmore was checking dove fields and located a shoot in the Resaca area. He checked the soybean field which was found to have been baited with wheat and grain sorghum. Cpl. Elmore issued citations to four hunters from the surrounding area for hunting over bait. Seven doves were confiscated and donated to a family in the Oakman area.

WALKER COUNTY

On September 5th, Game Warden Roger McConkey responded to a complaint of subjects hunting dove on a closed WMA dove field in Walker County. The hunters were found on the Pigeon Mountain WMA dove field. They were charged for hunting on a closed WMA and written warnings for licensing violations.

FLOYD COUNTY

On September 3rd, Game Warden Corporal Ben Cunningham was patrolling Rocky Mountain PFA. During the patrol Cpl. Cunningham detected several violations for fishing without license and operating vessel without PFDs.

BARTOW COUNTY

On September 2nd, Sgt. Jason Roberson, Cpl. Byron Young and Game Wardens Zack Hardy, Mark Puig and Frank Pucci responded to two separate boat incidents on Allatoona Lake. Both incidents involved injuries with two people being transported to the Cartersville Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries.

On September 3rd, Sgt. Jason Roberson, Cpl. Byron Young and Bartow County Deputy Jonathan Shirley were on a vessel stop on Allatoona Lake. While on the stop the officers patrol boat was struck by PWC. The operator of the PWC was no injured, but was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The female was placed under arrest for BUI and reckless operation of a vessel.

On September 8th, Cpl. Byron Young was on patrol in western Bartow County on Hwy 140. Cpl. Young came across a red Nissan car stopped in the westbound lane facing traffic. Cpl. Young found a female in the car unresponsive. Cpl. Young contacted Bartow County EMS / Fire for assistance. The doors were locked and responders were forced to make entry into the vehicle. The female was found to be a diabetic and her blood sugar level had dropped. The female was treated and transported to a local hospital.

COBB COUNTY

On September 2nd, Sgt. Jason Roberson, Cpl. Byron Young and Game Wardens Zack Hardy, Mark Puig and Frank Pucci responded to a call of a boat fire near Hwy 41 on Allatoona Lake. A 24 foot Bayliner cabin cruiser caught fire and burned to the waterline. Two males on board were forced to swim to shore. The two males on the boat were transported to the Cartersville Medical Center. One of the males suffered major burns to 10% of his body. The male was transported to the Cobb County Burn Unit. The other male had minor burns.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On the morning of September 3rd, GWFC Chris Kernahan conducted a State Park patrol at Fort Yargo. While on patrol, he received information concerning a special needs person who was missing on the park. Kernahan proceeded to conduct a search on the trail system. He located the subject, and returned her to family members. That afternoon, Kernahan found multiple subjects unlawfully riding ATVs on the park, while consuming alcohol. Kernahan also found multiple subjects operating vessels without life jackets, and without registration. The violations were addressed.

Later that evening, Kernahan made contact with multiple suspicious subjects who were unlawfully present in a closed day use area of the park. He suspected that the subjects were under the influence of stimulant drugs. He determined that the subjects had snorted, and smoked methamphetamine earlier that date, and were still in possession of the substance. Additionally, Kernahan determined that one of the subjects was Driving Under the Influence. That subject also had arrest warrants out of a nearby county. Kernahan arrested the subjects, transported them to jail, and obtained arrest warrants.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

MORGAN COUNTY

September 1-3, SGT Garthright, CPL Allen, and GWFC Schay patrolled Morgan County for dove hunting activity. During these patrols, violations of hunting over bait were documented.

On September 2nd Gwfc. Tim Butler and Gwfc. Mark Stephens checked a dove shoot and determined it was baited. Seven violations of hunting over bait were documented.

NEWTON COUNTY

September 1-2, GWFC Schay, SGT Garthright, and LT Hubbard patrolled Newton County for dove hunting activity. During these patrols, several violations of hunting without migratory bird stamp and hunting over bait were documented.

WALTON COUNTY

September 1-3, SGT Garthright, CPL Allen, LT Hubbard, and GWFC Schay patrolled Walton County for dove hunting activity. During these patrols, violations of hunting over bait, hunting without a license, and taking over the limit were documented.

LAKE OCONEE

September 1-3, CPL Worth patrolled Lake Oconee for boating activity. During these patrols, violations of allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD, operating a vessel without lights, operating a PWC within 100' of an object in the water above idle speed, and operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs were documented.

OCONEE COUNTY

On September 6th Gwfc. Tim Butler located a dove shoot with seven hunters and determined it was baited. Violations documented were unlawful enticement of wildlife, hunting over bait, hunting without a license, and hunting without a Georgia Migratory Bird License.

On September 8th Gwfc. Tim Butler patrolled Oconee County for dove hunting activity. Violations addressed during the patrol were hunting without a license, hunting without a Georgia Migratory Bird license, and hunting without taking a hunter education course.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

MARION COUNTY

On September 2nd, Corporal Jesse Harrison located and charged four subjects for hunting over bait and confiscated thirteen doves.

MACON COUNTY

On September 3rd, Wardens Clint Martin and Jesse Harrison located and charged ten subjects hunting a baited clear cut in.

GRADY COUNTY

On September 2nd, Sgt. Bob Holley encountered a dove shoot and cited one person for over the daily bag limit.

DECATUR COUNTY

On September 6th, Cpl. Tony Cox was patrolling Silver Lake WMA when he encountered a subject fishing in the Panic Pond. The subject was cited for fishing on a closed WMA.

LAKE SEMINOLE

On September 8th, Wardens Tony Cox and Steve Thomas patrolled Lake Seminole for teal and alligator hunting activity. Subjects were cited for hunting without licenses, hunting without federal duck stamps, hunting without Georgia migratory bird stamps, and hunting out of season.

WORTH COUNTY

On the afternoon of September 4th, Cpl. Greg Wade was patrolling Worth County for hunting activity when he located a small dove shoot in the south end of the county. While speaking with the landowner's grandson, it was determined that the two subjects had baited the small tract with birdseed. It was also determined that one subject that was hunting had ran into the woods upon Cpl. Wade's arrival. Once locating the subject a short distance in the woods, both subjects were charged with hunting dove over bait.

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

On September 3rd, Wardens David Jones and Eric White were patrolling for dove hunting activity when they located a large dove shoot. Numerous violations were documented including: taking over the daily bag limit and license infractions.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On September 8th, Corporal Dan Stiles checked eight hunters on one dove field. One violation for hunting without a GA Migratory Bird License was documented. Later in the morning Cpl. Stiles conducted an all-terrain vehicle patrol on the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area. No violations were detected.

DODGE COUNTY

On September 3rd, Sergeant James McLaughlin and Game Warden Allen Mills located a dove shoot. A mowed grass field was baited with whole corn. Four suspects were checked for license and daily bag limit compliance. Violations for hunting over bait and hunting without a Georgia migratory bird stamp were documented.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On September 3rd, Sergeant Jon Barnard, Game Warden Randell Meeks, and Game Warden Bobby Sanders patrolled the Toombs county area for dove hunting activity. Three dove shoots were located one of which was found to be baited. Violation were documented for unlawful enticement of game and hunting without a migratory bird stamp.

On September 8th, Sergeant Jon Barnard and Game Warden First Class Bobby Sanders were patrolling the south end of Toombs County. One deer hunter was located and discovered to be deer hunting with a centerfire rifle. After further inspection it was also discovered that the individual did not have a license. Violations for hunting with an illegal weapon, non-resident hunting without a license, and non-resident hunting without a big game license were documented.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On September 3rd, Sergeant Jon Barnard, Game Warden Randell Meeks, and Game Warden Bobby Sanders patrolled Tattnall County for dove hunting activity with one shoot being located. During license compliance checks it was discovered that two of the hunters had taken over the limit of doves and the violations were addressed accordingly. 42 doves were confiscated and donated to a youth home.

TREUTLEN COUNTY

On September 8th, Game Warden Randell Meeks was investigating a hunting without permission complaint. It was found that the subject also baited a clear cut with sunflower seeds to hunt doves. One violation of unlawful enticement of game and one violation of hunting without permission was documented.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On September 8th Game Warden First Class Clint Jarriel patrolled for dove hunting activity. Three fields were checked in the effort. One field had a violation of hunting without a license and hunting without a migratory bird stamp. Another field was baited with wheat and bird seed. Game Warden Jarriel documented violations of hunting over bait, hunting without a license, and hunting without a migratory bird stamp (license). Game Warden Jarriel also confiscated 29 doves in the effort and turned them over to the Tattnall County Sheriff's Office.



CLINCH COUNTY

On September 8th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Corporal Jason Shipes, and Game Warden First Class Daniel North assisted US Fish & Wildlife Pam Garrison with palmetto berry thieves on Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Several hundred pounds of illegally- picked berries were seized. USFWS and Clinch County Sheriff's Department charged the thieves with federal charges in addition to criminal trespass. A private property gate was damaged by the thieves to gain access to the wildlife refuge property and several hunting club members assisted the officers in locating the berry thieves.



Palmetto berry thieves apprehended on Okefenokee NWR in Clinch County.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On September 8th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Game Warden Daniel North met with Florida Fish & Wildlife officers at the annual Florida Trapper's meeting near the state line south of Statenville. Florida trappers are interested in changing some of their trapping regulations and asked for information about Georgia's trapping laws. The Georgia officers made a presentation on Georgia's trapping laws and regulations to approximately 30 attendees.



Florida Trapper's event entrance near GA-FL line.

PIERCE COUNTY

On September 8th, at approximately 2:00 am Game Warden First Class Judd Sears received a call from Bacon county dispatch about some possible night hunting activity. GWFC Sears responded to the area along with two Bacon county deputies, contact was made with two individuals at a residence in the area. Both of these subjects were interviewed and they admitted that they had been hunting rabbits at night. Violations of hunting rabbits at night were documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Monday September 3, 2018 RFC Thain and Cpl. Bryson began checking boats coming into the Demeries Creek public boat ramp. Numerous boats came into the landing with no violations. One vessel came towards the landing going by a dock while on plane. It is a violation to run a vessel faster than idle speed within 100 foot of a dock. While checking the vessel it was also noted that the operator did not have enough personal flotation devices or a throw-able type IV device. The operator was cited for the offenses.

On the afternoon of September 3rd, 2018, Cpl. Bryson patrolled Bryan County. While patrolling the Fort McAllister State Park, Cpl. Bryson checked a man fishing without a license. Cpl. Bryson explained the different ways to purchase a license and the man was cited. Cpl. Bryson also checked fishermen at the Tivoli River pier. After explaining the salt water fishing laws to the man he was cited for possession of undersized blue crabs.