

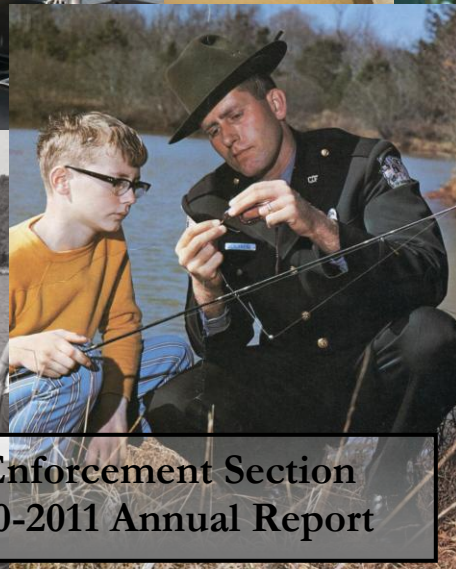
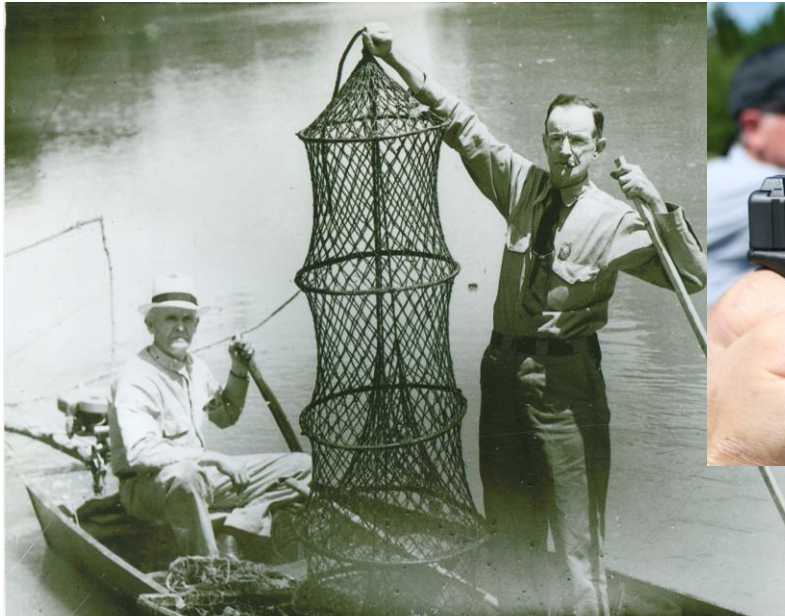
Colonel Eddie Henderson
Chief of Law Enforcement

Lt. Colonel Jeff Weaver
Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement



MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DAN FORSTER
DIRECTOR



Law Enforcement Section
FY 2010-2011 Annual Report



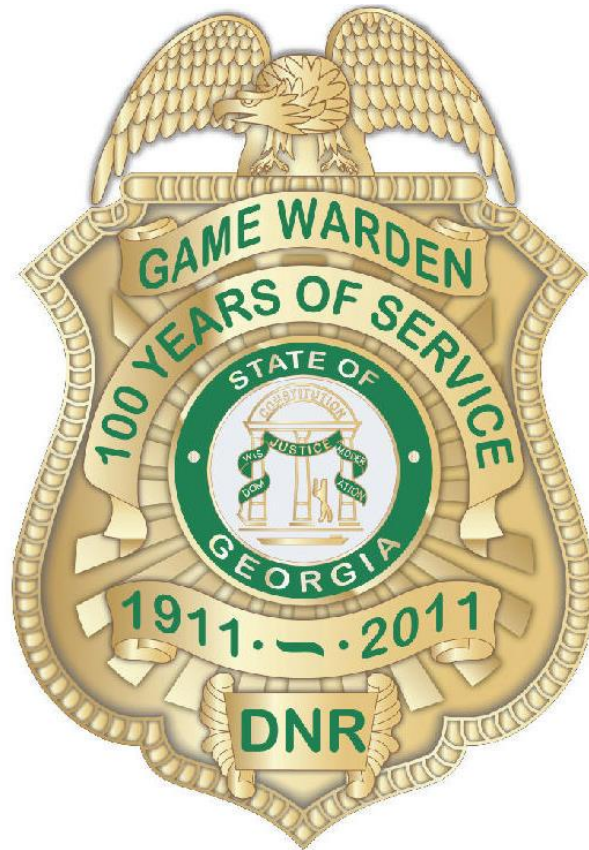
GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DAN FORSTER
DIRECTOR

Law Enforcement Section FY 2010-2011 Annual Report



Headquarters



Colonel Eddie Henderson



Lt. Colonel Jeff Weaver



Capt. Mike England, Major Stephen Adams, Lt. Judd Smith



**L to R. Sally Johnson, Delana Powell, Brooke Smith,
Brenda Schmitt, Sharon Whitaker, Stacey Schlageter**



The Vision of the Law Enforcement Section is to ensure that Georgia's natural resources will be conserved for our present and future generations.

The Mission of the Law Enforcement Section is to conserve our natural resources and to protect the people we serve. We maintain public support through fair and vigorous law enforcement, quality education, and community involvement. We commit ourselves to our Vision and Mission by practicing our core beliefs, which are trust, fairness, and professionalism.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources celebrated 100 years of Conservation Law Enforcement in 2011. On August 12th, 1911 the Georgia General Assembly passed an act creating the Georgia Department of Game and Fish. To commemorate the anniversary, all officers were presented a 100th Anniversary badge modeled after one of the original Department badges. The badge will be worn through 2011 and then retained by the Rangers. In addition, officer's aging Glock 22's were replaced with 4th generation Glocks bearing an engraving of the new badge and 100 year logo.

As a result of the Section's officers being involved in collecting pictures, articles and other memorabilia for the 100th anniversary, RFC David Brady heard of a Georgia Game Warden being killed in the line of duty in 1928. He passed along what information he could find to Lt. Judd Smith who was able to collect enough information to have Robert Clayton Sizemore added to the Georgia Public Safety Memorial and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington DC. According to newspaper articles and the death certificate, Sizemore was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a violator in November 1928. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Sizemore was the first State officer killed in the line of duty.

On January 1st, 2011, the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) began a gradual transition to a new Law Enforcement delivery model on state controlled lands. This new model will transition to distinctly different full-time Law Enforcement associates and full-time wildlife/fisheries management associates. The goals of this approach include emphasizing habitat and resource management on WRD properties by Game and Fisheries Section staff while shifting core Law Enforcement responsibility to the LE Section. This change will increase efficiency of resource management with fewer staff, maintain resource protection on state managed lands and clearly define roles of each affected Section. This will all be accomplished while minimizing effects to existing WRD personnel and while meeting customer expectations for resource management and protection needs.

The Wildlife Resource Division will transition all law enforcement responsibilities to the Law Enforcement Section and Wildlife/Fisheries Technician position responsibilities to full-time resource and habitat management. No additional Deputy Conservation Rangers (i.e. POST certified Wildlife or Fisheries Technicians) will be employed by WRD while allowing existing Deputy Conservation Rangers options for maintaining certification or transitioning out of a POST position. This change will allow WRD to emphasize habitat and resource management on WRD properties while maintaining a priority presence for resource protection on state managed lands.

This transition will be gradual and instituted over the next several years in order to minimize any impacts to personnel. It will be based on newly defined responsibilities in the respective Sections combined with occurring position vacancies. Law enforcement presence on state managed lands will be a top priority within the Division.

During 2011, Captain Swift and Sgt. Mike Barr attended FBI LEEDS (Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar) training during the year.

Also over the past year Captain Jeff Swift, Captain Mark Padgett, Lt. Judd Smith, Sgt. Ellis Wynn, Sgt. Tony Fox, and Sgt. John VanLandingham graduated from the Columbus State Command College. Captain Carroll Chastain, Sgt. James Keener, Sgt. Brent Railey, Sgt. Don Dasher, Sgt. Matt Garthright, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey, and Cpl. Adam Loudermilk graduated from the Command College Professional Management Program.

The Chaplain Program has continued to grow since its start several years ago and now includes 10 Chaplains across the state. Rev. Danny Cochran, Rev. Duncan "Duke" Forster, Rev. Larry Wynn, Dr. Joe Bufford, Rev. Marc E. Crandlemire, Dr. Rick Lanford, Rev. John Haney, Rev. Charles L. Houston, Jr., Rev. Greg Loskoski and Rev. Darryl Dale all volunteer their time to support our officers in times of need.

Training Unit



Freda Daniel, Major Walter Rabon, Monica Ellison

The 2011 In-service Training consisted of a 40-hour block of Criminal Procedure training. The block of instruction was designed to update officers on the latest case law and to provide a refresher for proper procedure in the areas of search and seizure, and arrest. Rangers were also provided with 7 hours of firearm's qualification with the Glock Model 22, the Remington 870 shotgun, and the Colt M-16, 1 hour of Use of Deadly Force training, 2 hours of Alzheimer training (provided by the Alzheimer Association) and a 2-hour Legislative and Policy Update.

All Sergeants received 120 hours of Supervisory Training at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. This training was provided to ensure uniformity across the state in the area of supervision. The training was broken down into three 40-hour blocks of instruction. The Criminal Procedure training and the Supervisory training are part of our agencies initiative for our officers to achieve their Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory, and Managerial Certifications.

A Basic Conservation Ranger Academy began July 10, 2011 with 10 cadets in attendance. This marked the first academy of its size and the first academy beginning in July. There are 9 other officers scheduled to join the 10 cadets at week 12 of 18. The 9 additional officers are already POST certified, but will attend the remainder of the academy to receive the specialized training required to become a Conservation Ranger or a Deputy Conservation Ranger.

Crisis Intervention Training was also provided to 25 Conservation Rangers and 25 Deputy Conservation Rangers. This 40-hour block of instruction was provided to educate officers on alternative options, other than arrest, when dealing with those individuals with mental illness. As a part of this instruction, the officers spend a day of training in a mental institution.

A number of training efforts were provided to the 30 DNR members of the state's Counter Terrorism Task Force. Included in these efforts was a 40-hour block of BOAT Training provided by NASBLA. In addition, 8 hours of First Aid for Severe Trauma was

provided along with several mock deployments designed to test the team's communication and response capabilities. Two additional officers received their certifications to instruct CPR and First Aid.

In the fall, 20 officers will receive a 40-hour block of instruction in investigating, apprehending, and prosecuting archaeology violators. This training will be provided in conjunction with the Department's Historic Preservation Division.

Over the past year, the Law Enforcement Section conducted a pilot project in conjunction with the Georgia State Patrol to put 32 users on GSP's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The pilot was a success and the Department was able to receive bond money in the amount of \$1.2 million to expand the program statewide. Deployment of the CAD system has begun and should be completed by December 2011. This system gives officers access to run driver's license, tags, as well as hunting and fishing license. It also allows for real-time communication of the officer's location and status to the Patrol's dispatch centers.

As part of the DNR/GSP CAD project, the Department has installed equipment to tie all 49 DNR radio repeaters into the Georgia Interoperability Network (GIN) via the MotoBridge system. By doing this, DNR's radio system can be monitored by the GSP communications centers and any resource on the GIN such as 800 MHz, VHF, UHF or even SouthernLinc phones can be tied together.

In February the sixth Basic Wildlife K-9 Detector course was conducted at the Georgia Public safety Training Center in Forsyth Georgia. The course is a twelve week training schedule where three selected Rangers with three recently purchased canines receive instruction in wildlife detection, man tracking, evidence recovery, officer protection, obedience, agility and other fields of training. This intensive course is very demanding of both the Ranger and the Canine and upon completion the new K-9 Teams were assigned as follows. RFC Eric Isom and canine Colt assigned to Jackson County in the Gainesville Region, RFC Danielle Partin and canine Briar assigned to Montgomery County in the Metter Region and RFC Bob Holley and canine Creek to Randolph County in the Albany Region. These teams will add to an already successful program giving us a total of eight K-9 teams' state wide. The completion of this academy replaces the last three original dogs that were still in service since the program's inception and within a month three other of our retired service dogs passed away. Canine Tracker, Tar and Coal who were instrumental in the programs initial success will be sorely missed. Each had given eight years of active service.

Rangers throughout the State continued to attend innovative training in 2011. During the course of this year, every ranger was required to attend a 40 hour course in Criminal Procedure where information on constitutional, criminal and civil law was updated. This course was taught by Sergeants Lee Brown and Tony Fox. This course was part of the required yearly in-service training and was very helpful in up-dating officer's knowledge on topics they are involved with daily.

Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)



FRONT ROW (L-R)Sgt. Danny Crook, Cpl. Chip Cox, Cpl. Eric Brown, Captain Carroll Chastain, RFC Chad Cox, RFC Bart Hendrix

MIDDLE ROW (L-R)Kay Rutledge, Joyce Holland, RFC Byron Young, Cpl. Tommy Gentry, RFC James Psillis, Sgt. Brian Keener, Cpl. Shawn Elmore, RFC Eddie Tompkins

BACK ROW (L-R)Cpl. Ricky Dempsey, Sgt. Jeff Galloway, RFC Ben Cunningham, RFC Roger McConkey, Cpl. James Keener, Cpl. Casey Jones, Sgt. John VanLandingham, RFC Cody Jones.

NOT PICTURED-Sgt. Mike Barr, RFC Brooks Varnell

In November 2010, Region I personnel worked a scheduled night detail in Polk and Haralson Counties, with the assistance of the State Aviation Unit, that resulted in numerous arrests.

Cpl. Elmore continued to investigate a fatal boating incident that occurred on Lake Allatoona in April 2010. The incident involved two Cobb County Police officers. One of the officers was killed after being thrown from a moving vessel. In January 2011, the other officer, operating the vessel, plead guilty to Giving False Statements, Violation of Oath of Office, Homicide by Vessel 2nd Degree, and Operating a Vessel within 100' of a piling above idle speed. He was sentenced to 15 years, with 4 to be served in prison.

From April 27 thru May 1, 2011 Region I personnel assisted with Search and Rescue, body recovery, and security details following the tornados that devastated numerous counties that were declared disaster areas in Northwest Georgia.

After traveling the State teaching *The Art of Customer Service* to DNR associates around the state for two years, Sgt. Mike Barr was able to certify that every associate was "customer service ready" for the start of FY-2011.

Over the year Sgt. John VanLandingham received his 15-Year Faithful Service Certificate and Cpl. Casey Jones received his 10-Year Faithful Service Certificate.

Cpl. Ricky Dempsey was nominated for the State Wild Turkey Federation Award and Cpl. James Keener was nominated for the State Investigative Ranger of the Year.

Also, RFC Cody Jones was nominated for the State Boating Safety Officer of the Year, Cpl. Eric Brown was selected as the State Hunter Education Ranger Instructor of the Year, Sgt. Mike Barr received his 15-Year Faithful Service Certificate. Also, RFC Bart Hendrix received his 5-Year Faithful Service Certificate, and Joyce Holland was promoted to the Region I Administrative Operations Coordinator position.

Capt. Carroll Chastain received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Columbus State University and Sgt. John VanLandingham received his Master of Science Degree from Columbus State University.

Due to his dedication and expertise with the training of K-9s, Brooks Varnell was named to head of the DNR Law Enforcement K-9 program. Brooks and Rock successfully trained and certified three new K-9 dogs and handlers in the spring of 2011 in preparation for protection of Georgia's natural resources.

Cpl. Shawn Elmore attended the Maritime Officer's Patrol Course (Tactical) at the Maritime Law Enforcement Academy located at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Charleston, SC and Cpl. Shawn Elmore was selected as the Region I nomination for the State Ranger of the Year Award.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)



Front Row L-R Julia Braswell, Sgt. Mike Burgamy, Cpl. Eric Sanders, Cpl. Craig Fulgham, RFC Chad Chambers
Second Row L-R Brenda Tanner, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk, RFC Shane Sartor Third Row L-R Cpl. Derek Dillard
Fourth Row L-R RFC Josh Chambers, RFC Eric Isom, RFC Tim Vickery, RFC Mark Stephens
Fifth Row L-R RFC Anne Alexander, Cpl. Bill Bunch, RFC Mitchel Crump
Sixth Row L-R Captain Rick Godfrey, RFC Kevin Dyer, Sgt. Johnny Johnson, Sgt. Steve Seitz, Sgt. Stan Elrod
Not Pictured- Cpl. Jason Roberson, Sgt. Lee Brown, RFC David Webb

Lake Lanier hosted the Forrest L Wood Cup considered the Super Bowl of bass fishing. Rangers from Region II had a very big part in the success of this four day event. The tournament was held on August 5th - 8th 2010 where 78 of the world's top bass fishermen participated to win a 2.5 million dollar purse. The winner walked away with over \$600,000 dollars for the four days of fishing. The weigh in was held in Duluth at the Gwinnett County Convention Center where it's estimated that more than \$7 million was generated for the local accompany. Rangers were responsible for assuring that the area on the lake where these tournament fishermen were scheduled to start and finish the day was secure and that the event permit was enforced. Rangers also maintained security twenty-four hours a day at the events staging area. An escort from Lake Lanier to the Gwinnett County location was also provided for all the anglers involved in the event. Rangers also provided various shooting and fishing programs at the Gwinnett County Convention Center. A tremendous amount of planning and logistics were involved in making this event a tremendous success.

Lake Lanier was also the location of a major training exercise held this year on May 18th. Because of a year and a half of meetings and planning sessions by local state and federal

agencies, the exercise went very well. Sergeant Johnny Johnson coordinated and headed DNR and Region II's Law Enforcement efforts in planning and executing a joint boating search and rescue operation on Lake Lanier. The purpose of this mock drill was to test DNR's and the other participating agencies abilities to respond to a major boating incident on the water. The response time as well as the collaboration between agencies was also monitored by the USCG Charleston Sector. DNR Rangers deployed side scan sonar during the exercise to locate mock victims placed on the bottom of the lake. Rangers were also instrumental in recovering bodies and performing triage on the shoreline. A total of four DNR patrol boats were utilized during this exercise and the event was covered by most of the Atlanta TV stations as well as the local newspaper media.

In December of this year Captain Rick Godfrey retired after serving 34 years with DNR. He started his career in Dawson County where he was assigned as the county ranger. He later was promoted to the rank of corporal and changed assignments to Lake Lanier boating safety. He was later promoted to the Administrative Sergeants position where he served for eight years. Rick was promoted to Captain of the Gainesville Region where he finished his career. Mark Padgett was promoted to Captain of the Gainesville Region after Rick Godfrey's retirement.

In March of 2011 Sgt. Stan Elrod and RFC Josh Chambers assisted the Georgia Bureau of Investigation with surveillance on an illegal rooster fight. The rangers conducted surveillance and once enough evidence was obtained, the GBI was notified to secure a search warrant. Captain Mark Padgett, Cpl. Craig Fulghum, Hart County Sheriffs deputies and GBI agents raided the barn after dark. Thirty-five people were inside and participating. The Sheriff's office made charges for gambling and animal cruelty.

The State of Georgia like so many other southeastern states was devastated by tornados in April of 2011. A storm system spawning several tornados was responsible for severe damage to the Lake Burton area. The resulting storm caused at least one fatality and damaged several homes on the north end of the lake. Fifteen Rangers from the Region II Gainesville office and five Rangers from the Region III Thomson office responded to the emergency and spent thirteen days patrolling the lake providing 24 - hour security. DNR was instrumental in securing the area and deterring scavenging during the search, rescue and recovery efforts.

Lake Lanier continues to be visited by over eight million visitors annually. Because of its relation to a major population area, Atlanta and the surrounding region, its use is very demanding on Region II's law enforcement resources. 2011 produced a high number of boating related injuries and fatalities. Swimming areas surrounding the lake and the Chattahoochee River also reported several drownings that Rangers responded to. Due to the economic down turn in the state, resources continued to be stressed. Region II Rangers continued to provide response to a high number of complaints and to maintain a high visibility patrol on the lake through this challenging time. Detecting boating under the influence violations continued to be a high priority for Rangers and although man power was at a historic low (9 Rangers below 2001 level) for the region, the citizens recreating on and around the lake did not receive any less service.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)



Front Row L-R RFC Brian Adams, RFC Jessica "Niki" Spencer, RFC Grant Matherly, Cpl. Micheal Crawley K-9 Officer & K-9 Storm, RFC Leroy Ficklin, Patricia Keeling, Elizabeth Bentley, Captain Thomas Barnard
Second Row L-R Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, Sgt. Matt Garthright, RFC Jeff Billips, RFC Ricky Boles, RFC Phillip Nelson, Sgt. Max Boswell, RFC Larry Mills
Third Row L-R Sgt. Brian Carter, RFC Richard Tanner, Cpl. Ryan Swain, Cpl. Ben Payne, Cpl. Julian Wilkins
Fourth Row L-R Sgt. Mark Padgett, Cpl. David Allen, RFC Nick Jenkins, RFC Bobby Timmerman, Cpl. Greg Colson
Not Pictured Cpl. Brian Hobbins, Cpl. Derrell Worth

After Mark Padgett's promotion to Captain in Region II, Sergeant Matt Garthright transferred to Administrative Sergeant at the Thomson office. Before this move, Garthright had served as a Field Sergeant in the Lake Oconee area for the past three years. Sergeant John Harwell has served as a Field Sergeant in Georgia's Coastal Region for the past six years and has recently transferred to the Lake Oconee area as Field Sergeant. RFC Eddie Tompkins has served in Region I for the past six years and has recently transferred into the Athens area. He is assigned to Athens/Clarke and Oconee Counties.

Cpl. Derrell Worth of Greene County was recognized by the Governor's Office for customer service. On November 6, 2010 Cpl. Worth provided a hunt to twenty-one children who are either terminally ill or have various handicaps. This was the first annual Kids Hunting for a Cure held in Georgia. Cpl. Worth worked with various landowners to secure hunting locations, spent over 110 hours in preparation and spent over seven hundred dollars of his own money to ensure a successful hunt. Twenty-one kids harvested 17 deer and two hogs including three eight point bucks. The 1st Annual KHFA Banquet and Child Deer Hunt raised \$28,000.00 dollars.

RFC Bobby Timmerman received the State's Boating Officer of the Year Award. He was recognized for his boating safety efforts on Clarks Hill Lake as well as implementing our first statewide Swift Water Rescue Training. RFC Timmerman implemented the use of road signs on bridges to enable boaters to accurately relay their location in the event of an emergency. He a founding member of the Clarks Hill Water Safety Council and assisted with a Waterborne Rescue manual for Clarks Hill and the Savannah River. RFC Timmerman logged over 700 boating safety hours, investigated 14 complaints and assisted with 6 search and rescue operations. RFC Timmerman assumed the lead instructor role in the first statewide Swift Water Rescue Training Course.

RFC Jeff Billips was recognized by local law enforcement in Waynesboro, Burke County, for his law enforcement efforts. RFC Billips received an award for the unusual high number of convicted felon arrests.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)



Front Row L-R Cpl. Keith Waddell, RFC Travis Sweat, Sgt. Brent Railey, Captain Barry Fincher, Cpl. Lynn (Bubba) Stanford, RFC Kevin Joyce

Second Row L-R RFC Kevin Godbee, RFC Mitch Oliver, Cpl. Susan Morris, Cpl. Wanda Roberts, Sgt. James (Bo) Kelly, Cpl. Robert Stillwell

Third Row L-RR RFC Wil Smith, Sgt. Jim Bradfield, RFC Keith Page, Sgt. Tim Kendrick, RFC Billy Bryant, Cpl. Tony Wynne

Forth Row L-R Sgt. Ezra P. Wyche, Cpl Stan Semmler, RFC Josh Copelan, Sgt. Tony Fox, Cpl. Bill Goodson, RFC Tim Butler, RFC Jeremy Bolen, RFC Josh Swain

Not Pictured Cpl. John Harkins

Region IV Law Enforcement had a successful year and underwent numerous changes. The region had an outstanding year detecting and apprehending waterfowl violators. RFC Tim Butler was selected as the Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award winner for the state due to his outstanding efforts in waterfowl education and waterfowl enforcement. Due to some personnel changes, RFC Tim Butler was assigned Bleckley/Pulaski Counties. Cpl. Robert Stillwell was assigned Twiggs County due to high activity within the county. Cpl. Stan Semmler, the Wilkinson County Ranger, and Captain Barry Fincher retired this year. Both had served the department for 34 years.

Region IV had two promotions—Sgt. Jim Bradfield and Sgt. Chad Welch. Sgt Bradfield filled the retired position of Sgt. Randy Hackley. Sgt Chad Welch was promoted and assigned to the investigative unit. Sgt. Tony Fox graduated from Command College in and Sgt. Brent Railey graduated from the Professional Management Program at Columbus State University.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)



Front Row Left (L to R) Captain Jeff Swift, Cpl. Mike Binion, Cpl. Robbie Griner, RFC Al Greer, Sgt. Butch Potter
Back Row Left (L to R) RFC Randy Davis, Cpl. Tommy Lawrence, RFC Harold Hill, RFC Jon Penuel, Sgt. Rick Sellars
Front Row Right (L to R) Sgt. David Ruddell, Cpl. Steve Robinson, Sgt. Danny Bishop, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey, Cindy Hynote, Brandy Franks, Sgt. Ellis Wynn
Back Row Right (L to R) Cpl. B. J. Foster, Sgt. Wade Law, RFC Clint Martin, RFC Ben Roberts, RFC Tony Cox
Not pictured Cpl. Scott Carroll, RFC Randy James, Cpl. Terri Jones, RFC David Brady, RFC Bob Holley, RFC Jim Atchley

During the year, Region V participated in a joint investigation with USFW Service investigating the illegal killing of three whooping cranes in Calhoun County. The birds were released in a restoration project that began in Wisconsin. They migrated to the area where they were killed illegally. The investigation is still open, and the poachers responsible for the deaths have not been apprehended at this time.

Region V also retired K-9 Sarge and replaced him with K-9 Creek. RFC Bob Holley went through training simultaneously with his new partner and both graduated in April. They have been utilized during normal patrol activities and on special details such as searches for suspects and search and rescue operations. Creek is a welcomed addition to the Region V Staff.

Region V had four staff members leave in FY 2011. Two of these left to seek other employment, including one that is now employed with the Georgia State Patrol. One transferred to Region VI, and one applied for retirement. With the loss of these four valued employees, the Region V staff has dwindled to 24 certified staff members.

On August 14, 2010 Region V held an annual cookout at Southern Woods Plantation. The local State Representatives, State Senators, Board of Natural Resources members and their wives were all invited to attend. In all, there were over 50 people in attendance at the dinner including the Law Enforcement Section Command Staff.

Cpl. Mike Binion's K9 Sarge went into service with the agency in 2002 in Region V. After nine years of service, Sarge was retired in January of 2011. Sarge was an asset to the agency and was responsible for the recovery of wildlife and other items associated

with various crimes, but he is most remembered for the apprehension of a murder suspect in Cario. Sarge now resides with Mike and his family and is enjoying the retired life in Grady County. Although Mike no longer has a working dog, he is still actively involved in the department's K-9 training program.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)



Front Row (kneeling) L-R RFC Debbie Brannen, RFC Keith McDonald, Cpl. Damon Winters, Cpl. Jimmy Williams, RFC Jamey O'Brien, Cpl. David Sims, RFC Mike Kicklighter, RFC Joe Hilton
Second Row (seated) L -R Sgt. David Reckley, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, Sgt. David Nugent, Melinda Collins, Capt. Scott Klingel, Sgt. Wade Fulford, Sharon Sims, Sgt. Keith Byers, Sgt. William Vickers, Sgt. Don Dasher
Back Row (standing) L-R RFC Jason Shipes, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely, RFC James McLaughlin, Cpl. Greg Moody, Cpl. Eddie Akins, RFC Rodney Horne, RFC Brandon Pierce, Cpl. John Stokes, Cpl. Johnny Ashe, RFC Danielle Partin, RFC Clint Jarriel, RFC Tim Hutto, RFC Chase Altman, Cpl. Morty Wood
Not pictured Cpl. Jon Barnard, Cpl. Gary Simmons, RFC Barry Britt

In the early fall of 2010, we transitioned to the new Generation 4 Glock pistol, the Streamlight TLR-1 weapon mounted light, and a new Level III retention holster. Our region successfully utilized nighttime aircraft flights to locate and apprehend night hunters throughout deer season. Nearly one dozen flights were organized with every work unit having at least one flight. Several vehicle stops were made and six people were charged with night deer hunting violations.

We participated in the very large JAKES day event held at Paradise PFA. The National Hunting Incident Academy held their course in Georgia for the first time, thanks to the efforts of Sgt. Keith Byers. The in-service training included firearms qualification, legislative updates, and the newly created Swift Water Training, which was held statewide as well as in Region VI. Swift Water Training was designed for two purposes: to teach techniques that may help Rangers recover victims caught in a swift water environment and to teach officers how to survive/escape when they are caught in a swift water environment. The course consisted of throwing lifelines to fellow officers as they floated by on the Altamaha River. Officers also swim a course as the current carried them down the river.

During the year, Cpl. Greg Moody retired and Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey lateraled into the vacant Cook County position. RFC Mike Kicklighter left the Department for another job. Cpl. Dan Stiles lateral transferred to the Laurens County position from Fisheries Management and Cpl. Mike Wilcox lateral transferred to the Jenkins County position from Game Management.

Cpl. John Stokes was involved in the rescue of six adults and a toddler when they became stranded on the river at night. There was an unfortunate drowning that occurred in Lowndes County on Ocean Pond this winter. A young and promising high school student drowned while duck hunting. Military helicopters, cadaver dogs, side scan sonar and

body drags were all used during the search, which lasted almost one week. The successful recovery effort involved many DNR officers working under tough conditions of rain and cold.

Cpl. Damon Winters completed the MPOC training in Charleston, SC and Capt. Klingel graduated from the 244th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. RFC Danielle O'Connor (Partin) and her K-9 Briar completed the K-9 course at GPSTC and Briar began his service in April. Unfortunately, retired K-9 Coal passed away on the same day. Coal was the long serving K-9 partner of Cpl. Jon Barnard. Coal enjoyed his work and had been recognized several times for his amazing tracking and locating abilities. Cpl. Barnard has become one of the Department's lead instructors for new K-9s and their handlers and he devoted many hours of effort to making sure that this group was well prepared for the field.

RFC Barry Britt and Cpl. Johnny Ashe were both presented with the Department Life Saving Award. Cpl. Britt was patrolling one winter day when he saw a man in the middle of a private lake. The man had apparently fallen out of his boat while fishing. The out of control boat was turning in tight circles and the man was caught inside the circle. He was unable to swim away from the boat or to catch it and pull himself inside. Cpl. Britt quickly located a private boat and drove it to the barely conscious man. Cpl. Britt caught the wayward boat and was able to shut it off. He then was able to safely bring the man to land. Unfortunately, there was another fisherman who had not been able to stay afloat and his body was recovered a short time later.

Late one night, Cpl. Ashe received word of a missing hunter and his child on one of the local Wildlife Management Areas. Recent rains had fallen ahead of a cold front, causing the nearby river to be on the rise. Cpl. Ashe utilized his knowledge of the area and was able to drive close to the missing persons. When rising water levels prevented Cpl. Ashe from driving any further, he got out of his vehicle and waded/swam through the water until he located both missing people. Cpl. Ashe checked both injuries and the onset of hypothermia. He was able to calm both and then directed other rescuers to their location.

RFC James McLaughlin received the National Wild Turkey Federation Award for the state. Tim Hutto was recognized as our Ranger of the Year and he went on to become the James R. Darnell recipient.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)



1st row L to R Cpl. Jimmy Finn, RFC Buster Cooper, Captain Doug Lewis, Cpl. Chris Ridley, Cpl. Cindy Miller

2nd row L to R Cpl. Bobby White, Sgt. Chris Hodge, Sgt. Bob Lynn, Cpl Bill Bryson

3rd row L to R RFC Chris Moore, RFC Randy Aspinwall, RFC Craig Smith, RFC Rebekah Huson

4th row L to R Cpl. Jesse Cook, Cpl. Billy Reed, Sgt. James Shelton, Cpl. Phillip Scott

5th row L to R Sgt. Tim Vincent, Cpl. Jay Morgan, Debby Johnson, Kay Readdick, Sgt. Mark Carson

6th row L to R- RFC Jack Thain

In Region VII during the 2010-2011 year, we have documented several interesting and high profile cases. These cases ranged from Savannah to St Mary's. In November, Cpl. Cindy Miller, Cpl. Bill Bryson, and RFC Randy Tinley caught two shrimp boats shrimping in closed waters. The boats were from a quarter of a mile inside during the day light hours to three and a quarter miles inside during the hours of darkness. A total of 346 pounds of shrimp, 24 Whiting, 2 Red Drum, and 13 Flounder were confiscated.

In November, Region VII also utilized the Georgia Aviation Authority's aircraft by scheduling "Night Flight" in efforts to crack down on the high number of night hunting complaints in Wayne County. The two-scheduled flights resulted in two cases for hunting deer at night.

In May, Cpl. Cindy Miller stopped a boat with five people on board. During inspection of the boat, she found 38 undersized Black Sea Bass during a federal closed season.

In June, Cpl. Chris Ridley caught a shrimp trawler commercially fishing in closed waters. The boat was released on a \$1,000 condemnation bond.

During the wildfires in South Georgia, Region VII had rangers assisting the Georgia Forestry Commission and the local sheriff's offices with their duties. Rangers also helped with evacuations of residents in Camden and Brantley Counties.

Personnel changes in Region VII have altered the work sections and the way some ranger's work. In July of 2010, Sgt. Doug Lewis, Administrative Sergeant, was promoted to Captain/Region Supervisor of Region VII. Also, Cpl. Chris Hodge was promoted to Sergeant into Sgt. Bob Lynn's previous work section. With Captain Lewis being promoted, it opened up the Administrative Sergeant's position, which was filled by Sergeant Mark Carson. The work sections were realigned to fill gaps in positions. Sergeant Hodge now covers Camden, Brantley, and Glynn Counties. Sgt. Lynn covers Wayne, Long, and McIntosh Counties. Sgt. James Shelton covers Bryan and Liberty Counties and Sgt. Tim Vincent covers Chatham County. The region has lost rangers due to transfers, other jobs, and terminations. Region 7 has one Captain, one Administrative Sergeant, four Field Sergeants, 8 Corporals, and 6 RFC/Rangers. This is down from 38 officers that were in the region only a few years back.

Cpl. Chris Ridley was selected as Region VII Ranger of the Year and also Exchange Club Officer of the Year.

Captain Doug Lewis was selected as Law Enforcement's Supervisor of the Year. Sergeant Tim Vincent will be retiring this year. Tim began service with Law Enforcement June 16, 1981. He was promoted to Corporal on October 16, 1984 and has been Sergeant since March 16, 1986. He has been the Sergeant in Chatham County for 25 years.

Region VII completed Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) 9 with, National Marine Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (NOAA). Our priority areas of enforcement included Snapper/Grouper, Turtle Excluder Device (TED) compliance, Marine Mammal Protection Act (Dolphins), Highly Migratory (HMS) and Pelagic Fisheries. A commitment was also made to enforce the Atlantic Right Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) from November through March and to provide enforcement for Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS). Hours provided during this agreement period, July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 include the following:

Large Vessel: 255 vessel hours (3 officers per vessel)
Mid-Range Vessel: 341 vessel hours (2 officers per vessel)
GRNMS: 141 vessel hours (3 officers per vessel)
Dockside Inspection: 165 man hours
ALWTRP: 141 vessel hours (combined large and mid-range vessels)
Public Outreach: 64 man hours

Marine Theft Unit

The Marine Theft Unit (MTU) was initiated three years ago to confront the stolen boat problem in Georgia. Since its inception, the unit has currently been involved in the recovery of seventy-six stolen vessels. The recoveries of these vessels represent a value of approximately \$765,000.00 that has been returned to the appropriate owners. The MTU continues to assist law enforcement officers in the field while they are conducting boat HIN (hull identification number) inspections and ownership investigations. Other assistance such as computer database searches, locating individuals, finding contact information, or being a liaison for the law enforcement field officers and other agencies or marine manufacturers is also provided. The MTU also maintains and updates a hidden HIN database to assist officers with identification of vessels when the primary HIN is missing.

During this past year Captain Dan Parrish, who maintains the unit, presented a training session on Marine Theft Investigations to law enforcement officers from multiple agencies at the Peace Officers Association of Georgia convention on Jekyll Island. Other training was provided to two sheriff departments during this period. Continued efforts to assist other law enforcement agencies have resulted in improved data entries of stolen vessels on the National Crime & Information Computer. In addition to training, Captain Parrish has assisted several local law enforcement agencies with gaining access to computer database systems to enhance their abilities while investigating vessels.

A stolen boat hot-sheet is compiled at the end of each month that consists of vessels stolen in Georgia. This stolen boat hot-sheet is sent out by use of email to law enforcement officers within DNR and other law enforcement agencies statewide. Some boat marinas and boat dealerships also receive this stolen report. In addition, Georgia Outdoor News magazine also receives these reports and stolen boats are placed in the monthly magazine for the public to assist. Sixty-five of the seventy-six stolen vessels recovered were stolen and recovered within the boundaries of the state of Georgia. This and other historical data indicates that if a vessel is stolen in Georgia there is an 85% chance that it will be recovered in Georgia. Currently, the average value of a boat stolen in Georgia is \$10,067.00. The average distance of travel for a boat stolen in Georgia, from the location of theft to the location of recovery, is sixty-one miles.

During the first year, the MTU was involved in approximately 1 stolen vessel recovery per month. At present, the MTU is involved in 2.66 stolen vessel recoveries per month. This indicates that the investigative efforts and identification techniques implemented by the MTU are effective.

Investigative Unit

On August 16th, 2011, an investigator vacancy within the Investigative Unit was filled. RFC Chad Welch was promoted to Corporal and transferred to the Investigative Unit. Including Lt. Sam O'Neal who heads the unit, this brings the total of full-time investigators to two. Welch has since been promoted to Sergeant.

The Investigative Unit continues to utilize Regional Investigators. The Regional Investigators are full-time, uniform Conservation Rangers who have had specialized training in covert and overt investigations. There are 15 Rangers that perform this collateral duty. They are tasked with performing support duties such as special permit facility inspections, interviews, surveillance details and covert contacts with violators. Last year, the Investigative Unit requested assistance from Regional Investigators on 36 different occasions.

Future scheduled training for Regional Investigators includes Cybercrime Tools and Techniques training and Archaeological Damage Investigation & Assessment training. Additionally, 4 Regional Investigators are scheduled to attend the Southeastern Association of Wildlife Investigators (SEAWI) academy in the spring of 2012.

The Investigative Unit continues to focus primarily on illegal commercialization cases such as the sale of wildlife and wild animals, commercial and recreational license fraud and the illegal taking of exotics for sport. During the past year, the Investigative Unit opened 96 cases. Of these cases, 71 cases involved some type of illegal commercialization. Rangers issued 17 citations and executed 3 search warrants related to Investigative Unit investigations.

In 2010, the Law Enforcement Section was tasked with administering the Wildlife Resources Division's Special Permit Unit. The Special Permit Unit issues and maintains various permits and licenses. These include but are not limited to, Wild Animal license, Wildlife Exhibition license, Fox Hunting Preserve license, and Wildlife Rehabilitator license. The Investigative Unit is responsible for investigating calls and complaints related to special permits. The Investigative Unit is also responsible for administering the inspections of all special permit holders' facilities. During the last year, the Investigative Unit investigated 35 special permit related cases. This year, the Investigative Unit is scheduled to inspect 133 special permit facilities statewide.

Honor Guard

The Honor Guard attended several details over the year, some of which are listed below.
October 2010

- Funeral Detail for former DNR Board Member in Macon.

December 2010

- Funeral Detail for retired Ranger Leroy Hackley in Cusseta.
- Funeral Detail for line of duty death of Trooper Chadwick LeCroy in Marietta.

January 2011

- Funeral Detail for retired Cpl. Harold Rape in McDonough.

May 2011

- Color Guard details at Peace Officer Memorials at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and in Albany.

June 2011

- Funeral Detail for retired Capt. Long in Hinesville.

Honor Guard Members include:

Region I: RFC Cody Jones and RFC Brooks Varnell

Region II: Cpl. Derek Dillard, OIC, RFC Josh Chambers

Region III: Cpl. Micheal Crawley, Cpl. Ben Payne

Region IV: Cpl. Jeremy Bolen, RFC Travis Sweat

Region V: RFC David Brady, Cpl. Scott Carroll, Cpl. Robbie Griner, RFC Bob Holley

Region VI: RFC Chase Altman, RFC Clint Jarriel

Critical Incident Reconstruction Team

For the first time Georgia hosted the International Hunting Incident Academy. The International Hunting Incident Investigation Course has been one of the most successful classes that the IHEA has given. Sgt. Keith Byers worked with Sgt. Steve Seitz and Capt. Walter Rabon in order to make it a success. The class included instructors from Iowa, New York, Connecticut, and Florida and consisted of Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers from across the United States. Sgt. Seitz and Byers were instructors and instructed several parts of the course. C.I.R.T. members RFC James McLaughlin, RFC Mitch Oliver, and Cpl. Shawn Elmore also helped with the course which was held at the GPSTC in Forsyth. Twenty three of the forty-one class participants were from Georgia and two of those were on the Critical Incident Reconstruction Team. C.I.R.T. instructors have played a major role in this Academy since the year 2000 and the course will be held in the state of Iowa this coming year.

During the year CIRT met with the Georgia State Patrol CSRT Unit. The meeting was held at the CSRT Unit Office at the GPSTC. Sgt. Byers along with Colonel Eddie Henderson, Capt. Walter Rabon, Capt. Sam O'Neal, Sgt. Steve Seitz, and RFC Mitch Oliver attended the meeting. Intra-agency assistance and cross training was discussed. Sgt. Byers and RFC James McLaughlin met with the Georgia State Patrol CSRT Unit at GPSTC and set-up a hunting incident scene. The CSRT Unit mapped it using their

equipment (the Total Station) for a presentation that was going to be presented at the International Hunting Incident Academy and to demonstrate their capability.

In July/August 2010, Cpl. Shawn Elmore continued work investigating a fatal Boating Incident/Accident that occurred in April 2010. Charges were filed in Cherokee County Magistrate Court on August 5, 2010 on the operator of the vessel. Cpl. Elmore continued to work on this case throughout August 2010 meeting several times with the Cherokee County District Attorney. In January of 2011, Cpl. Shawn Elmore attended the sentencing hearing where the operator was sentenced to 15 years with 4 years to serve. This sentencing was from the fatal boating incident that occurred on Lake Allatoona in April 2010.

On November 24, 2010 RFC Mitch Oliver was called by Talbot County 911 about a 16 year old male being found dead in his deer stand. He arrived and learned that the father of the victim had found his son dead in the stand and had called 911. At the scene, he found the victim still in the stand with a gunshot wound to the head and his rifle at the base of the tree. The father stated that he had heard a shot at approximately 1700 hours that came from his son's stand location and the father was hunting approximately 600 yards away. RFC Oliver examined the bolt action rifle and discovered that the chamber contained a spent round and there were 3 live rounds in the magazine. The safety was in the FIRE position. He examined the body while it was still in the stand and located an entrance wound under and midline of the lower jaw. The victim's hat was found on a limb some 3 to 4 feet above where his head would have been if sitting in the stand. It contained an exit hole from the bullet that gave some idea of the bullet trajectory path of travel which was straight up and down. After collecting all evidence and taking photographs, the body was lowered to the ground. RFC Oliver again examined the body and noticed that the entrance wound appeared to be a close contact wound. He interviewed the father, uncle and cousin to try and determine what state of mind the victim was in that day due to the evidence suggesting a suicide. RFC Oliver attended the autopsy at the GBI headquarters the following morning and was told by the doctor that she too thought that the cause of death was a suicide. The investigation and evidence showed that this was not a hunting incident and the case was given back to the Talbot County S.O. The ME's report concurred with RFC Oliver's findings.

Work has continued on the U.S. Forest Service Agent Upton's fatal shooting case that occurred on March 5, 2010. RFC Wil Smith has met numerous times with the U.S. District Attorney, the U.S. Forest Service and the FBI. This case could potentially go to trial in December of 2011. Clifford McGourik, one of the suspects, has already entered into a plea agreement and awaiting sentencing.

On December 27, 2010, Cpl. Phillip Scott investigated a Hunting Incident that occurred in Liberty County. The victim incurred a gunshot wound to the foot. Due to the fact that the victim was hunting over bait, the father of the victim instructed the victim's two brothers to move the scene location. This entailed moving a tree climbing stand and also bloody leaves from the actual incident location. Through investigation, evidence, and interviews it was determined that the scene had been moved and the appropriate subjects were charged.

Sgt. Keith Byers met with John Louk the Executive Director of the Tree stand Manufacturer's Association at the IHEA Convention held at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. He discussed the possibility of Mr. Louk coming to Georgia and putting on a Tree stand Safety and Accident Investigation Course for the C.I.R.T. Sgt. Byers acquired all the paperwork from Mr. Louk for requesting the Course and possible Grant Application that would cover the cost of the course. The course was approved and was held at the GPSTC in Forsyth. The class consisted of thirty Rangers. Fifteen of the thirty were C.I.R.T. members.

Promotions

Colonel Eddie Henderson, Headquarters

Major Stephen Adams, Headquarters

Captain Mark Padgett, Regional Supervisor Gainesville Region

Sgt. Mark Carson, Administrative Sgt. Brunswick Region

Sgt. Jim Bradfield, Field Sgt. Macon Region

Sgt. Matt Garthright, Administrative Sgt. Thomson Region

Sgt. Chris Hodge, Field Sgt. Brunswick Region

Sgt. Chad Welch, Investigative Unit

Retired

Captain Rick Godfrey

Captain Barry Fincher

Sgt. Randy Hackley

Corporal Greg Moody

Law Enforcement Section Activity

FY 2011	
Hunter Ed Programs	645
I&E Programs	1326
Boating Safety Programs	301
Hunter Development	374
Total Programs	2646
Water SAR Cases	374
Water SAR Hours	3098
Vessels Assisted	261
Water Persons Assisted	624
Land SAR Cases	153
Land SAR Hours	684
Land Persons Assisted	224
Hunting Incidents	37
Boating Incidents	121
Drownings	24
Assist Hours	4416
License Checks	52,766
Boat Checks	28,195
Boating Contacts	2521
Hunting Contacts	6013
Fishing Contacts	1664
Trapping Contacts	29
Environmental Contacts	449
Other Contacts	2024
Total Contacts	12700

FY 2011 ACTIVITY SUMMARY									
HUNTER EDUCATION									
Hunter Education Presentations	645	Man Hours	2925						
		Number of Persons Certified	7761						
Hunter Development / Shooting Sports									
Hunter Development Programs	374	Hunter Development Hours	1823						
I & E PRESENTATIONS (Other than Boating Safety Programs)									
Number of Presentations	1326	Man Hours	2,624						
BOATING SAFETY PROGRAMS									
Number of Presentations	301	Man Hours	743						
COMPLAINTS / INCIDENTS									
Number of Reports Investigated	7651	Man Hours	25938						
HUNTING INCIDENTS									
Total Number of Incidents	37	Number of Fatalities	2						
Number of Injuries	35								
BOATING INCIDENTS									
Total Number of Incidents	121	Estimated Property Damage	\$226,842						
Number of Injuries	77	Number of Fatalities	15						
DROWNINGS									
Number of Drownings	24	Number of Victims Recovered	23						
<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td>TOTAL LICENSES CHECKED</td> <td style="text-align: right;">52,766</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL BOATS CHECKED</td> <td style="text-align: right;">28,195</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMMERCIAL LIC. CHECKED</td> <td style="text-align: right;">634</td> </tr> </table>				TOTAL LICENSES CHECKED	52,766	TOTAL BOATS CHECKED	28,195	COMMERCIAL LIC. CHECKED	634
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SUPPORT TO OTHER SECTIONS,

DIVISIONS, AGENCIES, & ORGANIZATIONS MAN-HOURS

July	247
August	496
September	285
October	214
November	357
December	360
January	514
February	213
March	326
April	488
May	533
June	383
	4416

CONFISCATED WILDLIFE / SEAFOOD

Deer	51	Fish	593
Doves	438	Shrimp	611 lbs.
Assorted Fish	10 lbs.	Bear & Bear Parts	12
HedgeHog	1	Blue Crabs	57
Fox & Fox Parts	3	Clams	26.25 qts.
Deer Meat	3	Ducks	113
raccoon & raccoon parts	15	Deer racks	14
Pied billed grebe	1	Opossum & Opossum parts	2
Hooded merganser	1	Deer carcass	1
bobcat	1	bushel oysters	3
Turkey & turkey parts	3		

OTHER ITEMS CONFISCATED

Pills	2	Pipe	2
Marijuana Plants	10	Marijuana	8
Marijuana Cigarette	2	truck	2
handheld spears	2	copperwire	1
rifle	10	20-20 round	1
Calls	2	DbL. Ladder deer stand	1
Travel Net	65 feet	shot gun	10
Cell Phone	1	Salt lick/Apples	1
Digital Trail Cam	1	Bow	1
Wallet w/ \$3	1	Driver's License	2
spot light	1	bullets	28
hunting license	1	handguns	3
tink bombs	1	bottle of whiskey	2
deer stand	1	marijuana grinder	1
Spent WAD	1	Crabs Traps	4
turkey feather	1	DNR sign and woodpost	1
Gill Net	1	Mexico ID Card	1