

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
April 13-19, 2014

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- Calhoun (Northwest)

FANNIN COUNTY

On April 10th, Cpl. James Keener issued citations for fishing without a license and fishing without trout license to an individual on the Toccoa River. Cpl. Keener also issued a citation for fishing without a license and warning for fishing without a trout license to another subject on Rock Creek.

MURRAY COUNTY

On April 12th, Cpl. James Keener and Wildlife Technician Larry Etheridge found a juvenile to be in possession of marijuana on Coosawattee WMA. The juvenile was turned over to his parent's custody a short time later. A juvenile complaint was filed in reference to the marijuana possession.

GORDON COUNTY

On April 18th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore noticed a large amount of black smoke in the area of Sugar Valley. Cpl. Elmore located an individual burning debris from a collapsed building. Cpl. Elmore called the Gordon County Fire Department to extinguish the fire. The owner of the property was advised of the burning laws and how to properly dispose of the debris.

On April 19th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore checked a pond located at I-75 and Hwy 41 in Resaca for ongoing fishing without permission. Cpl. Elmore located two individuals fishing in the pond and neither had obtained permission to do so. Both men were issued citations for fishing without permission.

FLOYD COUNTY

On April 11th, RFC Ben Cunningham responded to a capsized vessel on West Antioch Lake at Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area. RFC Cunningham and Park Ranger Matt McDaris were able to assist the elderly man with getting his vessel turned over and out of the water. The elderly gentleman was not injured and was greatly appreciative of the efforts from RFC Cunningham and Ranger McDaris.

On April 13, 2014, RFC Ben Cunningham apprehended a subject hunting turkeys over bait off Mill St in Cave Springs. The subject was charged hunting big game over bait and issued a warning for trapping out of season.

CHATTOOGA COUNTY

On April 8th, RFC Roger McConkey assisted with a Hunter Education Class at Trion High School. Volunteer instructor Jason Paseur, a teacher at Trion High School, presented the Hunter Education course. The class was taught after school and available to any students who wanted to complete the course.

On April 19th, RFC Roger McConkey patrolled hunting locations in the southern part of Chattooga County. RFC McConkey located a hunter's vehicle parked and waited on him to return. The hunter was found to be hunting with an unplugged shotgun with four shotgun shells in the firearm and did not have his hunting license on his person. The hunter was charged with hunting with an unplugged gun and issued a warning for not having his hunting licenses on his person.

DADE COUNTY

On April 19th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore, Cpl. Tommy Gentry, and RFC Roger McConkey attended the Cloudland Canyon State Park Outdoor Adventure Day. The fishing simulator was setup and many of the visitors enjoyed catching fish.



Pictured: Cpl. Shawn Elmore helping a young man catch a fish on the fishing simulator.

CATOOSA COUNTY

On April 18th, RFC Roger McConkey checked a previously located baited area in Catoosa County. One hunter was located hunting within the 200 yards of the baited area and was charged with hunting big game over bait.

POLK COUNTY

On April 11th, RFC Chad Cox was called by a Rockmart police officer in reference to a mounted red tailed hawk they had located during a search warrant. RFC Cox responded to the Rockmart address and located the mounted hawk. RFC Cox issued a citation for being in possession of the hawk. The mounted red tailed hawk is being held for evidence. On April 6th, RFC Daniel Gray conducted a routine Patrol on J.L Lester WMA to check for fishing and hunting activity. While checking fishermen RFC Gray observed a Pit Bull dog running loose and not on a leash. The dog acted very aggressively toward RFC Gray. After further investigation two individuals were cited for fishing w/o license, entering fee area w/o GORP, violation of dog regulations on WMA, and consuming alcohol on WMA.

On April 19th, RFC Chad Cox was patrolling for turkey hunters and located a small truck parked in the woods. RFC Cox waited for the hunters to return to the vehicle. As the hunters neared the vehicle RFC Cox watched one subject lay his shotgun down in the woods. After speaking to each of the subjects RFC Cox returned to the woods to get the discarded shotgun. RFC Cox issued citations for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license. Cox also wrote warnings for hunting with an unplugged gun and illegal ammunition. The hunter had OO buckshot loaded in the gun.

On April 16th, Cpl. Wil Smith received a call from Polk County 911 in reference to someone shooting a turkey from the road. Cpl. Smith responded and met with the complainant. The complainant told Cpl. Smith that she heard a shot in front of her house and looked out the window. She said a white truck with two subjects pulled into her yard. One subject got out and retrieved a turkey from her yard. Cpl. Smith was able to identify the subjects and went to one subject's house. Fresh blood was found in the subject's white truck and the subject confessed to hunting from the road. The subject's brother was also located and both were charged with hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

HARALSON COUNTY

On April 19th, Cpl. Eric Brown, RFC Chad Cox, RFC Daniel Gray, and Ranger Mark Puig conducted a HIN/Vessel Inspection in Haralson County. There were 33 vessels that the Rangers inspected.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On April 13th RFC Tim Butler checked several municipal fishing areas. Violations documented were fishing without a license, operating a vessel without personal flotation devices, and operating a vessel without registration.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On April 19th, RFC Robert Timmerman, RFC Jeff Billups, Cpl. Ryan Swain, and Cpl. Brian Hobbins conducted HIN inspections on vessels at the Region Office in Thomson. Thirty Three vessels were inspected during the process.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

JONES COUNTY

On the morning of April 18th, RFC Jeremy Reese checked a turkey hunter in the southern part of the county. It was determined that a nearby area was baited and a warning was issued for hunting big game over bait.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the afternoon of April 19th, RFC Jeremy Reese and Cpl. Lynn Stanford patrolled the Wallace Dam area of Lake Sinclair. The officers checked numerous fishermen and located 2 boats inside the restricted area at Wallace Dam. The operators of each boat received citations for operating a vessel inside a boating safety zone.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

On April 17th, Cpl. Robbie Griner was patrolling near Cleve Cox Landing when he observed a female subject walking in the roadway. As the officer approached the subject in his patrol vehicle, he noticed a clear plastic bag which appeared to contain marijuana be dropped onto the ground. When questioned, the subject admitted it was marijuana; she was arrested and transported to the Dougherty County Jail where she was charged with violation of the Georgia controlled substance act.

SUMTER COUNTY

On April 13th, Cpl. Bob Holley was conducting a patrol when he located and cited a subject for hunting turkeys over bait, and with an unplugged shotgun.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

CHARLTON COUNTY

On April 14th, Ranger Sam Williams was checking for fishing activity at area creeks and boat landings. While at Burnt Fort landing on the Satilla River, several individuals were observed fishing. While checking the fishing licenses of the individuals, one of them stated that his license had expired the previous month and that he had not purchased a new fishing license. The individual was issued a citation for fishing without a license.

On April 13th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree & Cpl. Jason Shipes were patrolling the Suwannee River Sill area for boating and fishing activity. Several boats and licenses were inspected and one boat operator was issued a written warning for insufficient personal flotation

devices. Three individuals were on board and they possessed on two PFDs. The officers assisted the boaters with obtaining another PFD so they could continue their fishing trip.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On April 7th, Ranger Daniel North concluded an investigation involving information received on March 21st concerning a load of tires that had been dumped on the side of a public road. After speaking with witnesses and obtaining a description of the vehicle and occupants, the offenders were found to reside in north Florida. At the conclusion of an interview with the offender, violations for illegal dumping were documented and the tires were removed from the side of the county road.

WARE COUNTY

On April 13th, Ranger Daniel North was patrolling Laura S. Walker State Park and observed several boaters on the lake. RGR North inspected a boater that had an insufficient number of PFDs. The violation was documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

CHATHAM COUNTY

DNR Rangers assisted Tybee Island Police Department with crowd control on the beach during Orange Crush. "Orange Crush" is a celebration where thousands of college students throw a party on Tybee's beach. In the past it's caused problems with trash, traffic and arrests. This year the event took place on two separate weekends, April 12th & 19th. The first weekend went well with low turnout and less arrests than usual (approx. 22). Bad weather hindered the larger crowd of beachgoers that was expected for the second weekend.

April 17, Corporal Chris Moore responded to a complaint of a thirty foot sailboat that had crashed into a dock. Corporal met with Coast Guard at the scene. It was determined that the vessel had broken free from a dock at Young's Marina and drifted under a private dock where it caused minimal damage. The owner of the vessel was contacted who had the vessel towed back to the marina. A report was taken and the owners of the dock and vessel exchanged information. The owner of the vessel agreed to repair the dock.

April 19 Ranger Jordan Crawford and Officer Mike Ramsey with the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Marine Patrol taught a boating education course in Savannah, Georgia certifying 19 students.

BRYAN COUNTY

On April 13th, Ranger Jason Miller was checking boat ramps and found an adult man and a juvenile operating Personal Watercraft within 100 feet of the Ft. McAllister dock/ramp. The adult man was cited for illegally operating within 100 feet of a dock/ramp.

WAYNE COUNTY

On April 12th, Cpl. Bobby White was patrolling Little Satilla WMA when he found a trailer full of shingles that was abandoned after it was stuck in the sand while someone was attempting to dump the shingles. Cpl. White waited for the suspect to come back for the trailer but nobody came. Cpl. White told Cpl. Randy Aspinwall about the incident and Cpl. Aspinwall investigated further that evening. After interviewing some people Cpl. Aspinwall and Cpl. White were able to find out who the trailer belonged to and secured warrants for the suspect for unlawful dumping and criminal trespass on the WMA.



MCINTOSH COUNTY

On April 19th, Sgt. Damon Winters and Ranger Jay Bright were working turkey hunting off Hwy 251. They located fresh hunting sign in the landfill area of the county. After tracking the hunter they found he was hunting over a baited area. Violations for hunting big game over bait and hunting with an unplugged shotgun were documented.