

Department of Natural Resources

Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report

March 30-April 5, 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)

MURRAY COUNTY

On April 5th Cpl. Casey Jones charged three Gordon County men for hunting turkeys without permission.

GORDON COUNTY

On April 1st, Cpl. Shawn Elmore presented a program about the Law Enforcement Division and the duties of a conservation ranger to the ADJUST program through the Juvenile Court of Gordon County.

On April 5th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore was on patrol in the Ranger community of Gordon when he encountered two hunters exiting the woods off of Guess Rd. One of the hunters did not have a plug in his shotgun and was issued a written warning.

POLK COUNTY

On April 2nd & 3rd, RFC Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray assisted Polk County Sheriff's Office Champs Deputy Racheal Haddix with teaching ATV and Firearms Safety. There were 120 fifth grade students who attended the two day program.

HARALSON COUNTY

On April 4th, RFC Daniel Gray was performing a routine patrol in Haralson County to check for fishing activity. Nine fishermen were checked and two citations were issued for fishing w/o license.

On April 5th, RFC Daniel Gray checked a baited turkey hunting blind which had previously been located. The blind was located 25 yards from a tripod feeder filled with corn. One individual was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait.

PAULDING COUNTY

April 1st, RFC Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray conducted a routine patrol on Paulding Forest Wildlife Management Area. One individual hunting turkey's was checked and issued a warning for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

TOWNS COUNTY

On March 31st, Cpl. Jesse Cook responded to an injured hiker call off the Appalachian Trail near the Towns/Rabun County line. Vague information received from three local 911 centers. Information gathered from sporadic cell phone calls was the hiker had an injured leg and back. Cpl. Cook with the assistance of Game Management Technician Brandon Walls, Towns County 911 and fire department, Clay County North Carolina 911 and Search and Rescue units, Rabun County 911, Georgia State Patrol dispatch and staff members at the Georgia Mountain Center finally determined a high area of probability

for the location of the injured hiker was off Charlie Creek Road. Responders from Clay County, NC SAR arrived at the injured hiker and verified to Georgia Officers of the exact location of the hiker using a GPS unit. Due to extremely poor road conditions an ambulance or other emergency vehicles were hampered to assist. Cpl. Cook arrived and assessed the hiker's condition and found that they were well enough to ride in the officers patrol vehicle to meet the ambulance.

HALL COUNTY

On April 3rd, Capt. Thomas Barnard, Cpl. Jesse Cook, RFC Eric Isom and Ranger Kevin Goss responded to a boat explosion on Lake Lanier near Lake Lanier Islands.

At original call no one was able to verify that someone had not been on the boat when it exploded. DNR Officer's and Hall County Sheriff's Deputies arrived on the scene and observe evidence of fuel and debris that would be consistent with a boat fire/explosion.

DNR Officers used the Klein 3900 Side Scan Sonar and the Video Ray Remote Operated Vehicle (mini-submarine) to search the area where the boat had last been seen.

The boat was located in approximately 30-35 feet of water. Several items were recovered for evidence but no human remains were located using the DNR technologies.

Hall County advised that they had not received any overdue boaters or missing person's reports but the dive teams were planning on diving on the wreckage on Tuesday.

WHITE COUNTY

On April 2nd, RFC Anne Britt patrolled Smith Creek on Unicoi State Park for fishing activity. RFC Britt charged one person for possession of 4 trout on the delayed harvest stream and 2 people were warned for being in possession of unlawful bait.

UNION COUNTY

On March 30th, RFC Kevin Dyer patrolled Cooper Creek WMA for hunting, fishing and illegal camping violations. RFC Dyer checked multiple fishing license and camps issuing 1 written warning for fishing without a license.

On April 4th, RFC Kevin Dyer patrolled the southern part of Union County for fishing violation. RFC Dyer checked a suspicious vehicle on a United States Forest Service Road and located a deceased person in their vehicle. The area was secured and the scene was turned over to the Investigators of Union County Sheriff's Department and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for further investigation.

DAWSON COUNTY

On April 3rd, RFC Barry Britt charged a subject with hunting turkeys over bait.

FORSYTH COUNTY

On April 5th, Ranger Shane Brown located three subjects hunting without permission for turkeys. Citations and warnings were issued for hunting without permission, hunting with unplugged shotgun, hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

LUMPKIN COUNTY

On March 30th, Ranger Shane Brown checked boats for safety equipment and fisherman for fishing license at Yahoola Lake. A citation was issued for operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's.

On April 5th, Ranger Shane Brown was checking boats for safety equipment and fisherman for fishing license at Yahoola Lake. Citations were issued for operating a vessel without CG approved PFD's and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)**HANCOCK COUNTY**

On Saturday, April 05, RFC Richard Tanner responded to fishing without permission complaint in Hancock County. RFC Tanner located one individual on the property. The fisherman was cited for fishing without permission.

WALTON COUNTY

On April 1, RFC Niki Spencer charged one individual for possession of a game animal without a permit. The suspect had two live whitetail deer enclosed in a fence in his back yard. The deer were confiscated and transported to another location.

NEWTON COUNTY

On April 6 and 7, RFC Ricky Boles patrolled Lake Varner for fishing activity. Several fishermen were given verbal and written warnings on fishing without a license and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's.

GREENE COUNTY

On April 5, Cpl. Derrell Worth issued one fisherman a citation for fishing without a license and one for fishing without permission.

On April 6, Cpl. Derrell Worth and RFC Richard Tanner issued two hunters for turkey hunting over bait.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On April 5th, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin and RFC Robert Timmerman were on patrol below Clarks Hill Dam. The two Rangers were checking for fishing and boating violations. During the patrol, a group of three fishermen were inspected. The three men possessed fish but did not possess a fishing license. The three subjects were acting very nervous and suspicious. Due to the subject's actions, a search of their persons and vehicle was conducted by RFC Timmerman. The search revealed crystal methamphetamine and several marijuana seeds, potting soil, shovels, and containers to manufacture marijuana. The three men were arrested and transported to Columbia County Jail.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

TURNER COUNTY

On March 3rd, Sgt. Al Greer located and cited two subjects for hunting turkeys over bait.

CRISP COUNTY

On April 4th, Cpl. Bob Holley and Ranger Jesse Harrison conducted a vessel patrol of Lake Blackshear, citing one subject for operating a PWC after hours of darkness and warning another vessel operator for operating with improper lights.

STEWART COUNTY

On April 5th, Sgt. Butch Potter cited two non-residents for hunting turkeys without licenses and an unplugged shotgun.

RANDOLPH COUNTY

On March 31st, Cpl. Scott Carroll investigated a citizen complaint of illegal dumping of a hog and turkey carcass. Cpl. Carroll located and interviewed the persons responsible for dumping the wildlife and discovered that the turkey was taken over bait. Two subjects were charged with the unlawful dumping of the carcasses and taking big game over bait.

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

On the night of April 2nd, Cpl. Greg Wade and Ranger Eric White responded to a call regarding two stranded boaters on the Flint River in Albany. When the officers arrived at the location, they found the vessel and passengers stuck in a log jam away from shore, which made rescue from land impossible. The officers then launched their patrol boat and were able to secure a line to the stranded vessel which they towed to safety.

WORTH COUNTY

On April 4th, Cpl. Robbie Griner conducted an information and education program for students at Worth County Elementary School. The officer discussed the life histories of wildlife species native to Georgia and the responsibilities of Georgia's Conservation Rangers.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

IRWIN COUNTY

At around 10:00 a.m. on April 4, 2014, RFC Tim Hutto received a phone call from a landowner in Ocilla. The landowner explained to RFC Hutto that when his wife was leaving for work she saw what appeared to be a bald eagle in their cow pasture lying dead. RFC Hutto checked the area and found the dead eagle. The eagle had fresh blood around the head and neck area and appeared to have either been in a fight or been shot by a small caliber rifle. RFC Hutto checked with the Irwin Animal Clinic in Ocilla. They agreed to x-ray the eagle. After an x-ray was performed, it was determined by the doctor that the eagle had not been shot. The Doctor believed the eagle was in an altercation with another bird of prey and died of a talon wound. The eagle was turned over to the Game Management section of WRD.



COFFEE COUNTY

On April 5, 2014, Cpl. Morty Wood checked a property off Andrew Tanner Road that he had previously found to be baited with cracked corn for turkey. The first area of the property that Cpl. Wood checked was in a field and the officer located two hunters set up with decoys. The hunters were actively calling for turkey. After an inspection of the hunters and their guns, it was found that one of the hunter's shotguns was unplugged. A warning was issued for the unplugged gun and for hunting without a license on person. Each hunter received a citation for hunting big game over bait.

IRWIN COUNTY

On March 30, Sgt. David Reckley was patrolling for turkey hunters in the Satilla area of Irwin County. He found a vehicle parked on a hunting lease and tracked the hunters to a blind set up on a power line right-of-way. There was a feeder a short distance further down the power line and it was full of shelled corn and had fresh corn on the ground around it. Both hunters were charged with hunting big game over bait.

LAURENS COUNTY

On March 30th, Cpl. Dan Stiles was patrolling for turkey hunting activity. Cpl. Stiles located a hunter who had been hunting turkeys over bait earlier in the morning. After a short investigation the subject admitted to the violation. The subject was also found to be hunting with an unplugged shotgun. Violations for hunting with unplugged shotgun and hunting big game over bait were documented.

WHEELER COUNTY

On April 1st, Cpl. Dan Stiles was contacted by the GSP at 11:00PM to respond to a report of three missing juveniles who had attempted to navigate a local creek in a small vessel. The juveniles had contacted their parents by cell phone after sunset to report that they had abandoned their vessel and described their location. The parents were unable to locate them and the juveniles' cell phone had quit working. The Wheeler County Sheriff's office, local EMA personnel, and GSP responded to the area to locate the missing juveniles. GSP air support was contacted to assist in the search. At 2:00AM Cpl. Stiles and other searchers located the juveniles. The juveniles were checked by EMS and released to their parents uninjured.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On March 30, Corporal Shaymus McNeely, Corporal Eddie Akins, and Sergeant Don Dasher conducted a search and rescue operation on the Ogeechee River in the Eldora area. Officers responded to the area after receiving a call for assistance from the Bulloch County Sheriff's Department regarding a group of teenagers stranded on a remote section of the Ogeechee River. The teens had been exploring the flooded river swamp and had crossed several sloughs when they became lost in the dark and called 911. The officers arrived on scene at approximately 10:30 pm and began searching for the teens from the river. The four teenagers were located just before midnight and transported off the river to a nearby private landing. The four teenagers ranged in age from 13 to 19 years old and were given first aid for early on-set of hypothermia and returned to their families.

JENKINS COUNTY

On Saturday, April 5, Corporal Mike Wilcox and Sergeant Don Dasher were patrolling Big Dukes Pond WMA in Jenkins County. While on patrol the officers encountered two turkey hunters close to the sign-in board. The officers inspected the hunting license and guns of the two hunters. One of the hunters did not have a plug in his shotgun. The violation for hunting with an unplugged shotgun was documented.

WARE COUNTY

On April 5th, Cpl. Jason Shipes and RFC Mark Pool patrolled approximately 39 miles of the Satilla River for boating and fishing activity between Jamestown Landing to Hwy 158. Officers checked for valid fishing licenses, creel limits and safety requirements. During their patrol officers documented violations for fishing without a license and operating a vessel without Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices.

Officers also checked for late evening activity in the area of Hwy 84 on the Satilla River specifically checking for operating vessel during hours of darkness without proper lights and boating under the influence of alcohol. Cpl. Shipes observed a vessel returning to the landing. Upon speaking with the occupants, Cpl. Shipes observed several empty cans of alcohol. The operator was screened using a series of field sobriety exercises. The screening indicated that the operator had consumed some alcohol, but was not under the influence.



RFC Mark Pool navigating the Satilla River

LOWNDES COUNTY

On April 4th, RFC Keith McDonald and RGR Daniel North attended career day at Hahira Middle School. Both rangers spoke to five different 6th Grade classes about the duties and responsibilities of a Conservation Ranger. Approximately 125 students were presented the opportunity to see pictures depicting the everyday life and activities of a game warden, ask questions, and see some of the different tools and equipment used on the job.



RGR Daniel North speaking with 6th graders

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

MCINTOSH COUNTY

On April 5th, Sgt. Damon Winters and Ranger Jay Bright were patrolling for turkey hunting activity in northern McIntosh County. While patrolling, they found a vehicle parked on a hunting club north of Townsend, GA. After inspecting the vehicle, they found evidence of hunting turkeys over bait. They were able to track the suspect to where he was hunting, and found bait scattered in front of his hunting blind. The hunter was charged with hunting big game over bait, and told the area could not be hunted until the bait was gone for 10 days.

BRYAN COUNTY

On March 31st, while patrolling northern Bryan County to check for turkey hunters, Cpl. Jay Morgan stopped and checked two boats with four fishermen at Dashers/Browns Landing on the Ogeechee River at Hwy. 80. One boat had five shad.

On April 5th, RFC Jack Thain and Cpl. Jay Morgan cited two persons at the Richmond Hill WMA shooting range for range violations of not having a Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass (GORP) and shooting at plastic targets.

CHATHAM COUNTY

On April 5th, Cpl. Jay Morgan patrolled the new county park at Three Ponds on Chief O. F. Love Rd., citing two persons for fishing without licenses.

OFFSHORE/FEDERAL WATERS

On April 2nd, Ranger Jason Miller, RFC Jack Thain, and Cpl. Bill Bryson conducted a patrol to Grays Reef Marine Sanctuary checking two boats with black sea bass.

On April 5th, RFC Jack Thain, Cpl. Bill Bryson, and Cpl. Jay Morgan patrolled offshore of Ossabaw Island to the CAT reef and DUA reef. No violations were found.