

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
October 26 – November 1, 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)

BARTOW COUNTY

On October 26th, Cpl. Lee Burns received an anonymous tip about a bobcat being taken out of season. Cpl. Burns investigated the allegations and went to interview the subject. The hunter was charged with hunting out of season, hunting over bait and warned for hunting without permission (as per the landowner). The statewide firearm season on bobcat and all furbearers is Dec. 1 – Feb. 28, which coincides with the statewide trapping season. Hunters take note that the recently changed legal firearms for bobcat and fox is centerfire firearms of .17 caliber or larger during the season for bobcats and foxes, as well as small game firearms.



On October 29th, Cpl. Byron Young located a truck parked at the Etowah River Bridge that he suspected to be hunting without permission. Cpl. Young contacted RFC Zack Hardy to set up surveillance on the vehicle. While utilizing night vision, Cpl. Young observed two hunters exiting the Etowah River carrying a shotgun. The officers approached the two hunters and identified themselves. The hunter with the gun ran behind the truck and hid the shotgun. For officer safety, Cpl. Young retrieved the shotgun and unloaded it. The shotgun was loaded with buckshot. Cpl. Young recognized the hunters from a case last year where they were found to be in violation of several waterfowl violations. The hunters stated they were “just floating on the river”. The officers observed blood on one of the subject’s pants and questioned him about what they killed. The hunters changed their story several times, but finally admitted to floating the river and shooting a doe on private property. Two back straps and a loaded rifle were found in the kayaks. One of the hunters stated he took the back straps and left the rest of the deer on the river bank. Both subjects were issued citations for hunting without permission and hunting without fluorescent orange. One had killed two deer this season, but failed to document this on his license. These violations were also documented.

FANNIN COUNTY

On October 25th, RFC Cody Jones and a US Forest Service Officer investigated a complaint on Turkey Farm Road. The Officers encountered about 20 college fraternity members who were camping in a wildlife opening. Multiple suspects were found to be in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Two suspects were minors in possession of alcohol. The evidence was seized and the suspects were charged.

On October 26th, RFC Joe Hill and RFC Cody Jones investigated an incident where four hunters were supposedly using pit bulldogs to hunt hogs on Cohutta WMA. The suspects were interviewed and they admitted to hunting hogs with dogs on a closed WMA. Two of the suspects didn't have a license or Hunter Education. Six citations and two warnings were issued.



WHITFIELD COUNTY

On October 25th, Cpl. Casey Jones and Cpl. James Keener arrested a Whitfield County man for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and hunting big game over bait.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On October 27th, RFC Chad Chambers received a call from Habersham County Deputy Cale Garrison regarding a confrontation between a landowner and two trespassers off Wilbanks Road. Deputy Garrison described the suspect vehicle and tag number to RFC Chambers and he recognized it from a complaint he had received earlier in the week. The previous complaint was that a deer had been shot at from the road by the occupants of this vehicle. RFC Chambers requested that Deputy Garrison, who arrived on scene first, keep the occupants separated until he arrived to question them. Upon arriving on the scene, RFC Chambers first spoke to the driver of the vehicle who admitted to being the driver of the vehicle on the 18th when the deer was shot at. Chambers next questioned the passenger and he confessed to shooting at the deer on that same piece of property the previous week. The two men were charged with Hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road and Hunting without permission. The passenger was also charged with open container.

HALL COUNTY

On October 28th, Corporal Jason Roberson caught one subject hunting deer over bait and not wearing fluorescent orange. He was issued citations and warnings for the violations.

On November 1st, Corporal Jason Roberson and Sergeant Mike Burgamy finished up an investigation of hunting without permission. They executed a search warrant on one of the suspect's residences. The case ended with two subjects giving written statements to the officers and resulted in two charges of hunting deer at night, hunting without permission, and hunting without orange. A stolen deer stand was also returned to the property owner.

JACKSON COUNTY

On November 1st, RFC Eric Isom with his K9 partner Colt checked a hunter near Maysville hunting deer over corn. He received a citation and a warning for hunting big game over bait and hunting without wearing florescent orange. RFC Isom received a call from a landowner stating that he heard a shot come from his property and believed someone was hunting without permission. RFC Isom and Colt located a subject hunting on the property. After a short investigation the subject's deer stand and a spent shell casing were also located. He received a citation for hunting without permission.

BANKS COUNTY

On October 26th, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk patrolled Banks County for hunting activity. During the patrol he issued a warning for hunting hogs without wearing orange, and issued citations for hunting big game over bait, and possession of marijuana.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

ELBERT COUNTY

On November 1, 2014, SGT Brian Carter and CPL Julian Wilkins received an in progress hunting without permission complaint through GSP dispatch. Upon arrival at the scene the Rangers located a subject hunting deer as described in the complaint. The individual was charged with non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license and hunting deer without fluorescent orange. The hunting without permission complaint is still under investigation.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On October 31, 2014, CPL Ryan Swain apprehended two subjects hunting without permission. The subjects were cited and released.

MORGAN/PUTNAM COUNTY

On November 1, 2014, CPL David Allen and SGT John Harwell assisted with Region IV with a night hunting detail.

TALIAFERRO COUNTY

On November 1, 2014, CPL Brian Hobbins apprehended three subjects for hunting big game over bait. The subjects were cited and released.

WILKES COUNTY

On October 28, 2014, CPL Mark Patterson checked two subjects hunting over corn. Both subjects were charged with hunting big game over bait for the second time in a week.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the evening of October 26th, Ranger Matt Johnson checked a property that had been previously been determined as baited. Two hunters were located on the property and were charged with hunting big game over bait, hunting without fluorescent orange and one was also charged with hunting without a big game license.

JASPER COUNTY

On Saturday, October 25th, RFC Freddie Hays received a complaint of a subject hunting deer without fluorescent orange. RFC Hays went to the location and could see a subject sitting in a clear cut approximately thirty feet up a tree without fluorescent orange. The subject was issued a citation for hunting deer without fluorescent orange clothing and issued written warnings for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

On Saturday, October 25th, while RFC Freddie Hays was on patrol, he encountered a subject that was hunting deer with a .270 caliber rifle that had harvested a three point buck. During the license check, RFC Hays determined through the Georgia Crime Information Center that the subject was a convicted felon. The subject was arrested and charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and the rifle and the deer were seized. The deer was then donated to a needy family in Jasper County.

On Tuesday, October 28th, RFC Freddie Hays was patrolling Marben Farm Public Fishing Area (PFA) and found a subject fishing on the PFA while the area was closed. RFC Hays gave the subject a fishing regulation and explained to him that the area was closed to fishing on Monday and Tuesday of each week. The subject was issued a written warning for fishing on a closed PFA.

On Wednesday, October 29th, RFC Freddie Hays investigated a complaint of hunting without permission that took place on Sunday, October 26th. The landowner stated he had heard a shot and went to the area and found a subject sitting approximately six to eight feet across the property line. The landowner found a dead doe lying in a woods road on his property. Due to the amount of time between the incident and when it was reported, there was no evidence that the subject may have shot the doe on the landowner's property. When RFC Hays interviewed the subject, he denied hunting without permission. RFC Hays checked the subject's hunting license and found he had not recorded a harvested deer. The subject was issued a written warning for failure to record deer harvest.

On November 1st, RFC Niki Spencer patrolled Clybel Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for hunting and fishing activity. RFC Spencer issued written warnings to three individuals for fishing on a WMA without a WMA license.

JONES COUNTY

On the evening of October 26th RFC Jeremy Reese responded to a hunting without permission complaint and located a hunter. The hunter was charged with hunting without permission, hunting over bait, hunting without a license and hunting without fluorescent orange.

On the morning of November 1st, RFC Jeremy Reese and USFS LEO Zach Nichols patrolled Piedmont NWR. Two hunters were located hunting from the public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

LAMAR COUNTY

On October 28th, RFC Keith Page and K9 Drake located two men hunting. One of the men was found to be hunting over bait and both were found to be hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange clothing. Page issued one hunter a citation for hunting big game over bait and charged both hunters for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange clothing.

On October 30th, RFC Keith Page and K9 Drake found a man hunting on Industrial Road. Page had previously found the stand that was baited with a pile of corn directly in front of it. The man was charged with hunting big game over bait.

On November 1st, RFC Keith Page and K9 Drake apprehended two suspects for hunting deer over bait on Yancy Road. One of the hunters had shot two bucks from his baited deer stand just prior to RFC Page's arrival. RFC Page used K9 Drake to locate both deer. Both deer were seized and given to a less fortunate family. The suspect was required to record both bucks on his harvest record.



MONROE COUNTY

On Thursday, October 23rd, Cpl. Tony Wynne checked an area in which Sgt. Tim Kendrick told him he had found bait within the previous few days. Since Kendrick would be off the upcoming weekend, he asked Wynne to check the baited area on Saturday morning. The area had a tree stand overlooking a food plot. On the far side of the food plot from the stand was a feeder with a few kernels of corn on the ground. Deer had been feeding heavily at the feeder because the ground under the feeder was bare of any grass or other vegetation. On the following Saturday, Cpl. Wynne saw a pickup parked on the trail leading to the baited area. He walked to the baited area and found a hunter not wearing fluorescent orange sitting in the elevated stand. At Wynne's request the hunter unloaded his rifle and climbed down from the stand. While checking the hunter's license, Cpl. Wynne commented on the hunter not wearing orange. The hunter pulled an orange vest out and put it on. Wynne asked the hunter if he had seen anything. The hunter said he saw a couple of does. Wynne asked the hunter if the does were at the feeder and the hunter sheepishly grinned and said yes, they were. When asked how far the feeder was from the deer stand, the hunter said it was between 100 and 105 yards from the stand. When Cpl. Wynne and the hunter walked to the feeder, deer ran from the area of the feeder. Under the feeder, kernels of corn were strewn densely over a 10 foot wide area. Wynne looked from the feeder back toward the deer stand and he could clearly see the stand. Wynne advised the hunter of the requirements of the law and charged the hunter with hunting big game over bait and issued a written warning to the hunter for not wearing his orange vest.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the evening of November 1st, Cpl. Lynn Stanford checked private property that he had previously discovered as being baited for deer. One adult and one juvenile were located hunting the property and the adult was charged with hunting big game over bait.

UPSON COUNTY

On October 30th, while looking for baited deer stands, RFC Keith Page located a man hunting deer over bait. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

CRISP COUNTY

On October 27th, while conducting an investigation of hunting without permission, Cpl. Bob Holley located a subject illegally hunting on the property. The subject was cited for hunting without permission, hunting deer without fluorescent orange and hunting big game over bait. The hunter's pop up blind, feeders and a climbing stand were removed from the property.

DOOLY COUNTY

On October 29th, Ranger Jesse Harrison received a complaint from a landowner stating he found a deer that had just been shot from the roadway. Ranger Harrison set up surveillance of the area and apprehended two subjects when they returned to recover the deer. Both subjects were charged with hunting big game from the public road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting without permission.



Illegally killed deer in Dooly County

MACON COUNTY

On October 27th, Ranger Jesse Harrison received a complaint from a witness who saw two subjects shoot a deer from a public road, then load the deer in their pickup truck. Ranger Harrison located, interviewed, and charged the two with hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a motor vehicle, hunting without license and hunting without permission.

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

On October 27th, Cpl. Robbie Griner was conducting a patrol in an area where a subject has been missing for several years, when he recovered a bone believed to be human. The bone was delivered to the GBI crime lab and identified as non-human.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

BEN HILL COUNTY

On October 29th Corporal John A. Stokes investigated a complaint of hunting deer without permission off Iris road. Two subjects were found hunting out of ladder stands on the property. Violations for hunting without permission, hunting big game over bait, hunting without fluorescent orange, hunting without big game license and hunting without license were documented.

WHEELER COUNTY

On Saturday, October 25, 2014 Ranger First Class Rodney Horne received a complaint of hunting without permission and a deer stand located on a hunting lease with fresh drag marks where it was suspected that a deer had been killed. After a two day investigation, RFC Rodney Horne located the owner of the deer stand. Violations for hunting without permission and failure to record deer on deer harvest record were documented.

On Monday, October 27, 2014, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne was working a complaint based on a suspected person hunting deer at night. RFC Rodney Horne set up on a location in Wheeler County and apprehended two poachers for hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

On Monday, October 28, 2014 Ranger First Class Rodney Horne received a complaint about someone night hunting and a shot fired near the yard of a local resident in Wheeler County. After following multiple leads and two extensive interviews RFC Rodney Horne located the person responsible for the crime. Violations were documented for hunting raccoons without a license, hunting from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and littering.

LAURENS COUNTY

On October 31st Corporal Dan Stiles charged a subject for possession of firearm by a convicted felon after an arrest warrant had been obtained. The violation occurred on October 22nd while Corporal Stiles was investigating a landowner complaint of hunting from a public road.

On November 1, Corporal Dan Stiles was investigating a complaint near Rockledge in Laurens County and received a hunting without permission complaint in progress at a location south of Dublin. Cpl. Stiles contacted Sergeant James McLaughlin and he responded to the location. Sgt. McLaughlin located two subjects and detained them until Cpl. Stiles arrived a short time later. The subjects claimed to have permission, but the landowner could not be reached at the time to confirm permission. Citations were issued to the two hunters for hunting hogs without wearing fluorescent orange.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

Cpl. Altman and Sgt. Barnard were working a night hunting complaint in the county and at around 11:30 pm, a truck was observed by Sgt. Barnard shining peanut fields along the road. Sgt. Barnard called Cpl. Altman over the radio just down the road. Cpl. Altman conducted a vehicle stop, finding two adult males and a juvenile in the truck. One loaded rifle, one loaded shotgun, and a light were in located in the truck. The two men were charged with hunting from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting deer at night.

TOOMBS COUNTY

Cpl. Altman conducted several programs for the Ag classes at the Toombs County High School. The programs were geared towards careers in Conservation Law Enforcement. In all, three classes were educated in the exciting field of DNR Law Enforcement.

LANIER COUNTY

On October 26th, RFC Tim Hutto received a complaint in Lanier County of someone hunting alligators out of season. On October 28th, RFC Hutto completed the investigation which resulted in three documented violations of hunting alligators out of season, one violation of giving false information to a police officer, and three violations of possession of an alligator or parts.



BERRIEN COUNTY

On October 29th, RFC Tim Hutto received a complaint of unlawful dumping in Ray City. On October 30th, after talking with the witness and the violator, one subject was charged with unlawful dumping of waste. The subject dumped a blue reclining chair onto a hunting club on highway 64 in Ray City.

COOK COUNTY

On October 26th, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey observed a subject hunting deer w/o wearing any fluorescent orange. The violation was documented.

LOWNDES COUNTY

While patrolling a hunting club on the morning of November 2nd, RFC Keith McDonald located an individual hunting deer without a hunting license or big game license. A citation was issued for hunting without a license and a warning was written for hunting without a big game license.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On November 1st, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and Ranger Daniel North encountered four individuals fishing in Suwannee Creek from the Pineland Bridge. Inspection of their licenses revealed only one of the individuals was in possession of a valid license. Violations of fishing without fishing licenses were documented on the individuals.

On November 1st, Ranger Sam Williams was patrolling for deer dogging activity along Pineland Road. During the patrol, Ranger Williams observed a male subject, with no visible fluorescent orange, exit a wooded area onto a public road. He entered a truck and drove a short distance to a logging road. Ranger Williams followed the subject to a larger group of hunters. Upon arrival, Ranger Williams also noticed a female subject loading two deer hounds that did not have any fluorescent orange visible either. A check of required licenses and permits was conducted and two additional violations for operating a vehicle without permit numbers displayed was observed. Citations were issued for all violations discovered.

CLINCH COUNTY

On October 28th, Cpl. Jason Shipes, RFC Mark Pool, and Ranger Daniel North attended the Sheriff's Boys Ranch annual deer hunt sponsored by Superior Pine Products in Fargo, GA. During the event, Ranger Daniel North talked with the participants about safe gun handling and tree-stand safety prior to being paired up with a mentor and leaving for their stands. Many of the young hunters were very successful, some harvesting their first deer. After the hunt everyone enjoyed a barbeque dinner with all the fixings. Rangers from the Law Enforcement Division purchased all needed licenses for the youth hunt.



Pictured above are some of participants and their mentors (all smiles!) from the 2014 Georgia Sheriff's youth hunt near Fargo.

On November 1st, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and Ranger Daniel North were contacted concerning deer dogs that had entered a still hunting lease. Upon arrival, the owners of the deer hounds were encountered and the officers learned that five of their dogs had left their property and entered the neighboring property while in pursuit of a deer. While the officers sorted out the situation, it was discovered that one of the individuals did not possess valid hunting licenses. Violations of failure to keep hunting dogs on permitted property, non-resident hunting without big game license, non-resident hunting without hunting license, and non-resident hunting without deer dog license were documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

LONG COUNTY

On October 30th Ranger Patrick Gibbs was working a night hunting detail in a field where he heard shots after dark days earlier and also located the carcass of a shot deer lying next to a public road. At 10:00pm a truck stopped in front of the field and turned around in the road allowing the headlights to sweep across the field. At 10:30pm the same truck returned and exhibited the same maneuver. At 11:00pm the truck returned for a third time and drove across the ditch out into the field. Gibbs conducted a traffic stop on the truck and located a .17 caliber rifle. Violations were addressed for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.

BRYAN COUNTY

On Nov. 1st, Cpl. Bill Bryson patrolled the Tivoli tract of the Richmond Hill WMA. He found and cited a deer hunter for hunting over bait on a WMA and for illegally leaving a permanent stand on the WMA.