

Department of Natural Resources

Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report

September 28 – October 4, 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 3rd, Cpl. Lee Burns and RFC Zackary Hardy assisted Bartow Sheriff's Office and Bartow Fire/EMS in locating and transporting a mountain biker that wrecked coming down an interior road within Pine Log WMA. The victim sustained substantial head trauma, cuts and contusions and had to be air lifted to the Atlanta Medical Center. The victim's father administered first aid until public safety personnel arrived and was able to maintain cell service which assisted in pinpointing the location within this remote area of the Wildlife Management Area.



GORDON COUNTY

On October 4th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore attended the Gordon County LEPC Health Fair held at the Home Depot in Calhoun. Cpl. Elmore displayed DNR LED's Edgewater patrol boat and spoke with participants on the importance of water safety and PFD wear. Several hundred children and adults attended the event. Cpl. Elmore also assisted with a crash reenactment by responding to the mock scene, directed traffic and assisted with crowd control during the landing of Life Force air ambulance.

CATOOSA COUNTY

On October 1st, RFC Roger McConkey was on patrol in the Woodstation area of Catoosa County. RFC McConkey observed four men who looked to be fishing in a local creek next to the roadway. RFC McConkey checked them and only two of the men were fishing and neither had the required license. The subjects were checked and one man was found to have a felony drug warrant for his arrest. The man was taken into custody for the outstanding warrant and the fishing license violations were documented.

HARALSON COUNTY

September 28th, Sgt. Ricky Dempsey and RFC Daniel Gray were patrolling in Haralson County when they encountered two individuals deer hunting. Both men were charged with hunting big game over bait.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HALL COUNTY

On October 2nd, RFC Kevin Goss, attended the Pine Grove Baptist Sportsman's dinner in Gillsville. RFC Goss brought along the laser-shot video game for the children to play; as well as handed out hunting/fishing regulations and updated boater education info sheets to nearly 150 attendees. RFC Goss spoke briefly to the crowd about the importance of instilling wholesome morals and practices to the future hunters and fishermen. On October 4th, Corporal Jason Roberson caught two subjects hunting deer over bait. Both subjects also were hunting without the proper licenses. Citations and warnings were issued for the violations.

JACKSON COUNTY

On October 3rd, RFC Eric Isom utilized his K9 partner Colt to locate a subject archery hunting deer over bait near the Hoschton area.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

ELBERT COUNTY

On September 28th Cpl. Mark Patterson responded to a request for assistance made by the Elbert County Sheriff's Department. The request was made in response to a report of a subject that had been seen near a burning vehicle and had reportedly pointed a rifle at a person that stopped to offer assistance. This quickly evolving search developed into a manhunt for an armed fugitive wanted in connection to a possible homicide and burglary. Rangers assisting in this effort were Capt. Mark Padgett, Sgt. Brian Carter, Sgt. Stan Elrod, Cpl. Micheal Crawley and K-9 Storm, Cpl. Mark Patterson, RFC Brian Adams, and RFC Tim Butler. Also assisting from nearby Richard B. Russell State Park were Jay Lewis, Mark Millard, and Dan Brown. This multiagency search was brought to a successful conclusion with the apprehension of the subject.

OCONEE COUNTY

On October 4th RFC Tim Butler responded to a complaint that a group of deer hunters were hunting with rifles during archery season. RFC Butler determined that the subjects had been deer hunting with rifles, and one of the hunters had shot a deer. None of the men had a big game license, or a hunting license. Additionally, the men did not have permission to hunt on the property. Each of the men was cited for hunting with an illegal weapon, hunting without a big game license, and hunting without a license. Warnings were issued for hunting without permission.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On October 4th, RFC Robert Timmerman apprehended two subjects for hunting big game over bait. The two subjects were bow hunting near Leah on private property. The subjects were cited for the violations and released.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On October 4th, Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Robert Timmerman conducted several concentrated patrols on Department controlled property. McDuffie PFA and Clarks Hill WMA were their target areas. Several violations were detected. Citations and Warnings were issued to multiple subjects.

HANCOCK/GREENE/WALTON

On October 4-5, Sgt. Harwell and Cpl. Crawley checked several baited stands. They patrolled Oconee WMA and Redlands WMA for any violations. No violations were found. Sgt. Harwell worked several complaints in Hancock and Walton County with no activity.

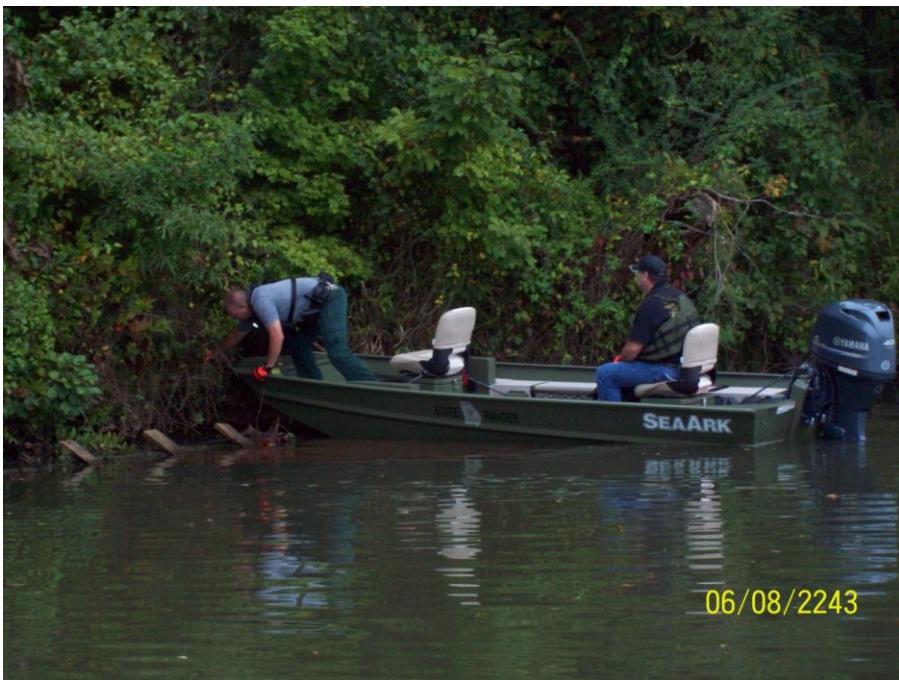
Region IV- Macon (West Central)

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On Monday, September 29th, Cpl. Keith Waddell received a call in reference to fishing without permission near Woodbury. The landowner had seen two males fishing on his pond and they ran when he approached. A deputy made a traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle a short time later and found two men with fish and fishing poles hiding in the bed of the truck. Cpl. Waddell investigated the incident and determined the two men were in fact fishing without permission on the pond. The two fishermen were transported to the Meriwether County Jail and charged with fishing without permission.

MONROE COUNTY

On Sunday morning, September 28th, Cpl. Tony Wynne checked a baited area that he had found the evening before. As he approached the area, Cpl. Wynne saw that there was a pickup truck parked near the gate, which indicated someone might hunting the baited deer stand. Wynne saw someone across a clearing in a stand that was not baited. Cpl. Wynne was able to bypass the occupied stand without the hunter being aware of his presence. He then proceeded to the area where the baited stand was. Upon approaching the baited stand, he saw a hunter in the stand. Cpl. Wynne checked the hunter and when he asked the hunter if he had anything out that would constitute deer bait, the hunter replied that he used to have some corn out, but that it was all gone. Wynne took the hunter to the baited area that was approximately 30 feet in front of the ladder stand the hunter was in and pointed out the corn that was strewn on the ground and plainly visible to anyone in the stand. Cpl. Wynne charged the hunter with hunting big game over bait.



On Tuesday, September 30th, RFC Keith Page and Cpl. Tony Wynne launched their river boats and assisted Georgia Power's Plant Scherer employees with a river cleanup detail along the Ocmulgee River.

On Saturday, October 4th, from 8:00am-5:30pm Cpl. Tony Wynne taught a Hunter Education Class to twelve students at the Rum Creek Non-Game Office. At approximately 6:30pm, after the class was over, Wynne patrolled the north end of the county and found a pickup truck parked off of Lassiter Road. Cpl. Wynne checked around the vehicle and found signs that there might be bait in the area. Wynne followed a trail and found two ladies in a box stand, only one of which was hunting. Cpl. Wynne checked and found a few kernels of corn near the stand where a feeder had been. After speaking with the women, Cpl. Wynne found out there was another person hunting in another area. Wynne went in search of the other hunter. In a dense bottom Cpl. Wynne found corn scattered over a wide area, a pipe feeder containing corn, and a chair with a jacket lying beside it. Wynne went back to the women and asked if they had made any contact with the other hunter. They said he had sent them a text saying the game warden was in the area. At Wynne's direction, one of the women called the other hunter and told him to come out. When the hunter came out of the woods, Cpl. Wynne interviewed him. The hunter initially denied hunting from the chair and said he was nowhere near any corn. Cpl. Wynne called RFC Keith Page to request his assistance with his K-9 Drake. RFC Page requested to speak with the hunter by phone. After speaking with Page and after Page explained Drake's capabilities, the hunter confessed that he had been hunting out of the chair and hunting over the corn. The woman, who was the young wife of the hunter, was issued a warning for hunting over bait and the man was issued a citation for hunting over bait.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the morning of October 4th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford located a truck parked on a small piece of private property that joins Cedar Creek WMA. Cpl. Stanford noticed blood in the bed of the truck and tracked the hunter into the woods. The hunter was located archery hunting on the WMA which was only open to honorary/ladies rifle hunting. Further investigation led to the subject being charged with hunting without a WMA license, hunting big game over bait and hunting on a closed WMA. Additional warning were issued for failure to sign in, hunting without wearing fluorescent orange and failure to record deer harvest.

Later that evening, RGR Matt Johnson, RFC Jeremy Reese, Cpl. Lynn Stanford, Sgt. Bo Kelly and GSP held a license check on the WMA. Numerous hunters and motorists were checked with only verbal guidance given for minor traffic infractions.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

COFFEE COUNTY

On October 3rd, RFC Joe Hilton was called to assist Georgia State Patrol Aviation for a FLIR mission involving a missing eight year old female in Colquitt County. The child went missing approximately 2.5 hours prior to receiving the call from Colquitt County Sheriff's Office. RFC Hilton met GSP Pilot SGT. Jeff Rhodes and responded to the mission. RFC Hilton and Sgt. Rhodes arrived on scene and within five minutes of arriving on scene, RFC Hilton located the child approximately one-half mile from the residence lying in a field. RFC Hilton notified ground units and directed them to the child's location. The child was located by the ground units and escorted to safety.



SCREVEN COUNTY

On Thursday, October 2nd 2014, Cpl. Eddie Akins and Sgt. Don Dasher worked the primitive weapons hunt on Tuckahoe WMA. Their efforts resulted in six hunters being checked and three violations being documented. Two of the violations were for hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road and one violation was for hunting without orange.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

GLYNN COUNTY

On October 4th, Region VII Law Enforcement Division assisted in parking and traffic control for the 20th anniversary of Coast Fest. Coast Fest is an annual event at the Brunswick office where all Divisions of DNR have free exhibits for the public. This event is sponsored by the Coastal Resources Division. Some of the exhibits this year included, 2 man-made ponds for kids to Kayak, 2 man-made ponds for kids to have a fishing rodeo, a butterfly tent where the public could walk through and have hundreds of butterflies flying around them, Colonial games, cannon and musket firing, touch tanks for sharks and stingrays, and other educational exhibits. A total of 9,500 people attended this year's Coast Fest.