



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Commissioner
Mark Williams

Director
Colonel Thomas
Barnard



Law Enforcement Division
FY 2023 Annual Report

Headquarters



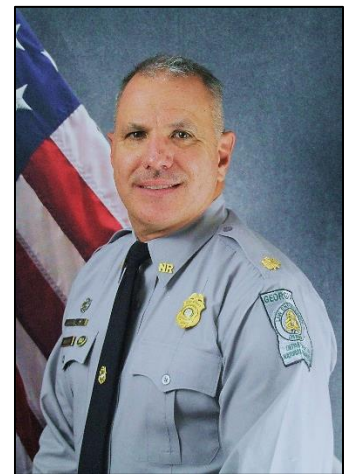
Colonel Thomas Barnard, Director



**Lt. Colonel Mike England,
Assistant Director**



Major Stephen Adams



Major Bob Holley

Headquarters Support Staff



Lt. Mark Patterson



Lt. Wanda Roberts



Lt. Judd Smith



Jen Hammonds



Jamie Hawkins



Mark McKinnon



Ashley Moon



Lt. Sam O'Neal



Taye Pierce



Sharon Sims



Shannon Witcher

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

The Mission of the Law Enforcement Division 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.



Headquarters

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division, currently has 220 POST-certified Game Wardens with statewide authority and full arrest powers and 26 non-sworn staff members. The primary duties of these Game Wardens are enforcement of all laws and regulations pertaining to hunting, fishing, commercial fishing, environmental violations, and recreational boating, as well as to provide public safety on all our DNR-controlled properties.

The Law Enforcement Division operates with a straight-line chain of command. It consists of the Colonel, Lt. Colonel, two Majors, eight Captains (6 Region Supervisors, 1 Training Director, 1 Pilot), seven Lieutenants (database management, special permits/captive wildlife and wild animals, boating law administrator and administrative support, professional standards, investigations, 2 pilots), and 171 field Game Wardens (Sergeants, Corporals, Game Wardens First Class, and Game Wardens).

Vehicles & Equipment

Throughout the year, the Law Enforcement Division acquired some new vehicles and equipment, utilizing funding from various sources. Ten new 4x4 Ford patrol vehicles, five KIA SUVs, and one UTV for the coastal region were purchased this past year. New equipment included the riot gear and riot gas masks for select personnel. The Division is also updating all the ATVs, adding lights and kill switches.

Ranger Hotline

The Ranger Hotline program, which provides a way for citizens to report anonymously potentially illegal wildlife and other conservation law violations, continues to be successful. If the information leads to an arrest, the tipster receives a cash reward funded by the [Georgia Natural Resource Foundation](#), whose mission is to protect wildlife by increasing public support for wildlife law enforcement. Last year, 348 tips were received for various violations.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Crime Suppression

In 2023, the Division continued to assist the City of Atlanta in the multi-agency illegal street racing enforcement and crime suppression effort. Governor Brian Kemp initiated this collaborative effort between the Department of Natural Resources, Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Atlanta Police Department, Fulton County Sheriff's Office, and the City of South Fulton, to assist in the city on weekends with the objective of cracking down on criminal activity and illegal street racing in and around Atlanta. Since its inception in early 2021, the operation has logged 52,622 vehicle stops, 1,178 pursuits, 1,189 DUIs, 863 wanted persons, 874 reckless driving, 200 stolen guns, 34,567 citations/arrests, 2,635 impounded vehicles, 42,816 warnings, and 365 drug arrests. Game Wardens from across the state continue to be deployed on Saturdays and Sundays for this operation.

JEA Patrols

The Joint Enforcement Agreement #20 between Georgia DNR and NOAA office of Law Enforcement called for GADNR enforcement personnel to provide a total of 1,554 hours of marine law enforcement or related work under the agreement. Georgia has 5 Execution Priorities. Execution Priority 1 was Endangered Species Act. There were 296-man hours and 108 hours of at-sea vessel patrol hours dedicated to this priority. These patrols were checking Shrimp Trawlers for TED and net compliance. Execution Priority 2 was dedicated to Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. There were 296-man hours and 108 hours of at-sea vessel patrols dedicated to priority 2. These patrols were to check Red Snapper compliance and any other violation dealing with Snapper/Grouper and HMS species. Execution Priority 3 was National Marine Sanctuaries Act. There were 237-man hours and 79 hours of at-sea vessel patrols dedicated to Priority 3. Execution Priority 4 was Marine Mammal Right Whale. There were 237-man hours and 79 hour of at-sea vessel patrols. These patrols were during the months of November to March and were specifically targeting Right Whale enforcement. Execution Priority 5 was Lacey Act/International (IUU). There were 54 personnel hours dedicated to IUU enforcement. These patrols were assisting NOAA Enforcement Officers with inspection of containers at the Georgia Ports. Vessel patrol hours targeted the following areas: 1) shrimp trawlers checking for TED compliance, 2) intercepts of recreational and commercial fishing vessels returning to Georgia

seaports from fishing trips in federal waters, 3) offshore patrols to Special Management Zones and Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, 4) concentrations of fishing vessels wherever they occur in the Exclusive Economic Zone adjacent to the State of Georgia, and 5) intercepts of recreational fishing vessels for Red Snapper compliance. During this time, Georgia DNR detected 21 federal violations during these patrols and federal referrals were sent to NOAA Office of Law Enforcement for prosecution.

Public Affairs

Media Relations and Public Outreach

News releases, radio and TV interviews, and social media posts were the primary information channels for the start of the boating and hunting seasons, "Operation Dry Water," and the July 4th Holiday weekend to promote safe boating and swimming safety and to educate citizens on boating laws and how they are applied. Additionally, news releases, I & E presentations and speeches to various civic groups, and regular news media interviews and interaction were utilized throughout the year to disseminate information to the public on the Division's hunting, fishing, and boating enforcement efforts, and awards and recognitions received by game wardens.

Social Media

LED manages a Facebook page that is nearing 80,000 page "Likes" (people who regularly view the page). Many of LED's Facebook posts have a "Reach" (number of people who may see the post through their friends who "Like" the page) that exceeds 100,000, and occasionally, some are above 500,000. The Division also has an Instagram account with over 8,100 followers, an X (Twitter) account that currently has over 1,700 followers, and a YouTube Channel with multiple safety-related videos that has over 1,110 subscribers.



Previous Game Wardens of the Year

William Powell	1980	Derek Dillard	2002
W.D. Hill, Jr.	1981	Mike Barr	2003
Michael Bone	1982	Harry E. Akins	2004
William Vickers	1983	Eric Brown	2005
Dan Parrish	1984	John Murphy	2006
Ronald Bailey	1985	Shane Sartor	2007
Ralph Sheppard	1986	Mike Binion	2008
Roger D. Garrison	1987	Brian Hobbins	2009
James McDaniel	1988	Cindy Miller	2010
Doug Lewis	1989	Timothy Butler	2011
Terry West	1990	Jason Roberson	2012
W. Howard Hensley, Jr.	1991	David Webb	2013
Dennis Aderholt	1992	Greg Wade	2014
Bill Bunch	1993	Casey Jones	2015
Arvid Edwards	1994	Eddie Tompkins	2016
Mitchell H. Yeargin	1995	Brian Adams	2017
Jeff Weaver	1996	Cody Jones	2018
Mike Commander	1997	Quinn Fogle	2019
Phillip Scott	1998	Ryan Locke	2020
Stanley Elrod	1999	John Rhodes	2021
Rick Sellars	2000	Brock Hoyt	2022
David Ruddell	2001		



Region I- Acworth

Region I consist of the Northwestern part of Georgia and includes the City of Atlanta and surrounding metro counties. Captain James McLaughlin is the Region Supervisor and Sergeant Bart Hendrix is the Administrative Sergeant. The Administrative Assistant is Joyce Holland and Sherry Rollins fills the Administration support position.



*Front Row, L to R: GWFC 1 Ryan Shorter, SGT Ben Cunningham, CPL Kalem Burns, GWFC 1 Steven Martinez, CPL Daniel Gray, SGT Keith Waddell, GW 2 Andrew Crider, GW 2 Hunter Bowman, CPL Russell Epps, CAPT James McLaughlin, GW 1 Chandler Traylor, CPL Zack Hardy, GW 2 David Wright, GWFC 1 Travis Shrader, CPL Tyler Lewis, SGT Byron Young, CPL Philip Stout, GW 2 Stetson Stevens, GW 2 Hunter Rush, GW 2 Kyle Faulknor
Back Row, L to R: SGT Bart Hendrix, SGT Eric Brown, GW 2 Bo Townsend, GW 2 Austin Biggers, GW 1 Tim Bledsoe, SGT James Keener, GW 1 Amy King, GWFC 2 Mark Moyer, CPL Roger McConkey, CPL Chad Cox.
Not Pictured: CPL Brock Hoyt, GWFC 1 Charles Follin, GWFC 1 Ryan Thomas, GW 2 Jason Warren, GW Caleb Schacher*

The “Mountain Work Section” is comprised of Catoosa, Gilmer, Gordon, Murray, Pickens, and Whitfield Counties. Section assignments are as follows: GW Travis Shrader – Catoosa, Cpl. Kalem Burns – Gilmer, Cpl. Roger McConkey – Gordon, GW Ryan Thomas – Murray, GW Caleb Schacher – Pickens, GW David Wright – Whitfield, GW Hunter Rush – Fort Mt. State Park, and supervisory Sgt. James Keener. The section covers a vast area of both state owned or controlled properties as well as large expanses of National Forest Lands. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the section include Rich Mt., Cartecay Tract, Cohutta, Coosawattee, Carter’s Lake Tract, Conasauga River, John’s Mt., and McEntire VPA. Wardens also patrol the section’s main body of water, Carter’s Lake, as well as many other smaller impoundments, rivers, and creeks. State Parks and Historic Sites in the section include Fort Mt., Chief Vann House, New Echota, and Resaca Battlefield.

Corporal Shawn Elmore, and Game Warden Travis Shrader were patrolling Carters Lake WMA in Murray County in an area where alcohol is prohibited and noticed several subjects consuming alcoholic beverages and under the influence. Citations were issued for the violations. After an



appearance in Murray County Probate Court, CPL Elmore received a call from one of the suspects' sisters who said the suspect had given her name and identification to the game wardens. Further investigation revealed the suspect entered a guilty plea under a false name in Murray County Probate Court. Warrants were taken for Perjury and Impersonating Another During a Proceeding for the actions in the Probate Court and additional warrants were taken for Interference with a Game Wardens Duties, Underage possession of alcohol, Under the influence on a WMA, Illegal consumption of alcohol on a WMA, and False Name and Date of Birth for the suspect under the proper name.

Corporal Kalem Burns captured images of a suspect stealing WMA signs on Rich Mountain Cartecay Tract WMA with a crowbar. The area had been vandalized multiple times and a camera was placed on newly replaced WMA signs. A suspect was obtained by information located during a geo-fence search warrant. Upon interviewing the suspect, the suspect admitted to stealing a sign and gave Cpl. Burns a different sign than what the suspect was photographed taking. Warrants were taken and when the suspects turned themselves in to jail, they brought with more signs that had been stolen off the WMA. The suspect was charged with theft by taking, possession of tools of the crime, and criminal trespass on the WMA in Gilmer County.



Corporal Kalem Burns and Game Warden Ryan Thomas were patrolling Cohutta WMA in Murray County when they observed a vehicle driving at excessive speeds. They also observed that the driver was not wearing a seat belt as required by law, and several more traffic violations, so they performed a traffic stop. During the stop, they discovered that the driver had multiple felony warrants including armed robbery. When the officers approached the vehicle, the driver fled. They pursued the vehicle for several miles before the vehicle eventually crashed through a fence into the pasture of a local farmer. The suspect then exited the vehicle and attempted to flee on foot. The Game Wardens caught him and took him into custody without further incident. During a search of the vehicle several blue pills were located that tested positive for fentanyl. The subject was charged with multiple felony and misdemeanor violations in addition to the ones he was already facing.

Sergeant Ben Cunningham supervises the Counties of Dade, Walker, Chattooga, Floyd, and Polk. Game Wardens Cpl. Chad Cox, Cpl. Daniel Gray, GWFC Mark Moyer, GWFC Kyle Faulknor, GWFC Andrew Crider, and GW Isaac Roberson make up the work section. During the last year, GWFC Stetson Stevens (Dade County) was promoted to Corporal in Newton County. GW Isaac

Roberson graduated from the Game Warden Academy in April, where he was awarded “Top Gun” for his class and is assigned to work Rocky Mtn PFA/Floyd County. Cpl. Daniel Gray and GW Andrew Crider assisted the Rome Fire Department with rescuing eight people who overturned on their tubes while floating on the Etowah River, while the river was at flood stage. In September, Game Wardens from the section assisted in Chattooga County when the town flooded after receiving 14 inches of rain in less than 24 hours. Cpl. Chad Cox arrested a subject on opening day of firearm deer season for hunting without big game license, without hunting license, hunting without fluorescent orange, and possession of firearm by a convicted felon. GWFC Faulknor worked a case in which an individual had taken over the limit of bucks on Johns Mtn WMA. In January, Game Wardens in the section conducted a waterfowl detail in Floyd County. During the detail, 82 hunters and 22 vessels were checked, netting 17 warnings and citations. After receiving a complaint from the Ranger Hotline during turkey season, Cpl. Chad Cox was able to locate and interview a hunter who killed two turkeys in one day. The hunter was issued citations and warnings for hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, failure to record turkey harvest, and taking over the daily limit. Sgt. Ben Cunningham and GWFC Crider assisted in Troup County after a tornado touched down, causing damage in the county. Cpl. Chad Cox, Cpl. Daniel Gray, and GWFC Kyle Faulknor presented a NWTF Jakes Day Program at J.L. Lester WMA. Sgt. Ben Cunningham, Cpl. Daniel Gray and GW Isaac Roberson assisted at the Ducks Unlimited Green Wings event in Rome. Game Wardens in the section focused their efforts in the winter and early spring on the Coosa River, in which they charged five individuals for over the limit of white bass. GWFC Kyle Faulknor worked hard on Pigeon Mtn WMA and Johns Mountain WMA and arrested several subjects for various crimes, including DUI, driving on suspended license, and felony drug charges. GW Roberson has hit the ground running at Rocky Mtn PFA and has already arrested two individuals who had outstanding arrest warrants. GWFC Andrew Crider has continued to be involved in the Department’s recruiting team by attending multiple events throughout this past year, including Rome Braves LE Appreciation Night, Night Out in Fulton County, and a recruiting event at Atlanta Motor Speedway. Cpl. Chad Cox received his 25 years of service award. Cpl.



Game Wardens from Alabama and Georgia meet to discuss the upcoming hunting season.

Daniel Gray was awarded the Rome Optimist Club Officer of the Year recipient for DNR LED. Cpl. Chad Cox organized the annual Polk County Kid’s Fishing Event that had 497 kids under the age of 15 in attendance. Cpl. Chad Cox, Cpl. Daniel Gray, and GWFC Kyle Faulknor presented a NWTF Jakes Program at J.L. Lester WMA. GWFC Crider completed CIT Training.



Cpl. Chad Cox being presented with his 25-year service award by Colonel Thomas Barnard.

Sergeant Keith Waddell's section consists of Meriwether, Troup, Heard, Pike, Fayette, Spalding, Henry, and Clayton Counties. The Game Wardens in this work unit patrol West Point Lake along with sections of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers. Several state-owned properties are also located within the work section including 3 Wildlife Management Areas, and 2 State Parks. Game Wardens assigned to this work unit are Corporal Russell Epps, Corporal Austin Biggers, Game Warden Hunter Bowman, Game Warden Charles Follin, and Game Warden Matthew Bramblett. Game Warden Hunter Bowman remains assigned to Troup County. In 2022, Game Warden Bowman was successful in receiving the Region 1 nomination for Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award due to an exceptional year of waterfowl enforcement.



Game Warden Matthew Bramblett successfully completed the Game Warden Academy and the Field Training officer program. He has settled into his new role as the Meriwether County Game Warden. Corporal Russell Epps remains assigned to Heard County. He is currently a member of the Critical Incident Reconstruction Team and is a certified POST Instructor teaching Emergency Vehicle Operations, Use of Force, Wildlife, and Officer Water Survival.



GW Austin Biggers was promoted to Corporal and remains assigned to Pike County. Corporal Biggers completed training the final training to be a POST Instructor for the Department. On Sunday, 11/27/2022 at 2015 HRS, Corporal Austin Biggers was notified of a complaint involving hunting deer at night and without permission in Henry County. After receiving the call, CPL Biggers responded to the area and located a deceased nine-point buck that had been shot from the road that night. While investigating the area, CPL Biggers located a cellular trail camera near where the buck was killed. CPL Biggers seized the camera and secured a search warrant for its contents as well as a Geofence search warrant for the area. After securing multiple search warrants and working on the case for several months, CPL Biggers finally developed a suspect. After locating the suspect, CPL Biggers executed an arrest warrant and took the suspect into custody. The suspect was charged with hunting without permission and booked into the Henry County Jail. Cpl. Biggers was successful in receiving the Region 1 Torch Award.



Sergeant Eric Brown's section includes Game Warden First Class Ryan Shorter, Game Warden Joe Ballard, Corporal Zack Hardy, Game Warden Chandler Traylor, and Corporal Brock Hoyt. Sgt. Brown's section covers Fulton, Douglas, Carroll, Coweta, Paulding, and Haralson Counties. Over the past year, Sgt. Brown's section has made solid cases and reached several notable milestones.



GW Ballard graduated from the 37th Game Warden Academy, GW Traylor graduated from the field training program, GWFC Shorter became a certified FTO, and Cpl. Hoyt became a certified POST Instructor. Sgt. Brown's section was also acknowledged for several awards. GWFC Shorter won the 2022 Region 1 NWTF Award and Cpl. Hoyt won the 2022 Game Warden of the Year, International Wildlife Crimes Stoppers Award, 2022 Southeast Torch Award, and 2023 Investigative Game Warden of the Year.

Some of the significant activity Sgt. Brown's section worked over the last year included 6 cases of hunting turkeys over bait, 4 baited dove fields, over 50 hunting without permissions, over 50 fishing without permissions, 7 convicted felons apprehended for hunting with a firearm, 7 drownings/body recoveries worked, and 11 trash dumping cases (2 felony).

Over the course of 2022, Cpl. Hoyt investigated a large-scale poaching ring that was illegally taking deer in Fulton County. The case included 40 search warrants of phones, houses, phone applications, and other electronic mediums. Ten illegally taken bucks, in the class of 120-160 inches were identified, and 120 arrest warrants were taken on six suspects. Charges included hunting without permission, hunting license violations, hunting deer at night, controlled substance possession (felony), hunting over the bag limit, criminal trespass, theft by taking, and failure to record harvest.

Sergeant Byron Young supervises Cherokee, Bartow, and Cobb Counties and is responsible for Allatoona Lake. The officers in his section are Corporals Tyler Lewis, Phillip Stout, and Jason Roberson with Game Wardens Steven Martinez, Jason Warren, and Amy King. On Saturday December 17th, Sgt. Byron Young and Cpl. Philip Stout worked a road hunting detail in northern Bartow County. The officers set up on a field where several deer were actively feeding. Only 20 minutes into the detail a small passenger car pulled over and shot a deer from the public road. Sgt. Young and Cpl. Stout quickly stopped the car. The subject was charged with hunting from a public road, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting without permission. The doe was donated to a local family in need. During this past year, members from Sergeant Young's section were very active with advanced training. Cpl. Tyler Lewis was named as the Region I K-9 handler and completed 12 weeks of K-9 training at GPSTC. Cpl. Lewis and Cpl. Philip Stout completed FTO Training and SWAT training. Cpl.'s Lewis and Stout also completed 3 weeks of POST instructor training and Cpl. Stout completed an additional 2 weeks of Firearms Instructor Training and one additional week of Less-Lethal Instructor Training. Game Warden Steven Maritnez completed 3 weeks of CIRT boat incident training and 1 week of Sonar / ROV training. Corporal Tyler Lewis was named Georgia Game Warden of the Year.



On April 24, 2023, K-9 Officer Corporal Tyler Lewis and his K-9 Axel were called on to locate a weapon used in an aggravated assault case in Jasper County. Two males were involved in an altercation on April 22 when one of the males stabbed the other with a knife. Investigators were unable to locate the weapon used in the assault. Once on scene, K-9 Axel was deployed in a wooded area behind a residence. K-9 Axel soon located the 7" Kitchen knife, covered in blood. This was K-9 Axel and Cpl. Lewis' first deployment.

On December 13, 2022, Cpl. Tyler Lewis responded to an in-progress hunting without permission complaint in Cherokee County. The complainant advised that he captured an image of an individual hunting without permission on a cellular trail camera. Cpl. Lewis arrived on scene and searched the area but was unable to locate the suspect. Later that evening, after locating a vehicle parked at a residence nearby, Cpl. Lewis was able to tie the vehicle's registered owner to the original photograph. After interviewing the subject, it was determined that he was the individual captured in the photograph and was hunting without permission. The suspect was also determined to be a convicted felon. 5 total charges were filed including: hunting without permission, hunting without license, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and hunting big game over bait. The case is pending in the state court of Cherokee County.



Region II- Gainesville



*Front Row, L-R: Sgt. Casey Jones, GW Cody Tanner, GW Adam Kimbrough, Cpl. Shane Brown, Cpl. Craig Fulghum, Sgt. Adam Loudermilk, GW TR Dooley, GW Savannah Miller, GW Matt Kiracofe, Captain Derek Dillard, GW Bryan Price, GW Ethan Franklin, GW Phillip Nelson, GW Jason Harrison, Sgt. Cody Jones, GW Spencer Palmer, Cpl. Anne Wiley.
Back Row, L-R: Sgt. Jason Roberson, GW Ryan Locke, GW Kevin Goss, Cpl. Tim Butler, GW Brandon Pierce, GW Noah Osborne, GW Joseph Cowart, Cpl. Matt Johnson, GW Taylor Gilmore, Cpl. Joe Hill, GW Jeffery Turner, Sgt. Brooks Varnell.
Not pictured: AOC Brenda Tanner, Secretary Tasha Lamb, Cpl. Dan Schay, Cpl. Beth Gilbert, Sgt. Tim Vickery, GW Jared Wood, GW Mark Stephens*

2023



GW TR Dooley and GWFC Ethan Franklin were checking Dove fields when they recognized a suspected convicted felon, hunting on the field. Before they could get a return on the felony confirmation, the suspect slipped off the field and left the area. Game Wardens Dooley, Franklin, Kiracofe, Hill, and Jones executed a search warrant for his residence. The officers seized 3 long guns from his residence and the suspect was arrested on felony charges.

Cpl. Anne Wiley and GW Spencer Palmer were patrolling the Chattahoochee River. They encountered a suspect that had caught and kept 23 trout that day. The daily limit is only 8 trout per day. The suspect was charged for over the daily creel limit and the trout were seized and donated to a local charity.



Several Game Wardens were headed to set up a road check on Chattahoochee WMA when they encountered a fisherman walking back to his vehicle without any fishing gear. The officers interviewed the suspect and GWFC Franklin investigated the area that the fisherman came from. Shortly thereafter, GWFC Franklin located the suspect's cast net, hidden behind some debris. The net was seized, and the suspect was charged with fishing for trout with unlawful equipment.



GW Matt Kiracofe and GW Spencer Palmer conducted an investigation that resulted in the seizure of two 8-pt buck mounts. The Game Wardens were able to confirm that the suspects killed the two bucks in Green County, without possessing hunting licenses or big game licenses. The suspects also killed 3 doe deer and did not record the harvests. Game Wardens issued 7 citations and warnings for the violations.

In the early morning hours of December 17th, Cpl. Joe Hill and GW TR Dooley responded to a night hunting call-out in Habersham County. They encountered 2 suspects that had shot a buck and was in the process of retrieving it from the field. The suspects were arrested and interviewed at the jail. The investigation continued as additional information came in and 5 search warrants were executed on residences, phones, and a video imaging thermal rifle scope. At the conclusion of the investigation, Game Wardens had twenty-two hunting charges on the two suspects. The primary suspect was charged with four counts of hunting deer at night, five counts of hunting from a vehicle, two counts of hunting big game from a public road, and three counts of hunting without permission. The secondary suspect was charged with two counts of hunting deer at night, two counts of hunting from a vehicle, two counts of hunting big game from a public road, and two counts of hunting without permission. At the conclusion, 3 deer were seized from the suspects and a local taxidermist (4-pt, 6-pt, 8-pt). The local Sheriff's Office also charged them with felony criminal damage to property (landowners' gates/fence) and theft by taking (trail cameras).



Cpl. Shane Brown started PMP this year and has completed over half of the course. Cpl. Brown is a POST instructor and assisted with the man tracking course of instruction for the Game Warden Academy. Cpl. Brown was also instrumental in training exercises for the SSSU team this year.

On January 13th, 2023, Cpl. Brown responded to the call of a plane crash on Dawson Forest. Cpl. Brown located the crash site and assisted several agencies working the incident.



On July 23rd, 2022, Cpl. Brown charged a fisherman after observing him using a cast net to catch crappie. All the fish and the cast net were confiscated.

On September 17th, 2022, Cpl. Brown followed up on a bear kill. Sgt. Brown located the kill site and bait. The suspect was charged, and the bear was confiscated.

In early firearms deer season Cpl. Shane Brown caught a night deer hunter. The suspect was charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public road.



In the past year Cpl. Johnson worked with the Lake Nottely Association on installing PFD loner stations at three public boat ramps. The program was very successful this past summer. Cpl. Johnson also worked with the Union County Road Department designing “No Wake” signs and installing them on bridges over Lake Nottely.

On 12-31-2022 Cpl. Johnson charged three men for hunting from a public road while he was working a night deer hunting complaint.



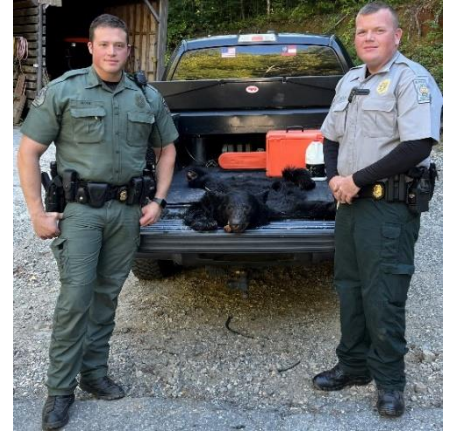
On 11-14-2022 Cpl. Johnson charged a North Carolina man for transporting two deer from NC to GA without de-boning the carcasses. Cpl. Johnson contacted a Game Warden from NC while working the case and it was discovered that both the deer had been killed illegally in that state. North Carolina Game Wardens made several charges on the suspect in NC. On January 5th, 2023, that same suspect killed a buck deer in GA and purchased a hunting license and a big game license 44 minutes later. That suspect also had his wife report the harvest on her account. Cpl. Johnson obtained arrest warrants for all the violations and confiscated the buck rack.

GWFC Savannah Miller completed defensive tactics instructor training and ATV instructor training. GWFC Miller assisted on several SARs on Dawson Forest WMA, Chestatee WMA and Blue Ridge WMA. GWFC Miller spent a lot of time this past year as one of our recruiting officers visiting several colleges and attending many career day events. GWFC Miller also worked the Atlanta Crime Suppression Detail several weekends.



GWFC Miller documented 258 resource contacts, 52 Uniform Traffic Citations, 66 hunting license checks, 263 fishing license checks and 118 vessel checks. GWFC Miller also made four BUI arrests.

GWFC Jared Wood transferred to Fannin County in late summer of 2022. GWFC Wood had seven BUI arrests and three DUI arrests over the past year. GWFC Wood also compiled 451 total resource contacts including assists and issued 50 Uniform Traffic Citations. GWFC Wood also worked the Cop City Detail and the Atlanta Crime Suppression Detail several times.



On 12-26-2022 GWFC Wood arrested a Union County man for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and interfering with a Ranger in performance of his duties. GWFC Wood observed the suspect leaned over his truck while in a field attempting to shoot a deer. When GWFC Wood turned around and began to drive to the suspect, the suspect dropped his gun and ran. GWFC Wood located the suspect and made the arrest.



On December 3rd, GWFC Wood responded to a complaint of waterfowl hunters shooting ducks from a moving vessel. When he responded he observed four hunters in a vessel running up close the waterfowl (that were on the water) stop the vessel and shoot the ducks. All the suspects were charged for the violations and the illegally killed waterfowl was confiscated.

GWFC Wood closed several investigations this past hunting season. Three of which resulted in several charges of hunting deer at night, hunting from a public, hunting from a motor vehicle, and license violations.

During the 2022 archery season GWFC Wood followed up on several bear kills. As a result of following up on these kills GWFC Wood was able to locate bait sites in two locations. The suspects were charged, and the bears were confiscated.

GWFC Jeffery Turner is a SOG member and an Honor Guard member. He assisted with several Cop City details and Crime Suppression details. In the year he documented 128 hunting license checks, 354 fishing license checks, 159 vessel checks and 238 resource contacts including assists.

In late archery season of 2022 GWFC Turner discovered that a NC man had killed a deer with a muzzleloader during the archery season. After finally getting up with the suspect it was determined that the suspect had walked from his residence (on the NC-GA line) into GA and killed a four-point buck. The suspect had also recorded the kill improperly. The suspect was charged for the violations and the buck was confiscated.

On 12-01-2022 after a short investigation GWFC Turner charged two suspects for placing bait on National Forest Land, hunting with illegal weapon and hunting over bait.

On 12-20-2022 GWFC Turner charged a Union County man for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

GWFC Bryan Price was selected for the SOG team this past year. GWFC Price documented 301 hunting license checks, 265 fishing license checks, 121 vessel checks, and 387 resource contacts including assists.

On October 29th, 2022, GWFC Price followed up on a bear kill in Dawson County. After searching the area where the bear was said to have been killed, he was able to locate a bait site and kill site. GWFC Price also discovered other violations and was able to obtain a search warrant for the suspects property. After the investigation was complete four suspects were charged for several violations including baiting bears, interfering with a Ranger in performance of their duties, recording and reporting violations, and hunting big game over bait. One bear and two bucks were also confiscated.

On December 4th, 2022, GWFC Price charged a suspect for killing over the limit of bucks on a WMA hunt. The deer was confiscated.

On January 25th, 2023, GWFC Price charged two suspects for damaging Department property and driving in unauthorized areas after he caught them tearing up a wildlife opening with their vehicles.

On Friday, April 14th, 2023, Corporal Stetson Stevens received an anonymous complaint in reference to the illegal harvest of 2 Eastern Wild Turkey in Walton County. Cpl. Stevens made contact with a subject in possession of 2 turkeys in the bed of his truck. Upon further investigation, the subject was found to have taken 2 turkeys earlier in the season for a total of 4 turkeys on the year. The subject was charged with 2 counts of Taking Over the Bag Limit, Recording and Reporting Requirements for Game Animals and Birds, and both turkeys were confiscated and donated to a local family in need.





These pictures are from an illegal dumping case Cpl. Locke made last November. Two men were hired to haul off the tires. Fifteen total violations were documented, including four felony charges for commercial dumping. This was a team effort with the investigative unit and the Lanier work section.

Game Warden Adam Kimbrough got the John W. Jacobs Sr. Memorial Award officer of the year for DNR.

Region III- Thomson

The Region III Law Enforcement Division is comprised of twenty-eight counties from East Central Georgia to the Piedmont. Within the region, there are twenty-three Wildlife Management Areas, 3 VPS's (voluntary public access), nine State Parks, three Public Fishing Areas, three Public Dove Fields. Region III is home to Clarks Hill Lake, Lake Sinclair, Lake Juliette, Lake Tobesofkee, Lake Jackson and Lake Oconee. River systems include the Savannah River, Ogeechee River, Oconee River, Apalachee River, and the Ohoopée river. 34 post certified Game Wardens, one Administrative Assistant and a secretary are assigned to the region.



Sgt. John Harwell, Elizabeth Bentley, Rainee Rowell, Cpt. Doyte Chaffin

Promotions & Personnel Changes

Region III welcomed Cpl. Kevin Godbee to fill Monroe Co, Cpl Dan Schay to fill Greene Co, GW Clay Baker to fill Putnam Co, Sterling Gibson to fill Taliaferro Co, Jaron Hollinshead to fill Baldwin/Lake Sinclair, Thomas Ledford to fill McDuffie & Mason Miller to fill Greene/Lake Oconee. Cpl. Derrell Worth retired with 25 years. Sgt. Mark Patterson was promoted to lieutenant. Cpl. Bobby Timmerman promoted from Cpl. to Sgt. Cpl. Wil Smith promoted from Cpl. to Sgt. GW Saxon Campbell promoted to Cpl. & lateral transferred from McDuffie Co. to Richmond Co. GW Jason Bennett promoted to Cpl. Sgt. Matt Garthright transferred to Clarks Hill Lake Section. Cpl. Ben Payne transferred from Richmond Co. to Columbia/Clarks Hill. GW Cory Bohannon transferred from Warren Co. to Lincoln Co. GW Taylor Bingham transferred from Lincoln Co. to Morgan Co B/S. Cpl. Jon Segars lateral transferred from Putnam Co. to Franklin Co. GW Lamar Burns deployed to Kuwait from Dec. 2022 through Sept. 2023 with the US Army Reserve.

Personnel Awards

Cpl. Ricky Boles received the R3 Game Warden of the Year Award for the second year in a row.

GW Kevin Hurley received the R3 Waterfowl Award.

GW Levi Thompson received the R3 Boating Safety Officer of the Year Award.

Cpl. Saxon Campbell received the R3 Investigative Officer of the Year Award.

GW Cory Bohannon received the R3 Torch Award & the R3 NWTf Officer of the Year Award.

Cpl. Jason Bennett was the State Hunter Education GW Instructor of the Year in 2022.

Sgt. Bubba Stanford completed Drug Recognition Instructor training in Jacksonville, Florida as well as NASBLA Advanced Seated Battery SFST in Lexington, Kentucky. Sgt. Stanford was further tasked with managing the SFST training in the GW Academy and yearly in-services as DNR's Chief SFST Instructor.

In the Community

Building community relations is important to the overall success of our Department. Sgt. Garthright's work section has worked to build positive community relations throughout their involvement in attending community wide events such as the Warren County Sportsman's Festival, Fort Gordon Safety Day, Grovetown National Night Out, C.S.R.A. NWTF Chapter Banquet, and the Belle Meade Hunt Club 911 Appreciation Banquet. Pictured is GWFC Levi Thompson and GW Kyle Kervin at the Columbia County Public Safety Day Event.



The afternoon of July 1st GW Jaron Hollinshead and Sgt. Bubba Stanford encountered Anniston Drew, age 7, and Blaze Drew, age 9, wearing their life jackets on Lake Sinclair. For their safety efforts they received Chick-Fil-A gift cards and DNR t-shirts.

Cpl. Jeff Billips conducted his annual kids fishing event in Glascock County. This event is in its 18th year. It was started by Cpl. Cary Deal and passed down to Cpl. Billips. Cpl. Billips expands on the event every year.

GW Kyle Kervin met with schools across the section and scheduled several Hunter Safety Classes. Six hunter Ed classes were taught in the schools by the work unit.

Game Wardens worked the Georgia Wildlife Federation's Turkeyrama/Fisharama and the Buckarama answering questions from hunters and anglers. GWs Erin Paulk and Lamar Burns were tasked with developing a recruitment team statewide. Along with the statewide initiative, an excellent relationship is maintained with the schools, universities, and organizations within our work unit of which we recruit from. Numerous photos and activities from the Work Unit were shared on DNR LED's social media sites with positive feedback from the public.

GW Cory Bohannon took the lead on an illegal tire dumping case in McDuffie County. A subject was seen hauling tires and was thought to have discarded them on a rural dirt road. Bohannon picked up the investigation and ran with it. It was determined that the subject was hauling tires out of Richmond County for profit and had dumped 67 tires in McDuffie County. The subject was arrested on Felony Dumping charges.



Helping Hand

Cpl. Kevin Godbee responded to a missing kayaker on the Towaliga River in Monroe Co. During this time of the year the river was at flood stage and the kayaker was stranded in a tree just off the main channel. Utilizing GSP Aviation with FLIR technology Godbee was able to locate the subject. He then worked with a local landowner to secure a large vehicle that could ford the flood waters to get to the subject. Godbee successfully rescued the subject and assisted the following week getting his kayak out of the tree it was stuck in.



GWs responded to and assisted with several search and rescues across their area as well as agency assists. Work Unit GW's have assisted the Milledgeville Police Department with concentrated patrols and searching for evidence related to area homicides multiple times. The work unit assisted with and provided joint agency training with Milledgeville Fire, Bibb County Fire, and the Bibb County Sheriff's Office in reference to boating safety and maritime search and rescue.



On June 1st, 2023, Cpl. Keith Page, Sgt. Brooks Varnell, GW Bobby Sanders and GW Westin Rabon assisted the Lamar Co. SO. with locating an elderly dementia patient that had wandered away from his residence. Cpl. Page and a pilot from the Ga. State Patrol spotted the missing person lying on the ground in a thick wooded area clinging to life. Cpl. Page radioed to ground units and was able to guide them to the location of the missing subject. Pictured is GW Westin Rabon who helped extract the subject from the dense wooded area via UTV with officers from the Lamar Co. SO.

Hunting & Fishing Activity

Prior to the start of deer season, Cpl. Shane Sartor received a complaint of two individuals night hunting deer in Wilkes County. He was sent a snap chat photo of a subject cleaning a deer. Cpl. Sartor started an investigation into the illegal activity and was able to gather enough evidence and gain a confession from the two individuals to bring charges against them. Both individuals were charged with hunting deer at night and hunting from a public road.



The Clark's Hill Lake work section has been extremely focused on BUI enforcement this summer in efforts to keep our waterways safe. Teamwork between two work sections has played an important role in the success they have shared in detecting and arresting subject's boating under the influence. In a combined effort, the two work sections have arrested 26 individuals for BUI, 21 off Clark's Hill Lake and 5 off the Savannah River. Pictured is Cpl. Payne and GW Taylor Bingham conducting field sobriety tests.

GW Westin Rabon and Sgt. Sweat received a call about a suspicious person on the Marben Farm PFA. The individual was hiding in the woods and had approached a GM Tech for a ride. GWs responded to the area and did not locate the subject. DNR K-9 Keith Page was called to track the subject. At this time, we received a call that a vehicle was stuck in Shepherd Pond. We located the vehicle and identified the subject we had received the complaint on. Shortly after, we located the subject headed back to the vehicle. After interviewing the subject, we could not determine why he drove his vehicle into the pond. We spoke with the subject's mother, and she advised he was suffering from mental illness and needed help. We called for an ambulance, but the subject refused medical attention. With no other options and discussing it with his mother, we arrested the subject, and a tow service recovered the vehicle.





Cpl. David Fisher and GW Clay Baker contacted Charles Miller and two of his friends during a successful alligator hunt on the Ocmulgee River. The gator measured just under 12 feet in length.

In Dec. GW Kevin Hurley along with GW's Westin Rabon and Bryan Gresham encountered a swamp in central Crawford that had 6 hunters engaged in duck hunting. Upon dragging the swamp for bait, we found a large area that was baited with whole corn. We had all 6 hunters meet us at the Crawford County Sheriff's office to issue citations for hunting ducks over bait. There was a total of 10 ducks seized. GW Gresham gave the seized ducks to a needy family in Peach County.

Cpl. Saxon Campbell and GW Kyle Kervin placed a camera on the Phinizy Swamp WMA gate and discovered suspicious activity was taking place. All in the work unit monitor this camera and try to respond to activity. The camera has assisted with apprehension of numerous violations from driving around a gate to destruction of state property. We also found that it is an area being used to try what appears to be altered firearms (Felony). ATF is currently assisting with investigations.

The work section combated one of the most detrimental impacts to the fish population on Lake Oconee, individuals netting and gill netting game fish. Pictured is Cpl. Ricky Boles after catching two different groups cast netting game fish at 1 o'clock in the morning. Together, the violators possessed 78 illegally caught game fish. total for the year, he caught 6 different groups illegally netting game fish.



cast

In

Sgt. Smith's work unit took part in the Morgan Co. Chapter of the Georgia Farm Bureau's "Farm Safety Day." They taught 9 different programs on ATV safety to nearly 300 students. They also partnered with GA Power to host a public interaction meeting at Lake Side Church in Greensboro, answering questions from the public related to boating on Lake Oconee. Cpl. Ricky Boles participated in an outdoors adventure day at Black Dog Farm in Morgan County where over 100 participants took part in a fishing rodeo. In addition to helping youth learn to fish, Cpl. Boles set up the youth archery equipment and gave the kids an opportunity at shooting sports.



GW Skyler Redmond, Cpl. Saxon Campbell, Sgt. Bobby Timmerman, GW Kyle Kervin, Cpl. Jeff Billips



Cpl. Shane Sartor, GW Thomas Ledford, GW Cory Bohannon, GW Levi Thompson, Cpl. Ben Payne, Sgt. Matt Garthright



GW Jaron Hollinshead, GW Clay Baker, GW Erin McDade, Cpl. David Fisher, Cpl. Jason Bennett, Sgt. Bubba Stanford



Sgt. Travis Sweat, GW Kevin Hurley, GW Bryan Gresham, GW Westin Rabon, Cpl Kevin Godbee, GW David Webb, Cpl. Keith Page, K-9 Rio (GW Niki Spencer & GW Lamar Burns not pictured)



Cpl. Ricky Boles, GW sterling Gibson, GW Mason Miller, Cpl. Dan Schay, GW Taylor Bingham (Sgt. Wil Smith not pictured)

Region IV- Metter



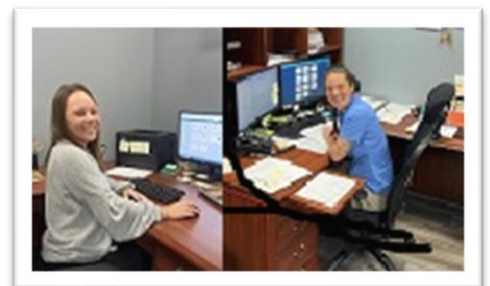
Left to right: front row: GW Jack Thain, K-9 Case, GW Benayah Hawkins, GW Dylan Bennett, Cpl. Cameron Dyal, GW John Kennedy, GW Bobby Sanders, K-9 Creed, 2nd row: Capt. Bob Lynn, GW Connor Moon, GW Luke Rabun, Sgt. Morty Wood, GW Evan Nobles, Sgt. Shaymus McNeely, Cpl. Mike Wilcox, GW Dylan Brady, Back row: Sgt. Kevin Joyce, Cpl. Clint Jarriel, Cpl. Rodney Horne, Cpl. Robert Stillwell, Cpl. Jordan Crawford, Sgt. Clint Martin, and GW Randell Meeks. Not pictured: Sgt. Chris Moore, Cpl. Patrick Gibbs, and Cpl. Tim Hutto

Region IV “The Metter Region” includes 27 counties that total over 10,000 square miles in the Coastal Plains of Georgia. Consisting mainly large fields of various crops that include corn, soybeans, peanuts, cotton, and watermelons. Huge tracts of planted pines and hardwood bottoms that drain into the many creeks and rivers of southeast Georgia occupy the remaining rural landscape. Wardens patrol over 121,000 acres of public land that includes twenty-five state properties that are operated by the Department of Natural Resources, multiple VPA properties and the public dove fields on Department of Corrections properties in Tattnall County.

Personnel

Office Staff

The Metter office personnel: Captain Bob Lynn, Administrative Sergeant Kevin Joyce. Administrative Assistant 3 April Thrift, and Secretary Christina Colquitt



Field Staff

Sergeant Shaymus McNeely’s section: Corporal Mike Wilcox, Corporal Jordan Crawford, GWFC Jack Thain with K-9 Case

Sergeant Chris Moore's section: Corporal Patrick Gibbs, Corporal Clint Jarriel, GWFC Bobby Sanders with K-9 Creed, GWFC Randell Meeks

Sergeant Clint Martin's section: Corporal Rodney Horne, Corporal Robert Stillwell, GW Connor Moon, GW Evan Nobles, GW Benayah Hawkins

Sergeant Morty Wood's section: Corporal Cameron Dyal, Corporal Luke Rabun, Corporal Tim Hutto, GW John Kennedy, and GW Dylan Brady

Personnel Changes

Region IV welcomed new Wardens from the 37th Game Warden Academy to the Region:

- Dylan Bennett – Appling County
- Benayah Hawkins -Laurens County

Transfers Out

- GW Bryan Gresham from Appling to Peach County in Region III
- GW Jack Corbett to WRD

Region Personnel Awards

- Corporal Luke Rabun nominated for GW of the Year
- Corporal Clint Jarriel nominated for Game Warden Hunter Ed Instructor of the Year
- GWFC Evan Nobles nominated for Waterfowl Award
- Corporal Luke Rabun nominated for TORCH Award
- Corporal Luke Rabun nominated for Investigative Game Warden of the Year
- GWFC Bobby Sanders nominated for National Wild Turkey Federation Award

Responding to calls across the state.

Region IV Wardens have responded, along with the other regions, to assist in the Atlanta Crime Suppression Detail. This has been a multiyear commitment for the Division. Wardens work alongside other state agencies in this detail to protect the citizens of the metro Atlanta area. Wardens also responded to Tybee Island to assist with the vessel and ATV patrols for the large crowds that gathered several times this spring and summer. Wardens were able to use their unique abilities of woodland and ATV patrol to help protect state and local resources at the future site of the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center known as "Cop City". Region IV Wardens also assisted northern regions when they requested extra help to work boating safety during the busy summer boating season on the large lakes.

Night Hunting

With a large majority of the region being rural, night hunting remains a top complaint. Region IV contacted 34 groups that resulted in over 200 documented violations. Feral hogs and coyotes have open seasons and can be hunted at night. The use of weapon mounted thermal/night vision optics have increased with more affordable units coming available to the public. These devices are used for legal hunting of hogs and coyotes, and for illegal hunting of deer at night. Violations of hunting

without permission, hunting without licenses, hunting from a vehicle and hunting from a public road can still be issued to hog and coyote hunters.

In October 2022, Corporal Patrick Gibbs was working a night hunt and without permission complaint. Cpl. Gibbs stopped the same UTV in the picture after observing it stopping in the road and blacking out. There were 5 long guns, 2 pistols, night vision optics and thermal vision optics inside the side by side which turned out to be a Polaris Ranger XP1000. The occupants admitted to shooting hogs on the previous date. Violations of hunting without permission, hunting from a vehicle and hunting from a public road were issued.



On October 15, 2022, Corporal Jordan Crawford and Game Warden First Class Jack Thain started an investigation into night deer hunting activity on Honey Ridge Road in Effingham County. After several weeks of investigation and interviews, a suspect was identified and interviewed. This suspect admitted his and others involvement in a different night hunting incident. This suspect and two others identified were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.

On December 31, 2022, GW Dylan Brady was working a night hunt detail on Wiley Branch Road. He observed a truck make several laps around a field across the road from him and then heard a gunshot. He observed the truck pull to a camper nearby. GW Brady went to the camper to investigate the gun shot. After observing blood in the back of the truck and finding a deer, GW Brady interviewed the occupants of the truck. Violations for hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting deer at night were documented on both men.



Waterfowl

Waterfowl hunting is a staple of hunting in South Georgia. Region IV has thousands of acres of flooded creek bottoms, rivers, farm ponds, lakes, and swamps. Beavers can add to the acres of new duck holes by damming up creeks. With the popularity of the activity and the wide range of habitat, hunters often rely on shooting roosts after hours or over bait to gain an unfair advantage.



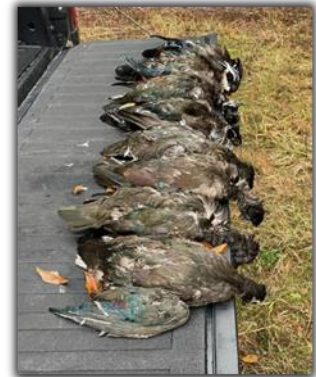
During the 2021-2022 duck season GW Connor Moon located a group of subjects shooting ducks after hours in Laurens County. GW Moon checked the roost pond prior to the 2022-2023 second season and located corn poured around the pond. GW Moon passed the information onto GW Evan Nobles because he was going to be working the Atlanta Crime Suppression Detail. GW Nobles caught 4 subjects shooting the pond. The day before the subjects shot the pond, they removed all the visible bait. The 5 ducks were confiscated, and the 4 subjects were charged with hunting waterfowl over bait and 1 subject was charged with hunting with illegal ammunition.

In November, Corporal Patrick Gibbs checked a group of 10 duck hunters on Wolf Creek in Candler County. Upon inspection of the area, Cpl Gibbs located bait. To begin with the hunters stated that they knew about the bait, but one later came and admitted to baiting the area eight days before without knowledge of the others. One violation of hunting over bait was documented. The other adults received warnings. The ducks were confiscated and donated to a local church.



On the last day of duck season Corporal Patrick Gibbs received a complaint of someone hunting ducks after hours in Evans County. Corporal Gibbs and Corporal Clint Jarriel responded to the area. Two people were observed retrieving ducks in the dark. Both violators were charged with hunting waterfowl after hours. One violator was charged with taking over the daily limit. Seven ducks were taken with one being a banded duck. The waterfowl were donated to the Paul Anderson Youth Home.

Cpl. Robert Stillwell received a complaint about a baited duck pond in Bleckley County next to the Ocmulgee WMA. Cpl. Stillwell and GW Evan Nobles located the pond in question and noticed several ducks on the pond. When the second duck season came in GW Evan Nobles and Cpl. Jason Bennett checked 3 subjects hunting the pond. After checking the pond and locating various types of grain the 3 subjects were charge with hunting waterfowl over bait and 8 ducks were confiscated.



Turkey and Dove Seasons

Turkey hunting in the spring and dove shoots in the fall signal the beginning and end to the hot summers of South Georgia. Each season has its own unique challenges, but both keep Wardens busy looking for illegal bait. Turkey season has many changes happening to try to increase the population of the wild turkey. The season was shorten, and several new restrictions on harvesting gobblers were put in place this year.



In April, GW Luke Rabon and GW Dylan Brady responded to a hunting complaint that started with the picture to the left. The complainant state that there were hunting without permission and one hunter had a scoped rifle. Wardens were able to locate the kill site and track the hunters to a hole that had been cut in the fence and crossed onto the adjoining property. After a tip from the local Sheriff, the wardens contacted the adjoining landowner. While interviewing the suspected offenders, wardens got admissions of the violations. At that time violations for hunting without permission, and failure to record harvest were documented on all three offenders. Hunting with illegal weapon and hunting without big game license were documented on one offender.

On opening morning of dove season, GW Evan Nobles and GW Connor Moon located a shoot in a sunflower field in Telfair County. After locating bait in the field, they confiscated, 183 doves, 12 subjects were issued citations for hunting over bait and 3 of the subjects were issued citations for taking over the daily limit. The doves were donated to a needy family in Telfair County.



Environmental enforcement

Region IV Game Wardens assist local agencies with environmental complaints as well as keeping an eye for violations themselves. Wardens investigate multiple complaints each year that include illegal tire dumps and tire burns, illegal burns, and trash dumping. In many instances these cases require many man hours to stake out and/or resources such as Spartan trail cameras to be placed to monitor dump sites.

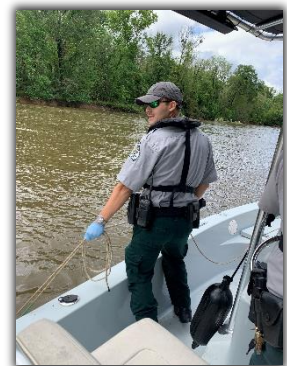
In October of 2022, GW John Kennedy and GW Dylan Brady was patrolling for fishing activity on the Alapaha River. They came across a large pile of trash under the Hwy 319 bridge next to the river. Upon going through the trash they were able to locate several pieces of evidence with names and an address. Upon interviewing the person named in the trash, wardens learned that the large pieces of trash came from a newly acquired property. The person being interviewed showed a CashApp receipt where they paid a family member to take the trash and household trash to a local dumpsite. After completing the investigation, two people were charged with dumping of egregious litter greater than 500 lbs. The fines were paid, and the trash was removed.



Boat Safety

Wardens patrol many miles of rivers in the region, from the small black water rivers like the Alapaha and the Ochopee to the larger rivers like the Altamaha and the Savannah. While enforcing creel limits is an important task performed by wardens, boat safety is by far the most vital. Preventing drownings by ensuring boaters have the necessary safety equipment on their boats. Wardens also patrol waterways to enforce boating under the influence laws as well.

Wardens respond to calls for assistance for missing or drowned persons every year. Many of these incidents take several days or weeks to recover the missing person. In the attached picture region wardens were searching the Savannah River for a missing person. A boat was found by another boater and a report made to GWFC Jack Thain. After GWC Thain initiated the search, he and other wardens worked in shifts until a recovery was made several days later.



Region V - Albany



L to R: Scott Carroll, Eric White, Steve Robinson, Dean Gibson, Ryan Buice, Alex Chambers, Seth May, Blake Chafin, Jim Atchley, Greg Wade, Drew Beverly, Steve Thomas, Taylor Beamon, Rick Sellars, KP Boatright, Al Greer, Logan South, Thomas Sibley, Tony Cox, Quinn Fogle, Drew Weathersby, Jeremy Bolen, Eric Isom and K-9 "BO" (Not Pictured Greg Castelli and Jesse Harrison)

The Region V Law Enforcement Division is comprised of thirty-one counties in the southwest portion of the state with the headquarters located in Albany. Within the region there are seven large reservoirs, two major rivers, a multitude of smaller streams, eighteen wildlife management areas, two Public Fishing Areas, nine State Parks, Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, and Ft. Moore Military Base.



L to R: Captain Rick Sellars, AOC Taylor Sibley, Sgt. Quinn Fogle

Currently, the region has twenty-four POST certified Game Wardens, with twenty-two assigned field duties, and Captain Rick Sellars and Sergeant Quinn Fogle assigned administrative responsibilities. The region currently does not have a non-sworn administrative staff member, Taylor Sibley left the Administrative Assistant III position in July of this year to pursue a career as an Elementary School Teacher.

The Region's 31 counties are divided into 5 work units:

Lake Blackshear Work Section

Sergeant Al Greer's work section encompasses six counties in the northeastern part of Region V. These counties are Dooly, Crisp, Macon, Sumter, Schley, and Lee. The section is responsible for the Flint River from the north Macon County line to the south Lee County line and includes Lake Blackshear. Within the six counties, the work section is responsible for law enforcement on Flint River WMA, Montezuma Bluffs WMA, Cordele Fish Hatchery, and Georgia Veterans State Park.



L to R: Alex Chambers, Blake Chafin, Sgt. Al Greer, and Cpl. Logan South (not pictured Cpl. Jesse Harrison, GW Tanner Rundle)

This year, several changes occurred in Sgt. Greer's section. Game Warden First Class Blake Chafin was promoted to Corporal and transferred to Dooly County. Corporal Logan South transferred to Oconee County in Region II. Game Warden Cadet Tanner Rundle became a new member of the section in September of last year. Game Warden Tanner Rundle graduated the Game Warden Academy in April of this year and is currently assigned to Sumter County. Corporal Jesse Harrison is assigned to Crisp County.

The make-up of the section has both rural and urban aspects contained within it. With the population intertwined with rural farmland and large timber tracts, the work section spent over 450 hours working citizen complaints this year. The section issued 392 total citations and warnings enforcing the laws, while protecting the citizens and wildlife of this state. The section worked one boating incident and one drowning that occurred on Lake Blackshear. While enforcing the boating safety laws on the Flint River and Lake Blackshear, the section arrested six people for boating under the influence. During hunting season, the section charged ten subjects for hunting deer at night and worked two hunting incidents.



Cpl. Blake Chafin and Cpl. Jesse Harrison



Lake Seminole Work Section

Sgt Cox's Work Section includes Decatur, Seminole, Baker, Grady, Early, and Miller County. Game Wardens in this work unit patrol Lake Seminole, Flint River, Chattahoochee River, Ochlocknee River, Spring Creek and Tired Creek Reservoir. The work section consists of Sgt. Tony Cox, Cpl. Steve Thomas, Cpl. Thomas Sibley, GW KP Boatright and GW Seth May.

This year, Game Wardens made seven BUI arrest along with four counts of child endangerment. They also investigated eight boating incidents, and one drowning. Game Wardens recorded a total of 547 violator contacts. Out of those contacts, 14 individuals were charged for Hunting Out of Season which included several species ranging from deer, alligator, turkey, and a bobcat. There were eleven Hunting Deer at



L to R: Cpl. Steve Thomas, Cpl. Thomas Sibley, Sgt. Tony Cox, Seth May, and KP Boatright



GW. KP Boatright with the NAWEOA Torch Award

Night, fifteen Hunting Big Game from a Public Road, twelve Hunting from a Motor Vehicle, nine Hunting Without Permission, and one Fishing Without Permission. There were also three individuals charged for Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. A total of 25 individuals were charged with Hunting Over Bait. Also, during this year, GWs in the work section worked closely with U.S. Fish and Wildlife on an investigation into commercial hunting for waterfowl and dove and should be concluding soon.

Due to his hard work and dedication, GW KP Boatright received the Region 5 nomination for Game Warden of the Year and Wildlife Investigator of the Year. He was also awarded NAWEOA Torch Award.

Albany Work Section

The Albany work section is comprised of Dougherty, Worth, Mitchell, Colquitt, Brooks, and Thomas Counties, encompassing approximately 3000 square miles. The major waterways within these counties are Lake Worth, Kinchafoonee Creek, Muckalee Creek, Ochlocknee River, Flint River, and Little River. This work section holds 4 Wildlife Management Areas



L to R: Drew Beverly, Sgt. Greg Wade, and Cpl. Eric White

(Chickasawhatchee, Albany Nursery, Doerun Pitcher Plant Bog, River Creek) and 1 State Park (Reed Bingham). This section is currently patrolled by three Game Wardens: Sergeant Greg Wade (K9 Cuff), Corporal Eric White, and Corporal Drew Beverly.

Throughout the year, Game Wardens in the Albany section issued 521 citations and warnings. Some violations of note are: 5 arrest for Boating/Hunting Under the

Influence (these numbers do not include Child Endangerment BUI), 4 subjects charged with Hunting Deer at Night (some charged multiple times for different occurrences), and 44 subjects being charged with Hunting/ Fishing Without Permission. Wardens responded to and investigated 75 citizen complaints of hunting, fishing, boating, or environmental violations, 1 boating incident, 2 hunting incidents, and 2 drownings.

Cpl. Eric White investigated a night hunting complaint in Worth County which ultimately led to 3 subjects being charged with multiple counts of: Hunting Deer at Night, Hunting Without Permission, Hunting from a Motor Vehicle, Felon with a Firearm (2), and Providing a Firearm to a Felon (1). In total Cpl. White secured 16 separate search warrants for cell phone data, homes, vehicles, and businesses and swore 59 arrest warrants for the involved parties.



Cpl. Drew Beverly with the Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award

Game Warden Drew Beverly promoted to Corporal after Corporal David Jones assumed a permanent position within the Investigative Unit. Cpl. Beverly was awarded the Region 5 Waterfowl and Torch Award recipient, and the State Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Officer of the Year Award after he worked diligently to apprehend and educate waterfowl hunters. Cpl. Beverly charged 31 subjects with violations related to waterfowl hunting and warned an additional 13 for lesser violations. He was recognized at the 10th Annual Law Enforcement Division Award Banquet.

Columbus Work Section

Sergeant Bolen's section consists of Harris, Muscogee, Talbot, Taylor, Chattahoochee, and Marion Counties. The Game Wardens in this work unit patrol Lake Harding, Lake Oliver, Goat Rock, along with several miles of the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers. Several state-owned properties are

also located within the work section including 7 Wildlife Management Areas, 1 Public Fishing Area, and 2 State Parks. Game Wardens assigned to this work unit are Cpl. Eric Isom, Cpl. Dean Gibson, Game Warden First Class Greg Castelli, and Game Warden First Class Ryan Buice.



L to R: Cpl. Dean Gibson, Sgt. Jeremy Bolen, Ryan Buice, and Cpl. Eric Isom. (not pictured Greg Castelli)

Throughout the year, Game Wardens in the work section issued 662 citations and warnings. Some violations of note were hunting over bait cases (52), boating/hunting under the influence (13), hunting/fishing without permission (11), hunting out of season (3), and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (2). Section

Game Wardens investigated 2 boating incidents and no hunting incidents or drownings were reported.

K-9 Bo was busy this year as well. He received 70 violator contact assists while out working with his handler, Cpl. Eric Isom. The K-9 team was called out numerous times during this past year from everything to tracking fleeing suspects to locating evidence. Cpl. Isom and K-9 Bo are routinely training together which is evident by the success they have when they arrive on scene for a deployment.

Game Wardens in the work unit are involved with numerous collateral duties. Sgt. Jeremy Bolen is a Firearms Instructor and recently resigned from the elite Honor Guard unit after serving on it for over 17 years. Cpl. Eric Isom is a K-9 handler, POST Instructor, and Boating Evoc Instructor. Cpl. Dean Gibson is a POST Instructor, Honor Guard member, and serves on the CIRT unit. Dean has been busy with working the fatality incident which occurred on Lake Jackson in May of 2023. GWFC Greg Castelli became a POST Instructor, SFST Instructor, and a DRE during this past year. Greg also serves on the recruiting team. GWFC Ryan Buice serves on the SOG team and he completed SWAT school during this past year. Ryan has been deployed to numerous details this year for COP City details.

Cpl. Dean Gibson received the State James R. Darnell Award. Cpl. Gibson also received the Officer of the Year Award for the Albany Exchange Club and Rotary Club of Moultrie. GWFC Greg Castelli received the Region 5 Boating Safety Officer of the Year Award and the State Operation Dry Water Officer of the Year Award. GWFC Castelli also received the National IAMI Investigator of the Year Award. Game Warden Ryan Buice received the Region 5 NWTF Officer of the Year Award. Sgt. Jeremy Bolen received the State Supervisor of the Year Award.

Lake Walter F. George Work Section

This work section covers the rural area along the western border of Region V, including Stewart, Randolph, Terrell, Webster, Quitman, Calhoun and Clay Counties. Outdoor recreation, timber production and farming are the primary land uses in this portion of the region. Only four game wardens have the pleasure of patrolling the seven counties along the Georgia / Alabama border. Within this work section, game wardens patrol over 30,800



L to R: Cpl. Steve Robinson, Sgt. Jim Atchley, Cpl. Scott Carroll, Drew Weathersby

acres of state WMA lands on 4 WMA's, 700 acres of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (Bradley Unit), 3 state parks and the 46,000-acre Lake Walter F. George.

The officers patrolling this area include Sergeant Jim Atchley, Corporal Scott Carroll, Corporal Steve Robinson, and Game Warden Drew Weathersby. These officers have documented 9 BUI's, 6 BUI's for Child Endangerment, 1 HUI and worked 1 Hunting Incident. An investigation resulted from information uncovered while working the hunting incident. Game Warden Weathersby and Corporal Robinson finished the investigation and issued 12 citations to 1 individual including taking over the season limit of antlered deer, hunting from the road, hunting from a motor vehicle, failure to record deer harvest and hunting out of season. Corporals Carroll and Robinson have made good use of technology to pursue game violations and passed that understanding along to GW Weathersby. He has done an outstanding job utilizing social media and game check to document many violations in Randolph County due to the QDM restrictions during this past hunting season.

Both Robinson and Carroll are Field Training Officers and they have done an outstanding job preparing new officers for their careers. In addition to his normal patrol duties, Corporal Carroll serves as a POST Instructor for ATV and Environmental Law and teaches during the academy. He has also served as a firearms instructor, CTTF, and Honor Guard member. Corporal Robinson has served as a POST Instructor for ATV, Wildlife law and a CIRT Investigator. Both officers have been involved with collateral duties for many years and seek ways to share experience and knowledge with new officers.

Region VI- Brunswick

Region VI is comprised of 19 counties divided into 5 work sections. Each section stays very busy from working hunting and fishing to the Commercial Fishing industry. Below is a small portion of the good work Region VI Game Warden's do.

Berrien, Cook, Echols, Lanier, and Lowndes Work Section

Sgt. Jon Penuel

GWFC Johnny Robinette was promoted to Corporal on August 16, 2023.

In December of 2022, Corporal Daniel North was contacted by an Echols County Deputy about a pickup truck he currently had pulled over on a traffic stop. The pickup truck had two large deer racks in the back of it, both with fresh hide and soft tissue still attached to them. Corporal North was nearby and responded to the traffic stop to interview the driver of the vehicle. Upon interviewing the driver, his stories began to change, and he would only tell Cpl. North that he went to South Dakota to hunt but that he found the two deer racks while hiking in other states during his journey back home to Florida. Since no determination could be made concerning where the racks were taken from, Corporal North seized both racks as evidence and the driver of the vehicle was charged with Illegal Importation of Cervid Parts.

In November of 2022, Corporal Johnny Robinette received multiple complaints of night deer hunting in Berrien County. While working the complaint, Cpl. Robinette observed a vehicle coming toward his location. While continuing to travel toward his location, Cpl. Robinette heard gun shots come from the vehicle. Cpl. Robinette stopped the suspect vehicle and spoke with the four occupants. After a short investigation, the subjects admitted to seeing a deer and shooting in the direction of the deer, but they did not intend to kill it, they simply wanted to scare it away. The next morning at daylight, Cpl. Robinette returned to the incident location and began to search the clear cut along the roadway. Not far from the roadway, Cpl. Robinette located a freshly killed deer with gunshot wounds in it. At the conclusion of the investigation, all four occupants of the vehicle were charged with Hunting Deer at Night, Hunting Big Game from a Public Road and Hunting from a Vehicle.

In July of 2022, Game Warden Aaron Powell received a complaint of several people catching a possum and punching and kicking it to death while posting the video on social media. GW Powell began what turned out to be a lengthy and extensive investigation consuming over 70 plus hours of investigation and spanning over two counties. During the investigation, GW Powell conducted multiple interviews of suspects and followed numerous leads, as well as executing several search warrants on multiple social media accounts. When the investigation concluded, GW Powell had located numerous other violations unrelated to the initial complaint of the killing of the possum. In total, seven different subjects were charged with violations including Hunting Deer at Night, Hunting from a Public Road, Hunting from a Vehicle, Violation of Crop Damage Permits and Littering.

Atkinson/Clinch/Ware/Charlton Work Section

Sgt. Jason Shipes

In July, Game Warden Erin Potts joined the work section after graduating from the 36th Game Warden Academy. She was originally assigned to Charlton County/Stephen Foster State Park and transferred into the vacant Clinch position during spring of 2023. In May, Game Warden Chase Fleming joined the work section after graduating from the 37th Game Warden Academy. He was assigned to the Ware County/Laura Walker State Park position. Both officers were welcomed additions to the work section.

During August, the work section assisted Georgia Forestry Commission with locating palmetto berry thefts on Dixon WMA. Illegal berry pickers are usually dropped off during the night and left to pick berries for several days in wooded areas. Detection of the theft usually occurs when bags of berries are located inside the tree line near roadways staged for pick up or transport vehicles are located at the staging areas. The bags of berries typically weigh more than 100 pounds and bring several hundred dollars per bag when sold.



The officers were very busy during hunting season. In September, Cpl. Williams and Cpl. Pool located a dove shoot in Ware County. While checking the hunters for the required licenses and bag limits, the officers observed sunflower seed that had been scattered along the edge of the field. During an interview with the field owner, it was determined that the field had been baited. A total of 187 doves were confiscated. Violations documented included hunting over bait, unlawful enticement, hunting after obtaining bag limit, and license violations.



The officers in the section located several duck shoots throughout the season. The efforts resulted in documentation of license violations, illegal ammunition violations, hunting over bait violations, and the seizure of illegally taken waterfowl. On one shoot, Sgt. Shipes, Cpl. Williams, and Cpl. Pool confiscated 32 green wing teal after peanuts were found in the beaver pond.



While patrolling for turkey bait in March, Cpl. Williams and GW Potts located leg hold traps on a hunting club in Charlton County. The officers contacted members of the club and located the member responsible for setting the traps. During the investigation, it was determined that the member was targeting coyotes and the violations identified were non-resident trapping without a license and failure to affix metal tag. A total of sixteen traps were confiscated.

Brantley, Long, Pierce, Wayne Work Section

Sgt. Chase Altman

Work section assisted local counties in illegal Palmetto Berry picking. Seized over 3,000 pounds of berries harvested illegally, made 12 contacts, including 5 arrests. This detail spanned over two months, involving numerous man hours and patrols. Cpl. Evans and Cpl. White worked alongside other local agencies in patrolling private property and answering complaints from landowners about individuals trespassing on private property to harvest the berries. All the berries seized were turned over to the landowners of the properties they were stolen from.

Cpl. John Evans and Sgt. Chase Altman, along with assistance from the SPU, closed an investigation of an illegally held Snow Monkey case in Wayne County. In January of 2023, Cpl. Evans and Sgt Altman received a complaint of a person holding a monkey as a pet in Wayne County. After further investigation it was discovered that the person had a Snow Monkey without a permit. Contact was made with the Special Permits Unit for assistance. It was discovered that the person has had several other wild animals in the past as pets, such as a kangaroo and other monkeys. The person was charged with Holding a wild animal w/o a permit and the monkey was turned over to the SPU once a suitable place was found for holding.

Cpl. Evans was patrolling for deer dogging in January when he contacted a hunter running dogs on a county road. After a brief investigation, Cpl. Evans determined that the hunter was possibly

intoxicated. A field sobriety test was performed, which resulted in the arrest of the hunter for HUI. He was also charged with DUI, as he was the operator of the truck during the hunt. During the GCIC search of the hunter was performed, it was determined that the person was also a convicted felon. An arrest warrant was later obtained by Cpl. Evans for the charge of Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. Other charges included Hunting Deer with Dogs on Unpermitted Property, and Hunting Deer with Unmarked Dogs.

Bryan, Chatham, Liberty Work Section

Sgt. Cindy Miller

On 1/28/2023, Sergeant Cindy Miller, Game Warden Douglas Chambers and Game Warden Quintin Reed were on an offshore/Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) vessel patrol when they boarded a vessel which was occupied by two people. The vessel was fishing at the “J” reef. The vessel did not have a descending device on board as required by law. There were also seven black sea bass, none of which were legal size to keep (11.75”, 11”, 10.5”, 11.75”, 11”, 12.5”, 10.25”) and five red snapper which the season was not open for and were illegal to possess. These violations resulted in a federal referral where the operator paid \$925 in fines.

On January 16th, 2023, while on a JEA Grey’s Reef patrol GWFC Quintin Reed observed a vessel along with Sergeant Cindy Miller and GWFC Doug Chambers. The vessel appeared to just be finishing up their day of fishing and was packing up to leave. We proceeded to check the vessel before they left the area. When we caught up to the vessel, we saw that it was occupied by 5 people and one of the people was just along for the ride and had not been fishing. We boarded the vessel and inspected their catch. They had 36 Black Sea Bass on board and each of them could have 7 total in federal waters, so they were over the limit and had a total of 11 undersized Black Sea Bass being under 13 inches. They were not using circle hooks and did not have a descending device which are both required by NOAA. The federal case packet was turned in to NOAA officer Ben Hughes for review.

Game Wardens Cpl. Tim Morris, Sgt Cindy Miller, and Cpl. Barry Britt were on a Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) patrol offshore in Federal Waters at Gray's Reef. A recreational vessel was checked that had 11 undersized black sea bass, 1 Red Grouper, and 1 Gag Grouper on board. The season was closed for both Grouper species and even if the season were open, they would have been undersized. A Federal case packet was completed and turned over to NOAA National Marine Fisheries.

Cpl. Tim Morris was patrolling for waterfowl activity when he heard shots after legal shooting hours. Four individuals were charged with hunting waterfowl after legal hours and 10 ducks were confiscated.



On 8/1/2022 Corporal Colte Shaske was working the White Oak Creek boat ramp Camden County when he encountered a vessel with no visible registration. While Shaske was talking to the vessel occupants he noticed an antlered buck still in velvet in the boat. As a result of Shaske's investigation, 3 charges were made for hunting out of season, 1 littering charge and 1 for operating a vessel without registration. The antlered buck was confiscated.

On 09/10/2022 Corporal Jay Bright received a couple of videos off a cell phone trail camera on Ceylon WMA. The videos showed a deer being shot on 08/25/2022 with a firearm. The second video showed a clear picture of the individual dragging the deer past the camera. While patrolling Ceylon WMA for small game activity and the opening of archery deer season, Corporal Bright recognized the person from the video. After interviewing the subject, Corporal Bright issued two citations, one for hunting out of season and one for taking a deer with an unlawful firearm.

The night of December 18th, 2023, Game Wardens received a call of an over due hunter maintaining someone on scene throughout the night. The following day, Game Wardens from the entire region assisted with the search. In all, approximately 25 Game Wardens conducted ground searches while the Aviation Unit had 2 helicopters over head. The Colonel assisted as well as both Majors and the Lt. Colonel. Game Wardens walked several miles across a swamp looking for sign of the missing hunter. On the 3rd morning of the search, the missing hunter was located in a tree along the river's edge.

Game Wardens Matt Tsiklistas, Zach Griffis and Corporal Jay Bright were observing commercial trawler activity offshore of Sapelo Island when they noticed the vessel Sally Sea was dragging in closed waters. The Officers documented the commercial trawler nearly a mile inside closed waters. Game Wardens boarded the vessel and interviewed both subjects on board. As a result, two citations were issued for using power drawn nets in closed waters and 513 pounds of shrimp were confiscated.

Game Warden Matthew Thompson and Errol Hall received a call in reference to an alligator that was killed in the Barrington Oaks Subdivision. Upon arrival, a group of people were fileting a small alligator they killed out of the neighborhood pond. One of the individuals admitted to shooting the alligator while not possessing the appropriate permit for alligator harvest. As a result, he was cited and the alligator was seized.



On October 27, 2022, Corporal Jay Bright received information of an individual possibly hunting deer at night. A trail camera picture shows the individual holding a rifle in one hand while shining a food plot with a spotlight in the other hand. Corporal Bright set up a detail with Game Warden

Griffis the following night. Around 0300 hours the Game Wardens noticed lights being shined through the woods not far from their location. Two subjects were seen walking out on the road being observed and then walking away. The Game Wardens approached the two subjects and located two firearms hidden in the bushes a short distance away. One subject was arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm and citations were issued for hunting deer at night.



On May 13, 2023, Game Warden Griffis conducted a boating safety stop in the Frederica River near Morning Star Marina in Glynn County. The boat stop was conducted due to a violation of a no wake zone. After further investigation of the fishing equipment and catch on board, 4 individuals attempted to hide 6 Red Snapper filets and were in possession of 8 undersized black sea bass. It was determined the illegal fish were caught in Federal waters.



On June 10, 2023, Game Wardens Lucas Barnard, Errol Hall and Chase Flemming were on an offshore patrol near Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary when they stopped a boat fishing on the reef. During the stop, 7 illegally caught red snapper and 9 undersized sea bass were discovered. Each occupant's information was recorded and a federal case package was sent to NOAA.



Investigative Unit

The primary function of the Investigative Unit (IU) is to provide support to uniform Game Wardens and conduct/oversee investigations across the state.

The Investigative Unit (IU) is comprised of three full-time investigators, one detached investigator and one Criminal Intelligence Analyst. Last year, there was a Sergeant promoted within the Unit, a Corporal position changed from a detachment to a full-time position and a field Game Warden was detached to the Unit. The IU is responsible for conducting both covert and overt wildlife and criminal investigations, Marine Theft investigations, administration of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), the Sonar Team and the Drone Program. The IU also assists the Special Permits Unit (SPU) with investigations of persons transporting, holding, selling and otherwise illegally possessing wild animals and/or native wildlife that require permits.

The Criminal Intelligence Analyst was selected to attend Command College at Columbus State University. Command College provides a program of study that goes beyond what is currently available in public safety executive and management development courses - serving as a graduate school for public safety executives. The Investigative Sergeant attended a Digital Evidence Investigations (DEI) class at the National Computer Forensics Institute operated by the United States Secret Service (USSS) in Hoover, Alabama. As part of the training, the IU received a new piece of technology to assist in investigations called a Data Pilot. The USSS provided the training, equipment and covered license fees for the technology. The Data Pilot can be used to extract data from any electronic device (cell phone, computer, SD cards, etc) to further an investigation.

In March of 2023, the IU hosted the 2023 Southeastern States Intelligence & Investigations Conference in Helen, Georgia. This conference allows Investigators and Intelligence Analysts from the southeast to come together and share: recent cases, discuss new trends in poaching, wildlife crimes and wildlife/wild animal trafficking. The conference is also one of the best network building events of the year. 14 states sent representatives for a total of 60 attendees. States outside of the southeast requested permission to attend the conference as well due to the benefit it would bring their agency. These states were Michigan and Colorado.

Investigations

The IU is responsible for covert and overt investigations. Covert methods of investigation are used when traditional law enforcement methods would be problematic or unsuccessful. Investigators attend specialized training in investigative techniques and use of specialized equipment. Last year, the IU conducted and managed 523 investigations and calls for assistance from uniform Game Wardens and other agencies (both in and out-of-state). These investigations were comprised of assistance with: search warrants, intelligence gathering, buy busts and both short- and long-term investigations. The focus of these investigations includes the sale and/or possession of wildlife and wild animals. Instances of these cases include:

- **Operation Viper:** A multi-state investigation apprehending a subject who delivered venomous reptiles to 48 of the 50 US states. The subject is believed to be one of the biggest (if not the biggest) reptile smuggler in the country. He was in possession of 27 illegal

venomous snakes inside his vehicle at the time of his arrest. These snakes were in the process of being distributed all over the Eastern United States. This case was presented at the annual American Fish and Wildlife Associations Investigations and Intelligence Summit in Idaho. Since the presentation, the IU has fulfilled numerous requests by other states to provide intelligence relating to the smuggler and his activities for investigative purposes in their respective states.

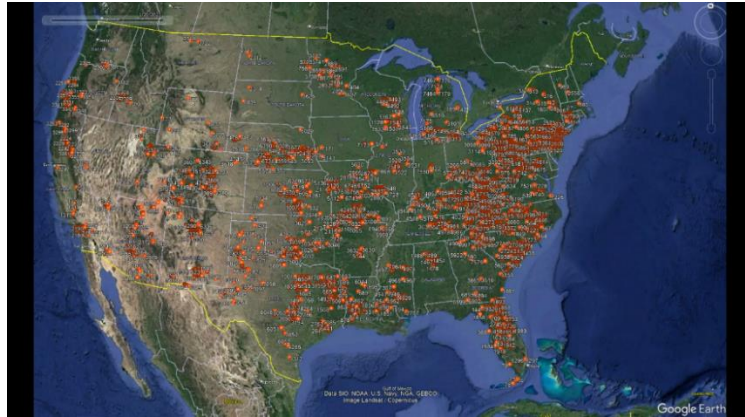


Figure 1: Screen shot of a map with pins for every location that subject delivered snakes or other illegal reptiles during the investigation to.

- **Operation Digging Up Bones:** A case that started with illegal sales of game animals and exotic species that quickly took a turn in an unexpected direction when the suspect was discovered to be selling human remains. Investigators made covert purchases from the suspect and then executed a search warrant on her residence/place of business. Over 4,000 felony and 1,000 misdemeanor charges were documented during the investigation.



Figure 2: Evidence seized from subject's residence during execution of search warrant. Items include human skulls (including two infant skulls), human teeth, ivory and the most smuggled mammal in the world – a pangolin.

- **Operation Crossing the Line:** A cooperative investigation between Georgia and Alabama dealing with illegal high fence hunts for whitetail deer and exotic rams, illegal transportation of wildlife and wild animals, deer breeder violations, and illegal taxidermy operations. 20 suspected poachers that are Georgia residence were identified and interviewed during a widespread two-day operation. All 15 of the illegal whitetail deer antlers were located and seized as evidence. While attempting to locate the whitetail deer antlers three illegal taxidermist were located in Georgia. Alabama brought a total of 110 charges against 21 individuals with court fines totally almost \$100,000. Georgia charged three taxidermist that were operating without a license, improper records, improper tagging and other violations.



Figure 3: 15 sets of illegally taken trophy white-tail deer.

- **Operation State Park Bandits:** This case involved burglary and thefts at three state parks in South Georgia. In early May, Reed Bingham, General Coffee and Laura Walker State Parks were the victims of a group of thieves that targeted state parks in both Georgia and Florida. Through the use of security cameras, geo-fence warrants, other investigative techniques, investigators were able to identify four suspects in Florida. Investigators learned that one of the suspects was arrested recently for armed robbery, kidnapping and other serious offenses. The IU went to Florida and partnered with FWC and the Bradford County Sheriff's Department to conduct search warrants on the suspects residence and vehicle. In total, four suspects were arrested for the crimes in Georgia and charged with numerous felony and misdemeanor crimes in three counties. This investigation also led to a monumental amount of evidence that the same subjects were involved in over 50 burglaries and thefts in Florida mostly targeting Florida State Parks.



Figure 4: GA DNR, Florida FWC and Bradford County, FL Sheriff's Office SWAT Team serving a high-risk search warrant at the residence of the suspects.

Marine Theft Unit

The primary function of the Marine Theft Unit (MTU) is to provide support to uniform Game Wardens and other law enforcement agencies across Georgia and the country with locating and recovering stolen vessels. The MTU conducts computer database and offline GCIC searches, identify hidden Hull Identification Number (HIN) locations and assist with the investigative process. MTU also serves as the point of contact for customers. Last year, MTU received 167 correspondences about reporting/locating stolen vessels. There were also 182 correspondences for abandoned vessels.



Figure 5: Abandoned Vessel.

Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT)

The CIRT team is comprised of 15 Georgia Game Wardens across the state. The Game Wardens assigned to CIRT complete the normal duties of a Georgia Game Warden and take on the additional duties of being a CIRT Investigator as a collateral duty. CIRT Investigators are charged with investigating fatality and serious injury boating, hunting and state park incidents. Each investigator receives specialized training to become experts at investigating and presenting these cases in court. Last year, the CIRT team investigated six boating incidents, two hunting incidents and two state park incidents.

In October 2022, a new piece of technology called a FARO scanner was obtained with grant monies. Five of the CIRT members were selected to attend the specialized training to operate the FARO scanner. The FARO takes thousands of pictures from different angles and creates a 3D image of the scene. This will be used for hunting incidents, boating incidents and other investigations such as scanning large rooms with evidence. These scans are much more detailed than traditional sketches that officers have utilized in the past. The scans also allow for investigators to import the images into a program that create a 3D video recreation of incidents for court.



Figure 6: FARO equipment scanning crashed vessel.

Annual CIRT training took place at Indian Springs State Park on January 17 & 18, 2023. During the training, a medical emergency was experienced by a gentleman that supports the team each year by providing meals. During dinner, he experienced a massive heart attack. CIRT members immediately provide lifesaving emergency medical care in the form of CPR and use of an AED. Ultimately, he was transported to a local hospital and survived the near-death experience.

Sonar Team

The Sonar Team is comprised of 32 Georgia Game Wardens assigned throughout the state. The Game Wardens assigned to the Sonar Team complete the normal duties of a Georgia Game Warden and take on the additional duties of being a sonar operator as a collateral duty. The Sonar Team is charged with locating and recovering drowning victims and evidence in aquatic environments. Game Wardens utilize boat-mounted, side-scan and sector-scan sonars as well as remotely-operated vessels to complete these duties. The team also has two specialized pontoon boats to complete their duties.

Last year, the sonar team was able to procure two new Klien 4900 side scan sonars with grant monies. These replace the old side scan units that were 12 years old.

The Sonar Team responded to 17 drownings and recovered 15 of the victims using the sonar equipment.

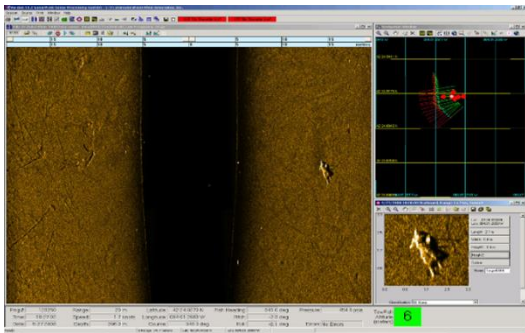


Figure 7: Drowning victim located by using SONAR equipment.



Figure 8: Specialized vessel used to run SONAR equipment.

Drone Program

The Georgia DNR has four licensed drone pilots. Last year, Game Warden Matt Kiracofe obtained his license. Tallulah Falls Police Department donated a new drone to assist with the daunting number of Search and Rescue cases that occur at Tallulah Falls State Park.

Special Permits Unit

The Special Permits Unit has had a busy but extremely productive year during FY 2023. During this period Lt. Wayne Hubbard retired creating the vacancy now filled by Lt. Mark Patterson. Lt. Patterson began his duties with Special Permits on October 16, 2023. The other member of the SPU team is Mrs. Jamie Hawkins who has been in her current role for over 10 years. What follows is a brief description of the activities of Special Permits during this past fiscal year.

The Special Permits Unit is responsible for the review of applications and issuance of 22 separate licenses or permits most of which are related to captive wildlife and wild animals, nuisance wildlife control, wildlife rehabilitation, falconry, deer dog permits, and scientific collecting. New permit responsibilities include the addition of wild animal reptile registration which came about in December 2022 as a result of a new Board Rule. This rule requires the registration of all Indian Rock pythons, Burmese pythons, Argentine black and white tegu, and Nile monitors which were held as pets prior to this date. Also added has been the processing of requests for long-term anchorage permits in coastal waters. As a part of this licensing process SPU is also responsible for administering the State required test for nuisance wildlife control, falconry, and wildlife rehabilitation. During FY2023 SPU has issued 2,819 licenses and permits as well as administering 385 tests to individuals seeking licenses. These issued licenses have generated \$70,715.00 in license sales revenue.

Also, a function of the Special Permit Unit is the coordination of required inspections of licensed or permitted facilities. This monumental task is completed with the irreplaceable contributions of LED Game Wardens and assistance from WRD staff. During FY2023 site inspections were completed for 63 facilities that are licensed to hold wild animals which are not native to Georgia. Also begun in this fiscal year were the inspections of all wildlife rehabilitators and facilities that hold native wildlife for the purposes of education or public exhibit. Although these current inspections were begun in the past fiscal year they are not scheduled for completion until later in FY24. In addition, a number of joint inspections were conducted with representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in an effort to build a better working relationship and collaboration with this agency.

SPU has also worked closely with our own investigative unit on a number of cases as well as providing assistance to outside agencies such as U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service., and some Non-Governmental Organizations. Outside agency cooperative efforts included the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency which would have allowed for the movement of wildlife across state lines for the purpose of rehabilitation. Although much effort was spent in this endeavor the MOU was not adopted by Tennessee in its final stages. Other areas of assistance have been close cooperation between SPU and WRD staff related to the new regulations on reptiles such as Burmese Pythons and Black and White Tegu and the needs of this registration program in the future. SPU had also been tasked with the development and presentation of a training program for feral hog control custodians affiliated with the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts. The focus of this training program was to better familiarize this organization with the requirements of

Georgia law as it relates to their feral hog control efforts. Two workshops were planned for all feral hog custodians throughout the state where this program was presented. Other educational programs have also been presented on captive animal law to the SEAFWA Diversity Committee, falconry law and regulation at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, and nuisance wildlife control law and regulation presented to the Georgia Pest Control Association.

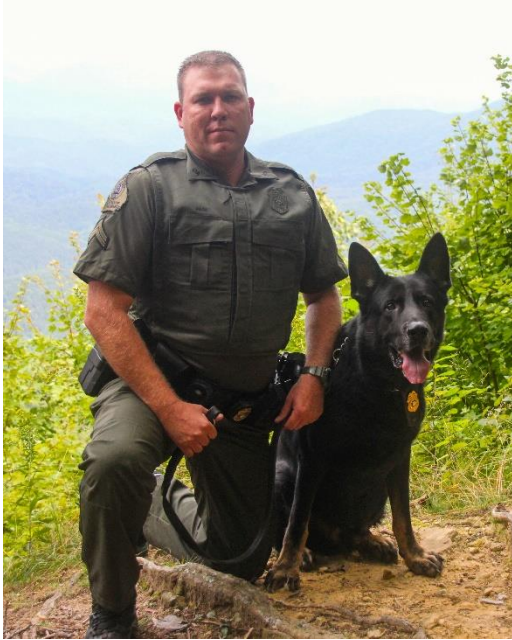
In addition to these activities SPU has been working diligently to streamline its internal processes with the goal of greater efficiency, enhanced customer service, and providing support to our field Game Wardens. In an effort to accomplish these goals SPU has created a Teams channel for timely document sharing in areas that would most benefit our Game Wardens such as complete copies of deer dog hunting applications and permits. This electronic sharing is intended to assist in the prompt resolution of complaints and as an aid in investigations. Also completed in this fiscal year have been an evaluation of our nuisance wildlife control testing material, an update to nuisance wildlife control permit conditions, as well as a review of wildlife and wild animal license conditions. We have also updated how we share our current lists of wildlife rehabilitators and nuisance control operators with the public. This information is now shared on our website in its traditional form of a list by County as well as inclusion on an interactive map created by WRD GIS specialists.

If past years are an accurate indicator the Special Permit Unit expects the number of licenses and permits to continue to increase. We will continue to seek opportunities for better efficiency with an eye toward ways to better serve our license holders and our Division.

K-9 Unit



The Division continues to use K-9s to enhance patrol efforts by Game Wardens and to provide assistance to other agencies for man tracking and article searches. The Unit added two new dogs and two new handlers during 2023. GW Bobby Sanders with K-9 Creed and Cpl. Tyler Lewis with K-9 Axel all went through the K-9 Academy from March to June All of the GA DNR K-9s have had absolutely no training when they are imported in from Europe. The dogs are completely trained from the ground up during the academy in man tracking, evidence recovery, detection, obedience, and apprehension, and are certified officers when they graduate.



Cpl. Keith Page with Rio

On October 19th, Division reported the line-of-duty passing of Game Warden K-9 Rio. K-9 Rio and his partner Cpl. Keith Page were assisting GWFC Westin Rabon with tracking and locating a suspected poacher who was hunting without permission adjacent to the Oconee National Forest in Jasper County. After locating the suspect, Cpl. Page and Rio began a backtrack in a search for further evidence when Rio suffered an apparent medical emergency. Efforts by Cpl. Page to revive Rio were unsuccessful and he passed away at approximately 11:00 a.m. Rio faithfully served as a Game Warden K-9 and Cpl. Page's partner for 6 years, beginning service at 12 months old in January of 2017. Rio was escorted back to Barnesville, under an American flag, in a procession led by the Lamar County Sheriff's Office. Please keep Cpl. Page and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

FY2023 K-9/Handler Teams

Sgt. Brooks Varnell and K-9 Taz

Sgt. Greg Wade and K-9 Cuff

Cpl. Eric Isom and K-9 Bo

**Cpl. Keith Page and K-9 Rio (EOW
10/19/23)**

Cpl. Tyler Lewis and K-9 Axel

GWFC Jack Thain and K-9 Case

GWFC Bobby Sanders and K-9 Creed

GWFC Jared Wood and K-9 Judge

Training Unit

37th Game Warden Academy

The cadets of the 37th Game Warden Academy began their career with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division on September 16th, 2022. The 22 cadets started their Basic Peace Officer Certification or Basic Mandate Academy at 6 regional academies spread across the State of Georgia. At the conclusion of those 12 weeks, the class was down to 16 cadets. An additional POST certified cadet was added to the class that would begin the Game Warden Academy on January 8, 2023, bringing the total to 17. At the conclusion of week 13, a cadet decided to voluntarily withdraw, and the remaining 16 cadets graduated on April 21st. All 16 officers have recently been released from Field Training and are working on their own in their assigned areas.



In-Service Training

During the summer of 2022, 9 Game Wardens were certified as gas mask instructors and those officers went on to train an additional 62 Game Wardens in the use of the gas mask for response to a CS gas deployment. The department recently acquired additional gas mask to equip the entire division and that training will take place in November. Fall firearms in-service was conducted at GPSTC over a 4-month period beginning in September 2022 and ending in December. The two-day training consisted of scenario-based exercises in the Use of Force Lab, patrol rifle training, and handgun skills.

Spring firearms re-qualifications were also held at the training center for the state during the month of March. In addition to firearms qualifications, the Division attended in-service training focusing on BUI enforcement and a NASBLA Seated Battery refresher. On the same day, Game Warden's also completed a refresher training for CPR and NARCAN. During the months of May and June, the Division made the transition from the Taser X2 to the Taser 7. Use of Force and De-escalation training accompanied the taser transition.

In September of 2022, the Training Unit hosted a NASBLA Officer Water Survival Instructor Course at GPSTC and 6 Game Wardens were certified as OWS Instructors.

SOG Team

The LED Special Operations Group (SOG) was busy with multiple training events throughout the year. SOG members attended SWAT School, ATV, and firearms training at GPSTC. In July, nine of the newest members to the group attended Woodland Ops in Troup County.

38th Game Warden Academy

The hiring process for the 38th Game Warden Academy has ended, and the department is pleased to announce the addition of 24 future Georgia Game Wardens. Twenty-two of the new hires will begin the Basic Mandate Academy on September 25th at either the Forsyth or Tifton campus and will graduate on December 15th. The Game Warden Academy will begin on January 7, 2024, and the cadets will graduate on April 26, 2024.

Training Academy Staff



L-R: Captain Mitch Oliver, Debra Hollar, Joe Talaber

Aviation Unit



The LED Aviation Support Unit provides service to all DNR Divisions and other state agencies utilizing three Bell 407GX/GXi helicopters. The Aviation Unit flew approximately 500 hours in support of the Division's Game Wardens as they conducted their core mission of protecting the states waterways and woodland areas. This consisted of flying support throughout the hunting season from early fall through early spring.

Game Wardens were flown on county surveys looking for baited food plots, duck ponds and illegal shrimping along the Georgia coast. Flight support was also provided for Operation Dry Water, night deer poaching/spotlighting patrols, and searches for missing persons and drowning victims across the state. The Wildlife Resource Division (WRD) was provided aviation support during surveys of Bald Eagles, Kestrel, Sandhill Cranes, Red Knots, and waterfowl. Capt. Jaye Bridwell flew these same flights along the Georgia coast in addition to surveys for sea turtles, dolphins, and the tagging of manatee. Night missions for illegal shrimping activity were also conducted along the coastline.

In addition to the WRD surveys, LT Buller flew multiple missions assisting the Game Management Section and the Wildlife Conservation Section with prescribed burns on the State WMA's during the late winter months of January through March 2023. Additionally, the Aviation Unit was actively involved with responding to multiple disaster areas as a result of tornados and inclement weather which caused widespread damage across the state.

This year, the Aviation Unit Received Professional Rescue Training in Short Haul, Longline, Rappel and Rescue Techniques and also participated in joint training efforts with the United States Coast Guard.

The Unit acquired FLIR technology which is in the process of being added to the fleet as an additional upgrade in capabilities. Economic development flights continued in several areas throughout the state in support of the Governor's Office and the Georgia Department of Economic Development. The Aviation Unit also assisted other State and Federal law enforcement agencies utilizing the three Bell 407 Helicopters in support of various missions throughout the state.

Honor Guard

Honor Guard Members 2022-2023

Honor Guard Commander – Capt. Derek Dillard
Dep. Commander/Training Coordinator – Cpl. Dan Schay

Region 1 - Cpl. Russell Epps, Cpl. Brock Hoyt, Cpl. Philip Stout
Region 2 – Sgt. Brooks Varnell, Sgt. Cody Jones, Cpl. Stetson Stevens, GWFC Jeffery Turner
Region 3 – Sgt. Travis Sweat, Cpl. Ben Payne, GWFC Lamar Burns, GWFC Westin Rabon
Region 4 – GWFC Luke Rabun
Region 5 – Sgt. Jeremy Bolen, Cpl. Scott Carroll, Cpl. Dean Gibson, GWFC K.P. Boatright
Region 6 – Sgt. Chase Altman, Sgt. David Brady, Cpl. Tim Morris, Cpl. Daniel North,
GWFC Zac Griffis

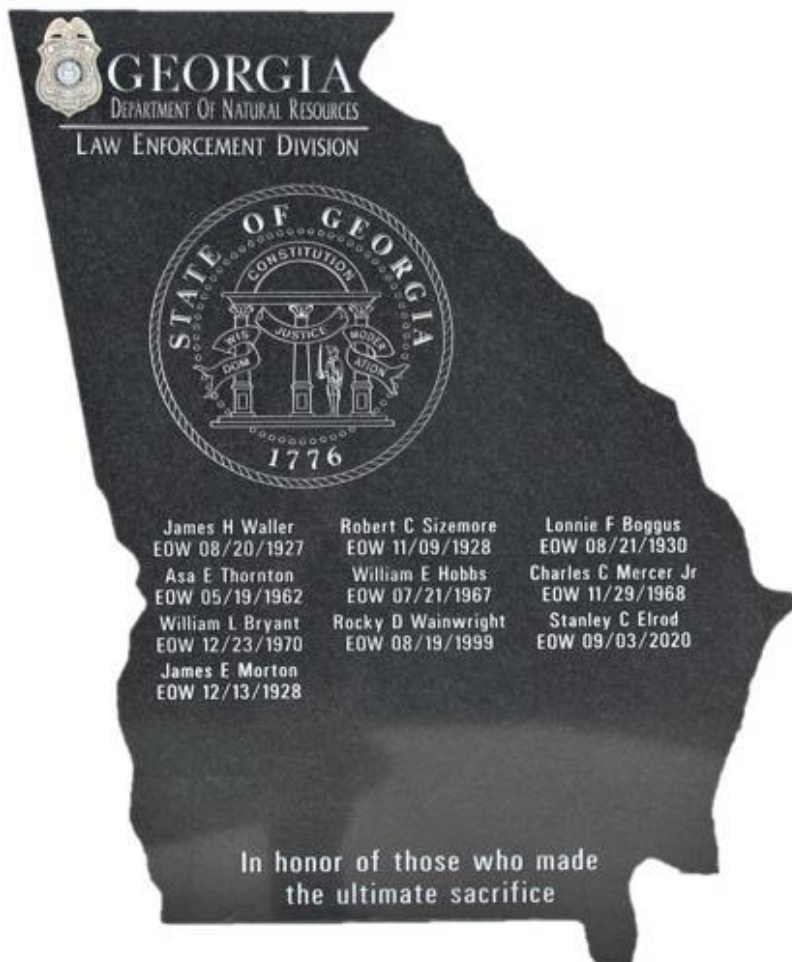
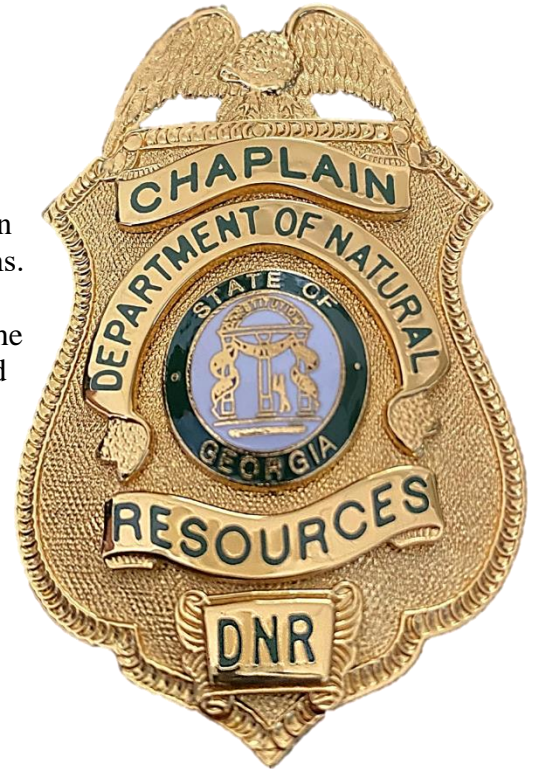
Honor Guard Details

- August 27, 2022 – Presentation of Colors for the DNR LED Awards Banquet at Indian Springs State Park. Sgt. Brooks Varnell, Sgt. David Brady, Sgt. Travis Sweat and Cpl. Dan Schay participated in the ceremony.
- September 9, 2022 – Funeral detail for retired Game Warden Howard Massingill Sr. in LaFayette, Georgia. Cpl. Stetson Stevens participated in the detail and presented the Flag to his family.
- September 12, 2023 – Presentation of Colors for the POAG Conference in Tybee Island, Georgia. Sgt. Brooks Varnell, Sgt. David Brady, Sgt. Cody Jones and Cpl. Ben Payne participated in the detail.
- November 12, 2023 – Funeral detail for retired Cpl. Kelly Grimes in Metter, Georgia. Sgt. Travis Sweat, Sgt. Jeremy Bolen and Cpl. Ben Payne participated in the detail where they folded and presented the Flag to his family.
- January 11, 2023 – Funeral detail for retired WRD Ranger Ed Henderson in Thomson, Georgia. Sgt. Cody Jones, Cpl. Ben Payne and Cpl. Dan Schay participated in the detail where they folded and presented the Flag to his family.
- April 1, 2023 – Funeral detail for retired Sgt. Ed Friend in Hogansville, Georgia. Sgt. Jeremy Bolen, Sgt. Travis Sweat and Cpl. Dan Schay participated in the detail where they folded and presented the Flag to his family.
- April 21, 2023 – Presentation of Colors for the 37th DNR LED Game Warden Academy Graduation Ceremony at the GPSTC in Forsyth, Georgia. Sgt. Brooks Varnell, Sgt. Jeremy Bolen, Sgt. Cody Jones, Sgt. David Brady, Cpl. Ben Payne and Cpl. Dan Schay participated in the ceremony.

Chaplains

The 14 members of the DNR Law Enforcement Division Chaplain Corps currently serve four of the state's seven Regions.

The DNR Chaplains are non-sworn volunteers who support the mission of DNR in providing a source of strength to sworn and non-sworn members of the Agency, their families, and the community. The program supports employees in the handling of crisis situations, comforts victims and their families when incidents occur, and provides counseling and other ministerial functions that may be needed.



DNR Chaplains

Region I

Rev. Brandon Brooks
Rev. Danny Cochran
Rev. Tac Coley
Dr. Rudy Ross

Region II

Rev. Michael Burgamy

Region III

Dr. Marc Crandlemire
Rev. John Haney
Dr. Rick Lanford
Rev. Joel Vinson, Sr.

Region IV

Rev. Chip Strickland
Rev. Stacy Phillips

Region V

Rev. Daryl Brown

Region VI

Rev. Charles Houston, Jr.
Rev. Gregory Loskoski

Promotions:

Sgt. Jon Penuel
 Sgt. Cody Jones
 Sgt. Bobby Timmerman
 Cpl. Johnny Robinette
 Cpl. Brock Hoyt
 Cpl. Matt Johnson
 Lt. Mark Patterson
 Sgt. Eddie Tompkins
 Cpl. Ryan Locke
 Cpl. Jason Bennett
 Sgt. Wil Smith
 GW 2 Tim Bledsoe
 GW 2 Amy King
 GW 2 Chandler Traylor
 GW 2 Caleb Schacher
 GW 2 TR Dooley
 GW 2 Matthew Ryan Kiracofe
 GW 2 Spencer Palmer
 GW 2 Cody Tanner
 GW 2 Cory Bohannon
 GW 2 Bryan Gresham
 GW 2 Kyle Kervin
 GW 2 Dylan Brady
 GW 2 Seth May
 GW 2 Andrew Weathersby
 GW 2 Erin McClellan
 GWFC 1 James Bowman
 GWFC 1 Bo Townsend
 GWFC 1 David Wright
 GWFC 1 Taylor Gilmore
 GWFC 1 Taylor Bingham
 GWFC 1 Westin Rabon
 GWFC 1 KP Boatright
 GWFC 1 Bo Buice
 GWFC 2 Noah Osborne
 GWFC 2 Jeff Turner
 GWFC 2 Kevin Hurley
 Cpl. Saxon Campbell
 Cpl. Austin Biggers
 Cpl. Stetson Stevens
 GWFC 2 Steven Martinez
 GWFC 2 Ryan Shorter
 GWFC 2 Ryan Thomas
 GWFC 2 Bryan Price
 GWFC 2 John Kennedy
 GWFC 2 Zach Griffis
 GWFC 2 Matt Tsiklistas
 Sgt. Tim Butler
 Sgt. Beth Gilbert

Retirements:

Sgt. Brian Carter
 Sgt. Brian Hobbins
 Lt. Wayne Hubbard
 Cpl. Josh Swain
 Cpl. Craig Fulghum
 Cpl. Derrell Worth

Activity Summary	FY2023
Hunter Ed Hours	1,293
I&E Hours	3,476
Boating Safety Hours	349
Total Programs	5,118
Land & Water SAR Hours	3,410
Hunting Incidents	30
Boating Incidents	120
Drownings	48
BUIs	297
Hunting License Checks	26,905
Fishing License Checks	31,689
Total License Checks	58,594
Boat Checks	21,142
Boating Contacts	6,338
Hunting Contacts	4,681
Fishing Contacts	3,051
Environmental Contacts	806
Total Contacts	14,876





GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



JAMES HIRAM WALLER
JAMES EDWARD MORTON
ASA EDWIN THORNTON
CHARLES C. MERCER
ROCKY D. WAINWRIGHT

ROBERT CLAYTON SIZEMORE
LONNIE F. BOGGUS
WILLIAM EARL HOBBS
WILLIAM LEE BRYANT
STANLEY CURTIS ELROD



IN MEMORY OF THE OFFICERS
WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE
PROTECTING THE PEOPLE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES OF GEORGIA



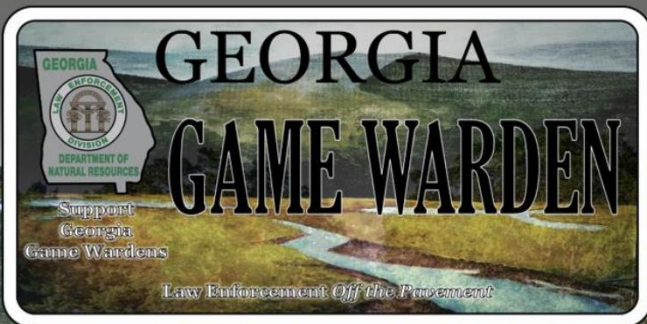
*“Support Georgia Game Wardens
with the purchase of a specialty
license plate for your vehicle. I did.”*



**Michael Waddell
Bone Collector
The Outdoor Channel**



Visit www.gadnrle.org for more information



**Get your Georgia DNR
Law Enforcement license
plate today!**



Support those who protect our natural resources!