



Col. Coffey, Honor Guard represent KDFWR at national memorial service

Law Enforcement Division Director Col. Rodney Coffey participated in the 2017 Police Unity Tour, a 3-day, 250-mile bicycle ride beginning in Portsmouth, Virginia and ending at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington DC to help raise awareness about those officers who have died in the line of duty, and money for the national memorial.



The Unity Ride raised more than \$100,000 for the National Law Enforcement Foundation, and Coffey called riding alongside of survivors and officers that have lost partners a “life-changing experience.”

The Division’s Honor Guard – members Lt. Damon Foster and officers Patrick Younts, Jason Ice, and Thomas Blackwell – joined him at the Memorial, and stood watch during the survivor entry into the candlelight vigil and carried the Kentucky flag during the states’ law enforcement memorial at the wall.

President Donald Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence also spoke to those



attending the 36th Annual Memorial Service at the U.S. Capitol.

The President pledged to reduce vio-

lence against law enforcement officers and called attacks against them “a stain on the fabric of our society.”

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Artist Rick Hill is KSHN Naturalist of the Year



The Kentucky Society of Natural History (KSHN) recently honored Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife artist Rick Hill with its “Kentucky Naturalist of the Year Award”.

KSHN is a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1943 to promote the study of nature and the natural sciences. Its members exist throughout Kentucky and neighboring states.

KSNH annually honors an individual who has made outstanding contributions toward promoting the study and interest of nature in Kentucky.

Hill's first Fish and Wildlife art work dates back to 1976. He illustrated a Happy Hunting Ground Magazine article about Native Americans with a watercolor painting of a bison.

Four years later, a 1980 issue introduced readers to his nature woodcarving and featured his carving of a nesting bluegill on its cover.

Hill came to work at the Department in 1986 as a creel clerk and later a fisheries technician in Fisheries Division, but his artwork continued to adorn the

magazine's pages and occasionally its covers. Then, in 1994, he moved to Information and Education Division as the Department's artist.

Almost immediately, he began authoring the Nature Notebook, a centerfold Naturalist Section of Kentucky Afield Magazine that spotlights lesser known various plants, fish and small animals. For nearly a quarter-century, the sections, with their sketches, paintings and interesting descriptions, have been especially popular with schoolteachers who detach and post them in their classrooms.

Hill's “River Continuum,” a highly-

acclaimed series of five aquatic ecosystem posters – “Wetland Slough”, “Upland Reservoir”, “Small Stream”, “Stream”, and “Big River” – have been reproduced by the thousands and dispersed extensively across Kentucky, and multiple other states as well who reprinted them with the Department's permission and distributed them to their own constituents.

His “Fishes of Kentucky” poster features dozens of highly detailed Kentucky fish species that neighboring states use as well in their brochures and publications.

Since 2000, Kentucky Afield magazine has selected Hill's artwork exclusively for its cover.

“Rick Hill has a reverence for trees and native wildlife that is immediately apparent in his artwork,” said Information and Education Division Director Tim Slone. “Rick has spent a lifetime observing and studying the natural world. He is the keenest observer of nature I have ever met.”





Peace Officers remembered at Fallen Officers' Memorial

Kentucky conservation officers, sheriffs and deputies, and local law enforcement agencies remembered Peace Officers' Memorial Day and National Police Week May 8 in a ceremony at the Fallen Officers' Memorial at Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Headquarters.

Sherry Bryant, whose husband Conservation Officer Douglas Bryant died in the line of duty May 19, 2003, headlined a list of speakers during the ceremony that also included Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Don Parkinson and Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Gregory K. Johnson.

Kentucky conservation officers honor



guard laid a wreath at the memorial that features six granite pedestals permanently etched with the images and names of six Kentucky conservation officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Mrs. Bryant brought her granddaughter, 2-year-old Helena Rose Brown, with her, and the two visited her grandfather's pedestal together.





From Bad to Good

Paintsville Wildlife Management Area staff recently put the finishing touches on a project that started last year.

In the summer of 2016, staff used the league donated skid steer and masticator attachment to clear a 10-acre maze of invasive species in the Stonecoal area of Paintsville WMA.

They worked skillfully around what native plum, holly and dogwood species that still existed amongst the jungle of exotic species.

In September, staff used their heavy offset disk to break up and expose the roots of invasive shrubs. After several rounds of disking, they

planted wheat for a cover crop and for wildlife benefit.

In March, staff returned to the area and finished the project by planting four acres of soft mast species that included deciduous holly, black haw viburnum, and grey dogwood.

The 10-acre unit will be managed with a variety of techniques. Two locations will be managed as small, forested openings for woodcock and turkey to display and browse for deer while the remainder will become a native soft mast thicket. This area now provides great opportunity and habitat for wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts.





Below: Easton Copley demonstrates how to catch a bass. Also pictured (at left) are some of the new anglers having fun.



Aquatic Education strives to make fishing part of college life

The Department's aquatic education program focuses on creating new anglers.

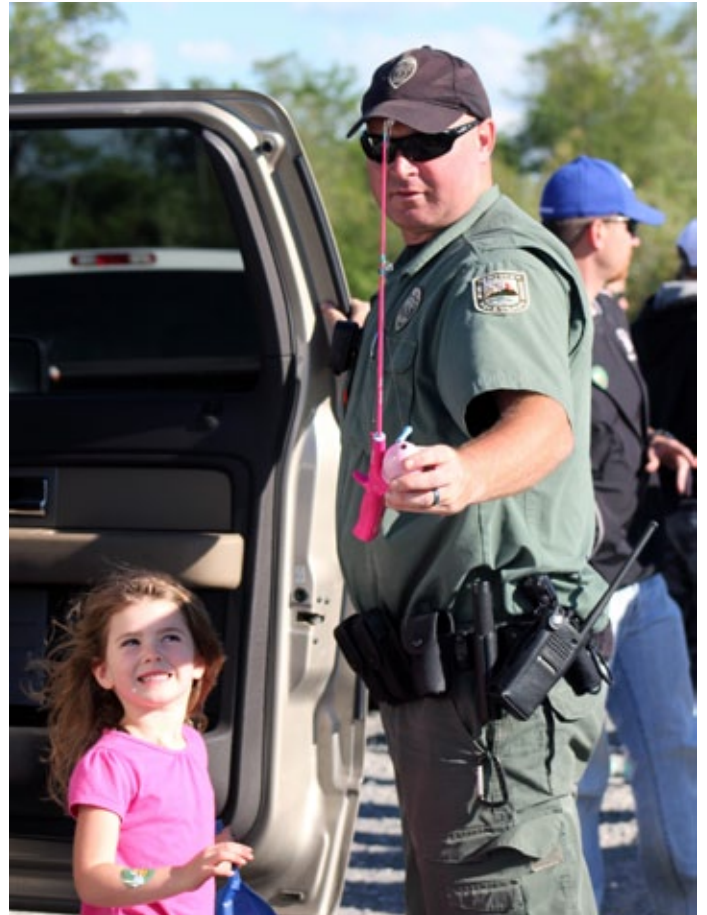
Recently, staff led a trip to Guist Creek Lake with the Eastern Kentucky University recreation program. Each student and student leaders purchased a fishing license prior to the trip.

The group spent five hours paddling and fishing. The goal of this type of program is to make fishing a regular part of college recreation and adventure programs.



KACO MESSAGE

Kentucky Bear Program Coordinator John Hast speaks to County Judge-Executives, County Clerks, Magistrates, Sheriffs and more about Kentucky black bears and their expansion through east Kentucky during a regional training meeting in Frankfort at the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) headquarters earlier this month. KACo asked the department to present during their annual regional meetings scheduled through the spring and summer at locations in Kentucky Dam Village, Cave City, Morehead and London. Also on the agenda are presentations addressing coyotes, wild pigs, elk, Asian carp, Hatchery Creek, conservation education, paddle craft sports, and a historical look at Kentucky's fish and wildlife resurgence.



HOOKED ON FISHING, NOT ON DRUGS

Sgt. Marcus Bowling and Officer Kalen Gibson braved strong winds in helping out with the Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs event at Cedar Creek this month. They said a "good time was had by all with eating, fishing, and weighing in fish – despite hurricane winds."



ARBOR DAY IN MERCER COUNTY

Law Enforcement Division's Sgt. Marcus Bowling and Officer Jason Wells celebrated Arbor Day with students of Mercer County Elementary School when first graders planted a tree on school property.

Viewers call elk drawing TV show “educating” and “awesome”

Some Kentucky Afield Television viewers hurried to the Department’s Facebook page after the recent show leading up to announcement of the 2017 Kentucky Elk Draw winners.

“Very educating show leading up to the elk results! I just wish most applicants would have watched it so they would have a better understanding of how the process works... very proud to be a sportsman of this state and to know this organization looks at the whole body of work in its decision making process! Keep up the good work.”

— Chris Bartley

“Thank you for the outstanding job you did on KET last night. And how the elk lottery was conducted this year. You all blew it out of the water this year. Wonder-



ful work. Thank you all.”

— Tina Thornsberry

“Thank you, Kentucky fish and wildlife, the [special elk] show was very informative. I think anyone that drew [applied for the drawing] felt like Christmas

evening waiting. It was awesome!!!!!! You all have done an extra fantastic job with our wildlife and we appreciate your efforts. Good luck to those that drew [permits] and keep on trying... best \$40 you can spend!”

— Nik Shaw



ELK HUNT INFORMATION PACKETS

Newly-appointed Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Regional Director David Dotson (left) joined KDFWR elk biologists Will Bowling, Dan Crank, and Joe McDermott and elk technician Adam Dunn at Fish and Wildlife Headquarters earlier this month in stuffing envelopes with general information for the 2017 Kentucky Elk Hunt. The information is being mailed to the 700 applicants drawn for the hunt.