

July 2016

—VOL. 11 NO. 7—



Multi-state fire strike team grant awarded to KDFWR and partners



KDFWR joined forces with an unprecedented array of partners to achieve funding for a \$590,000 project aimed at increasing prescribed fire capacity in Kentucky and Illinois and positively influencing Kentucky's species of conservation need.

Key partners in this grant opportunity

include: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, The Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, American Bird Conservancy, Shawnee National Forest,

Kentucky Heritage Lands Conservation Fund, Kentucky Prescribed Fire Council, the University of Illinois, and the East Gulf Coast Plains Joint Venture.

Native prairies, barrens, and oak woodlands historically made up approximately five million acres of Kentucky's landscape and nearly 60 percent of the

Illinois landscape; currently less than one percent of these habitats remain.

Funding from this grant will establish two fire strike teams, one in Kentucky and one in Illinois focused on restoration of these important habitats.

Species of conservation need targeted for this project include the American Woodcock and Northern Bobwhite as well as lesser known species like the rattlesnake-master borer moth and the ornate box turtle.

Kentucky, Illinois and partners are excited to pilot this new model for habitat improvement in both states.

INSIDE:



2 Officer awarded



6 NASBLA nominee



7 Bear collaring

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

Deputy Commissioner Karen Waldrop received the following email from Mr. Jonathan Philpot: "I just wanted to let you know what a great time my family had at the Pokemon Go event at the Salato Wildlife Sanctuary this past weekend. We came just for the event, but the kids really enjoyed getting to touch and learn about the snakes, see the animals, and learn about a number of different things from the staff and the volunteers.

As far as the event itself, the staff was very friendly and helpful, and there were several kids/families that were there just for the event. All of the kids seemed to have a great time talking and playing and comparing their various finds. With regard to the staff working the event room, **Brent McCarty** and **James** (sorry, I didn't get his last name) were particularly friendly and helpful and were great with the kids. We are looking forward to coming back out there soon. My son is at camp this week, so I have a feeling a fishing trip is in our future!"

The Department's Information Center received this note from Mr. Marvin McFarlen: "Just a quick note to recognize great customer service – something that is really hard to find these days.

I've been trying to get my Bowhunter's Education card for quite a while now. I took the online quiz almost a year ago and began watching for a field day with no success. I guess since it's not a requirement in Kentucky, there isn't much emphasis or need for the field day.

I got in touch with **Olivia Harmsen** and she told me to come to the Hunter's Ed Field Day at Buckley WMA last weekend and she would make it work. We had a blood trailing session, tree stand safety, and shot crossbows to meet the requirements I needed. She also specifi-

cally tailored questions to me on range estimation to make sure that I met all the requirements for Bowhunters Ed.

Olivia went "above and beyond" to get me the certification I needed. This is the kind of service you rarely see any more, but it is greatly appreciated!

Thanks Olivia and KDFWR for your assistance in getting me the certification I needed!

The following note came to Commissioner Johnson via email from Tommy Floyd: "My nephew Nate Floyd (10) was just picked up by his parents from a week of Conservation Camp.

He just had to call me to let me know he had met my challenge to get all the patches for various skills earned at camp. He was so proud of himself and for going to Camp Earl Wallace.

My daughter did it years ago, and when I told him the story about Morgan (now 25), he told me he would do it too!



Another great camp experience! Josh B. from Paint Lick caught this 20 inch smallmouth bass at Camp Earl Wallace on June 20. What a great way to start out a week at camp!

Thanks for all of the things the department does for kids in Kentucky and today for what you did for my nephew, Nate... I will be sending you a picture

See "Mail," page 3



WELLS RECOGNIZED WITH TWO AWARDS

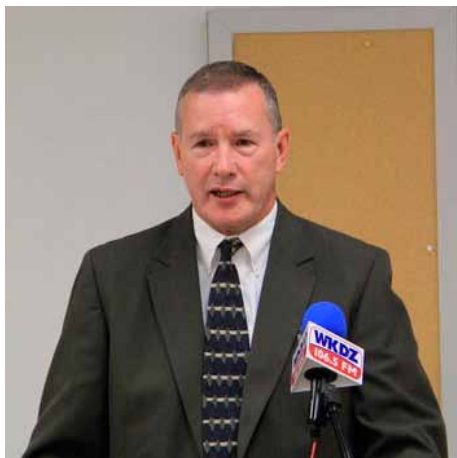
The United Bow Hunters of Kentucky and the Mississippi Flyway have selected Sixth District Conservation Officer Jason Wells as their Officer of the Year. They presented the awards to him last month at the Mercer Fish and Game Club.

Johnson addresses Cadiz Rotary Club

WKDZ Radio did the following piece after Commissioner Johnson spoke at the Cadiz Rotary Club last month.

The Cadiz Rotary Club learned a little more about the Commonwealth's great outdoors at their meeting on Tuesday. Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner **Greg Johnson** was the guest speaker at the weekly meeting. He gave a brief rundown of what his department contributes to the state, and he says it's a department that's not funded by state taxes.

Instead, Johnson says their income comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, boater registration, program income and the Federal government. This



money is funneled back into the state through fish and wildlife initiatives that impact tourism.

Johnson says fish and wildlife is responsible for about \$6 billion of that.

This year alone, Johnson says hunting and fishing records were broken across Kentucky. According to the commissioner, a record of over 155,000 deer and nearly 35,000 turkeys were harvested by Kentucky hunters.

In addition, a record of 46 bears was harvested along with about 569 elk. The Department of Fish and Wildlife also stocks over 6 million fish in waterways across the state each year.

Johnson concluded by saying how much he appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Rotary Club. He says it's a club with a mission that closely aligns with his own department's mission.

“Mail,” continued

soon... He had a great time!!!”

This note came via email from Ms. Deana Roush. She wrote, “I took my niece and nephew to the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery and we thoroughly enjoyed it. I would like to commend one of your employees. **Josh Pennington** gave us a tour and he was very informative and knowledgeable.”

This email came to John Coffey from Ms. Katy P. She wrote, “My daughter, Sarah, just finished her second summer at Camp Wallace. I want you to know the positive difference this week made for Sarah. The first year she went I knew she had a great time. But this year she came home different. It's like something shifted or clicked inside of her. She seems more confident, mature, and just at peace.

What you don't know is that Sarah was adopted at birth, and recently learned some difficult things about her birth family. She has been struggling with some tough issues, and to see her happy again is

such a blessing!

She has talked about the camp every day. All of the fun things she got to do, and the new friends she made. She had a blast with the camp counselors and talks about becoming one when she is old enough. Not to mention, being active and outdoors without the distraction of TV and electronics is so refreshing!

And thank you again for the scholarship that made it possible for her to come! Please keep me informed on the camp for next summer for 8th and 9th graders. She is already looking forward to it!”

The following note came from Jonathan H. He wrote, “Hi, my name is Jonathan and I was chosen for the Greenwing hunt. This was my last year to go to Camp Wallace and it felt amazing to be chosen for this great honor. I loved every single moment of my trip. I wished it had been longer because the time went by super-fast. I loved hanging out with Bill and Red. They were super funny and made us all excited and ready to go hunt ducks. I hope you continue this program so that

my brother has a chance to go too.”

Jonathan's father, Don from Lexington wrote a note as well. Here is what Don wrote. “I wanted to add a letter to let you know how amazing the Greenwing Experience was for my son and myself.

This was Jonathan's first hunting experience. The hospitality, training, the guides, the blind were a great spoiler! I hope he doesn't expect this every time we go!

It was a great moment to watch him ‘grow up’ over this weekend, to share his experience, to see the look on his face when the first ducks dropped in on our blind. You have made a duck hunter out of him and me! I've never hunted ducks before, but we are already making plans to go this next season. He's getting his first shotgun for his birthday this fall, as well as other duck gear.

I was raised in the country, hunting and fishing and being outdoors all the time. But as an adult, we live in the city and Jonathan could never understand

See “Mail,” page 4

“Mail,” continued

when I talked about, got excited about my experiences growing up. He understands now, and I'm looking forward to he and I sharing these times to come.

P.S. The first time I shot a bow, or rowed a boat was at Camp Currie almost 35 years ago. Thanks for letting me go back there to relive some great memories and to make new ones with my son.”

This message was received through our Facebook account. “Thank you all for providing the expertise and help to plant our native grasses and pollinator seeds! We are in Lincoln County and worked with **Brent Beard** and **Merle Hacker**. We are in the pollinator program and planted a half acre for that. We also are in the native warm season grass program and planted 10 acres for that, in addition to a 2-acre food plot.” – Jason Baker, Grace Acres Farm

(Pictured below is son Max Baker with a Department no-till native warm-season grass planter)



The following letter came to Commissioner Johnson from Jerry Miller of Lexington. “I wanted to compliment you on what an amazing job **Clay Smitson** is doing here in Fayette County. Clay has been working closely with me as a key

consultant on a 150-acre wildlife preserve I operate privately, and without his knowledge or expertise it would not have been nearly as successful as it is today. He is the epitome of the perfect worker and is truly an asset to both you and the state of Kentucky. He has absolutely floored me not only by the knowledgeable answers that he gives to any question but also by the excellent job he does of getting his point across.

While his knowledge and his great communication clearly makes him a great employee what truly sets him above the rest is how he makes people around him feel. Clay is beyond friendly and personable and makes anyone that he talks to feel truly special, which is a rare thing today. I could not have asked for a better job. He is truly a credit to the state of Kentucky.”

This message was received through our Facebook account. “I had the opportunity to shoot at the Range at Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area. It's really awesome! Will definitely be back soon. I appreciate KDFWR, thank you for all you do.” – Andrew Glenn, Louisville

This message was received through our Facebook account. “I want to express the appreciation I have for one of our local wardens, **Greg Youree**. He always takes personal time out to attend my trapping class and

lead off with a discussion on trapping and trespass laws and rules, and I have seen him take time out for kids outside of my class. Thanks for all y'all do for our outdoor resources.” – Micah Seavers, Water Valley, KY

Chuck Juengling, Co-founder of the Commonwealth Chapter Quail Forever sent this email to Commissioner Johnson. “I would like to take time to thank your Conservation Officers for their efforts related to the recent spate of drownings in Kentucky. I am certain every sportsman in the Commonwealth deeply appreciates their dedication and perseverance during these heart-breaking circumstances. In addition to the grim task of notifying the victim's family, the arduous task of search and recovery can easily take a toll on the Officers. I fish and boat on Taylorsville Lake and witnessed first-hand the level of effort **Lt. Mahurin's Officers** put forth during a recent drowning there – more than a full week of search and recovery. We appreciate them and wish you would pass this along to their chain of command.”

The following email was sent to Captain Brett Zalla. Mr. Eddie Franklin of Campbellsville wrote, “I want to Thank You for allowing the Officers to patrol Green River Lake, especially the area around Green River Marina. The Corps of Engineers used to Patrol but lately are no-where to be found. It seems that late in the afternoons around the ramp area is when the drunks and dopers appear. I have a Houseboat docked at the Marina and the behavior that is becoming all too common is getting worse. I have witnessed dangerous behavior on the part of several different individuals, and am surprised No one has been seriously injured. Please let the Officers know that their efforts are greatly appreciated by those of us who are docked there.”

Recently **John Coffey** (Camp Wallace) and Conservation Officer **Jerrod Alley** both received a note from Hannah Y. She wrote, “Thanks for all you do! I really enjoyed my fishing trip. You made it the trip of a lifetime! I love Camp Wallace!!!

New Hires

Nan Harnice has joined the Commissioner's Office as an Executive Secretary. She is a former consumer affairs associated with Sazerac Company, Inc., and a director with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce in Frankfort.

She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Biology from Centre College, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Louisville.

A native of Louisville, she's lived in Frankfort for more than 20 years. She and her husband, Paul, have two sons, John and Will. She says both are avid hunters and anglers.

Wade Massure joined the Big Rivers Research Branch of the Fisheries Division as a Fisheries Biologist II. Wade earned a B.S. in Fisheries Management from Iowa State University, and is currently finishing his M.S. in Fisheries Management at Texas Tech University.

His thesis work has analyzed the influence of drought and anthropogenic influences on the growth of stream fish in central Texas. In his free time Wade enjoys hunting, and is an avid stream fisherman.

Terri Brunjes is the new wildlife biologist in the Bear/Furbearer/Wild Pig Program. Her responsibilities include overseeing wild pigs and Captive Wildlife/Transportation/NWCO/Wildlife Rehabilitation permits.

Terri received her bachelor's degree from University of Kentucky in Natural Resource Conservation and Management. She started at Pfeiffer Hatchery in the Fisheries Division in 2005. She then worked as a Farm Bill Biologist in the Wildlife Division from 2007-2016. As a Farm Bill biologist, she coordinated efforts of several agencies to promote wildlife habitat and help landowners achieve their wildlife management goals.

She enjoys spending her free time

kayaking, camping, and hunting with her family. She can be reached by email at terri.brunjes@ky.gov, office phone ext. 4548, or cell phone at 502-545-2354.

Stephen Carter recently joined the Engineering Division as the Maintenance Branch Manager. Stephen is from Georgetown, Kentucky, and graduated from Western Kentucky University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.

He recently returned home after eight years of service in the U.S. Army as an aviation maintenance officer and helicopter pilot.

Stephen enjoys hunting and fishing the Commonwealth. Stephen, his wife Chelsea, and son Stafford live in Lexington.

Tyler Shaw recently joined the Engineering Staff as a Fish and Wildlife Technician I. He served as an interim last season with the Ramp Maintenance Section in the Engineering Division.

Tyler is from Frankfort, and graduated from Franklin County High School. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Western Kentucky University. He enjoys spending time outdoors, farming, and working with animals.



Commonwealth Journal photo

Rockcastle River WMA

It was standing room only as about 200 people crowded in the Shopville Elementary School gymnasium this month for a Department of Fish and Wildlife public meeting about its recent acquisition of more than 2,900 Pulaski County acres that will become the Rockcastle River Wildlife Management Area.

District wildlife biologist **Mike**

Strunk passed out leaflets that included a map of the property to those attending.

The department used federal funds to purchase the \$6.3 million property. Wildlife Director **Steve Beam** says staff are busy marking property lines, erecting signage and preparing parking areas and hope to open the property to public use this fall.

Introducing Charlie Baglan Nominee for NASBLA Boater Educator of the Year

There's a grocery bag in **Charlie Baglan's** desk drawer filled with old reel-to-reel tapes, radio carts and a spiral-bound notebook from his early days in boater safety. They date back to 1989 lending support to the Personal Watercraft Industry Association and the Law Enforcement WaveRunner loaner program in Orlando, FL.

His notes and ideas are as relevant today as ever. What sets Baglan apart is that his style of educating doesn't stop at a group of students; it extends to our entire state and to people who never knew they had a boating interest.

Through award-winning public service advertising, motto and maxim development, graphics and media savvy, his gift to education is taking complex issues and making them easy.

In 1991, Charlie joined the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife as a radio/television specialist and immediately offered his creativity to the Division of Law Enforcement. His first campaign, "*Keep the Good times Afloat*" aired across our state to aid summer boaters.

In 1994, our division merged with the Kentucky Water Patrol. To mark the union, Charlie developed a series of ads entitled, "*Watertight Ideas from your Kentucky Water Patrol.*" This helped stir legislative waters to create the Kentucky Safe Boating Act of 1998. From here, education emphasis has been paramount.

While our Boater Ed Administrators have varied over the years, Baglan's creative commitment always remains firm. He is a leader who is keeping the safe boating message in front of the public, reaching all ages. From BUI, lifejacket attitudes, water recreation photography, billboard design, PWC safety, and catching the ear of others



who don't see themselves as 'boaters' such as duck hunters or anglers.

As the host of our agency's statewide *Kentucky Afield Radio* program, he routinely features stimulating conversations for national safe boating week, fishing, paddle sports, cold water immersion, off-season boating, marine sanitation, covering the boating gambit.

One survivor's story where a young waterfowl hunter lost his life entitled, "*Sportsmen on Winter Water,*" is must-hear radio journalism. Subsequently, a series of awareness-raising [radio announcements](#) were created and aired in key markets. Yes, winter promotion of water safety. We never did it until Charlie asked, "why not?"

Baglan speaks to boaters in the language they understand, tapping what boaters are already thinking. They often confuse knowing how to swim with not needing a lifejacket – a powerful barrier to overcome.

So, to resonate the point, he reached out to globally-renowned swimmers to deliver the message that they still wear PFDs when boating: A US Navy SEAL, Air Rescue Swimmers with the Navy and US Coast Guard, an Olympic Gold Medalist, a world championship swimming coach and a national top-ten junior swimmer.

This originated the "*Your life-jacket's got your back!*" (and the backing of the best swimmers everywhere) campaign. Baglan's effort was called, "the finest assemblage of spokespersons the industry has seen for boating safety," in [Small Craft Advisory magazine](#) in May/June 2012.

This and other advertising efforts by Charlie Baglan have earned top honors at the IB-WSS in 2012, 2013 and 2015. Plus ADDY award honors from the American Advertising

Federation and First Place with the National Association of Government Communicators.

His other concepts still in use today include: *The Coast Guard may be nowhere in sight when you go overboard. But if you wear a USCG-Approved lifejacket, we're closer than you think.* The idea of *Sailing in a Sewer* for marine sanitation. *Skipper- Don't Skip the Lifejackets, Lifejackets live up to their name every day and night.* *Boat Smart from the Start, Water and Alcohol don't mix,* *Ahoy Kentucky - Sober boating saves lives,* and *Water safety is a watertight idea.*

His list of contributions illustrates how irreplaceable this aspect of boater education is. The standard classroom information needs to be continually supported. Radio/Television PSAs, [webpage design](#), media buying and coordination, poster design, logo design, catchphrase development, in-depth radio interviews, and his inspiration to others in the same boat around the nation make him a valuable asset to the boating and law enforcement community.

While this reads as a lifetime achievement, this is simply what he brings to the mission every day. Kentucky is proud to nominate Charlie Baglan for NASBLA Boater Educator of the Year.

Morning fog from Pine Mountain



Sun setting over Letcher County



COLLARING BEARS FROM SUNUP TO SUNSET



"Black bear research trapping is once again ongoing on Pine Mountain along the Little Shepherd Trail. Our goal is to collar 8-10 new female bears for long term monitoring of cub production and survival. If you have ever been on top of Pine Mountain then you know it is a great place to be. If you have never been there, then you owe it to yourself to visit at least once. Chances are you may even see a bear!" — Wildlife biologist Jason Plaxico
Jason Plaxico photos

Knox County Cerulean Warbler habitat restoration planning underway

Planners made Kentucky history recently as Reforestation Coordinator of Green Forests Work Kylie Schmidt, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Farm Bill Biologist **Randall Alcorn**, and NRCS Natural Resources Planner Jeff Moore met to discuss and plan practices for reforestation of formerly mined lands with emphasis for cerulean warbler habitat establishment.

The team is currently working on two tracts of land in Knox County totaling 105 acres. The project, better known as the Cerulean Warbler Appalachian Forestland Enhancement Project, is one of 115 recipients of funds from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and will allow affiliates, including Green Forests Work, to partner with private landowners in the enhancement of 12,500 acres of forest habitat.

Approximately 1,000 acres of reclaimed mine lands also will be restored using American chestnut plantings. Green Forests Work (GFW) exists to re-establish healthy forests on formerly mined lands throughout the Appalachian Region.

The five-year project will be modeled after the NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife Program for Golden-winged Warblers using the recently released Cerulean Warbler Habitat Management Guidelines to direct conservation practice planning and implementation in delineated focal areas.

Conservation work will take place in the states of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, and Maryland. If you know landowners who might be interested or would like more information about the program, please contact Kylie Schmidt at 859-421-9222.

**RCPP Project: Cerulean Warbler
Appalachian Forestland Enhancement**



Left to right: Jeff Moore, Kylie Schmidt and Randall Alcorn

The Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV) was awarded Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Pro-

gram (RCPP) to enhance forestland in Appalachia for Cerulean Warbler habitat over the next five years.

Green Forest Work, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, and The American Chestnut Foundation are responsible for restoring 1,000 acres on formerly mined lands: 450 acres in KY, 300 acres in OH, 150 acres in PA, 75 acres in WV, and 25 acres in MD.

Millennium Park Pond gets fish stocking pipe



Fish and Wildlife crews from urban fisheries and the fish transportation section worked in cooperation with Danville-Boyle County Parks and Recreation and Boyle County Road Department to install a permanent fish stocking pipe at Millennium Park Pond.

The lake is part of the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) program and is stocked at least seven times annually with large "keeper-sized" catfish and trout.

During wet conditions, the pond was difficult to stock. A gravel base will be laid to allow access for the fish stocking trucks during wet weather.

The county road department used a backhoe to drive steel I-beams into the dam to secure the stocking pipe.



CANADA GOOSE ROUNDUP



Wildlife Division staff rounded up and banded more than 1,100 Canada geese last month across the state as part of its annual U.S. Fish and Wildlife agreement obligation. The banding and gathering of age and gender information helps provide harvest and bird movement information, which helps in setting hunting seasons. Pictured helping with the roundup at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery are wildlife biologists Wes Mattox, Scott Freidhof (and his daughter), and Nathan Gregory. *John Brunjes photos*

