



## Camp Webb hosts BOW event

**S**ixty-one participants were on hand at Camp Robert Webb last month for a weekend of Becoming an Outdoors Woman.

The women participated in a curriculum that included Hiking, Basic Rifles, Crossbow, Bowhunting, Bowfishing and Advanced Fishing classes.

Conservation Educator Joy Fitzgerald presented a Saturday evening drama skit about the legendary pioneer woman Jenny Wiley, who was taken captive and held hostage for several months by native Americans in 1789 before escaping to make a life in what is presently Johnson County.

BOW participants stayed in Camp Webb cabins, with some electing to put up hammocks and tents around the camp.

Those participating in the Basic Rifle

class learned to safely and accurately use a rimfire rifle. They discussed parts of a firearm, sight selection, shooting positions, finding a place to shoot, range rules, and shopping for a firearm. They shot at a variety of targets, including one of which that called for shooting through a quarter! Instructors were Lindsey Evans (FW), Jessie Nelson (FW) and Ellen Spieles.

A new class to BOW was Kayak Fishing. They used a kayak and fishing tackle on Grayson Lake and learned about necessary equipment to get started, techniques for casting, and managing their gear on the water. Instructors were Jean Marie Suggs, Danielle Dietz, and Andrew Wooldridge.

One of the most popular sessions was Brent McCarty's Cleaning and Process-

ing class. He also cooked some venison for the class, and participants took some deer meat home with them after the event.

Bolts Crossbow 101 class also was a top pick. Participants learned about the

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## Conservation Officer Eric Chambers

August 15, 1975 – October 8, 2017

**C**onservation Officer Eric Lee Chambers, 42, of Calhoun, died suddenly Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017, at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital.

Chambers joined the Department in December 1997 as a conservation officer and went to work in Daviess County. He served in the Second District throughout his career.

Chambers was born Aug. 15, 1975, in Owensboro to Wendell Lovell and Ina Maxine Avery Chambers. He married his soul mate of 17 years, the former Contessa Jewelline Ball, on Oct. 14, 2011. They have a son, Aiden, born in 2013.

He was a member of Kentucky Conservation Officers Association, a member of Fraternal Order of Police and also enjoyed hunting, fishing, flying and spending time with his family and friends. He loved to share his Christian faith with others.

Eric was preceded in death by his father, and a brother, Jason Lovell Chambers. He is survived by his wife and son, his mother, a brother, John Paul Chambers



of Livermore; and a sister, Marlene Heifner of Livermore.

The Eric Chambers family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form

of donations to Aiden Lovell Chambers, Educational Fund, c/o Muster Funeral Homes, P.O. Box 228, Livermore, KY 42352.

## WE GET MAIL

### *Letters to the Commissioner's Office*

**L**aw Enforcement Division Director Col. Rodney Coffey received this email from Deputy Eddie Barnes of the Powell County Sheriff Department:

I am contacting you in reference to Sgt. John Anderson, a Law Enforcement officer with the Ky. Fish and Wildlife. On September 29, 2017, I responded to an injury accident on Ky. Hwy 82 in Powell Co. Upon arrival, I found Sgt. Anderson, who was off duty, providing first aid treatment to a mother and her son. He was instru-

mental in keeping the mother and son calm, while providing treatment to them.

I just wanted you to know how much I appreciated the assistance he gave and the professionalism of Sgt. Anderson. So many time officers are not acknowledged on the good job they do. Please extend this THANK YOU to Sgt. Anderson and the Great job he did on scene.

The Department received this feedback via Facebook personal message

regarding help received by Conservation Officer Loren Clark in handling a sensitive situation. (The landowner who shared it wished to remain anonymous because of circumstances involved):

Thank you for response. The game warden that helped me today was top notch and professional; he handled my situation that turned very ugly quick. I can't express my gratitude to KDFWR and their wardens enough--thanks to you guys for being there when needed.

## Horn, Mullins graduate from DOCJT's APS course

**C**onservation Officer Sergeants Dustin Mullins and Scott Horn were among 22 law enforcement officers from agencies across the commonwealth recognized last month for completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision.

Mullins works in the Second District's Henderson County, and Horn is in the Fifth District assigned to Pendleton County.

APS, also called the sergeant's academy, is a three-week, 122-hour training program targeted for newly promoted sergeants or officers who are on their agency's promotion list to become sergeants.

While in APS, students participate in classes focusing on the role of a supervisor, leadership, resolving conflict, managing diversity, monitoring officer performance, professional image, legal issues for supervisors, ethics, interpersonal communication, effective written communication, making



decisions, solving problems, managing critical incidents, public speaking, emotional survival, media relations and others.

The graduating class is the 72nd to

complete APS since the program began in 2003.

Ashland Police Chief Todd Kelley served as guest speaker.

APS is a stepping-stone to DOCJT's Kentucky Leadership Institute, which consists of a series of three progressive leadership courses aimed at developing and shaping future and current leaders in law enforcement agencies across the commonwealth.

DOCJT is a state agency located on Eastern Kentucky University's campus. The agency is the first in the nation to be accredited under the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies' public safety training program designation.



## KNOTT SWORN IN AS COMMISSION MEMBER

Kenny L. Knott of Glasgow took the oath of office to become a member of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission representing the Fourth District. The wood procurement manager at Toy Anderson Lumber Company in Tompkinsville accepted the oath from Franklin Circuit Judge Thomas Wilhoite. He will represent Adair, Barren, Cumberland, Edmonson, Grayson, Green, Hardin, Hart, LaRue, Marion, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Taylor and Washington counties. His term runs through Aug. 13, 2021.

## KDFWR Fall Golf Scramble



The Engineering Division team of David Bruce, Michael Scott, Steve Carroll and Kevin Rexroat shot a score of 11

under par to take first place in the Annual KDFWR fall golf scramble October 6 at Juniper Hills Golf Course in Frankfort.

The team of Patrick Younts, Damon Foster, Geoff Webb, and Bill Hayden finished just one shot off the lead at -10 for a

### FINAL RESULTS

- 1st:** David Bruce, Michael Scott, Steve Carroll, Kevin Rexroat (-11)
- 2nd:** Patrick Younts, Damon Foster, Geoff Webb, Bill Hayden (-10)
- 3rd:** Tony Prichard, Steve Jackson, Mac Lang (-9)
- 4th:** Joseph Zimmerman, Ben Robinson, Dan Stoelb, Jim Barnard (-9)
- 5th:** Lee McClellan, John Williams, Keith Wethington, Joe McDermott (-8)
- 6th:** Jay Herralala, Dave Dreves, Don Bunnell, Dane Balsman (-6)
- 7th:** Rob Lewis, Tom Van Arsdall, Jessie Boles, Greg Johnson (-5)

solid second place finish.

Closest to the pin honors went to John Williams, Dave Dreves, Joseph Zimmerman and Lee McClellan on the four Par-3's.

A special thanks to Don Bunnell for cooking! We appreciate everyone participating and hope to see you next fall!



## HALLOWEEN READY

Asher Wells will not only be impersonating a conservation officer this Halloween, he will be impersonating his dad, Sixth District Conservation Officer assigned to Mercer County Jason Wells.



## FIRST DEER HUNT

Six-year-old Houston Davenport, grandson of Carrie and Bill Shipley, scored big on his first ever deer hunt during the youth deer hunt weekend this month. Houston sat in his dad's lap and mom joined them both in the hunting blind for the memorable moment. They were hunting on the family farm in Anderson County when he took the big eight-pointer.

## Angler's Legacy Appreciation Day at Pfeiffer

**I**nformation and Education and Fisheries Divisions personnel hosted 27 participants at the Pfeiffer Hatchery September 30th for a follow-up Angler's Legacy Appreciation Day fishing event.

Division staff invited attendees of a fishing event earlier this year back for a second opportunity to learn more and put their knowledge to use in the field.

Surveys indicate those who have interest in fishing are more likely to continue participating when initial interest is reinforced with additional training and opportunity.

The hatchery fishing setting provided the group the chance to catch many fish which helps increase their enthusiasm about the sport. Later, their day's catch became a fish fry meal.

Participants took the opportunity to try artificial baits and try different rod and reel setups. Several had never taken a catfish off the hook and were apprehensive. Yet, by day's end, all were comfortable removing fish from the hook.

Several participants also learned the importance of proper knot tying and how to set the drag – some the hard way. These are lessons talked about in class that some don't fully understand until they lose a big fish at the bank. Program leaders Easton Copley and Andrew Wooldridge note their thanks for our hatchery staff be-



ing such great partners in assisting with this type event.

Angler's Legacy Program is one tier of education programming dubbed R3, aimed at recruiting, retaining and reactivating adult anglers into our license-buying constituency.

I & E division has expanded efforts of what was formerly referred to as its Hunter Education Branch, to incorporate several other adult and youth-oriented outreach programs including Hunter's Legacy, Aquatic Education, Hunter Education, Becoming an Outdoors-Woman and Archery in the Schools.

## Kentucky Fur School

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) hosted its third Fur School in Frankfort during early October.

Twenty-one students including wildlife staff, law enforcement officers, and conservation educators attended the four-day school. Representatives from the Wisconsin Trappers Association, North American Fur Auctions, Kentucky Fur Takers, United Trappers of Kentucky, and KDFWR educated students on the ins and outs of trapping furbearers and pelt preparation.

They introduced students to several types of traps, learned how to safely set them, and then practiced setting a dirt hole set before hitting the field. Students spent the next two days in the field with seasoned trappers learning how to set traps for raccoon, muskrat, mink, coyote, fox, and bobcat.

Each student set and checked traps over the two-day period. They gave special attention to practicing ethics, safety, and avoidance of non-target species on the trap-line. Students then learned fur-handling practices, including how to properly skin a furbearer, remove excess fat and grease from the hide, and then stretch and dry the hide in preparation for tanning or sale on the fur market.

Students left the workshop with a new understanding of fur trapping and how to utilize trapping as a management tool to control furbearers. They also learned effective communication with the public about the benefits of trapping and how fur is used on the market.

Their newly acquired expertise will aid in providing technical guidance to landowners, enforcement, and allow them to easily talk with trappers about trapping.



*Kevin Kelly photo*



Dennis Brady demonstrates a muskrat set to students.

*Kevin Kelly photo*



Left: After a few days of drying, this muskrat hide will be ready to send to a tannery or sold to a fur buyer. Above: Students learning to skin and prepare muskrat hides for tanning. *Laura Palmer photo*



**Above:** A recently cut 1.5-acre group opening (patch cut) at Robinson Forest conducted for a study on the response of forest bats to timber harvest. An adjacent cut is visible in the upper right through uncut trees. Preliminary results suggest favorable conditions for bats (and other wildlife such as ruffed grouse!). **Right:** 7-year-old regeneration in a Two-Age timber harvest. Fast-growing yellow-poplar stems provide excellent young forest cover for ruffed grouse, songbirds, and big game. Scattered residual trees provide a hard mast food source (acorns, hickory nuts, beechnuts) and a seed source for future stand development. Interspersing cover with food in cuts like this can be very beneficial to forest wildlife!

## East Kentucky Wildlife staff attend forestry training

By Zak Danks

**T**wenty-four biologists, WMA foremen, and technicians from the Wildlife Division's Northeast and Southeast Regions, and the Big Game, Small Game, Farm Bill, and Grouse Programs attended a forestry training earlier this month at Robinson Forest near Clayhole.

The University of Kentucky professor Jeff Stringer, interim chair of Extension Professor of Hardwood Silviculture, and Matt Springer, Assistant Extension Professor of Wildlife Management, provided a great day and half of instruction on various aspects of forestry operations.

Impetus for the training stems from KDFWR's new Ruffed Grouse and Young Forest Plan, which calls for

increasing awareness of and educational opportunities for forestry as a habitat

management tool. This training focused heavily on silvicultural methods designed

to create early successional forest habitat and to foster oak regeneration in hardwood forests of the Cumberland Plateau.

In addition to classroom content, division staff viewed an active timber harvest operation conducted for research on habitat use of forest bats. Lectures and field tours prompted valuable discussion with Drs. Stringer and Springer and continuing education for veterans and newer hires alike.

A follow-up training is planned to further our capacity to produce better habitat for grouse, elk, songbirds, and other wildlife in the region.



Dr. Jeff Stringer, Chair and Professor in UK's Dept. of Forestry, explains timber harvest operations for a study at Robinson Forest in Breathitt County. Logs skidded to this landing are being loaded onto a bucksaw, cut to length, and stacked before being hauled to the mill.

## Clay WMA Fall Rx Burn

Leaves crunching under foot during a cool fall morning walk through the woods at Clay WMA brought notions of deer hunting or an early morning bird watching opportunity.

However, the yellow and green nomex clothing, hardhats, and purr of ATVs instead made this outing one for prescribed fire. Prescribed fire in the forest is a management tool biologist Jacob Stewart and foreman Brian Wagoner at Clay WMA have utilized successfully for many years.

The purpose of this fall burn was to encourage quality hardwood trees and decrease unwanted woody stems, such as autumn olive. Fire in these hardwood stands burns up leaf litter on the forest floor and, if done before the trees drop their seeds, creates good seed to soil contact for the falling mast.

They also allowed the fire to creep into some native warm-season grass fields, reducing the density of these sometimes dense stands and encouraging forb growth.



This 100-plus-acre burn was completed with regional and inter-department help. The Northeast Region, Fisheries Division, and the Kentucky Division of Forestry staffs assisted. Our newly appointed safety administrator, David Schweighardt, was present as well, observing the prescribed burn.

These types of burns in the forest often take more labor than open lands burning, such as in native warm-season grasses. This cooperation continues to be fruitful for both the helpers and managers initiating prescribed fire on their lands.

We hope to continue this cooperation in the future and look forward to the next fall burn at Clay WMA.





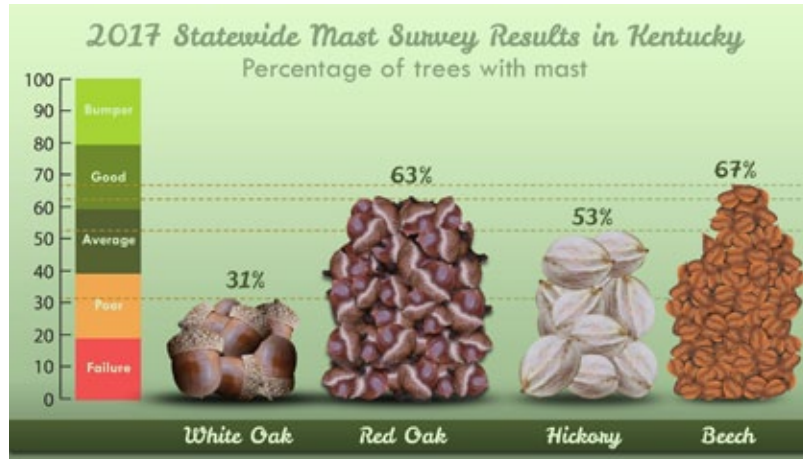
## 2017 Mast Survey is fair

Generally speaking, mast production in Kentucky was fair. Keep in mind, this is representative of the state as a whole and local production can be better or worse.

It appears to be a great year to target white oak and beech for hunting. Both are highly favored by wildlife. White oak is a little scarce, so those acorns should localize game. Beech is an irregular producer, so when you have it – hunt it!

If you are trying to grow new white oak, then this isn't the year to try to manage the leaf litter. If you are managing for red oak, though, this would have been a great year for a September burn.

Each August, Wildlife Division staff take afield to survey the state's mast crop (acorns, hickory nuts, and beech nuts).



Knowing the mast production provides insights for the upcoming hunting season, but gives biologists some key information that can affect wildlife production, survival, and behavior.

In years of poor mast production, be prepared for wildlife on the move. When food is scarce, wildlife are forced to search. That fosters improved hunting conditions,

but on the other hand, it causes nuisance issues to rise dramatically. This especially is the case in our black bear counties.

For critters that rely heavily on hard mast like squirrels or deer in eastern Kentucky, poor mast crops can hinder their overwinter survival and minimize reproduction the following the spring and summer. A great year of hunting can be promptly followed by a

poor year of hunting in that circumstance.

From a habitat perspective, knowing the mast production can drive forest management activity, particularly for oak. Extensive leaf litter minimizes acorn to soil contact. In good years, a manager trying to improve oak regeneration can deploy prescribed fire or mechanical raking to expose the soil to receive dropping acorns.

## Ballard County Waterfowl Festival

Kory Knight, Tony Black and Wes McFaddin set up a rocket net demonstration at the Ballard County Waterfowl festival last month.

This was the second year for the Waterfowl Festival featuring multiple booths including food vendors, hunt clubs, hunting supplies, local community clubs, taxidermy, and farm implements to name a few.

The festival also featured calling contests for ducks and geese, and the Department's Marketing Division and Information and Education Division were on hand with informational items, KDFWR



*Tony Black photo*

goodies and an indoor pellet rifle range for those completing hunter education training.

There was even an air dog event that had dogs jumping for the lead distance into a pool of water.



## SEOPA AT KENTUCKY LAKE

Fisheries Division staff were busy during the annual meeting of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association (SEOPA) who brought their 2017 conference to Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park. Fisheries staff first set some habitat just off the jetty near the park SEOPA members remembered award-winning outdoors writer and radio host Wade Bourne, a long-time SEOPA member who died last year. Later, the Fisheries team did some electro fishing sampling as the group looked on. They sampled several dozen bass, which had to humble the two anglers that fished the length of the jetty just moments earlier without success.



## SEOPA confronts communications challenges



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Marketing Division Director Brian Blank spoke to a room full of national outdoor writers last week in a breakout session during the 2017 annual meeting of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association (SEOPA). The group brought its annual conference to Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park. Blank's breakout session "Marketing through Social Media" addressed using digital and social media channels and challenged writers to make the best use of today's changing communication methods to better publish their works.



### “BOW,” continued

parts of a crossbow, how it functions, and things to look for when purchasing. Becky Wallen and Samantha Seaton were the instructors.

In the Bowhunting session, taught by Katie Fletcher and Seaton, they learned basics of bowhunting, tree stand safety, bow maintenance, and tried their hand at shooting 3D animal targets.

Instructors Geoff Roberts and Stefanie Wagner led participants on a fall nature hike through the wooded hiking trails along Grayson Lake. They emphasized

native trees and birds, but also discussed anything wildlife related that they encountered along the way.

Instructors Wallen, Evans and Seaton taught two classes of Patterning Perfection for shotguns. Participants gained knowledge and experiences with different types of actions, gauges, and shot sizes. They also learned how to safely, and skillfully, operate shotguns for shooting sports and hunting.



## BOATING SAFETY ENTHUSIASM

Conservation Educator Clay Brummal leads an enthusiastic group in learning more about boating safety at a recent Farm Day event held in the Union County area. Brummal and other conservation educators assist in numerous teaching environments during the year beyond school classes and summer camps.