



## Marshall County 3rd graders present Asian carp eradication strategies

The KDFWR CSI (Critical Species Investigations) branch partnered with teachers at Marshall County Central Elementary school to teach third graders about the threats of aquatic nuisance species and Asian carp.

KDFWR presented information to 88 third graders about the harm that aquatic nuisance species cause, and specifically how the Asian carp populations in Western Kentucky impact our local ecosystems.

After the short presentation at the school, the students joined KDFWR and USACE staff at the Barkley Dam railwaters to witness electrofishing and the ex-

ceptional density of Asian carp in the Cumberland River.

The students' homework was to come up with strategies for eradicating Asian carp from our waters and present them to a panel of judges.

On the day of reckoning, Marshall County third graders dressed in their Sunday best and stood in front of poster boards to present their ideas. The students showed compassion and insight as they recommended sending the invasive fish back to their native waters and suggested that harvested Asian carp be used to feed the poor.

Ideas included using sound, food

(plankton), poison (robot plankton equipped with toxic gas) and electricity to corral fish. Students suggested using mechanical sharks, trained armies of blue catfish, miniature submarines with nets and harpoons, large cranes, a mechanical hand constructed of glass for invisibility, and a mechanical rock equipped with suction to physically remove the fish.

Of course, each idea was specifically selective to Asian carp.

It's incredible what the untethered minds of children can conceive. Many of the ideas are currently in development; the others provide us with a priority list of ideas for the future.

INSIDE:



5 Catfish tourney



6 Youth hunt



7 Eagle Weekends

## WE GET MAIL

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

**S**haron G. Vance with the Double Eagle Chapter of the NWTF wrote, "For over 15 years now, our National Wild Turkey Federation – Double Eagle Chapter of Georgetown, KY has held an annual Jakes Day for kids. We would like to thank you and everyone responsible for allowing us to have it at the KDFWR Veterans Memorial Wildlife Management Area. It is a beautiful piece of property and a wonderful place for our outdoor youth event!"

We would like to give Special Thanks for Public Lands Biologist **Dave Frederick** and WMA Manager **Brandon Jacobs** who were very helpful with the planning process and accommodating our special needs. Also, we really appreciate all the hard work and nice job that WMA Technician **Eric Smith** did in preparing the site for us.

We ask that you please extend our many thanks to **Jeff Crosby** and **David Baker** with the Central Fisheries District and Law Enforcement Officers **Phillip Crane** and **Joshua Robinson** for being at our event. They did an outstanding job answering questions and sharing their wealth of knowledge and expertise with the kids and adults, too!

This year, we had 359 kids who participated and over 350 adults who attended. We greatly appreciate all of you for helping us to give kids this opportunity to experience and enjoy the Great Outdoors! Our special thanks for the fantastic work that you do for us every day and for future generations."

Dennis Johnson sent the following comments through our Info Center email. He wrote, "I would like to shout out a huge thank you to Conservation Officer **Thomas Blackwell** for taking time from his busy schedule to attend a meeting with concerned landowners in the Breckinridge Co. area over a piece of property that is

overrun with poachers. Mr. Blackwell listened to our concerns, took notes and names and he informed the landowners he would address all of our concerns. This is a big relief to us for we believe he will address our situations. Also I would like to

give a shout out to Wildlife Biologist **Joe Lacefield**. Mr. Lacefield joined our group Kentucky Whitetail Hunters on fb and we had a question and answer topic on whitetail deer, Joe would answer all of our questions and offered his help on our site.

## Message from the Commissioner



**N**ovember has always been one of my favorite months. As a sportsman, November is a natural. The start of rabbit season, deer rifle season, waterfowl season; need I say more? For our Department, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, it is also a busy month.

My mind turns to opening day of deer season, always the second Saturday in November. Not being an avid archery hunter, I really look forward to the November opener. What an opening weekend we had, with over 40,000 deer harvested on Saturday and Sunday. Deer hunting annually impacts Kentucky's economy by more

than \$400 million and accounts for nearly 4,000 jobs. In fact, the total economic impact of fishing, hunting, and related outdoor activities to Kentucky is around \$5.9 billion dollars annually. This means a lot of jobs generated, and the good ole dollar floating through the system helping a lot of businesses along the way. It is great that our Department can be a part of that type of economic picture.

With all that is going on, I am always amazed at how our Department employees and volunteers just seem to "get it done." Salato has busload after busload of school age children arriving daily to learn the adventures of our wildlife heritage. Many days, I walk back to Salato while the school kids are here to watch the energy, as they have so much fun learning about wildlife, fisheries, and the other wonders of nature. It always reenergizes my day. Not just Salato, but all branches of our Department seem to be extra busy this time of year.

As we near the end of the year I have one request to all our employees. Take some time during the upcoming Holiday season and dedicate it to family and friends and enjoying their fellowship. For our Department personnel, our work is our passion, but to keep ourselves energized, we should enjoy our time off and the time we can spend with family and friends.

Thanks for all that all of you do – and have a great Holiday season!!

– Greg Johnson

## Shaker Village wins NBCI Fire Bird Award

**K**DFWR Commissioner **Gregory K. Johnson** presented the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) Fire Bird Award to Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. From left are Ben Leffew and Don Pelly of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Johnson, and KDFWR Small Game Specialists **Ben Robinson** and **John Morgan**.

Currently, more than 1,000 acres of high quality bobwhite habitat has been established at Shaker Village and the quail have really responded. Shaker Village also hosted the national Coordinated Implementation Plan training for NBCI this past summer



with over 14 states represented.

Johnson made the Fire Bird Conservation Award presentation to Shaker Village on behalf of the National Bobwhite

Conservation Initiative and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. Congratulations to Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill! A great partnership!

## New hires and promotions

**O**n October 16th, the I&E Division welcomed **David Beck** as our new Carpenter II at Camp Earl Wallace. David is a licensed wastewater treatment plant operator, has over 900 hours electrical schooling, and is skilled with repair and maintenance of boat motors and small engines.

Prior to accepting this position, David worked for over ten years with the Department of Juvenile Justice at a residential facility for youth. We're pleased to welcome David to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and the Camp Wallace team.

Please help the Engineering Division congratulate **Richard Cook** on his new position as the Technician Supervisor for the Dam Maintenance Section.

Richard started with the Department in June of 2010 as a Fish and Wildlife Technician I. His knowledge in construction, heavy equipment experience, and possessing a Class A CDL allowed him to advance to a Fish and Wildlife Technician II.

He has excelled on many projects allowing him to gain the experience needed to obtain the Technician Supervisor position. Richard is originally from Bullitt County but has spent most of his life in Spencer County on a farm where he enjoys wildlife management and hunting. Richard is also an avid fisherman in his spare time.

**Easton Copley** started this month as a Conservation Educator in the Aquatic

Education Program. He is from Pendleton County where he worked for an outfitter and at the boat dock at Kincaid State Park. Easton graduated from ECU with a degree in Park and Recreation Administration, concentrating in Outdoor Recreation. He worked as an intern in the Hunter Education Program and as a seasonal employee in the Aquatic Education Program during the summer.

Easton likes to hunt deer and turkey and has been an avid fisherman since the age of seven and particularly likes bass fishing. In fact, Easton likes fishing so much that he skipped his college graduation for a fishing trip to Dale Hollow Lake. Easton now lives in Frankfort and works out of Headquarters.

## Roberts' Champion Chicken Chili scores again



### CHAMPION CHICKEN CHILI

Submitted by Lena Columbia

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 • 2 lbs. chicken tenders (chicken breast will also do)
- 2 • 3-4 cans Bush navy beans
- 1 • 2 pkts. Chili-O Mix
- (1-2) 1/2 • 1 sm. jar salsa
- (1-2) 1/2 • 1 sm. can RO\*TEL diced tomatoes with green chiles
- 1 1/2 • 3 cans Hunt's tomato sauce
- 1 1/2 • 2 cans Hunt's diced tomato
- Sour cream
- 1/2 • 1 pkg. shredded cheese

In a large electric cooker/roaster, layer raw chicken in bottom (do not cook or cut up) add Chili-O mix, navy beans, salsa, RO\*TEL, tomato sauce, and diced tomatoes. Cook on low all night. Serve hot, top with sour cream and shredded cheese. Easy to make and tastes great.

Tip: This recipe is a four-time chili cook-off winner at KHC.

325°F 3 hours  
in Dutch Oven

It was **John C. Roberts** of the KDFWR Information Technologies Section who claimed first place in the annual Kentucky Employees Charitable Contributions (KECC) Chili/Soup Cookoff earlier this month.

Humbled by the win, he offered his winning recipe for all, with a few additional tips.

"Thank you everyone! I'm still stuffed from all of the awesome chili, soups, sandwiches, and desserts.

I've attached the recipe for everyone. It is very simple. My alterations:

I double the salsa and RO\*TEL and cook this in a Dutch (French) Oven for 3 hours on 325 degrees (instead of the instructed crockpot – both methods are

great!)

Then shred the chicken by mashing it against the bottom while stirring.

I halve the recipe when only cooking for my family (wife and two small kids)."

There were seven entries in the good-natured competition that raised \$161.25 for KECC.



## Seeking causes

**K**entucky Conservation Officer **Jason Wells** examines a young white-tailed buck found dead on a Mercer County farm earlier this month. Wells was responding to a hunter's concern, but he found no obvious visible injury that may have led to the deer's death. Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) claims some deer every year in Kentucky, and there have been isolated and localized reports of deer mortality linked to the disease this year as well. Afflicted deer usually succumb near bodies of water.

Deer biologist **Gabe Jenkins** said other causes such as pneumonia, brain infection or internal injuries from fighting are likely causes as well. He urges anyone discovering dead deer, when no cause of death is obvious, to contact the Department at 1-800-258-1549 so that samples may be collected and tested.

## Big Rivers research witnesses record-setting day on the Ohio River

The 2015 Monsters on the Ohio Catfish Tournament was a record-breaking event, and the Big Rivers Research Branch was at English Park in Owensboro to take it all in.

A new tournament big fish record (blue catfish) came to the scales weighing in at 73 pounds, and the winning weight for the tournament was 127 pounds.

This year marked the first full year that new regulations on both recreational and commercial catfishing were in place on the Ohio River. In addition to their annual sampling to monitor the catfish populations and evaluate these new regulations, the Big Rivers Research Branch (with the help of CFD, NWFD, and WFD) attended catfish tournaments along the Ohio River to collect angler catch data.

Monsters on the Ohio was the culminating tournament for 2015. Tourna-



A sea of boats and spectators were at English Park in Owensboro, Kentucky for the 2015 Monsters on the Ohio Catfish Tournament.

ment director Aaron Wheatley did a phenomenal job of making everything come together and providing activities and excitement for all ages in attendance.

From archery ranges and duck calling contests to funnel cakes and BBQ, the tournament had it all covered, and it was topped off with an exceptional weigh-in.

With a record-setting 182 boats competing, it was the largest catfish tournament ever on the Ohio River.

The Big Rivers crew measured and weighed all 415 fish that came across the stage and saw 52 trophy catfish (blue and flathead catfish at least 35 inches and channel catfish at least 28 inches).



Left: Chance Hurley and Tournament Director Aaron Wheatley show off a Monsters on the Ohio record 73 pound blue catfish. Above, the Big Rivers Research Branch works up one of the many fish to come across the scales. *David Baker photos*



## Fifty-five youth participate in QDMA deer hunt

Dear Commissioner Johnson,

I wanted to take a moment to send you our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for their continued support of the KY QDMA Military Youth Hunt held October 8-11, 2015.

This year, our largest event to date, had 55 deserving military children participate at 4 separate deer camps across the state hosted by 5 of the 6 active QDMA Branches in Kentucky. Additionally, we were honored with a visit by the founder of QDMA, Mr. Joe Hamilton. See attached letter from Mr. Hamilton who specifically mentions your department.

These children, supervised by well over 100 volunteers, were able to harvest an event record 52 whitetail deer! It was an unbelievable weekend to say the least with many of these first deer for these children! The success of the Military Youth Hunt was in large part due to participation of many individuals in your department. These

folks, without asking, were involved in every aspect of the program from providing KD-FWR logo items for all the kids, providing expert instruction in whitetail deer anat-

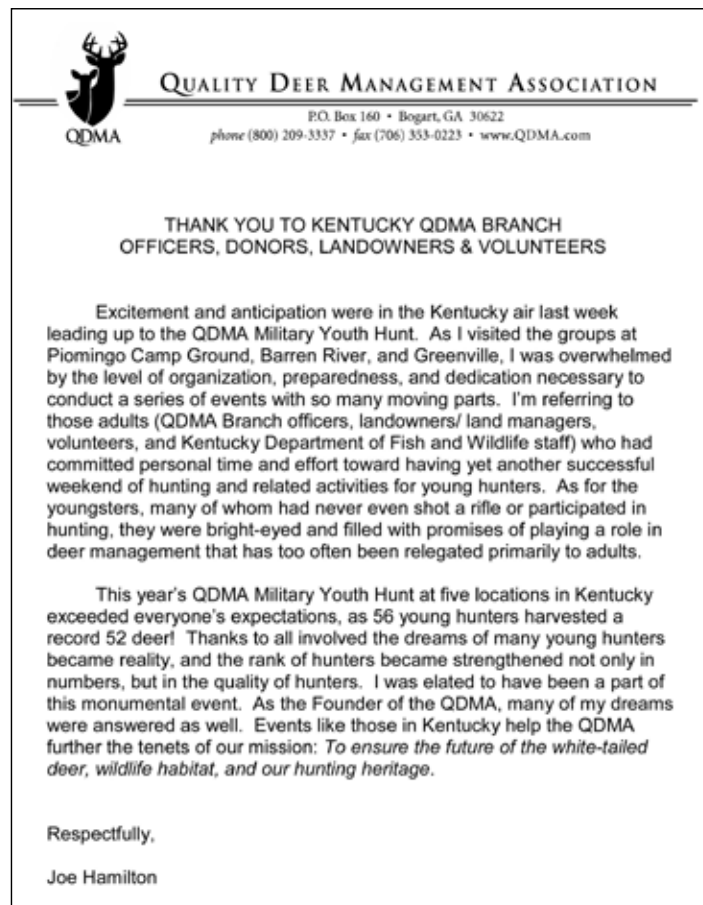
omy/biology and gun safety, assisting in the tracking and recovery of harvested deer, to providing firewood and equipment for collecting harvest data. And most importantly

just being there and interacting with our kids. In today's world where the media is quick to highlight law enforcement for the wrong reasons, your officers were there participating, interacting and showing these children that law enforcement officers are the good guys and are there to help keep us safe. The actions of your staff are commendable and sincerely appreciated!

Specific staff members were **Brian Blank, Charlie Logsdon and the Otter Creek Staff, Rodney Milburn, David Kuhn, Thomas Blackwell, Jeff Hall, Dan Wilson, Ed Mahurin, John Jackson and Kyle Sams.**

So again thank you for all you and your folks do supporting important events like this for the great state of Kentucky! Sincerely,

Joe Shreves  
KY QDMA Youth Hunt  
Coordinator



## Eagle Watch Weekends available at Kentucky State Parks

A unique Kentucky State Park tradition – Eagle Watch Weekends – will be offered once again in January and February 2016.

The park system will sponsor this wildlife-watching opportunity as bald eagles gather around the major lakes of western Kentucky looking for food. The park tours allow guests to observe and learn about these beautiful birds of prey.

For four decades, the Kentucky State Parks have offered Eagle Watch Weekends, a chance to view the eagles from land and water and learn about the national symbol and other wildlife.

The tours take place at three state resort parks during weekends in January and February, on an excursion yacht and by van. They are led by state park naturalists and staff from the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Again this year there will be two field trip cruises for students on Jan. 29 for \$15 a student. For reservations for the school cruises, which will leave from Kenlake State Resort Park, contact Lisa



Deavers at (502) 564-8110, ext. 246, or email [lisa.deavers@ky.gov](mailto:lisa.deavers@ky.gov). There will also be a luncheon cruise on Jan. 30 for \$65 a person. For reservations, call Kenlake at 1-800-325-0143.

Ticket prices for the weekend tours range from \$25 to \$50 a person. Most tours last from three to 3½ hours. The weekend tours include evening programs on Friday and Saturday.

The parks, phone numbers and dates for the 2016 Eagle Watch Weekends are:

**Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park** (1-800-325-0146): Jan. 9-10. Yacht

tours and van tours to the Ballard Wildlife Management Area.

**Lake Barkley State Resort Park** (1-800-325-1708): Jan. 23-24. Yacht tours and van tours to the Land Between The Lakes.

**Kenlake State Resort Park** (1-800-325-0143): Jan. 30 brunch cruise; Feb. 6-7. Yacht tours only.

Guests should bring warm clothes, rain gear and binoculars. These trips can take place under extreme weather conditions. The resorts offer lodges, cottages and

restaurants. Registration is required for the Eagle Watch Weekends. Call the parks for registration, details and fee information or visit [www.parks.ky.gov](http://www.parks.ky.gov).

The Eagle Watch Weekends at Kentucky Dam Village, Lake Barkley and Kenlake will include an option to view eagles from the CQ Princess, a 96-foot yacht. Guests can view eagles from inside the CQ Princess or from outside decks.

Any group or organization interested in a special cruise on the CQ Princess should call Tammy Nanney at Kenlake State Resort Park at 1-800-325-0143.



## OCTOBER SURPLUS SALE

The Department's annual "Last Monday in October" surplus sale auction attracted record interest this year. More than 700 potential bidders registered for a bid number and the chance to purchase department surplus and court-ordered forfeitures that included boats, trailers, heavy construction equipment, office equipment, firearms, and more. The sale grossed more than \$129,000. The spring surplus sale likely will happen again on the first Monday in May.