

July 2019

—VOL. 14 NO. 7—



Planting
Ballard
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Joe Omielan photo

State monarch meeting and pollinator stakeholders day held at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill

Two dozen stakeholders representing public and private entities met June 25 at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Harrodsburg for the Summer 2019 State Monarch Meeting and Pollinator Stakeholders Day.

The group received updates about recent projects related to the Kentucky Monarch Conservation and Pollinator Protection plans. This included several pollinator habitat projects funded through Kentucky Wild sponsorships.

The day included tours of prairie restoration plots at Shaker Village and discussions about burning and mowing

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Michaela Rogers photo

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ADVENTURE DAY CAMP

Conservation officers with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources along with Flemingsburg Police and Kentucky State Police assisted 16 Adventure Day Camp attendees with a fishing event July 18 at Flemingsburg Old Reservoir. Campers enjoyed a great morning of fishing but also a visit from a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife stocking truck, which stocked the reservoir with 1,100 catfish.

Fisheries Division new hires

The Fisheries Division recently filled four vacancies at our hatcheries in Frankfort and Morehead due to a retirement and resignations in the former Transportation Branch. Some current employees were promoted and it is a welcome back to a couple others. Please join us in congratulating and welcoming these staff in their new roles.

Kevan Lane has been promoted to the Fish and Wildlife Management Foreman coordinating fish hauling at Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery. Kevan has been a long-time Fish and Wildlife Technician both at the hatchery and for a time with the Northeast Fisheries District. Kevan resides in Wellington with his wife, Teresa,

and they have one adult daughter, Megan. He enjoys farming in his spare time.

Caleb Bentley has been promoted to the Fish and Wildlife Management Foreman coordinating fish hauling at Peter W. Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery. Caleb most recently had been working as an interim employee at the hatchery. Prior to that, he was a manager at a local Frankfort canoe livery. He also served six years in the Army National Guard. Caleb resides in Owenton with his wife, Emily, and son, Jack. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and being outdoors.

Elijah Thompson returns to the department as a Fish and Wildlife Technician I at Pfeiffer. Elijah was recently

honorably discharged from the U.S. Army after over four years of service, but he was also an interim employee for a few years at Taylorsville Lake WMA. Elijah resides in Frankfort with his wife and daughter. He currently serves in the Kentucky National Guard and enjoys the outdoors.

Keith Clifton returns to the department also as a Fish and Wildlife Technician I at Pfeiffer Hatchery. Keith most recently was teaching art at Owen County High School, but before that he worked for the Transportation Branch hauling fish for three years. Keith resides in Owenton with fiancé, Taylor, and children, Sawyer and Aurora. He enjoys paddling and spending time with family.



Save the date for the Kentucky State Fair

Come visit the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at the Kentucky State Fair to check out the new look and added attractions. The department's booth will be in the South Wing on Main Street. As always, you will be able to purchase your hunting and fishing license, test your shooting skills at the Crosman air rifle range, complete the range day portion of your hunter education certification; view replicas of Kentucky fish. Also, you can help keep Kentucky wild by joining Kentucky Wild. We'll have special offers on Kentucky Wild gear (New hats, t-shirts, and bandanas, while supplies last) for joining during the Kentucky State Fair.

New and fun attractions to check out:

- Aug. 16: The Deener Show (live), 7-10 a.m and 3-5 p.m.
- August 17: Kentucky Wild Day - Learn about Kentucky's role in monarch butterfly conservation and how YOU can help! There will be giveaways and several opportunities to meet department biologists working daily with vulnerable wildlife facing threats in our state. Presentation times - 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.

- August 22: Salato Day - Featuring live wildlife from the Salato Wildlife Education Center. Presentation time - noon to 3 p.m.
- August 22: Meet and greet Chad Miles, host of Kentucky Afield TV, and the rest of the Kentucky Afield crew, 4-7 p.m.

EVERY DAY

- Bear Aware - New bear display and fun selfie opportunities.
- Learn how fire is used to manage native grasslands across the state. Prescribed

Kentucky State Fair at the Kentucky Expo Center

August 15-25, 2019

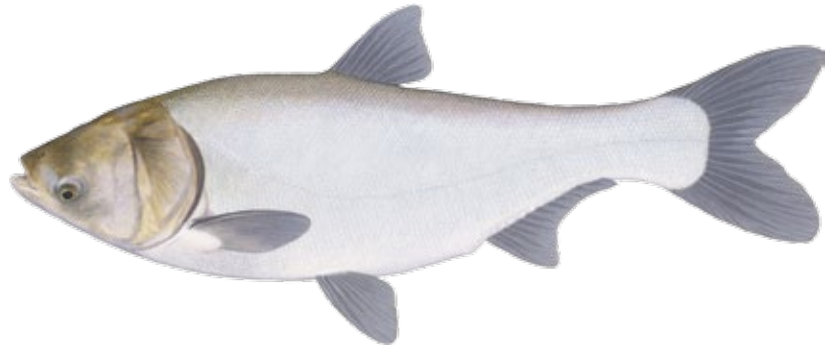
<https://kystatefair.org/>

fire truck on display, video and demonstration of fire gear

- Boating education video and information
- Enter Fishing "Mentor to Win" Contest - \$1,000 Kayak prize package.



Grant-funded project targets Asian carp removal in Ohio River



Commercial fishing for Asian carp has been instrumental in the removal of large numbers of Asian carp from Kentucky waterways, and while Asian carp in Lake Barkley receive the greatest harvest pressure, the invasive fish are threatening to become established in more of the Ohio River basin.

Large numbers of Asian carp have been documented as far upstream in the Ohio River as McAlpine Lock and Dam in Louisville.

In an effort to reduce Asian carp numbers on this leading edge, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Indiana Department of Natural Resources are working together on a grant-funded project that funds commercial contract fishing to remove Asian carp.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife contracts with these commercial anglers to target Asian carp in the Newburgh and Canelton pools of the Ohio River below McAlpine Lock and Dam.

The effort reaffirms Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's ongoing commitment to reduce Asian carp.

Although department staff conduct removal efforts for Asian carp, the vast majority of Asian carp removal in Kentucky is through commercial harvest.

In 2018, commercial fishermen harvested more than 2.5-million pounds of Asian carp in Kentucky. In 2019, commercial fishermen have already harvested over 2.2 million pounds of Asian carp in

Kentucky, and most of those have been taken from Kentucky and Barkley lakes.

This increase in harvest is partially due to the opening of the Kentucky Fish Center in January.

The Kentucky Fish Center is a partnership with the state of Kentucky; created to help stabilize the Asian carp market in Kentucky and provide a guaranteed place for fishermen to sell their catch. Fish purchased by the Kentucky Fish Center are sold online via a bid auction system.

Since opening, the Kentucky Fish Center has facilitated the harvest and sale of over 1.8 million pounds of Asian carp, most of which have come from Kentucky waters.

Kentucky conservation officer arrests federal fugitive

Acting on a tip, a Kentucky conservation officer found and arrested a federal fugitive earlier this month at a wildlife management area in south central Kentucky.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Conservation Officer Cody Berry arrested 41-year-old Jeffery Pratt, of Lexington, on July 13 at Green River Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Taylor County.

U.S. Marshals and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) sought Pratt on a federal probation warrant for bank robbery and state probation and parole violations.

Berry received a tip that Pratt had been seen near the Wilson Creek section

of the WMA. Following up on the tip, Berry visited the area and saw a man who matched Pratt's description. Pratt fled into a wooded area but was quickly arrested. The Taylor County Sheriff's Department assisted in the effort.

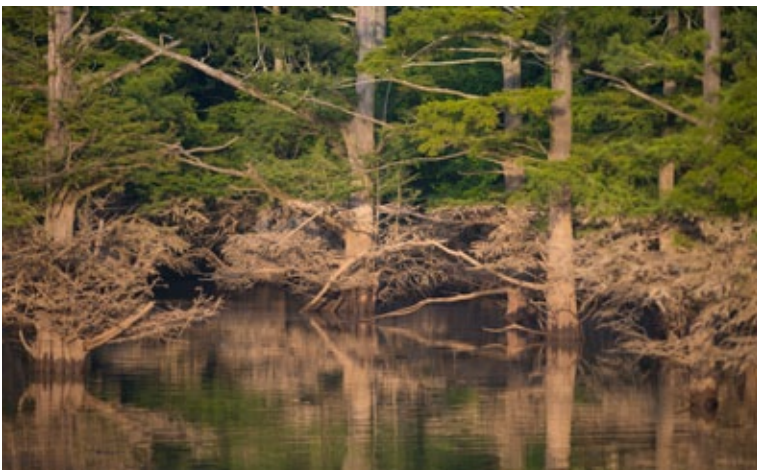
Pratt was taken to the Taylor County Detention Center. He faces multiple additional charges, including fleeing or evading police, resisting arrest, possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia and possessing a prescribed controlled substance in an improper container.

"Green River Lake WMA and all WMAs are routinely patrolled by conservation officers in an effort to keep them family friendly," said Col. Eric Gibson,

Law Enforcement Division director for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "Officer Berry's actions helped keep Green River Lake WMA a safe place to recreate."

Kentucky's conservation officers are sworn law enforcement officers with a primary mission focus on hunting, fishing and boating enforcement. In their everyday role, Conservation officers ensure compliance with hunting and fishing laws and ensure that the state's waterways and wildlife management areas are safe places for all to enjoy by utilizing a two-pronged approach consisting of education and enforcement.

To report suspected illegal activity, call 1-800-25-ALERT or contact the nearest Kentucky State Police post.



CATCHING UP AT BALLARD WMA

With all of the high water this year, much of Ballard Wildlife Management Area was under water from January through early July. Area staff has been working hard to get areas planted that are finally dry enough to plant. As new areas dry up, faster maturing crops will be planted to provide foods for wintering waterfowl. *John Brunjes photos*





John Brunjes photos



Canada geese banded across Kentucky

By John Brunjes,
Migratory Bird
Program Coordinator

Each summer, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources bands Canada geese at various locations around the state as part of a Mississippi Flyway program to monitor the impact of harvest on this important game species. Thousands of Canada geese are banded across the flyway, and the effort gives biologist the ability to monitor harvest rates to ensure management objectives of both the state and the Mississippi Flyway are met.

This summer, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife banded 1,033 new geese and recaptured 228 that had been banded in previous years.

The banding occurs when the geese are flightless and can be rounded up easily.



Above: Wildlife biologist Wes Mattox bands geese at Cave Run Lake. Left: Kierra Davis holds a couple of geese waiting for banding.



Geese, unlike most other birds, molt their flight feathers simultaneously, leaving them flightless for about three weeks while new feathers grow in. For Kentucky, this occurs in late June and early July. The department travels across the Commonwealth during this period capturing and banding geese.

In addition to information on harvest, banding helps biologists understand the movements of this species. While most people think our Canada geese are resident birds and never go anywhere, banding tells us this is not completely the case. Each year, up to 15 percent of the population will undertake a "molt migration" and go to Hudson and James bays in Canada to molt and spend the summer. Those birds will eventually return to Kentucky the following autumn.



Eric Smith and his daughter Sameena get ready to release a banded goose.

Kentucky Wild anniversary

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources unveiled a new program in June 2018 to energize those who are passionate about Kentucky outdoors and wildlife but do not necessarily hunt or fish.

In its first year, Kentucky Wild grew to 1,352 members from 31 states. Many of those members have created memories in the field and on the water through first-person and hands-on experiences with department biologists.

Support through memberships and corporate sponsors East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Country Boy Brewing, Jericho Woods and Columbia Gas of Kentucky have helped pay for field supplies, lab equipment and new habitat improvement projects.

Specifically, proceeds have gone to purchase:

- Mist nets and mist net poles
- Prescribed fire protective gear
- Nest cavity camera
- Climbing harness and climbing gear
- DSLR camera
- Kayak
- Vehicle transport racks
- Crayfish traps
- New centrifuge and water chiller for

Center for Mollusk Conservation

- Pollinator seeds
- Battery for electrofish pack

Support of Kentucky Wild by members and sponsors assists vulnerable wildlife facing threats across Kentucky.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife monitors nearly 900 species. Many, such as songbirds, bats, lizards, salamanders, raptors and freshwater mussels, go largely unnoticed and a growing number of threats, including invasive species, city growth, demands on limited water supplies and competition for places to live.

Kentucky Wild helps raise awareness by engaging and facilitating more interaction with the estimated 1.3 million wildlife watchers in the state, who are conscious and committed to preserving Kentucky's natural heritage, wildlife and wild places.

For more information about Kentucky Wild, or to become a member, visit its online home at fw.ky.gov/kywild. One-year



memberships start at \$25.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife will host Kentucky Wild Day on Aug. 17 at its Kentucky State Fair booth. Kentucky Wild promotions will be offered throughout the fair, which runs Aug. 15-25.

Can't make it to the fair? Special promotions for signing up as a Kentucky Wild member are planned Aug. 16-17 and Sept. 7 at the Salato Wildlife Education Center located on Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's campus at 1 Sportsman's Lane in Frankfort.

High school team challenge draws larger field

Hart County's trapshooting team won the High School Team Challenge held July 6 at Miller Welch-Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area as part of the 116th Kentucky State Trap Shoot.

The event was open to all Kentucky high schools and held in conjunction with the 200 singles event. Teams could consist of five shooters, representing the same Kentucky high school. High schools could enter more than one team, but could not combine students from multiple schools.

Twenty-three high school teams representing seven Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Districts competed in the challenge.

Hart County and Green County tied for first place, but Hart County won on a tiebreaker. McCracken County finished third.

Individual top honors went to Green County's Brice Matney and Jessamine County's Hannah Ironmonger. Matney and Meade County's Nick Mercer each shot

199 out of 200. Matney won the tiebreaker. Ironmonger broke a score of 194 out of 200.

"It's great to see the growth of this tournament, going from 79 shooters last year to 136 this year. Meade County alone brought four teams this year, up from five shooters a year ago," said Kenny Knott, 4th District representative on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission. "We hope to continue down this path, working together, and look forward to the day when we have representation from all districts participating."

Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame to honor Owen County marksman

The Louisville Sports Commission will induct Willis Lee and five others into the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame in a ceremony scheduled Aug. 19 in Louisville.

An Owen County native, Lee earned seven medals at the 1920 Olympics as a member of the USA Rifle Team, then went on to a distinguished military career as a vice admiral and war hero in the U.S. Navy.

At the age of 19 in 1907, he became the only American ever to win both the U.S. National High Power Rifle and Pistol championships in the same year, and in 1920 in Paris, Willis won five Olympic gold, one silver and one bronze - a record

for total medals in a single Olympic Games that stood until 1980. His medal count: small-bore rifle, standing at 50 meters (gold); free rifle, three positions at 300 meters (gold); military rifle, prone at 300 meters (gold); military rifle, prone at 600 meters (gold); military rifle, prone at 300 meters and 600 meters (gold); military rifle, standing at 300 meters (silver); and running target, single shot (bronze). In February 1942, Rear Admiral Lee was assigned to the Pacific Theatre and led a task force of American battleships to victory over a larger Japanese force near Guadalcanal that helped turn the tide of war. He

earned the Navy Cross, the second highest honor awarded by the Navy for extraordinary heroism.

Also chosen for induction as part of the 42nd Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame Class are Derek Anderson, Deion Branch, William Exum, Ralph Hacker and Nate Northington.

The selection committee is comprised of 16 sports media from across Kentucky and a committee of current members of the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will be held at the Galt House in Louisville. More information is available online at louisvillesports.org.



CAMP WEBB VISIT



Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commissioner Rich Storm visited Camp Robert C. Webb with Wildlife Division assistant director Ben Robinson on July 17. While there, Storm visited with campers (top left). He and Robinson also visited with state Sen. Robin Webb (left) and Conservation Educator Andrew Whittle. Camp Webb, located on Grayson Lake outside of Grayson, opened in 1969.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission awards special commission permits

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission has awarded special commission permits for the 2019-20 seasons to qualifying nonprofit wildlife conservation organizations.

Recipients must use these special permits to raise funds for projects that enhance fish and wildlife, habitats, education efforts, or related recreation in Kentucky.

By state regulation, the commission may award a maximum of 10 special permits for deer, turkey, elk and waterfowl, respectively, to qualifying organizations, which may receive up to one permit each, per year. Nonprofit wildlife organizations may apply for the special permits by May 1 each year. The commission reviews applications and its members vote at their quarterly public meeting in June.

The special commission permits awarded for the 2019-2020 seasons were as follows:

2020 Elk:

- Kentucky Houndsmen Foundation for Sportsmen's Rights, Inc.
- Kentucky Trapshooters League
- League of Kentucky Sportsmen, Inc.
- Northern Kentucky Quail Forever
- Quality Deer Management Association (National Office)
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation

2019/2020 Deer:

- Appalachian Outdoorsmen Association, Inc.
- Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Kentucky Houndsmen Foundation for

- Sportmen's Rights, Inc.
- Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry, Inc.
- Kentucky Trapshooters League
- League of Kentucky Sportsmen, Inc.
- Quality Deer Management Association (National Office)
- Scholastic Archery Association – Kentucky Division
- The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky
- Ruffed Grouse Society – Tri-State Drumming Feathers Chapter (WV, KY, OH)

2020 Spring Turkey:

- Appalachian Outdoorsmen Association, Inc.
- Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry, Inc.
- Ruffed Grouse Society – Kentucky River Chapter
- Kentucky Trapshooters League
- League of Kentucky Sportsmen, Inc.
- Quality Deer Management Association (National Office)
- Scholastic Archery Association – Kentucky Division
- The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky
- Ruffed Grouse Society – Tri-State Drumming Feathers Chapter (WV, KY, OH)

2019/2020 Waterfowl:

- Appalachian Outdoorsmen Association, Inc.
- Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry, Inc.
- Ruffed Grouse Society – Kentucky River Chapter
- Kentucky Trapshooters League

- League of Kentucky Sportsmen, Inc.
- Ruffed Grouse Society – Tri-State Drumming Feathers Chapter (WV, KY, OH)
- Scholastic Archery Association – Kentucky Division
- The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky
- National Wild Turkey Federation – Kentucky River Longbeards Chapter

Commission members cast votes to award special commission permits at their most recent quarterly public meeting in June, which resulted in ties for three special permits. Because the commission adjourned its June meeting before votes were tallied, a special called meeting was subsequently held on July 12 to cast tie-breaking votes.

More information about special commission permits, including how qualifying nonprofits may apply, is available on the department website at fw.ky.gov.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission is a nine-member board, comprised of volunteers who serve four-year terms after being nominated by active hunters and anglers, appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the Kentucky senate. The commission meets quarterly to recommend hunting, fishing and boating regulations on behalf of the sportsmen and sportswomen of the Commonwealth. It also approves department research projects and awards the special commission permits. Commission meetings are open for the public, and video recordings and approved minutes are published thereafter on the department's website.

“Monarch,” continued

strategies for enhancing pollinator habitat. Attendees also had the opportunity to study monarchs for the protozoan parasite OE (*Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*) to contribute to Project Monarch Health's national study. Breaking into working groups for the afternoon portion of the meeting, attendees exchanged ideas and identified priority challenges to work towards as part of the Kentucky Monarch Conservation Plan.

Before concluding for the day, the group visited E.W. Brown Generating Station to tour the solar facility, learn about current grounds maintenance and discuss the potential implementation of pollinator plants throughout the array.

The group plans to meet again this fall to keep momentum going on the initiatives of both plans.



Michaela Rogers photo



Joe Omielan photos

