



Solar  
eclipse  
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## EHD reported in some Kentucky deer

**E**pizootic Hemorrhagic Disease has been reported in white-tailed deer in more than 30 counties with a concentration in several east Kentucky counties. The Department received confirmation from the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study of a Kentucky deer with a strain of the disease.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife first began receiving reports of stricken deer in mid-July.

“Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease is not transmittable to people or pets,” Dr. Iga Stasiak, state wildlife veterinarian for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. “However, we always recommend that hunters avoid eating venison from deer that were obviously sick.”

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is a viral disease transmitted to deer through the bite of a midge or gnat. The disease has been present in the United States for more than 60 years. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife receives and confirms EHD deer mortalities sporadically, with a small number of mortalities each year. Larger outbreaks tend occur every 5-7 years. Outbreaks cease at the first frost, which kills the biting bugs.

Gabe Jenkins, big game coordinator



for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, said small outbreaks of EHD also have been reported in the mountainous areas of Tennessee, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia. Reports to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife of suspected cases are growing.

People can now go online to report suspected cases of the disease. Anyone who finds a sick deer or a deer they suspect may have died from EHD is encouraged to report the finding to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The department staffs a toll-free number weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern). The number is 1-800-858-1549.

“We’ve created an easy-to-use online survey that allows people to notify the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife of dead or dying deer no matter what time of day,” said Gabe Jenkins, big game coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. “We’ll use this information to create up-to-date maps so the public can see the extent of the disease’s spread.”

The digital form is available at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) under the “Important Info” tab. It only takes a few minutes to complete.

“We’re monitoring this situation closely,” Jenkins said. “If we receive little rain between now and the first frost, the numbers could increase because deer are drawn to water. Midges breed along mud banks, so drought would concentrate

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## WE GET MAIL

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

**T**his from Rashell Smith: "... Also a big thank you to you and your staff at Camp Wallace. Braydon had a fantastic time. This kid normally won't go outside, he usually wants to play video games all day. You all making the effort to come to his school once a month and raise his interest in something to do with the outdoors is greatly appreciated. I'm sure at times it's beyond what you all feel you can handle, but you made my child's summer, and it truly means more than you all will know. Thanks again."

This received from Ms. Amy May, KY WOTM State Chairman:  
Mr. Jason McDowell,

On behalf of the Shelbyville Loyal Order of the Moose, I would like to thank

you again for making our Kids' Fishing Tournament such a great success! We are so appreciative of the time and expert instruction that you provided our kids. Please relay our gratitude to the Kentucky

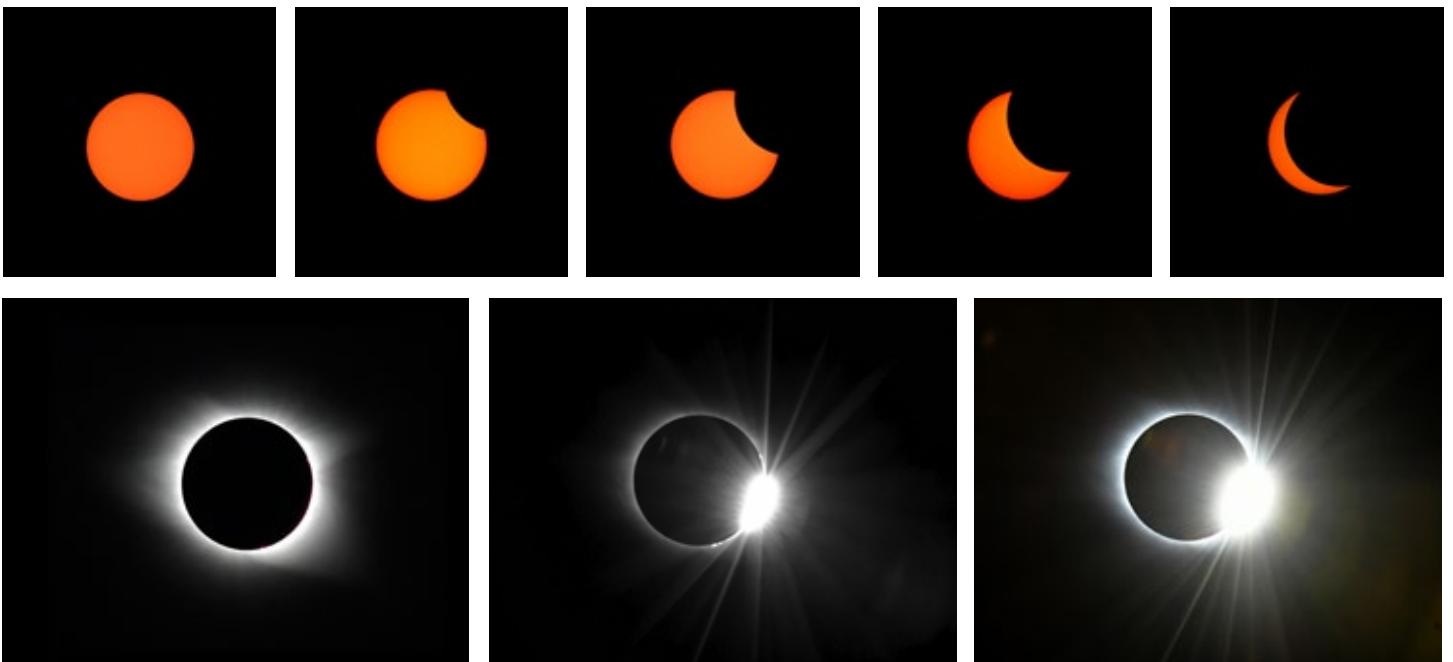
Fish and Wildlife Department for their generosity.

We are confident that these events will encourage a lifelong love of fishing. All the best.



## CONSERVATION CITIZENSHIP

Lt. Andrew Suit from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife met with our campers at the Old City Park Walking Trail in Flemingsburg last month during the Chamber of Commerce's summer camp program for youth. Andrew explained environment, conservation, and job opportunities in his field to our kids. Most importantly, he explained the importance of being a good citizen and helping take care of the environment even when you weren't the one who created a problem/mess. The Chamber was appreciative and thanked Lieutenant Suit for "sharing his knowledge and time with our kids!"



## TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Kentucky Afield Radio Host Charlie Baglan took this progression of photos from Hopkinsville on August 21. Western Kentucky had a front row seat for the first total solar eclipse to cross the United States from coast to coast in 99 years.

## Tim Slone retires

**I**nformation and Education Division Director Tim Slone racked up 33 years with our agency before retiring August 1.

Slone served as a biologist in Fisheries Division and later in Wildlife Division, before moving to I & E where “he did his best work for the past 14 years as Division Director,” says Assistant Director Norm Minch. “This gave him a unique and in-depth knowledge of how the KDFWR has advanced over the past 3 decades.”

He helped shape many of the major division programs as they are today, and had particular interest in advancing our outreach through Kentucky Afield television, the Archery in the Schools Program, and Summer



Conservation Camp Program.

Tim is looking forward to getting some hours on his boat, bike riding, and running a few rounds through a new .410

over-and-under he received as a retirement gift on the dove field -- he says, is in order.

Tim has been an example of not just a good leader of the I & E Division over the years, but has worked hard for the sportsmen and women of this state improving their resources and opportunities. They have gotten their money’s worth from his service, and we have gotten ours from his insight, comic relief at times, passion for conservation and outdoor recreation – but more critically – his friendship.

We thank Tim for that leadership, and we cherish his friendship. We wish him well in whatever endeavor he chooses from here on.

Congratulations Tim. And – thanks.

## Captain James Heady retires

**L**aw Enforcement Second District Captain James E. Heady retired July 31.

Heady started his career with the Commonwealth as a Kentucky Forest Ranger, and finished his career as a District Commander for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Heady was promoted to Sergeant in 2009, Lieutenant in 2010, District Commander in 2011, and Captain in 2015.

In 2008, Heady was invited to be the guest speaker at the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Triploid Grass Carp Inspection and Certification Program conference held in St. Louis Missouri. At the time, Heady had the only successfully



prosecuted Triploid/Diploid Grass Carp case in the Nation.

In 2010, Heady graduated from the Southern Police Institute (SPI), 124th Administrative Officers Course at the University of Louisville. In 2014, he graduated from the 16th Criminal Justice Executive Development (CJED) Program of the

Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training at Eastern Kentucky University.

Heady also holds a double major from Western Kentucky University with Bachelor of Science Degrees in Biology and Parks & Recreation.

While at the Kentucky Department

of Criminal Justice police academy, Heady was recognized for being the Class 280 Adjutant Officer and also received the Coordinators 110% Award. At the District level, Heady was the past recipient of numerous awards, including Boating Officer of the Year, Conservation Officer of the Year, Shikar Safari Officer of the Year, National Wild Turkey Officer of the Year, and the United Bowhunters of Kentucky Officer of the Year.

At the state level, Heady was the past recipient of the 2002 Kentucky Shikar Safari Officer of the Year, 2009 Kentucky Conservation Officer of the Year, 2010 Kentucky National Wild Turkey Officer of the Year, and two time Kentucky Colonel.

Heady has always projected a positive attitude, went the extra mile, and strived for perfection.

## Fisheries Division retirements



### Mike McCormack

Mike spent his entire 31-year career working in the Southwestern Fishery District. Mike began in 1986 as a grant-funded time-limited technician.

That position was eventually converted to merit status and Mike continued to provide his technical expertise to the district until his retirement last month. Mike's knowledge and work ethic will be missed.

Mike's retirement plans include spending time turning a wrench somewhere as well as enjoying his grandkids.



### John Williams

John Williams began his 32-year career with the Department as a seasonal Wildlife Technician trapping grouse. John then moved into the fisheries field and worked as a creel clerk on both Green River Lake and Lake Cumberland.

Following his tenure as a creel clerk, John worked as a technician on the Ohio River Fisheries Research crew, before joining the Southeastern Fishery District as the Assistant Fisheries Biologist.

John spent the rest of his career in the Southeastern District and ultimately coordinated all fisheries management efforts in that region. John plans to spend time on the water and on his motorcycle while enjoying his retirement.



### Larry Watts

Larry Watts retired July 31st after serving 8 years with the Forks of Elkhorn Fish Transportation Section.

Larry started with the Department in 2009 as Fish and Wildlife Technician I. He was promoted several times and finished his career as Fish and Wildlife Technician III.

Larry helped with stocking some of Kentucky's state record fish, as well as helping restore lake sturgeon and alligator gar back to the state.

Larry plans to enjoy his retirement fishing and working with Shelby County High School bass fishing team.

We wish Larry, John, and Mike the best of luck in their retirement!

## Bill Balda retires after 28 years

**H**unter Education supervisor Bill Balda retired July 31 after nearly 28 years' service.

Bill started his career with the Department as a wildlife Biologist in Murray in August of 1989. He later moved to headquarters and worked in the Central Wildlife Region.

During his time in the central region, he was part of the team who worked to restore the Peregrine Falcon.

In 2005, he transferred to the Information and Education Division and headed up the Department's hunter education program, aquatic education program, and the National Archery in the Schools Program.

Bill plans to remain in Franklin County after retirement where his first order of business is to remove his alarm clock.



## Dave Ross and Dennis Boggs retire

**T**he Northeast Region lost a lot of know-how and history on July 31st.

Dave Ross and Dennis Boggs combined for more than 60 years of experience and stories, some of which will remain in the vault.

As Foremen on Grayson and Yatesville WMAs, they always were willing to assist anyone on any task. They have been a part of many restoration efforts along with creating quality habitat for all species on multiple WMAs.

Sportsmen and sportswomen have enjoyed many great experiences afield due to the work they have done over their career.

We wish them a great retirement as they have certainly earned it!



# KENTUCKY STATE FAIR

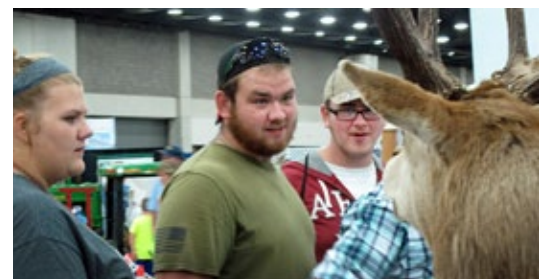


## KDFWR's activities attract thousands to booth

Hundreds of chats about hunting and fishing, listening to wildlife stories, selling licenses, interactive air gun and laser shot shooting, handling the snakes, spinning the prize wheel, visiting with WHAS Radio's Terry Meiners, and much more kept Department staff busy at the 2017 Kentucky State Fair.



Trying to stare down the Department's full-body mount bull elk seemed a popular quest



## National Hunting and Fishing Day draws 1,300 visitors to Salato

When the Salato Wildlife Education Center held its annual National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration on Saturday, August 12, 1,300 visitors had the opportunity to learn various ways that they could become actively engaged in outdoor recreation.

Hands-on instruction, engaging demonstrations, and tutorials ensured that the event had a little something for any outdoors enthusiast.

“Salato’s celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day is not only a favorite amongst our visitors, but the staff as well,” said Emily Hogue, the center’s education supervisor. “We have the unique ability to increase awareness of hunting, fishing, and shooting sports by creating a safe, fun environment for people to give them a try.”

The event features air rifles, 3D archery, archery trap shooting, casting, and fishing and is arguably the agency’s most



mission-related event held on the Fish and Wildlife campus each year.

“Not only do we create awareness about hunting and fishing, but we are able to educate visitors about the role hunters and anglers play in conservation as well,” said Hogue.

The event also featured a field dressing tutorial, retriever dog demonstration, and a presentation on the role of the agency’s Law Enforcement division, complete with an official truck and boat (blue lights and all).



The Salato staff are grateful to the many other agency employees who helped to put on the event and ensure its success.



## ELKHORN CREEK TOP SPOT FOR CANOEING AND KAYAKING

“Kentucky Living” Magazine named Elkhorn Creek as its top 2017 Canoe/Kayaking spot in the Commonwealth. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Gregory K. Johnson and Third District Fish and Wildlife Commission Member Rusty Gailor were on hand to accept the award from former Miss America and Miss Kentucky Heather French Henry last week at the Kentucky State Fair.

## Pigman, Howard, Neal and King graduate DOCJT's Academy of Police Supervision

Kentucky Conservation officer Sergeants Homer Pigman, Robert Howard, Travis Neal and Christopher King joined law enforcement officers from agencies across the commonwealth in completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision in June and July.

Pigman and Howard completed APS Class No. 69 in June. Neal and King followed in July in Class No. 70.

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.

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.



Above: Sgt. Robert Howard and Sgt. Homer Pigman. Below: Sgt. Travis Neal and Sgt. Chris King.



## MISS KENTUCKY VISITS CAMP CURRIE



Conservation Educator and Camp Currie Counselor Bryant Carlton is known to most around camp and the agency simply as "Big Country." But it was his family's connection to newly-named 2017 "Miss Kentucky" Molly Matney from Metcalfe County that enticed the 20-year-old Western Kentucky University junior to visit Camp Currie and attend its talent show last month. A highlight of her visit found her in the camp's beauty pageant finals against, of course, "Big Country." She will represent Kentucky and compete in the Miss America Pageant on September 10 in New Jersey. Camp Director Bill Fannin's late effort to share her crown clearly failed miserably.



## KDFWR helps welcome Morehead students with Hover Ball archery

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) joined more than 70 businesses, companies and student groups in helping Morehead State University welcome students back to campus during its “Rock the Rec” event Aug. 16.

More than 240 students, from all majors, stopped by KDFWR’s booth to try their hand at shooting the Hover Ball Air Archery range.

While at the booth, students entered in a chance to win free fishing poles and camo hats and learned about KDFWR’s educational programs.

KDFWR employees Samantha Seaton, Olivia Dangler and Becky Wallen were among those working with the students on the archery range.

Overall, the event was a success with more than 170 students learning how to shoot a bow.



## Court fines three Knott County residents nearly \$10,000 Convictions involve illegal elk guiding activities

Three Knott County residents will pay a total of \$9,440 in fines, court costs and restitution after pleading guilty to multiple counts of illegal guide activities and taking elk.

Ardith Dobson, 53, and Ricky Dobson, 52, both of Vest, Kentucky, pleaded guilty on Thursday, August 3rd in Knott District Court to multiple counts of guiding elk hunters without a commercial

guide’s license, directing guided hunters to shoot from a public roadway, and directing guided hunters to take elk illegally.

The court ordered both men to pay \$4,130 in fines and court costs for a total of \$8,260, and both were ordered to serve six months in jail. The court also stripped both men of hunting privileges for three years.

Katherine Farley, 53, also of Knott

County, plead guilty in April to additional charges related to this investigation. She was ordered to pay a total of \$1,180 in fines, court costs and restitution.

These prosecutions resulted from a months-long investigation by members of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ Special Investigations Unit and conservation officers in the department’s Seventh District.



## Zebra mussels reappearing in Kentucky Lake

**Z**ebra mussels have begun showing up again in Kentucky Lake.

In July of this year, Chuck Surprenant, a retire biologist from USFW sent a photo of some snagged *Corbicula* shells on the bottom of the lake that had numerous juvenile zebra mussels attached.

Department staff has also began noticing zebra mussels encrusting some of the Vemco VR2 receivers placed in Kentucky Lake which are used to monitor the movement of Asian Carp.

It has been several years since zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) have been talked about as a potential problem at Kentucky Lake.

Considered an invasive species, the first zebra mussels showed up in US waters in 1988. The small fingernail-sized mussels adhere to all hard surfaces, including the shells of native mussels, which can eventually kill the native mussel. They can also destroy boat engines, and clog water

intake pipes at hydro-dams and factories using the water.

In Kentucky, zebra mussels were found in the Ohio River during 1992, and Kentucky Lake by 1994. Although they can spread within a water body by free-floating veligers, trailered boat traffic is the most likely vector that allowed for spreading of this non-native mussel in US waters.

In Kentucky Lake, adult zebra mussels were being found, but no juveniles. Suspicions were that adult mussels were arriving from being knocked off barges, and therefore the population did not seem to be spreading as quickly.

Researchers from Murray State University found that calcium levels in the lake were below that required for reproduction of the mussels.

Department malacologist Dr. Monte McGregor indicated that “biologists are finding zebra mussels (young) all the way

Pictured above is the receiver that is located inside the lock chamber at Kentucky Dam.

*J. Young photo*

to Pickwick in large numbers.”

So why after almost 20 years are zebra mussels starting to show back up in Kentucky Lake? Dr. White has this suggestion; “one answer maybe the changing chemistry of Kentucky Lake.”

While on Lake Barkley, Richard Tip-pit (USACE) provide this data about calcium levels; “it looks like recently (2016) calcium has been running 30-35 mg/L.” This leads to the question, has the calcium levels in the waters of Kentucky and Barkley lakes increased enough to allow for viable reproduction of zebra mussels in these lakes?

These findings, along with the timing of cooler water temperatures, may explain why the zebra mussels are reappearing up in the lakes. Dr. White suggests this as a possible research question for someone.

## USFWS using Paupier netting boat to collect Asian carp



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff from Columbia, MO were recently assisting the Critical Species Investigations Branch with monitoring for juvenile Asian

Carp on Barkley and Kentucky Lakes.

Using their Paupier netting boat they are able to collect fish at varying depths and size classes using electricity. They col-

lected no juveniles at this time.

They will be returning for a week in October and another in November.

## SAMPLING DEWEY WITH THE SECRETARY



Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Don Parkinson spent a few hours last week on Dewey Lake with Commissioner Johnson and Eastern Fisheries Division biologists Kevin Fry and Jason Russell electro-fishing sampling. Their efforts turned up a several nice fish.





## KENTUCKY WILDLIFE GENERATES TOURISM



Members of the Kentucky Legislature's Interim Joint Committee on Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology met at the Knott County Sportsplex this month and asked the department to present about Kentucky's elk and deer herds, bear population, and efforts to manage the Asian carp invasion. Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Don Parkinson and Seventh District Commission Member Paul Horn joined Commissioner Gregory Johnson and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Karen Waldrop at the lead table for the presentation and questions from committee members. Earlier Salato Wildlife Education Center staff helped them get up close with a screech owl and red-tailed hawk. Johnson held a milk snake while Sen. Ernie Harris looked on.



## Kentucky BOW weekend next month at Camp Webb



**K**entucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource's (KDFWR) Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) weekend is at Camp Webb in Grayson, Ky., Sept. 15-17, 2017.

Participants can sign up for four class sessions during the weekend. Classes available include Basic Rifles, Patterning Perfection, Hiking/Plant & Wildlife ID of Grayson Lake, Bowhunting, Wildlife Jewelry, Cleaning and Processing Wild Game, Advanced Fishing, Kayak Fishing, Outdoor Family, Fly Fishing, Introduction

to Bowfishing and Learn to Hunt.

Friday evening, Jeanne Oliver, a retail marketing specialist at Cabela's Louisville location, will share how her BOW experience lead to her current career. Saturday evening will conclude with a Jenny Wiley reenactment by retired KDFWR employee Joy Fitzgerald.

Registration for the event is \$95 and participants also must purchase a hunting or fishing license. Registration for this event is open now and ends Sept. 9.

### "EHD," continued

the deer around larger bodies of water and make them more susceptible to infection."

Deer can exhibit signs of illness within 24 to 72 hours after receiving a bite from an infected midge. Infected deer may appear sluggish and unresponsive to humans. EHD causes dehydration and fever in deer, which causes the animals to seek water. Infected deer often are found

dead near bodies of water. Kentucky last had significant outbreaks of EHD in 2007 and 2012.

Reports also can be emailed to [info.center@ky.gov](mailto:info.center@ky.gov). Reports should include your name, contact information, county and date the deer was found, number of deer found, and whether the deer is sick or recently deceased.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is also urging

hunters to report any observations of deer that appear to have died of natural causes.

For more information on this disease and a current map of the outbreak, visit the main page of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). A Facebook [interview](#) with Jenkins and "Kentucky Afield" television host Chad Miles concerning the outbreak is also accessible on the [Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Facebook page](#).