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## Rodney Coffey named Director of Law Enforcement for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife

**R**etired Menifee County Sheriff Rodney Coffey is the new director of the department's Division of Law Enforcement.

"It is an honor to serve the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife," said Coffey, who assumed his command on May 1, 2016. "I come from a smaller county, and have been fortunate to be able to travel the state as a member of the Sheriff's Association board of directors."

Coffey, 45, served four terms as sheriff before retiring in 2014. His background also includes serving as president of the Kentucky Sheriff's Association and eight years in the United States Navy Reserve.

Coffey earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Pacific Western University. He furthered his training as a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Department of Criminal Justice Training Academy at Eastern Kentucky University.

Named Sheriff of the Year by the Kentucky Sheriff's Association in 2003, he also served on the organization's board of directors from 2007-2013.

Coffey began his law enforcement career in 1994 with the Morehead State University Police Department before being elected as Menifee County sheriff in 1998. He served in that role for the next 16 years.



"Much of Kentucky's hunting, fishing and boating activity happens far off the major highways and away from big population centers," said Commissioner Greg Johnson. "Rodney brings vast experience to the job from his time serving as sheriff of a smaller county and statewide work with multiple law enforcement agencies.

He will greatly serve all those who relish Kentucky's natural outdoors."

Coffey, an Indiana native, grew up in



Florida. Twenty five years ago, he returned to the family farm in Frenchburg, where he lives with his wife, Beth, and family.

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## WE GET MAIL

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

**W**e received a letter forwarded from Governor Bevin's office from David Tester, Bluff City, TN. Mr. Tester was drawn for a cow elk archery tag and was very complimentary of his opportunity to hunt Kentucky elk.

He complimented the people of Harlan, Whitesburg, Big Laurel, Leatherwood and surrounding communities for all their hospitality, good will, and concern for him during his scouting and hunt.

He also named **John Hast** as "one super guy who went out of his way;" **Philip Williams** who "was so nice;" **Wes Hodges** and others who assisted him. Also, "Conservation Officer **Shane Amburgey** who took time to talk with me even though he was off duty and late at night."

Mr. Tester doesn't say in his letter whether he had a successful hunt or not but he obviously had a great experience.

We received a letter in the Commissioner's office from Mr. and Mrs. Watts of Paducah. They wrote, "We recently had the pleasure, and unfortunately, a meeting with Captain **Gary Clark** and Sergeant **Tony Dunker** in Paducah.

My son and a friend of his made a terrible decision and have to face the consequences of their actions. I don't think the truth ever came out from the boys, but I think the officers, my wife, and I have a pretty good idea of what actually happened.

Captain Clark and Sgt. Dunker were truly compassionate, caring, and extremely professional about the whole situation and trying to get the truth of the matter, (far better than his mother and I were). They treated the boys, my wife, and me with nothing but respect.

I just want you to know, people like this in your organization are truly a blessing, and lets us know as parents and outdoor people that we and the wildlife

are always being taken care of.

I know you may not get a letter like this very often, but when people do their jobs, and do them right, they need to be praised."

We recently received a letter from the Bell County Attorney, Neil Ward. Mr. Ward wrote, "The ninth annual Fish Fest was held on April 16th. Thanks to the help of your department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 400 rainbow trout were released into the canal flowing through Middlesboro City Park. On Saturday, several hundred area youth went fishing, some for the first time.

I want to commend your personnel who brought the trout from the Wolf Creek hatchery on Friday. When the fish

arrived, they waded into the water and installed two nets to temporarily confine the trout. Once again, fisheries biologist **John Williams** returned on Saturday and spent the day helping the children with their fishing efforts. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife employee **Danny Parks** also spent the day helping make the event a success.

Once again, thank you and your employees for a successful fishing day enjoyed by the children and their families."

This email came to John Coffey at Camp Earl Wallace. Mrs. Sarah Newton wrote, "As I find myself signing my son Charlie up for another year at Camp

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## KENTUCKY HOUNDSMEN DONATION

Information and Education Division Assistant Director Norm Minch (center left) accepted a nearly \$8,700 award from The Kentucky Houndsmen Association at its annual banquet to be used in support of the Department's conservation camps. Pictured are, from left, KHA President Doug Morgan, Director Steve DeVary, Minch, directors Tommy Satterly, Jeremiah Johnson, Vaughn Ray Spencer, and Vice President Doug Johnson. In back are directors Ryan Morgan, William "Willie" Wells and Rick Woolsey, Secretary/Treasurer Shawn Johnson.

## FILO granted Engineering Excellence Award

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program (aka FILO) was presented with a 2016 Grand Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Kentucky for the East Fork Indian Creek Stream Restoration.

This project involved removal of two low head dams and two concrete plank stream crossings built decades ago by the U.S. Forest Service in the East Fork of Indian Creek.

In order to appropriately remove the structures, it was necessary to restore a combined total of more than 3,000 feet of



the creek.

Restoration included re-alignment of the creek, installation of boulder structures, underwater woody structure, riffles and other common naturally sustainable chan-

nel design and construction techniques.

FILO staff hired HMB and Beaver Creek Consultants for the project design. It was constructed by Bluegrass Streams, Inc.

## Promotion

Effective May 1st, we are pleased to announce the promotion of **Mary Nickles** within our Grants Branch as an Internal Policy Analyst II!

Mary came to the Grants Branch as an Internal Policy Analyst I in 2013. Since that time, she has been primarily responsible for our Sport Fish Restoration and Recreational Boating Safety grants.

Mary has been a great asset to the Grants Branch and we look forward to her continuing success as she transitions into her new position.

Mary has a Bachelor's degree in English and Spanish from Centre College. Please join us in congratulating Mary on her promotion.

## NEW CONSERVATION OFFICERS BEGIN WORK



Six new conservation officers have begun the Field Training Officer phase after completing academy training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training and at Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division academy. In front, from left are Christon Cornett, Tony Nolan and Benjamin Fisher. In back are Ethan Vincent, Christopher Swank and Robert Owens.

## KCOA REMEMBERS 6 FALLEN OFFICERS

Kentucky conservation officers remembered their six fallen officers and Peace Officers Memorial Day this month. The Kentucky Conservation Officers Honor Guard placed a wreath at the Fallen Officers Memorial at Headquarters. Kentucky Conservation Officers Association President Sgt. Rodney Milburn introduced Commissioner Gregory Johnson and Col. Rodney Coffey, who spoke during the ceremony.



## EAGLE REFLECTIONS

Wildlife Regional Coordinator Tony Black forwarded to us this unique moment that Kentucky Division of Forestry Ranger Dennis Woolard captured at the Gilbertsville tree nursery last month. Tony said it was just "Too good to pass up on one of the options."





## HATCHERY CREEK

Hatchery Creek, the new mile-long trout stream below Wolf Creek Dam in Russell County opened April 29 before a crowd of about 200 on hand to celebrate. Andy Mowry, former project manager before joining the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming, opened the new stream to fishing with the official first cast as serious anglers queued up for the word to start from Commissioner Greg Johnson. The FILO Stream Team also was on hand for the historic event – Kevin Rexroat, Bethany Mulhall, Tom VanArsdall, Stephanie Petriello, Rob Lewis, Jessie Bowles, Mike Hardin, Tom Burberry, Andy Mowry and Kristy Nowak. Clifford Scott was unable to attend.





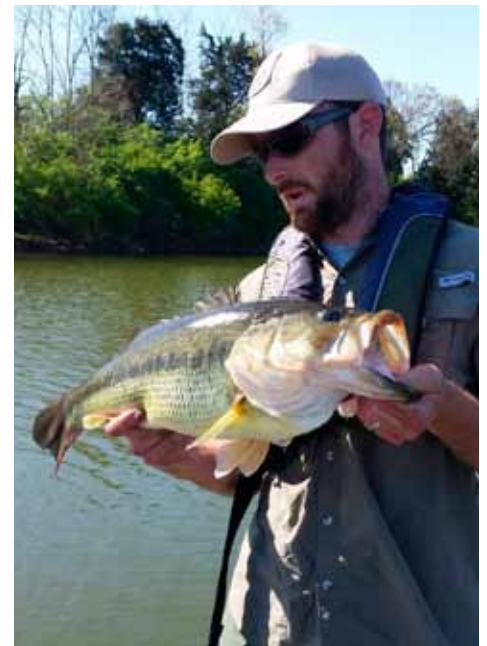
## Sampling some real “hogs”

Spring Bass sampling is under way and the big fish are out and about. Fisheries Division technician **Bobby Widener** shows a 9.67-pounder sampled from “a

little FINs lake near Benton.”

**David Baker** holds up two large-mouths from Lake Jericho. **Justin Spaulding** and **Clay Johnson** show several

8-pound, 20-inchers from Greenbo Lake, and Justin Spaulding shows another one bigger than eight pounds sampled at Lake Reba.



## Camp Webb gets new fishing dock

With the help of **Greg Logan**, **David Bond**, and the **engineering crew**, a new fishing dock was just completed at Camp Robert Webb.

The construction site was challenging and many obstacles had to be overcome by the engineering crew, but the result is a fantastic new dock.

This much needed improvement will be great for the kids at camp. Campers from eastern and northern Kentucky will benefit from the new fishing dock for many, many years.

Camp staff are excited for the next generation of anglers to begin using the new dock.



## New bull elk mount at Buckhorn Lake State Park

Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park has a new bull elk mount looking over its main lobby. Commissioner **Greg Johnson** made the presentation earlier this month. Joining him were from left, Justin Tinsley of Central Kentucky Taxidermy in Lawrenceburg, Hurley Combs of Lost Mountain Outfitters who found the elk, Johnson, State Representative Fitz Steele of Hazard, and Kentucky Parks Commissioner Donnie Holland.



## SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE ATTRACTS HUNDREDS

The Department's annual spring surplus sale at Headquarters on the first Monday in May registered 410 prospective bidders, but attracted many more visitors. Property Officer Danny Allen said the sale of surplus vehicles, boats, office equipment, tools, heavy equipment, boat motors, firearms and more generated more than \$131,000. The next surplus property sale is scheduled for the last Monday in October.







## Taylor County Junior Conservation Board helps Green River Lake Habitat

**T**hanks to the Taylor County High School Junior Conservation Board for its assistance in putting out 80 Christmas/pine trees collected by the Friends of Green River Lake from local businesses (Lowe's & Walmart) and by donation sites around the Green River Lake.

Board members helped place trees April 13 at handicap accessible fishing piers at the Smith's Ridge and Pike's Ridge access areas. The remainder of trees were placed near an old road bed that used to join these areas.

A couple of anglers who launched at

Smith's Ridge Boat Ramp thanked the group for our efforts.

Taylor County Junior Conservation Board members present included Rebekah Cowherd, McKayla Sprowles, Megan Underwood, Gabriel Shap, Dalton Cox and teacher Lindsay Wayne.



**“Mail,” continued**

Wallace, I wanted to take a moment and express to you and your staff how much this camp means to me.

Last year was Charlie's first experience at camp and away from home. As a mother, I was of course concerned for his physical safety but also how he would handle being on his own. Would the way I've tried to raise him benefit him now and would the staff be able to help him if he needed encouragement to be on his own? My greatest hope as a parent is that my children are happy, self-confident, and independent when away from me.

I was so excited to see, when he came home, that both he and the staff exceeded my expectations.

Charlie has always been a very quiet, reserved child. Camp Wallace brought him out of his shell and helped him feel more confident and self-reliant. It allowed him to satisfy a child's basic need for connectedness and acceptance while challenging him learn the importance of teamwork and community. It challenged him to learn new things and understand that when he didn't succeed to not give up.

Through the staff's encouragement, he was already making plans to try again this year. He had to problem solve, make social adjustments, learn responsibility and gain new skills which helped increase his self-esteem.

I don't have the resources or the knowledge to expose him to some aspects of the outdoors. He loved the boating, gun safety and so many other activities you offer.

Camp Wallace is a safe place for him to learn, grow and continue on his way to a healthy productive life. For me as a parent



that is invaluable. Thank you so much for everything you offer my son. His younger brother can't wait until he is old enough to go!"

This email came to our I & E staff from Andy Smith. He wrote, "Just wanted to take a minute to thank all involved with Camp Earl Wallace and the fishing adventure that was held this past weekend.

My son, Jackson, was lucky enough to

**Camp Wallace Fishing Adventure**

Joshua Bishop from Paint Lick, won the "Big Fish" title when he caught and released this 18-inch bass at the Camp Earl Wallace fishing adventure.

Staff accommodated many extra children this year. Participants caught 268 fish during the Adventure, 161 of them on cane poles that staff assisted the campers in making.

**Mitchell says "try the Ghillie suit" for pasture birds**

Retired Taylorsville Lake WMA manager Bill Mitchell has a new gobbler story.

"Ever had a turkey just stand out in a pasture with no way to get to him for lack of cover?"

"Don't like ground blinds?"

"No cover to set up in?"

"Try a Ghillie suit!"

"Laid out in a pasture behind the decoys... turkey never knew I was there!"

be drawn and we had a great time. He is passionate about fishing and the outdoors and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. The food was great, the instruction was great and it is so important for our kids to experience and develop a love and passion for the outdoors.

So thank you to all for your hard work and dedication to our youth and outdoors here in Kentucky. Camps and programs like this are vitally important."