



Striper survey
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KENTUCKY FISH & WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER

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From All of Us at Kentucky Fish & Wildlife



watch video

*Thank you and
Happy Holidays!*

Serving people, conserving fish and wildlife – that’s what we do with your help. Thank you for making our conservation and recreation programs possible by purchasing licenses and permits to fish, hunt or trap, by registering your boat, or by joining or sponsoring Kentucky Wild.

On behalf of all of my fellow staff, merry Christmas, happy holidays and have a wonderful new year!

Rich Storm
Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

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Left: Jason Salsman (second from right) was honored as Southeast Regional Landowner of the Year. Pictured with him from left to right are Wildlife Division Director Chris Garland, Private Lands Biologist Chris Mason and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Rich Storm. Right: Western Kentucky University Green River Preserve was honored as the 2019 Kentucky Business Conservation Partner of the Year. Dr. Albert Meier (second from right) accepted the award on behalf of the preserve. Also pictured from left to right are Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Rich Storm, Private Lands Biologist Bill Lynch and Wildlife Division Director Chris Garland.

Several recognized for wildlife habitat efforts

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources recently recognized several landowners and businesses for their wildlife habitat restoration efforts.

Northeast Regional Landowner of the Year: Brent Lay

On his 2,000-acre property in Lewis County, Brent Lay has worked with several agencies including, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Kentucky Division of Forestry and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to create wildlife habitat. He has established pollinator habitats and managed several acres of food plots. In addition, he has created 32 acres of crop tree release, 25 acres of mid-story removal, 14 acres of patch clear-cuts in five units, three ephemeral pools and eight acres of strip disking.

His conservation work on his property has allowed him to host several hunters, including youth hunters, each year.

Southeast Regional Landowner of the Year: Jason Salsman

On his 153-acre property in Green and LaRue counties, Jason Salsman has created a host of conservation and wildlife restoration projects to benefit wildlife and his

property. He has seven acres in native warm season grass and wildflower plantings; a three-acre pollinator field; seven acres of wildlife food plots; 50 individual tree and shrub plantings; 20 acres of forest stand improvement; two wildlife water holes; five acres of three and shrub plantings; and about 14 acres of woodland burned to control invasive species and encourage a herbaceous understory and oak regeneration.

The diverse food plots of small grains and legumes are rotated annually or semi-annually, including fallow fielding, herbicide treatments and prescribed burns to manage woody encroachment and fescue in native warm season grass and pollinator plantings. Salsman has an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application for a Conservation Activity Plan – Forest Management on file awaiting funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

He has accomplished this by working with several agencies including NRCS, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Quality Deer Management Association, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and private wildlife consultants.

In addition to the work on his property, Salsman has encouraged and assisted

neighbors and friends with multiple habitat improvement projects. Recently, he was instrumental in overseeing a six acre pollinator planting at the LaRue County Sportsman Lake, where he initiated the project, completed the site preparation work and arranged for the planting using a KDFWR no-till drill.

Salsman has friends and family hunting on his farms and has introduced his daughter and children of family and friends to deer and turkey hunting, as well as trapping.

Purchase Regional Landowner of the Year: Yancy Place, c/o Billy Schroeder and Dale Perry

Together Billy Schroeder and Dale Perry manage a 200-acre plot of land known as Yancy Place in Ballard County. The diverse property consists of pasture, hay, row crop and forestland. Within the 200 acres, there are 40 acres of seasonally flooded shallow water habitat; 160 acres in the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program and 40 acres enrolled in the dove field lease program, which hosted the Purchase Region mentor-youth dove hunt.

Annually, Schroeder and Perry plant

See “Habitat,” page 3

“Habitat,” continued

food plots for waterfowl, doves and deer, perform strip mowing and strip disking activities, and flood in upwards of 35 acres of shallow water for wintering waterfowl habitat.

Through the management of existing wells and water control structures, Yancy Place assists or “shares” water with two adjacent farms that are waterfowl centric.

Schroeder and Perry have accomplished their work working with NRCS/FSA – Conservation Reserve Program and EQIP contracts and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

A neighbor to Ballard Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, Yancy Place hosts meetings, events and trainings, and allows storage of equipment during times of severe flooding. In 2018, it hosted the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife’s waterfowl school due to extreme flooding on Ballard WMA. Yancy Place supplied the hunting scenarios, equipment, and provided a meal for the group. Over the years, Schroeder and Perry have hosted several meetings of local hunting clubs and Ducks Unlimited events.

Kentucky Business Conservation Partner of the Year: Western Kentucky University,

Green River Preserve c/o: Albert Meier

Dr. Albert Meier manages 1,600 acres in Hart County owned by Western Kentucky University. With seven miles of Green River frontage, Western Kentucky University designated the property as the WKU Green River Preserve.

The property is a mix of upland and bottomland hardwood forest with open fields of native warm season grasses and it includes barrens and savannas. The property is managed to protect 12 species of federally endangered mussels in the Green River as well as two endangered bats and the endangered cave shrimp that are found on the property, in addition to many other species of rare and declining plants and wildlife.

Western Kentucky University has planted 120 acres of native warm season grass, 40 acres of pollinator habitat and 15,000 bottomland hardwood trees on more than 17 acres of the property. It has also restored a native savanna on the property and has committed to maintaining or improving all of its 75 acres or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) as those acres come out of the program.

To manage the property, WKU utilizes prescribed burns and mechanical ma-

nipulation to maintain the barrens, glades and native warm season grass stands. Spot spraying is performed to treat invasive species. The long-term plan for the CREP native warm season grass stands is to improve the diversity of native grasses and forbs within the units as they go out of contract.

The property is used extensively for outdoor education and to promote stewardship. Examples of this include:

- Hart County High School AP class uses the property in its environmental studies program
- A residential summer camp hosted by WKU for gifted and talented students in grades 7-10
- Conservation agency training, scout camping, non-profit group retreats, hiking and canoeing groups
- Wounded Warriors deer hunt for soldiers and their families
- Other cultural and natural heritage events and trainings.

This property is being managed to protect and enhance its unique natural features. The management has maximized opportunities to educate and expose people to how and why property is managed for wildlife.



DEPARTMENT STAFF CONTRIBUTES TO SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Several Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ employees participated in the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree Program this year. The department staff were angels for nine children and five seniors. “As you can see, we were able to help quite a few,” said Carrie Shipley, the Department employee who helped coordinate the staff’s participation.



Left to right: Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Rich Storm, Richard Hines, Pam Hines, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Small Game Coordinator John Morgan and Wildlife Division Director Chris Garland.

Department recognizes the Kentucky Bobwhite Plate with Firebird Award

The Kentucky Bobwhite Plate, LLC, was recognized this year by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at the annual National Bobwhite Technical meeting. Each of the 25 state agency partners has the opportunity to recognize their best supporter with the Firebird Award.

The Bobwhite Specialty License Plate, established in 2008, generates \$10 for each annual renewal. The board meets each January to award projects for the upcoming year. To date, the board has funded more than 50 projects totaling almost \$250,000. Highlights of the project include seed programs with landowners, funding for research on [Peabody WMA](#) and Blue Grass Army Depot, support for the Livingston

National Bobwhite Focus Area, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, and allowed for two vehicle wraps of department trucks.

Each board member has spent countless hours on a volunteer basis sorting through grant applications, attending meetings and awarding funds to deserving efforts. No other non-profit organization in the state has contributed more directed funding toward bobwhite projects outlined in Kentucky's Bobwhite Restoration Plan than the Bobwhite Specialty License Plate. The license plate fund continues to contribute \$30,000 annually to bobwhite habitat projects supporting a host of other wildlife.

CONSERVATION OFFICERS HONORED

The Law Enforcement Division publicly recognized three Conservation Officers who were honored recently for their work. Those honored (on the right, from top to bottom) include Officer Robbie Spears, SEAFWA Officer of the Year; Officer Glenn Griffie, Shikar Safari Officer of the Year; and Officer Zach Carney, NASBLA Boating Enforcement Officer of the Year, all pictured with Law Enforcement Division Director Col. Eric Gibson.





WILDLIFE DIVISION STAFF RECOGNITIONS

In December, Wildlife Division Director Chris Garland recognized the following employees for their efforts over the past year:



Laura Palmer – Wildlife Biologist of the Year



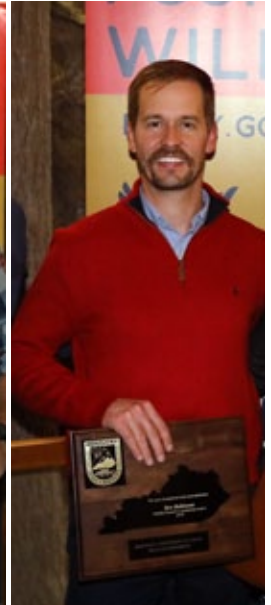
Brian Wagoner – Fish and Wildlife Management Foreman of the Year



Trevor Garner – Fish and Wildlife Technician of the Year



Dirk Steenbergen – Wildlife Rookie of the Year



Ben Robinson – Wildlife Director's Leadership Award



Josh Hager, Kory Knight, Richard Campbell, Gerald Burnett, Luke Carter and Joel Ferguson – Group Achievement Award for the Ballard Waterfowl Initiative, presented by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Rich Storm (far left) and Wildlife Division Director Chris Garland (far right).



Fisheries employees honored

Several Fisheries Division employees were honored in December for outstanding work during the year.

Initiative Award: Danny Duvall

From maintaining access sites through mowing and trash pick-up, to installing boat ramp lights, or just helping others out with the little things, Danny Duvall is known for getting things done. He never waits for someone to ask for something, he sees a need and goes to work.

Sustained Excellence Award: Jeff Ross

Fisheries Division Assistant Director Jeff Ross is a 19-year employee with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and his accomplished career has included development of the Fisheries Division's Standardized Sampling Manual and the KSL0 portion of KFAS. The number



Danny Duvall (left) and Mark Harless.



Left to right: Commissioner Rich Storm, Jeff Ross, Clifford Scott, Don Bunnell, Dane Balsman and Acting Fisheries Director Paul Wilkes.

of new and diverse duties that he takes on seems to be never ending and whenever someone needs a question answered, Ross is one of the first they go to. Ross works behind the scenes to keep the division running smoothly and continues to adapt to new challenges and needs within the division.

Team Player Award: Mark Harless

Mark Harless is a longtime employee who is known within the Fisheries Division and throughout Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for his work ethic and resourcefulness. In the Eastern Fisheries District, he puts his vast skill set to work going above and beyond with maintaining access sites, deploying habitat and helping other divisions with welding, fabrication, assisting with Aquatic Education events and helping out the Wildlife Division.



Tech and Admin Award: Clifford Scott

Clifford Scott holds a unique position in the Fisheries Division as Budget Support Specialist for FILO. He is known for being the first person to the FILO building in the morning. He cares deeply about the quality of his work. Scott's baseline job duties include managing a \$20 million fiscal year capital budget and \$1.4 million operating budget, and he operates as a shepherd and watchdog for the Mitigation Fund. His work is more than traditional accounting as he tracks complex mitigation credits and more than 40 capital projects. He monitors these projects and regularly assists with divisions to help move projects along quicker.

Director's Award: Dane Balsman

Dane Balsman has led the urban fisheries program since 2009 and shown outstanding leadership in his ability to locate new quality lakes, partner with local governments and develop the marketing of the program. In addition to picking up many other projects, he has worked

See "Fisheries," page 7

Our new writer experiences Field to Fork

In December, the Information and Education Division welcomed Ciara Knisely to the Information Branch. Ciara (pronounced the same as “Sierra”) will produce content on a variety of platforms and outlets in her new role. This will include writing for Kentucky Afield, producing news releases, helping to produce the hunting guides and working with content on the department’s website.

She grew up in a small farm town in northern Indiana, where she developed a passion for all things creative thanks to inspirational teachers and a fascination with the natural world. Ciara served as editor of her high school yearbook and college newspaper. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in English and writing from Manchester University. Her background includes creative writing, editing, photography, social media and digital marketing. She has five years of Spanish language study.

Ciara’s first assignment with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife included attending – and participating in – a [Field to Fork](#) workshop. The following is her takeaway from the experience.

Everything, in the end, is cyclical. I realized this as I drove across the Ohio River to enter Kentucky, and again as I crossed the Kentucky River headed for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife headquarters. Just as rain is supposed to symbolize



change, it was as if the dam holding it all in place burst, and my quiet, whispering stream of a life suddenly had the current to wash away the old.

I kept this point of view in mind as Kentucky Fish and Wildlife set me up with a crossbow and muzzleloader on my fourth day on the job as their new writer. I had left a classroom of first-graders behind, and while I had no regrets, I was determined to do good work, the way my students had promised me to do good work when I left. My version of “good work” had not initially included shooting firearms, but I learned quickly that there

are few people who can shoot as part of a good day’s work, and I was somehow one of them.

My first real exposure to Kentucky culture, and first time out shooting, was with the department’s recent Field to Fork venison workshop in Woodford County. Not only was the classroom portion beyond helpful in familiarizing me with the backbone of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, but the participants welcomed me as if they had known me for years.

Within Field to Fork, I was able to learn about the cycle that keeps Kentucky’s fish and wildlife going, and making that successful shot during a hunt is only the first phase. Hunting game is a sport for many across the state, and I quickly learned that it’s crucial for conservation, too.

Field to Fork does an amazing job educating the public on the direct interactions between hunting, conservation and consumption.

At Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, the cycle of carrying on important hunting and conservation traditions is a prime focus. Just as game animals are hunted in order to ensure the future of our wildlife, when we learn how to properly interact with and care for our environment, we carve a path forward for those to come.

“Fisheries,” continued

with hatchery staff and local communities to grow the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) program into to a marquee program with 44 lakes now enrolled across the state. The FINs program is constantly getting compliments and surrounding states frequently ask how the program is working so well.

Kerry Prather Award: Don Bunnell

The Kerry Prather Award is named in honor of former longtime Fisheries Biologist Kerry Prather, who was a well respected professional biologist and a consummate public servant dedicated to the service of others, eager to assist anyone, and who served as a mentor to many. Don Bunnell embodies the Kerry Prather Award not only through his service to the division and sportsmen and sportswomen, but also

for the way that he truly cares about his co-workers. Throughout his career, Bunnell has shown an amazing ability to adapt to new challenges and continue to improve the web, IT and database support. Over the past several years, he has taken on new duties, including webpage design, bathymetry mapping, developing a creel iPad app, and working tirelessly on the Fishing and Boating Access app and associated database.



Wildlife staff taking on new roles

Biologists Derek Beard and Kyle Sams recently were named to new roles in the Wildlife Division.

Beard is now serving as acting Assistant Director over regional staff and public lands. Chris Garland, who is now the division's director, previously held the role.

Beard has served as the regional coordinator for the 31-county area of the Bluegrass Region since 2010.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from Eastern Kentucky University, and started his career in the private engineering market, gaining experience as a stream and wetland restoration biologist, surveyor and engineering design technician. He joined Kentucky Fish and Wildlife in 2003 as a Farm Bill Biologist stationed in Elizabethtown. In 2006, Beard transitioned into the NRCS Liaison Biologist. Working out of its state and area offices overseeing the implementation of the Conservation Provisions of the Federal

Farm Bill, administering millions of dollars in cost-share, he drafted the Kentucky State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) proposal, served on the Wetland Reserve and Grassland Reserve Teams, and assisted with the development of the Kentucky EQIP Grassland Initiative.

Beard is active in roles outside of work. He is the head boys' basketball coach at Peaks Mill Elementary and coaches many other recreational sports teams in the local community. Beard also founded the Central Kentucky Hunting Retriever Association, Inc. in 2001 and serves on its Board of Directors. He lives in Franklin County with his wife, Katie, and their two sons Layton, 10, and Logan, 7. He spends any free time in the field hunting deer, turkey and waterfowl, as well as passing along the conservation passion to his young boys.

Sams is serving as the acting Deer and Elk Program coordinator. A deer program biologist for the past five years, he

takes over the role for Gabe Jenkins while Jenkins serves as acting director of the Information and Education Division.

A Pineville, Kentucky native, Sams graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management. Sams worked as a technician on deer and elk with different agencies across the country including the National Park Service, Pennsylvania Game Commission and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife from 2008 through 2011. He left Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for a brief stint as an environmental scientist with another state government agency before returning to the agency. As a deer program biologist, Sams has worked with many different stakeholders concerning deer management strategies. He enjoys spending his spare time with his wife, Kelly, son, Ethan, and dog, Trigger, and hunting any chance he can.



BEULAH LAKE GETS NEW DOCK, IMPROVED RAMP

Beulah Lake in Jackson County received a new courtesy dock in December. The bank access section began in November and was completed Dec. 5. The process took three separate pours of concrete – the footer, the headwall and then the sidewalk. Since each pour would not meet the minimum truckload without a small load fee, the new ramp construction crew took advantage by adding to each truckload so it could rebuild the lower half of the deteriorating boat ramp. The new dock is 8 feet by 20 feet and the gangway is 40 feet.

Lake Cumberland striped bass survey



Above: Marcy Anderson (left) and Michael Scott (right) work on pulling in one of the striped bass nets. Right: Michael Scott (left) and Paul Wilkes (right) hold up several striped bass collected from one net.

Southeast Fisheries District employees conducted gill netting Dec. 3-5 on Lake Cumberland to monitor the striped bass population in the lake.

From record-high lake levels in February to low dissolved oxygen levels for striped bass and walleye in the late summer and fall, which forced the fish to move into warmer water, Lake Cumberland

experienced some challenges in 2019.

Sporadic reports of dead striped bass in the lower end of the lake, coupled with reports of low angler catch rates from the past few months, caused concerns. Results from the netting indicated the stressful conditions from the past year left some fish in poor condition but that much of the striped bass population survived.

Assisting the Southeast Fisheries District with the striped bass sampling were Paul Wilkes, acting Fisheries Division director; Michael Scott, Engineering, Infrastructure and Technology Division director, and former Southeast Fisheries District employees Doug Stephens and John Williams.

Amendments to wildlife regulations proposed

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission proposed new bear hunting regulations and new procedures for captive cervid facilities at its quarterly meeting on December 6.

The Commission is a nine-member board, comprised of volunteers who serve four-year terms after being nominated by licensed hunters and anglers, appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the Kentucky senate. The Commission recommends hunting, fishing and boating regulations on behalf of the anglers and hunters of the Commonwealth.

In bear-related business, the Commission recommended opening certain hunter access areas and wildlife management areas to the bear chase season and the bear hunting with dogs season. Wildlife management areas would not open for the bear chase season until the third Saturday in August due to current leash requirements on these areas. Public lands in the Daniel Boone National Forest are not open to bear chase or bear hunting with dogs seasons.

The Commission also proposed delineating Wayne County as a separate bear zone. The quota for this zone would be

two female bears for the bear hunting with dogs season, two female bears for archery-crossbow bear season and two female bears for modern gun bear season. In turn, the harvest quota in West Bear Zone 2 would be reduced by a total of three female bears. The total female bear quota across the different bear zones would increase to 39 bears under the proposed changes.

In deer-related business, the Commission recommended two changes to help prevent the spread of chronic wasting

See “Regulations,” page 10



Record harvest for modern gun deer season

Kentucky deer hunters harvested a record 107,039 deer during the 16-day modern gun season that concluded Nov. 24.

“Season timing and weather conditions before the opening of the season made us think we should have a good season,” said Kyle Sams, acting Deer and Elk Program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. “We had a poor mast crop this year, which puts deer on the move. We also had perfect weather: not too cold and not too warm.”

Last year, Kentucky hunters harvested 106,804 deer during the modern gun season, which was a record until this season. (Online Telecheck results for modern gun harvest are different, as they include deer taken during youth season as well.)

Sams said hunters harvested 35,143 deer on opening weekend of the modern gun season, 19,234 on the second weekend and 11,576 on the third weekend. “Those are harvest records for both the second and third weekends,” he said.

Some of the increased antlered deer harvest during modern gun deer season over the past two seasons relates to regulation changes that increased modern gun deer season in Zone 3 and Zone 4 counties from 10 days to 16 days, so that



all zones had the same season length. This change had been requested by many deer hunters and had strong support as documented in a recent deer hunter survey and an online questionnaire used to collect public input from hunters.

“Those six extra days includes a weekend and that is big for those hunters,” Sams said. “It is one reason why that third weekend harvest was so high. Zone 4 hunters had six extra days to harvest an antlered deer.”

Hunters may be concerned about possible overharvest of deer with two consecutive record modern gun season

harvest totals. However, the statewide one-buck limit, coupled with a reduction in the bag limit of antlerless deer in Zone 4, ensure that this will not adversely affect the herd.

“With bag limits for deer in place, overharvest is not a concern,” Sams said. “Biologists monitor deer harvest numbers annually to ensure the herd remains in good shape.” If deer season or bag limit

changes may be needed, evidenced by a trend in harvest data over 2-3 years, the department can evaluate relevant data and make such changes through the regulatory process.

If current trends hold, the 2019-2020 deer season could be the second highest harvest total ever. The current record is 155,730 deer taken by hunters in the 2015-2016 season.

For more information on [deer hunting](#), visit the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife webpage at fw.ky.gov or consult the Kentucky Hunting and Trapping Guide, available free wherever hunting licenses are sold.

“Regulations,” continued

disease into Kentucky.

The first proposed change concerns the importation of deer, elk, moose and caribou carcass parts into Kentucky from other states or Canadian provinces. The proposed regulation would only allow deboned meat, antlers, antlers attached to clean skull, a clean skull, clean upper canine teeth, hides and finished taxidermy products to be brought into Kentucky.

The second proposed change would require double fencing on all new and expansions of existing captive cervid

facilities to minimize the risk of direct or indirect contact between captive deer and wild deer and elk herds on the surrounding landscape.

In other wildlife-related business, the Commission recommended allowing licensed master falconers to capture one immature tundrius peregrine falcon per year for falconry purposes per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit process. Applicants would be entered into a random drawing for a special permit to possess the species.

A video replay of the Commission meeting is available for viewing on de-

mand via the “Commission and Committee Meeting Archive” [link](#) under “Important Info” on the department’s homepage.

The date and agenda for the next meeting of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission have not been finalized. Once set, that information will be posted on the department’s website at fw.ky.gov.

For more information about hunting and fishing regulations or for general inquiries, contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 1-800-858-1549 during weekday working hours, or email the center at Info.Center@ky.gov.

Shad eradication planned at two Kentucky River WMA lakes

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources plans shad eradication efforts in the coming weeks at two lakes on the Boone Tract of the Kentucky River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Henry County.

“Unfortunately conditions were not conducive for a successful shad removal last winter, but we will give it another try this winter,” said David Baker, Central Fisheries District biologist for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. “We will be working at the 6-acre lake beside KY 389 and the 4-acre lake adjacent to Benjy Kinman Lake.”

Eliminating shad forces largemouth bass to concentrate on smaller sunfish. This reduction allows the remaining sunfish to grow larger because they have less competition for food.

Shad eradication requires the application of small amounts of rotenone, an organic substance found in plants.

“Rotenone binds to the gills of shad, and blocks dissolved oxygen transfer,” Baker said. “It doesn’t affect the meat of fish in the lake. You will see shad floating on the surface of the water, but the other fish are safe to eat during the treatment.”

The floating shad will be scavenged or decompose naturally without adverse impact to the remaining fish or other animals.

Baker said winter is the best time for a shad eradication as the rotenone breaks down more slowly in cold water, making for a more effective treatment. Fewer people fish these lakes in winter as well.

The management area’s Benjy Kinman Lake, which regularly receives an influx of shad whenever the Kentucky River floods it, is not part of the effort. “It will remain a shad lake and managed for largemouth bass, crappie and catfish,” Baker said.

Baker said a hillside 15-acre management area lake located above the south

side of KY 389 does not have shad in its waters and will not be treated.

“We have some good fish in these

lakes now,” Baker said, “but we want to improve the quality of fishing in them with this treatment.”



PFEIFFER HATCHERY APPEARS IN FRANKFORT CHRISTMAS PARADE

Front Row: Jennie Nelson, Noah Nelson, Chelsea Howell, Morgan Bishop, Scout (Dog), Easton Pennington, Mallory Pennington; Back Row: Graham Howell, Josh Bishop, Josh Pennington





Wildlife Division staff participate in wildland fire chainsaw training

Wildlife Division biologists and technicians with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources recently joined U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists for a training opportunity focused on the safe handling and use of chainsaws in wildland firefighting scenarios.

The training was held Dec. 10-12 at Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA.

The use of chainsaws by Wildlife Division staff is critical in many aspects of day-to-day activities, such as clearing trails and roads and manipulating habitat for the benefit of many wildlife species.



The training opportunity focused on construction of firebreaks for controlling fire on the landscape. This activity is used

widely on wildlife management areas in the state when personnel conduct prescribed fire activities for habitat management.

The training involved all aspects of chainsaw safety and consisted of one day of classroom work and two days in the field for “hands-on” training. Students learned several methods of tree felling and how to safely use chainsaws for this process.

Many attendees arrived at the training with experience in chainsaws and left with much more along with tactics to break some bad habits formed in the past.

The field portion of the class required each participant to fell three trees, which were graded by the instructor on aspects of a safely felled tree. All participants passed and will receive their Basic Faller (FAL3) certification from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

Conservation Reserve Program sign-ups underway

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has reopened sign-ups for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to Kentucky landowners. The deadline to sign up for general participation is Feb. 28, 2020, while sign-ups for more permanent structures within the program are ongoing. Participants receive an annual stipend for their contribution to conservation.

Landowners enrolled in the program contribute to improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, tourism and other economic development opportunities by removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural use and then incorporat-

ing native plant species. Landowners can select a 10- or 15-year partnership or elect to have a permanent easement established as part of the continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

Across the country, the conservation program boasts an enrollment of 22 million acres. However, the 2018 Farm Bill recently raised the cap to 27 million acres, giving even more landowners the opportunity to help restore local habitats.

For more information about the Conservation Reserve Program or to enroll in the program, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

liaison with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Contact information for the liaison serving your area may be found online at fw.ky.gov by searching under the keywords, “NRCS Liaison.” Landowners may also contact their local Farm Service Agency county office or go online to fsa.usda.gov/crp.

For information about hunting and fishing regulations or for general inquiries, contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 1-800-858-1549 during weekday working hours, or email the center at Info.Center@ky.gov.