



BOW weekend
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Hatchery-raised lake sturgeon released in Cumberland River



Above: Marking young lake sturgeon at the Pfeiffer Hatchery. Right: Fisheries Biologist Stephanie Brandt teaching students about lake sturgeon.

Since April 2008, about 55,000 lake sturgeon have been stocked in the Cumberland River above Lake Cumberland as part of a long-term effort by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to restore the species to its former native range in Kentucky.

In August, Fisheries Division staff marked more than 5,500 young lake sturgeon at the Peter W. Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery in Frankfort. Each fish was marked by removing scutes (bony plates) on the left side of the body to indicate its year class.

About half of the fish were stocked Aug. 29 in the Cumberland River at the Mouth of Laurel boat ramp in Whitley County. Students from Corbin High School’s Environmental Science class assisted with the effort. The remaining half was stocked at the Alum Ford access in the Big South Fork in McCreary County.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife receives fertilized lake sturgeon eggs annually from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources taken from upper Mississippi River basin stock. These eggs are hatched at the Pfeiffer hatchery, and the young are

reared to approximately 7-8 inches before being stocked.

Reports from anglers along with trotline sampling efforts indicate lake sturgeon that have been stocked over the past decade are surviving and growing. The largest and oldest fish recorded to date measure approximately 50 inches and 30 pounds.

Lake sturgeon are catch-and-release only in Kentucky, and anglers using non-traditional methods may not harvest them.

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office



harvesting his first dove. I know he would love it if you could share this photo. He is a great kid and loves hunting, fishing and anything else outdoors. Thank you to all of you who make it possible for us to enjoy the great outdoors!"

"I just wanted to thank the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife for the great time my grandson, granddaughter and myself had on Sunday (Sept. 1) at the Union County Mentor-Youth Dove Hunt. I know a lot of work went on to prepare for this hunt and I just wanted to thank everyone that was involved. It was a good time for the kids."

– Joe Clark

"I would like to thank the department for providing public dove fields for Kentucky hunters who could not find

private land. I would like to express a real appreciation to whoever developed the Griffith Woods area. I am 76 years old and have had a Kentucky hunting license every year since 1958 and shoot doves every year. The way the sunflowers were laid out provided lots of room for lots of hunters to shoot safely. There were plenty of doves for everyone to have a good shoot. I saw lots of both men and women (my wife and lab pup went with me,) and lots of fathers with sons and daughters enjoying the day. A suggestion I would make for all fields is a sign asking hunters to pick up spent shells. I took all of mine and about 50 others when I left the field. Again, much thanks for a job well done and I think with your efforts to provide access there will be more young people enjoying the outdoors we have in the Commonwealth."

– David S. Prater

Eric Lainhart shared this note dated Sept. 2 (Labor Day):

"Hello, this is my son Braxton Lainhart. This picture was taken today on his first-ever dove hunt with successfully

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Fall Golf Scramble

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources employees, retirees and relatives competed in the department's annual golf scramble Aug. 30 at Wild Turkey Trace in Lawrenceburg. Twelve teams entered and four teams tied with a score of 6-under par, resulting in a "scorecard playoff."

Left to right: Mark Cramer, Robby Lear, Eric McGinnis, Ben Robinson.



RESULTS

First Place: Ben Robinson, Eric McGinnis, Mark Cramer and Robby Lear.

Second Place: Dane Balsman, Jay Herral, Wade Massure and Ryan Kausing.

Third Place: Eric Gibson, Shane Carrier, Larry Estes, Patrick Younts, Roy Gibson

Fourth Place: Kevin Rexroat, David Bruce, Dave Dreves, Brian Moore

Closest to the Pin

Wade Massure: Hole No. 4
David Casey: Hole No. 8
Rich Storm: Hole No. 13
Jeff Eaton: Hole No. 15

Longest Drive: Wade Massure

New roles

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commissioner Rich Storm announced new roles for some department staff members at the Sept. 13 meeting of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Chris Garland is Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's new Wildlife Division Director. A native of Barbourville, Garland joined the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources as a seasonal employee in 1995. He worked multiple seasons with deer trapping and transport, worked with the grouse trapping crew in the initial stages of the Appalachian Cooperative Grouse research project, worked as a technician on Mill Creek WMA in Jackson County, and as a biologist on Taylorsville Lake WMA. Garland transitioned to the small game program in 1998 and spent several years there before moving to an NRCS Liaison Biologist position working out of the Area 2 NRCS office providing technical guidance and cost share through state and federal programs while also working with the NRCS state office to incorporate wildlife friendly practices into federal farm bill programs. Since fall of 2007, Chris has served as the assistant director in the wildlife division with a couple of tours of duty as acting division director. He is also a graduate of the National Conservation Leadership Institute, a premier professional development program. Garland holds a degree in wildlife management from Eastern Kentucky University and currently lives in Anderson County with his wife, Jenni, and their three children. "I consider it an honor to be named the Wildlife Division Director," Garland said. "I very much look forward to working



Chris Garland



Ron Brooks

with the Commission, agency leadership, other divisions, and all department staff to continue the great work that Kentucky Fish and Wildlife does."

Ron Brooks is the department's new Aquatic Invasive Species Program Director. Prior to this new role, Brooks served as the department's Fisheries Division Director for 10 years. He has led the fight against Asian Carp for the entire Southeast. "His expertise and leadership will serve the agency and the resource well in his new role, and will allow him the opportunity to focus directly on Asian carp issues," Commissioner Rich Storm said. Brooks told the Paducah Sun, "This new position really allows me time to focus directly on the issue... It really underscores

the department's desire to ensure we're doing everything we can to fight Asian carp in Kentucky and throughout the southeast."

Paul Wilkes is serving as the department's acting Fisheries Division Director. Wilkes has been the Federal Aid Coordinator for the past five years, and he has been an Assistant Director for the past two, working on Federal Aid and supervising the CSI Branch. "Paul is well-prepared for his new role, as he has also been working with the Commissioner's Office, the Commission, and Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet leadership on multiple special projects during the past four years," Commissioner Rich Storm said.

Nathan Brooks is the new Assistant Director in the Information and Education Division. Brooks brings 16 years

of experience in television production and communications to the role. He joined the department in 2014 as an associate producer for Kentucky Afield TV and became branch manager two years later. Those roles allowed him to travel the state and meet many outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen, equipping him with an understanding of their needs and concerns. Last September, he was special detailed to Assistant Director of the Information and Education Division. A two-time Emmy winner, Brooks is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, where he earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. Earlier in his career, Nathan traveled

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Above: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Assistant Fisheries Division Director Jeff Ross (left) presents Rob Rold with a retirement plaque. Rold served as Fisheries Program Coordinator in the Northwestern Fisheries District. Right: Chris Grasch (second from left), a private lands biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, retired at the end of July. He was presented a plaque honoring his service to the department since 1990 by Wildlife Division Assistant Director Ben Robinson (far left), Deputy Commissioner Karen Waldrop (second from right) and Bluegrass Regional Coordinator Derek Beard.

Recent retirements

Rob Rold retired at the end of July after 33 years with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He was the Fisheries Program Coordinator in the Northwestern Fisheries District and one of only two coordinators to lead the work in the District since 1977. David Bell was the coordinator before him.

Rold spent his entire career in the Northwestern Fisheries District. His passion for his job and mild-mannered demeanor allowed him to form critical working relationships with department staff, outside partners, and the public. Rold plans to stay on (and in) the water by keeping busy as a dive instructor.

Other recent Kentucky Fish and Wildlife retirements include: Conservation Officer Dean Kennard; Conservation Educator Will Connelly; Conservation Officer Rich Waite; Conservation Officer Sgt. Jason Bolton; Conservation Educator Kenny Skaggs; and Conservation Officer Lt. Patrick Brannen.

“Roles,” continued

with the NFL’s Tennessee Titans and produced the coaches’ show for two years. His experience also includes producing weekly documentaries of the football and basketball teams at Auburn, Miami, Arkansas State, Marquette, Notre Dame. Born and raised in Owensboro, Brooks and wife, Pam, live in Georgetown with their daughter, Ellasyn.

Kevin Kelly is the department’s new Chief Communications Officer/PIO. Before joining the department as an Information Specialist in 2013, Kelly enjoyed a 16-year run as a reporter covering sports and news for daily newspapers in Charleston, South Carolina, St. Petersburg, Florida, Cincinnati and northern Kentucky. His writing garnered state, regional, and national recognition along the way. In his time with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, Kelly

has crisscrossed the state to document and highlight in news releases and Kentucky Afield magazine articles the important work carried out by the department, all the while familiarizing himself with the many laws and regulations that must be communicated in the spring and fall hunting guides. A graduate of Western Kentucky University, Kelly now lives in Woodford County with his wife, Brenna, their two sons and the family’s golden retriever.



From left to right: Pat Barnard, Dane Balsman, Commissioner Rich Storm, Daniel Vichitbandha and David Yancy.

The following employees were recognized at the meeting:

Engineering and Information Technology

- Pat Barnard, 15 years (14 with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife)

Fisheries

- Dane Balsman, 10 years

Law Enforcement

- Officer Brad Bowles, 20 years (6 with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife)
- Officer Rodney Milburn, 10 years

Wildlife

- David Yancy, 32 years
- Daniel Vichitbandha, 23 years

Employee service recognition

A half-dozen Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources employees were honored at the September meeting of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission for achieving years-of-service

milestones. These public recognitions will continue at upcoming quarterly Commission meetings.

At the Sept. 13 meeting, Commissioner Rich Storm presented service pins

and certificates to employees for their continued dedication and service to the department and the Commonwealth.



BOWHUNTERS HONOR THEIR "OFFICER OF THE YEAR"

Shane Amburgey, a Kentucky Conservation Officer in the Fifth Region, recently received the Bud Reizen-Officer of the Year award for 2018 from the United Bowhunters of Kentucky (UBK). Presenting the award to Amburgey at an Aug. 28 meeting of Fifth Region officers was UBK vice president, Judy Roberts (left). The annual award honors the memory of a founding UBK member. Officials with the organization vote to select the "Officer of the Year" from a pool of nominees. *Photo provided by Capt. Andrew Suit*



2019 Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshop held at Camp Earl Wallace

The 24th Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program was held Sept. 13-15 at Camp Earl Wallace and this year drew more than 80 participants. Class offerings included basic archery, game processing, juggling and basic fly-fishing. Olivia Dangler, conservation educator with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, serves as state coordinator for the popular program.

Right: Participants in the "Shed Hunting" class pose with volunteer instructor Alex Ballard and "Dolly Pawton" from Bluegrass Antler Dogs.



BOW participants who took the "Game Processing" class breasted a turkey donated for the workshop.



Volunteer instructor Eric Eisiminger (center) instructs a group of BOW participants about safe handling and use of handguns.

Salato Hunting and Fishing Day attracts more than 1,000 visitors

The Salato Wildlife Education Center in Frankfort played host to its Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration on Aug. 10, and the free event attracted more than 1,100 visitors to the center.

Several volunteers joined the Salato Center staff to help run various stations and help new hunters complete their hunter education certification.

David Jalbert, a conservation educator with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, led a discussion about elk. Laura Palmer, Furbearer Program biologist, provided information about trapping. Kyle Sams, Deer Program biologist, captivated onlookers with a hunting dog demonstration.

Salato Hunting and Fishing Day honors the more than 700,000 people who hunt and fish in Kentucky. Hunters and anglers in the state support 35,000 jobs and represent a \$2.7 billion impact to the state's economy.

Salato Hunting and Fishing Day is a prequel to National Hunting and Fishing Day, which is observed each year on the fourth Saturday in September across the country. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife operates the Salato Center to support conservation education in the state.

For more information about the Salato Center, go online to fw.ky.gov and type "Salato" in the search box.



Kyle Sams (above), a biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Deer Program, and his Labrador retriever, Trigger, provided a hunting dog demonstration during the Salato Hunting and Fishing Day.



Laura Palmer, Furbearer Program biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, taught Salato Hunting and Fishing Day visitors about trapping.



Field to Fork takes new dove hunters afield

Novice hunters learned about dove hunting during a special Field to Fork workshop Sept. 21 at Camp Robert C. Webb near Grayson.

Participants arrived early in the day to learn about the basics of dove hunting then spent some time at the shotgun range in preparation for an afternoon hunt. After lunch, they set up to hunt in the managed field at Camp Webb. Assisting them were mentors representing the National Rifle Association, National Wild Turkey Federation volunteer hunter education instructors and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife staff. The availability of the restricted access field provides new dove hunters – youth and adult – a unique opportunity to hunt in a structured, low-pressure situation.

The afternoon hunt started slow but the evening hunt was full of opportunity. Participants harvested 43 birds. After processing the birds back at camp, they were provided the dove meat and recipes to take home.



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife seeks conservation officer recruits

Applications are now being accepted for conservation officer recruit positions with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The deadline to apply is 8 p.m. (Eastern) on Friday, Oct. 18, 2019.

The department plans to fill 20 positions in locations across the state.

Applicants must be at least 21 years old, possess a valid driver's license and meet educational requirements or have experience in related fields.

To apply, go online to personnel.ky.gov and click "Find a Job." Applicants must fully complete the online application through *My Purpose* to be considered for further review.

Selected applicants will undergo 20 weeks of Department of Criminal Justice Training – if not already Peace Officer Professional Standards (POPS)-certified – and 12 weeks of training in the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Academy before being placed with a field-training officer for 16 weeks of hands-on training.

Applicants must pass a written test, physical fitness test, swimming test, oral interview, psychological and drug screen, polygraph, background review and medical evaluation to be considered for selection.

Applicants will be notified via email regarding the written test scheduling. Applicants should frequently check their email, including junk mail folders, after a

posting closes. An initial email to applicants will include important, time-sensitive information, and recipients will be required to respond by a specific date.

Kentucky's conservation officers are sworn law enforcement officers with statewide jurisdiction but 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 are a safe place 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.



A group of students enjoying their fishing session at the pond.

Fish and Wildlife assists with Eco-EDventures

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources staff representing the Fisheries and Wildlife divisions participated in the Laurel County 4-H Eco-EDventures program held Aug. 27-30 at the J.M. Feltner Memorial 4-H Camp near London, Kentucky.

An annual program, Eco-EDventures

introduces students in the Laurel County Schools District to a variety of environmental concepts, including fish and wildlife, water, recycling, trees and insects.

This year, the four-day program drew 655 student participants.

Participating on behalf of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife were: Marcy Anderson,

Fisheries Program Coordinator for the Southeastern Fishery District; Wildlife technician Sara Meadors; Fisheries biologist Brad Hartman; and Fisheries technician Dirk Bradley.

Meadors discussed bear biology with students. Fisheries staff took students fishing on the pond at the campground.



Above: Kentucky Fish and Wildlife technician Sara Meadors shows students bear mounts during her talk. Right: One student shows off her catch of the day.





2019 Ronnie Rich Memorial Wounded Warriors Dove Hunt

The annual Ronnie Rich Memorial Wounded Warriors Dove Hunt was held Aug. 31 – Sept. 2 in Union County.

This year, six Purple Heart recipients enjoyed two days of wing shooting and

relaxation. The hunt is a collaborative effort between the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Riverbend Whitetails and Wild Wing Lodge.

The weather was hot with a light breeze, perfect for dove hunting. A lower than normal number of doves were in the area, but this did not reduce the excite-

ment among the hunters.

The first day brought slow but steady hunting with hunters harvesting an average of 12 doves. The second day brought similar conditions but saw 45 doves (three banded) harvested in the morning. The retrievers were busy and the hunters were grinning from ear to ear.



Participants were recognized for the first dove harvested, the first banded dove harvested and the first limit filled. All participants departed looking forward to dove hunts in the near future near their homes, even the ones who dove hunted for the first time on this hunt.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife represented in National R3 Implementation Workgroup

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is helping lead ongoing efforts to address real and predicted declines in hunting and fishing participation.

Declining participation is a cause for concern because license and related user fees are primary sources of funding for fish and wildlife conservation.

The National R3 Implementation Workgroup was formed by the Council



to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports. It includes 31 people representing conservation organizations, industry partners and fish and wildlife agencies. Representing Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in the workgroup is Chief of Staff Brian Clark, who has been active in the R3 arena for more than

a decade. Members of the workgroup are developing R3 strategies for moving the needle at all scales, from local to national, based on their shared experiences, research and insights.

The implementation strategies will help states, including Kentucky, implement strategies to recruit, retain and reactivate participants and thus help to sustain funding for fish and wildlife conservation and recreation programs.

An interim report published in June provides details on the workgroup's process to date. It is available online at cabss.org/nationalr3implementationworkgroup.

Houndsmen association honors champions

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources was well represented at the Kentucky Houndsmen Association's annual meeting earlier this year at the Kentucky Market Pavilion in Owingsville.

Among those in attendance was Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Rich Storm (second from left), here with with Larry Cornett (far left), Jeff Cornett (center), Coal (in foreground), Kentucky Houndsmen Association president Doug Johnson and The Pride pet food representative Rob Burke.

Also present for the event were Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officers Capt. Andrew Suit, Barry McCoy, Chris Mulholland and Loren Clark.



Above:

Far Left: Kentucky Houndsman/Pride Dog Food All-Age 2018 Foxhound of the Year Ch. Bradley's Ruby owned and shown by Bradley Passmore.

Center: Kentucky Houndsmen/Sexton Brothers Feeds 2018 Derby Foxhound of the Year Summey's Cash M. owned and shown by Hopewell Springs Kennels

Far Right: Kentucky Houndsmen/Chase Publishing 2018 Bench Challenge Winner CH. Skiles Shy owned by Kerrie Skiles, Tom and Elizabeth Skiles.



Hunters can help fight hunger

Hunters can help their communities again this year by donating deer they've harvested to a charitable organization dedicated to fighting hunger across Kentucky.

Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry coordinates with deer processors and covers the costs associated with processing deer donated by hunters. The venison is ground then distributed to homeless shelters and food banks.

"One in six Kentuckians goes to sleep hungry every day. We take that seriously," said Roger LaPointe, Hunters for the Hungry executive director. "We see a lot of fruits and vegetables being donated, but what is lacking is a reliable source of

protein. That's where we come in.

"Kentucky is blessed to have a large deer herd. If we're able to capitalize on that, it's a win-win for everybody. It's a win for farmers. It's a win for hunters. And it's a win for food banks."

At the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission's most recent quarterly meeting, LaPointe provided members of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission with results from the 2018-19 deer season and goals for the 2019-2020 deer season.

The 1,460 deer donated by hunters during the 2018-19 season represented an increase of more than 500 from the season before and was the second highest total ever for Hunters for the Hungry. The



donations provided more than 62,000 pounds of venison, which when ground is enough for 310,000 meals for hungry families.

More than 50 charities benefitted from hunters' donations. This year, LaPointe has a goal of 2,000 donated deer.

Hunters for the Hungry hopes having two new refrigerated trailers will help it reach its goal. The trailers will be deployed for special hunts and to parts of the state without a participating processor nearby.

The organization also has added 13 new processors for this season.

To view a list of participating processors, or to learn more about Hunters for the Hungry, visit the organization's website at kyhuntersforthehungry.info.

"Sturgeon," continued

Right: Lake sturgeon in raceway at Pfeiffer Hatchery.

Below: Fisheries Biologist Stephanie Brandt and Ichthyologist Matt Thomas with Corbin High School students. Below right, the students release lake sturgeon at Mouth of Laurel boat ramp.

