



Greenwing hunt  
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## Rich Storm announced as Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commissioner

**A** Nicholas County sportsman and farmer with a varied background ranging from mining to human resources recently received the appointment to lead the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources as its new commissioner.

“It is my honor to serve an agency that I love and respect,” Commissioner Rich Storm said.

“One of the first thoughts I have about this agency is the great quality of employees that we have working at the department,” he said. “I look forward to listening to your thoughts and sharing ideas with you. Coming from a personnel background, I believe people are our greatest asset.”

Storm’s first day in his new role was Jan. 14, 2019.

“The search for a new commissioner spanned several months. Ultimately, we chose Rich, who I find to be forward thinking and full of integrity,” said Dr. Karl Clinard, Ninth Wildlife District representative on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission. “Rich is an avid sportsman, a farmer and a successful businessman. His personal background and



professional experience will serve him well in this new role.

“I’m confident he will do a good job for the sportsmen and sportswomen of Kentucky and for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.”

Storm noted the agency is blessed with great resources, lands, heritage and variety.

“In a time of prosperity, I believe we should always be mindful that our work is not complete,” he said. “I encourage you to recruit new outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen to join us.”

Storm is a firm believer in mentoring; he’s personally coached students in golf, baseball and archery. He urges employees to look to the future and how to make it better.

“Leaving things better than we found them should be our goal and our mission – and it can be achieved,” he said. “Kentucky’s outdoors are second to none and I am excited to partner with you as we move forward.”

Through his work as general manager of PICI Staffing, Storm has gained experience in various industries, including mining, automotive and manufacturing. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Science from Morehead State University.

Storm lives in Carlisle with his wife, Heather, and their two daughters.

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## WE GET MAIL

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

A note from the Department's Facebook Page:

"Having hunted since the 70's, [this is] just a note to say "Thank you" for the phenomenal job you have done over the years. I never dreamed I would see deer in my yard in Madison County, turkey everywhere, elk in Eastern Kentucky, or a season for bear. There are many who don't remember the lack of game, not so many years ago. I, for one, trust, and appreciate KDFWR and the efforts you have made. Merry Christmas!" - Fusil Page

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A letter to Jacob Stewart:

"Greetings and good afternoon. I just wanted to share my compliments and thoughts on the excellent job that you and your staff are doing on Clay WMA. Accordingly, I had mentioned that we had an enjoyable and successful deer hunt during the pheasant quota and you asked if I would share a picture with you (shown above). While not an exceptional deer, I was very happy to harvest this buck. I was not able to weigh him but I would estimate ~125-130 pounds dressed; while he appeared healthy it did seem like he had lost a significant amount of body weight from what I would have expected even post main rut. Maybe he's been on a diet from evading the gun quota hunters and late November archery hunters. Several other hunters stopped by and were highly complimentary of both this deer and the sightings that they had been having during the weekend.

Eleven antler points of 1 inch or more, 16.5 inch spread, had an interesting and unique kicker on his left brow tine. Not sure if he is one that you've been watching or not. Another year would have made a beauty of a mature deer but I just



had such a great experience with the hunt that I am happy.

As I mentioned I have only been hunting Kentucky public areas for the last three years, prior to that I did have some success and some big buck encounters some years ago in Butler County near Morgantown. I grew up hunting in Central and Southern Indiana and just moved to East Tennessee 2.5 years ago. I am so impressed with the management, the wildlife, quality of experience, local hospitality, everything – particularly on your WMA. Kentucky is definitely "in the lead" on the conservation efforts and quality of wildlife management as far as what I have seen both in my work and recreation time. I have mainly concentrated on the lower main tract at Clay but will start exploring a little more. My father who lives in Tennessee is a longtime veteran turkey hunter and he wants to come up and see the area,

so we may try that this next Spring.

Again, it has been a pleasure being a visitor and stakeholder of the WMA and I am looking forward to my next visit!"

Take care,  
Josh Jenkins  
USDA-NRCS  
Greeneville, Tenn.

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A note to Commissioner Jemley:

"I would like to take this opportunity to commend three employees of your department for extraordinary service to the community and the neighborhood of Norton Commons in eastern Jefferson County. In late September our committee held its first ever "Youth Fishing Derby." We invited youth in the neighborhood, along with their parents, grandparents or other significant neighborhood lake. We had over 30 participants in this event.

As this was our first ever event we also requested assistance from your department. Three of your employees, Easton Copley, Allysa Brady and Jason Martin, graciously and generously responded to this call. They provided loaner equipment, expert advice and guidance and prizes and promotional items, all the while promoting the fun, wholesome family activity of fishing in the Commonwealth. Needless to say their presence made this event a great success and provided neighborhood children and adults with hours of fun. The proof was in the smile on our young neighbors' faces.

Please see to it that these employees receive the recognition and thanks they so richly deserve for their efforts."

Sincerely,  
Keith Hardison  
Chair, Commons Social Committee



## STEVE BEAM RETIRES

After 24 years of service, Steve Beam retired on Dec. 31. Steve began his career at KDFWR as a wildlife seasonal technician at Miller Welch Central Kentucky WMA. He then served as a biologist in the Environmental Section where he learned many life lessons from the late Wayne Davis. Steve moved on to become one of the first agency Farm Bill biologists followed by Regional Coordinator for the Southeast Wildlife Region. Steve ended his career serving as Wildlife Division Director. Steve will remain in conservation field, where he will serve as the National Wild Turkey Federation State Biologist for Kentucky and Tennessee. He is presented with a plaque for his years of service by Deputy Commissioner Karen Waldrop.

## BOBCAT EXHIBIT UPDATED

Big things are happening at the Salato Center's bobcat exhibit. The exhibit space is being renovated by H2O Designs, and will receive a brand new stream system that will include a flowing stream, pond and a small waterfall. The exhibit's non-functional stream has been in need of updating for quite some time, and this update is being made possible through the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Salato's bobcats are expected to enjoy their new amenities when the project is completed this winter.



**Here kitty, kitty**  
 The bobcat might seem like an overgrown house cat. It is one of Kentucky's largest predators. Like cats, they have sharp claws and pointed ears. They are shy and are curious animals. They are shy and are curious animals. Bobcats prey on small mammals, but will occasionally take a deer, bintlie house





In 2009, after a successful cow elk harvest, Edward Kriz was given a hat to commemorate his harvest. While at college, the hat was stolen. This year, Edward Kriz's father contacted the department for a replacement. Though the hats are no longer distributed, a replacement hat was located and mailed to the father in time for a Christmas gift for his son.

## Department provides Christmas for past elk hunter

A few days before Christmas Ed Kriz called the Department with a strange, but hopeful, request.

Kriz wanted to know if the Department could help him obtain a new elk hat for his son, Edward. In 2009, the younger Kriz was selected for the elk quota hunt. His hunt was successful and he managed to harvest a cow. Upon checking the animal in, Kriz was given an "elk" hat to commemorate the event.

The hat was a constant accessory for the younger Kriz, he faithfully wore it with pride for years. But when he went to college, the father said the hat was stolen.

Desperate to find a replacement for his son, Kriz called the department looking for some help. Bruce Armstrong received the call while working in the Information Center. Not knowing if the department still had access to the hats, he sent the information on to Marketing Director Brian Blank.

The Department no longer distributes the hat from 2009, but Blank found a replacement, added a few more items to a box and shipped it to the older Kriz to give his son at Christmas.

Below is a note of thanks, the Department received from a grateful father:

*"Brian, I just wanted to thank you (and Bruce, and whoever else might have helped at Kentucky Division of Wildlife) for all of the effort to locate and ship the Elk hat for Christmas. It is unbelievable that you not only tracked down a hat, but tracked me down, and sent a whole bunch of other goodies in the box, all in time for Christmas Day. My whole family was touched by your kindness. Attached are the pics I promised. As you can see, my son has grown up in the past 10 years. He loves the hat. It was a great surprise. I told him to hang on to this one because it is now a vintage collectible."*



## Annual Greenwing Adventure hunt brings success

**A**t this year's annual Greenwing Adventure, 18 young hunters and their parents were invited to Camp Currie for a weekend of duck hunting fun Jan. 4-5. Private landowners donated the use of their duck blinds to make Saturday's hunt a success.

In addition to the hunt, hunters and their parents spent the weekend with lessons in duck calling, a duck calling competition and learning shooting safety and shooting practice. While the hunting was slow due to unusually high temperatures and water levels, one blind was able

to attract some waterfowl and harvest a mallard and a coot.

Success for that weekend was not measured in the number of harvested waterfowl, but by the smiles on each hunter's face as they returned to camp with new friends and new stories from their day in the blind.



Kentucky Conservation Officers participating in the 2018 Shop with a Trooper event were, from left, Officer Lucas Hurt, Officer Jennifer Henning, Officer Casey Meek, Sgt. Adam Avery and Officer Lucas Hurt. At right, Officer Lucas Hurt let a shopper pick out a toy during the event.

## KENTUCKY CONSERVATION OFFICERS JOIN IN WITH THE 2018 SHOP WITH A TROOPER

Several Kentucky conservation officers joined Kentucky State Police troopers from Post 3 in the 2018 Shop with a Trooper event Dec. 6 at Meijer in Bowling Green. The event was a huge success. They were able to help 39 local children have a wonderful Christmas. The troopers and officers were also joined by several volunteers and sponsors to make the event a success.



Above, Sgt. Adam Avery shopped with a little buddy during the event. At left, Officer Casey Meek helped a young shopper select a toy.



[See 'Shop,' page 7 for more photos](#)

**“Shop,” continued**



Above, Officer Trevor Lowe helped a shopper with a fishing rod purchase. Right: Officer Jennifer Henning helped a shopper and her mom pick out a toy during the Shop with a Trooper event.

**SANTA VISITS FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Santa played a special visit to some of our Fish and Wildlife employees in December. For a look at all the photos go to: X:\Santa Visits Headquarters 2018

At right, Santa found Traci Hemberger and John MacGregor outside while on his visit to Fish and Wildlife Headquarters. Below, Phillip Williams in the Information Center thinks he got a good report from Santa. Below right, Nan Harnice and Jessica Tyler in the Commissioner’s Office had some fun with Santa during his visit.



## Employees come through with KECC donations

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's 2018 KECC challenge netted some sweet rewards for several employees. During the Pie-in-the-Face challenge, employees donated money to their "favorite" boss. The "winners" received the honors of getting a pie in the face. Employees were also encouraged to bid on the opportunity to toss the pie at the "winner" of their choosing. The pie-in-the-face "winners" were Col. Eric Gibson, Acting Deputy Commissioner Misty Judy and Acting Commissioner Frank Jemley.

The pie event was just one of many throughout the year to raise money for KECC. Through the generous donations of Fish and Wildlife employees, the Department has raised more than \$3,700 for KECC making a difference in the lives of Kentuckians and that does not go unnoticed by your co-workers and leadership.



As we know, often communities experience challenging times that can take a toll on families and their neighbors, but

### KECC 2018 EVENTS

Paycheck Pledges: \$1,920  
 Silent Auction: \$865  
 Pie in the Face: \$210  
 Bake Sale: \$190  
 Chili Cook-off: \$136.55  
 Salato Breakout: \$115  
 Pumpkin Decorating: \$113  
 Target Shoot: \$100  
 Donation Jars: \$24.71  
 Crocheted Snake: \$55

nobody should have to choose between paying for prescription drugs, to put food on the table or paying the rent. Through your monetary donations and donations of time you, have helped make a positive difference in some of these lives and we will forever be thankful.



## 2019 DEWEY LAKE MOBILITY IMPAIRED HUNT

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife officers from the 7<sup>th</sup> District, Sgt. Jason Slone, Sgt. Homer Pigman and Officer Dean Kennard, recently assisted with the Dewey Lake Mobility Impaired Deer Hunt. The hunt, which began in 2006, is restricted to the first 15 mobility-impaired hunters who register. This year, five hunters, from as far away as Richmond, along with four local hunters, harvested three deer. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife would like to thank the Dewey Lake Fish and Game Club, Park Naturalist, Trinity Shepherd and employees of Jenny Wiley State Resort Park for the use of their facilities and their dedication to organizing the hunt. Anyone interested in registering for the 2020 Mobility-impaired deer hunt can call the Jenny Wiley State Resort Park at 606-889-1790.