



Steve Beam named Wildlife Division Director

A career wildlife biologist is the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's new Wildlife Division Director.

Commissioner Gregory K. Johnson appointed Steve Beam earlier this month. Beam is a 21-year department veteran and most recently the Regional Coordinator for the Southeast Wildlife Region in the Somerset office.



Beam began his Department career in 1994 as a seasonal wildlife technician on the Miller Welch-Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area. He later moved and served as a biologist in the Division's Environmental Section. He moved again to become a Farm Bill biologist, before becoming Regional Coordinator in the

Southeast.

Beam is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a B.S. Degree in Wildlife Management.

He's worked his entire professional career with KDFWR and says he's excited about the opportunity to lead the division.

"I hope our staff can look at my career and know I have been where they are," he said. "I hope that gives me some capital. I hope they know that I am not just looking out for our wildlife – I am certainly – but having been where they are, I am looking out for them too."

Habitat improvement, hunter access and opportunity, and the Department's new grouse habitat venture are just a few Division initiatives he's anxious to delve into.

Beam enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, and is an especially avid turkey and deer hunter.

He has been married to his childhood sweetheart, Brandy Beam, a school teacher, for nearly 20 years. They have a nine-year-old son, Ryan. They are the joy of his life.

POLICE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY

One year after the formal dedication of the Kentucky Conservation Officers Fallen Officer Memorial, the Kentucky Conservation Officers' Association and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Law Enforcement Division observed Police Officer Memorial Day on Friday, May 15, 2015 to honor those Conservation Officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to the Commonwealth. Officers saluted as the Department Honor Guard laid a wreath in remembrance.



INSIDE:



5 Herndon honored



6 Salato eagles



7 Archery Classic

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

The following letter came to us from Neil Ward, Bell County Attorney. "The eighth annual Fish Fest was held on April 18. Thanks to the help of your department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 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. **Sgt. Ray Lawson** was also on the scene to help with the event.

Thank you and your employees for a successful fishing day enjoyed by the children and families."

New Hires / Promotions

The Farm Bill Program Branch welcomes **Kathy Radomski**. Kathy has lived in Murray, Kentucky since 2009 after relocating from Stuttgart, Arkansas. However, her family roots are in upstate New York.

She has a B.S. from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY and a M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX.

Kathy has been working with the Wetland Reserve Easement team in Mayfield for the past two years, and enjoys meeting new landowners and helping them understand the program as well as getting out in the field with the team to evaluate and monitor sites.

In her free time, Kathy enjoys bird-watching, hiking and biking. She is excited to be on board with KDFWR and is looking forward to expanding her knowledge.

The I&E Division welcomes **Olivia Harmsen** as a new Conservation Educator in the Hunter Education Program. Olivia is originally from Michigan, where she grew up in the outdoors, and moved to Kentucky to attend Midway College.

She graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Science and attended graduate school at Murray State University studying swamp rabbit populations at restoration sites. Olivia was an intern at the Salato Wildlife Education Center in 2012 and took part in Murray State University's Mentor Deer Hunt in 2014.

She is a trained hunter education instructor and conducted a deer hunt for veterans at the Lexington Life Adventure Center. She enjoys showing horses and skydiving.

Now that she has attained her goal of working for the Department, Olivia will be operating out of Frankfort as the Hunter Training Officer for central and northern Kentucky.

Paul Brewer recently joined the Engineering Division as a Fish and Wildlife Technician I. He was born and raised in Frankfort and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Kentucky State University.

He previously worked for a small construction company before coming to Fish & Wildlife. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and doing mechanic work in his spare time.

James Manley recently joined the Engineering Division as a Fish and Wildlife Technician I. He was born and raised in Frankfort and graduated from Western Hills, where he went on to study two years in Plant Science at Western Kentucky University. Then he proceeded to graduate from Diesel Mechanic School out of Nashville, TN.

He recently worked for Woodland Tree Care Company out of Frankfort. He loves to hunt and fish in his spare time.

Jarred Brooke will be our new Farm Bill biologist in Hopkins County. He hails from Albany, Indiana. Jarred earned a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science with a minor in Soil Science from Purdue University in May 2012, and a Master's degree



WEST TAKES FIRST GOBBLER

Law Enforcement Division Director Col. Joe West took his first wild turkey this spring, a 22-pound Powell County gobbler. Major Shane Carrier introduced West to spring turkey hunting and called the bird into range. West, who assumed his post as director in January, is a 34-year veteran of law enforcement who grew up hunting pheasants, rabbits and squirrels and fishing the Auglaize River in Ohio. But this was his first time hunting wild turkeys. He calls it an incredible experience and says turkey hunting is now in his blood.

See "Hires," page 3

“Hires,” continued

in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee in May 2015.

Jarred studied northern bobwhite habitat selection on Peabody Wildlife Management Area as part of his Master’s degree. Jarred also was involved in many research projects related to habitat management for bobwhite, white-tailed deer, and eastern wild turkey.

Jarred enjoys hunting, fishing, upland bird dog training, and spending time with his wife Macy.

Kerri Dikukn is a new Farm Bill biologist working out of Nelson County. She is originally from Long Island, New York. She earned a Master’s of Science in Coastal Marine and Wetland Studies at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC where her research focused on nest-site selection of Wilson’s Plovers and a Bachelor’s of Science in Biology from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT.

Since graduate school, she has held a number of positions focused on endangered species, including Piping Plovers and Least Terns as well as species of concern like Wilson’s Plovers and American Woodcock.

Most recently Kerri worked as the Long Island Bird Conservation Coordinator for Audubon New York where she oversaw the organization’s conservation work on Long Island pertaining to coastal

and salt marsh bird species.

Please welcome **John Brunjes** as the new Migratory Bird Program Coordinator. John joined the Migratory Bird Program in 2006.

Since joining KDFWR, John has overseen the Department’s statewide migratory game bird banding program which bands more than 5,000 ducks, geese and doves each year. Beyond banding, John has worked on projects to protect nesting habitats of Endangered least terns, create shorebird habitat, and investigate habitat use by migrating American woodcock, among others.

John has served KDFWR nationally on groups such as the Mississippi Flyway Game Bird Technical Section, the National Dove Task Force and the North American Banding Council.

John is originally from Wilmington, NC where he grew up on the coast taking photographs, hunting ducks and fishing as much as possible. He attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (B.S. Biology/marine biology), the University of Georgia (MS in Forest Resources) and Texas Tech University (Ph.D. in Wildlife Science).

Before coming to KDFWR, John worked as a biologist for USDA Wildlife Services and a private consulting firm.

Mindy Rose joined the agency on April 16, 2015 as an Internal Policy Analyst

I. Mindy has an associate’s degree from Indiana Wesleyan University in Business Management and currently attends JCTCS, pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Biology.

Mindy’s financial background includes working in the Mortgage Industry for 15 plus years as a Sr. Loan Officer and Branch Manager. She was responsible for marketing, analyzing financial documents, underwriting, processing and closing procedures.

Mindy received the Overall Volunteer of the Year award for 2014 from our Salato Wildlife Center. She enjoys hiking, fishing, and photographing wildlife with her camera, her Faith, and sharing it all with her two daughters.

Please join us in welcoming **Zach Slinker** to his new positions as the Fish and Wildlife Foreman at Paintsville and Dewey Lake WMAs. Zach has worked as a forest management interim technician in the northeast for the past three years.

Zach has a bachelor’s degree from Morehead State University and currently resides in Morehead. Zach has a passion for the outdoors and enjoys hunting and fishing in his free time. Zach has a good platform to start from and we are excited about what he will be able to accomplish throughout his career.

Stop by and introduce yourself if you happen to be in the Paintsville area or you might run into him and his bird dog, Trigger, in the grouse woods.

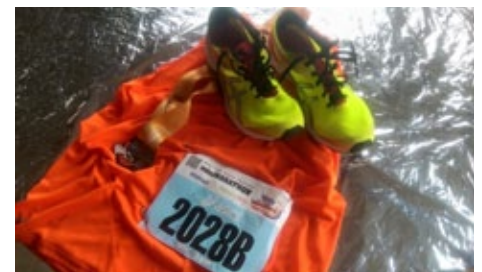
Buser helps KEHP team to top Derby miniMarathon finish

Congratulations to Bluegrass Region Public Lands Biologist **Scott Buser** on being selected as a member of the Kentucky Employees’ Health Plan (KEHP) race team that won the team division of the Kentucky Derby Festival miniMarathon presented by Wal-Mart and Humana Vitality on April 25th.



Now in its 42nd year, the miniMarathon attracts more than 12,000 entrants each year and is ranked among the nation’s top 100 races by USA Track and Field.

Scott completed the 13.1 mile course in a time of 1:21:29, a 6:12/mi pace which earned



him a 36th place overall finish and a 4th place finish in his age group!

Very impressive!



Conservation officers pull special duty during winter's snow storms

During the two record snow storms that descended on Kentucky in late February and early March Kentucky Conservation Officers shifted focus away from our primary mission of protecting Kentucky's great resources to assisting the public.

Vehicles better equipped to handle deep snow placed them in position to assist people in need. Many officers paired with a Kentucky state trooper and answered calls for service.

Conservation officers were called up to aid stranded motorists and transport medical supplies.

They transported one person 30 miles to the hospital to be with his newborn son who had a heart condition, rescued a semi-truck driver who had been stranded on the interstate five hours after his rig broke down, pushed out numerous motorists stuck in the snow, assisted Lexington

Metro Police with traffic control on the Interstate, rescued a 10-year old special needs child who had climbed out of her

window into 14 inches of snow and sub zero temperatures, and assisted Berea police with a criminal investigation.

Waite named CMI

Ninth District Conservation Officer **Rich Waite** accepts his Certified Marine Investigator (CMI) certificate from International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI) President Wayne Skrdla. Waite is one of only 80 CMIs in the U.S. and Europe. CMIs have experience and training in a wide range of areas including the detection, prevention and investigation of boat and related thefts, adjusting boat related insurance claims, marine surveying, admiralty law as it relates to recreational boating, cause and origin of fires, marine insurance policy interpretation, accident reconstruction, matters related to hull



construction and the operation and repair of motors.

Sgt. Scott Herndon recognized as QDMA Wildlife Officer of the Year

Sgt. Scott Herndon, of Spencer County, has been recognized by the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) as its Wildlife Officer of the Year, and posts on its website that its award was “presented to one of the most outstanding nominees QDMA has ever considered.”

Herndon got his start as a wildlife officer in 2001 and quickly began earning recognition and promotions for not only his law enforcement work but his community involvement as well.

He has been instrumental in working with his local court systems to require poachers to pay restitution money. He asks his officers to host at least one youth program each year. He actively supports youth programs of several conservation organizations, and he most recently became active



with QDMA's Derby City Branch and its annual QDMA Military Youth Hunt.

Herndon and his officers work the entire hunt, providing instruction for young hunters in safety, ethics, first aid, field dressing and processing venison. At

the KDFWR Headquarters in Frankfort, there is a beautiful memorial dedicated to every Kentucky conservation officer who has fallen in the line of duty, a project for which he chaired the committee that planned and raised the funds.



FISHIN'... THE OLD FASHIONED WAY

A Great Blue Heron enjoyed some fishing success earlier this month at Sportsman's Lake at Fish and Wildlife Headquarters in Frankfort when it caught this trout. Mindy Rose, an Internal Policy Analyst with Administrative Services Division and former Salato Wildlife Education Center volunteer, also enjoys wildlife photography and found this moment with her lens. *Mindy Rose photos*

Salato gets two eagles

The Salato Wildlife Education Center has received two new bald eagles.

It took six months for Conservation Educator **Geoff Roberts** to find and secure the two new bald eagles for the Center. The Center received the eagles May 13 from a raptor rehabilitation center in Cody, Wyoming.

Salato's previous aging bald eagle died last fall.

Staff decided then to seek both a new eagle for exhibit and also an eagle for programs. Both of the new male birds suffered wing injuries previously and are unable to fly making them permanently non-releasable. The cause of their injuries is unknown, but shooting has been ruled out.

The younger male will be placed on exhibit. He was found on a dairy farm, is three years old, and is cosmetically perfect except for a slight wing droop.

Plans call for the second eagle, a 4-year-old male just beginning to display white plumage flecks that are harbingers of the iconic white head and tail feathers of a mature eagle, to become a Program Eagle. It will be trained for use in educational programs. McCarty says he already seems calm and is progressing well in his training.

It was found on railroad tracks, leading to its name "Casey Jones," and also is cosmetically perfect with a slight wing droop.

"We have a good staff that have proven themselves to confident raptor trainers," said Conservation Educator Supervisor and experienced eagle handler **Brent McCarty**. "Training a bald eagle is not significantly more difficult than training



a red-tailed hawk, but their size definitely makes them a bird that is not for beginners."

Neither eagle is ready for display yet.

KDFWR veterinarian **Dr. Iga Stasiak** is monitoring their health throughout the course of a 30-day quarantine. Staff will evaluate their progress and get them on display as soon as the birds are ready.

McCarty says that time frame is really "up to the eagles." They could be on display as early as the end of May, but it could take longer depending on their comfort level.



Top: Geoff Roberts holds the new program bald eagle as Brent McCarty attaches his new equipment. Salato staff use the same equipment for program birds that falconers use for their hunting raptors. Left: Brent McCarty was pleasantly surprised to see that Salato's new program bald eagle is already eating food while sitting on his glove.

Clay County students post memorable day at Tim Farmer Archery Classic

Ms. Karlene Coots, a teacher at Big Creek Elementary in Clay County, wrote us twice and sent photos after taking her students to the Tim Farmer Archery Classic.

May 18, 9:04am – We just wanted to share a few of our photos showing the great time our Archery Team had on Sunday at the Tim Farmer Classic.

We are from Big Creek Elementary in Clay County, KY, and not only are we one of the smallest public schools in Clay County, but we are the first elementary school to have a competing NASP team.

This is our first year having a team, and the kids said this was the most exciting trip yet. They had a lot of fun walking the trails and shooting 3D targets, plus getting to meet Mr. Tim Farmer was certainly the highlight of their trip.

We wanted to thank Mr. Leach, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife and everyone there for being so accommodating to our team. Everyone was so very nice and helped make this one of the best experiences these kids have ever had.

May 18th, 3:01pm – Thank you guys so much once again. Believe it or not, even though we live in Southeastern Kentucky, this was the first time a few of the kids had ever been on a hike, and the first time they had even seen deer and turkey up close.

I grew up hunting and fishing with my family and was lucky enough to marry someone who shares my love for the outdoors.

I took for granted that a lot of children do not get the same experiences my husband and I had as kids, so I am hoping to use Archery as a way to get kids introduced to hunting, fishing and taking care of our state's beautiful mountains and lakes.

