



Elk
roundup
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Sandhill crane hunting proposal



As many of you have heard, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has proposed a first ever hunting season on sandhill cranes during the 2011/2012 hunting season.

This proposed season comes after years of questions from Kentucky sportsmen about the possibility of having a season. Until now, a hunting season was not possible because there was no management plan in place for the eastern population of sandhill cranes which migrate through and winter in Kentucky.

In March of 2010, the Atlantic and

Mississippi Flyway Councils approved a management plan which would allow a limited harvest of Eastern Population Sandhill Cranes.

Since Goal #2 of our Strategic Planning Goals is to increase opportunity for, and safe participation in hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife-related activities, the Department decided to submit a hunt plan for the state of Kentucky following guidelines laid out in the management plan.

This plan was submitted at the July 2010 Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway

Council meetings and was tentatively approved by both Flyway Councils. Final approval for all migratory bird hunting must come from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and that would occur at their June 2011 Service Regulatory Committee meeting. Additionally, the plan would still need to be approved by the KDFWR Commission at their June Commission meeting before any hunting takes place.

The hunt plan submitted by Kentucky takes a very conservative approach to hunting sandhill cranes. The plan calls for a lottery system drawing of 400 people who will each receive 2 crane tags. The season will be 30 days beginning in mid-December 2011. As hunters harvest birds, they will be required to Telecheck their birds. While 800 total tags will be issued, the season will close as soon as or if harvest reaches 400 cranes. Full information on the plan can be found on the KDFWR website [here](#).

The topic of hunting sandhill cranes has proven to be a controversial one. KDFWR has strongly considered how a hunting season might impact items such as the population as a whole, wintering sites in Kentucky, the wildlife viewing opportunity provided by cranes, and the experimental population of whooping cranes which migrate through Kentucky.

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

This e-mail was received through the Information Center. It's another reminder that a seemingly minor act of sending some magazines to our servicemen and women overseas does make a difference.

This is Sgt Christopher M. Adcock. I am overseas in Afghanistan. I wanted to thank you for the box you sent me. It is very appreciated. Your support and prayers help us get through the days out here. To us you are the heroes. We have so many members out here who enjoy fishing and hunting and love your magazines. On behalf of the 2123RD Trans company I would like to send out my deepest thank you on how you and your department have gave us a piece of home that we so desperately miss. We will be leaving here in 8 days and will return for good. I would like to come by and thank you personally for what you have done. So if you can just give me directions to your work and I will make sure to stop by. I have many pictures on my facebook of this crazy place. I am under Christopher Adcock. I went to Thornhill Church all of my youth until I was 18 or so and I miss it. I will also have to visit when I get home. Well I gotta run so I will talk to you soon. E-mail me anytime and if you have any questions feel free to ask. Again thank you so much for your support and prayers.

Correction to a piece of mail posted in the January newsletter. The letter was from Ms. Rebecca Robbins and her 5 year old son, Jackson. She was thanking an un-named department employee for a kindness shown to her son. The employee was incorrectly identified. The employee who should receive the credit and thanks is **Paul Eldridge**. Thanks Paul, for being a good ambassador for KDFWR.

Hunter Education Instructor Appreciation Banquet

The Hunter Education Program hosted the annual Hunter Education Instructor Appreciation Banquet at Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park on January 22, 2011. There were 114 in attendance.

Hunter Training Officer **Bobby McKee** presented **Scott Barrow** with the Hunter Education Conservation Officer of

the Year award.

A very special thank you to Law Enforcement's Color Guard Team who opened the ceremony. Also, thanks to **Paul Eldridge** and **John Akers** for making door prize and silent auction items for the Kentucky Hunter Education Association.

"Sandhill," continued

In every way this plan attempts to be conservative. The harvest of 400 cranes from a population which exceeds 60,000 will not slow the rapid growth of this population. Wildlife viewing is an incredibly important and growing wildlife related activity in Kentucky.

This plan was devised to close the season before peak viewing opportunities at the sandhill crane weekends at Barren River State Resort Park. It is also timed so that the season opens after whooping cranes have moved through Kentucky.

Lots of thought and effort has gone into this plan so that it will provide additional hunting activity without damaging the watchability of this incredible resource.

It is possible that many of you have already gotten questions about this issue. There is a frequently asked question section on the website above which deals with many of the question we have already heard. If you have additional questions or concerns, we welcome your input. Please encourage those that want to express opinions on the season to write the Commissioner's office.

New hires / promotions

Bill Shipley is the newest member of our janitorial section. Bill is retired from Jim Beam Distillery with 30 years experience. Please welcome him to our Headquarters staff.

Chad Soard joined the agency as a merit employee on February 1 as Wildlife Biologist working at KDFWR Headquarters. Chad has been with the Department since January 2009 in a grant-funded position where he worked with the captive wildlife permits and helped implement management efforts for wild pigs. Chad received a BS in Biology from Northern Kentucky University and a MS in Biology from Eastern Kentucky University. Chad now maintains daily oversight of the captive wildlife permitting system and control activities associated with the expansion of wild pigs throughout the Commonwealth. His work experience and knowledge regarding non-native wildlife make him an excellent candidate for this position.

Will Bowling started February 1 as a biologist in the Deer and Elk Program. Before joining the elk program, Will worked as a “shared services” biologist for the Southeast Region and U.S. Forest Service, doing habitat management work on wildlife management areas and assisting with nuisance elk and bear calls. He completed his master’s thesis on the effects of brainworm on elk calf survival at the University of Kentucky in 2009. Before doing his graduate work, Will worked as a technician for other elk research projects, gaining valuable experience working with elk and elk-related issues. Will is a native of southeastern Kentucky and currently resides in Clay County. As expected, Will has “hit the ground running,” working on the bull mortality study, nuisance elk work and population surveys.

Terra McQueary was hired on Feb. 1 to the dispatch section of the Law Enforcement Division. She brings with her over 13 years of telecommunications

experience with her recent position being the 911 Emergency Director for Russell County. Terra recently moved to Georgetown with her fiancé and 9 year old son. In her spare time Terra likes reading books on her Kindle, cross-stitching, scrap booking, and riding on her fiancé’s motorcycle.

Please welcome **Mark Mangeot** to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Office of the Commissioner as our new Legislative Liaison. Mark most recently served in a similar capacity with the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, where he was appointed Executive Director for the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Services by Secretary Brown in May 2009.

Mark brings 25 years of state government experience to the post. Prior to serving as Executive Director, Mark served as deputy director for the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet’s legislative office, and prior to that he worked for 10 years as legislative liaison for the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet.

A resident of Frankfort for more than 30 years, Mark graduated from Franklin County High School, and earned Associate’s and Bachelor’s degrees from Kentucky State University. An avid hunter and sportsman, he is a member of the Ducks Unlimited Organizational Committee and the National Wild Turkey Federation Organizational Committee. Mark and his wife, Jamie, have one daughter.

Mark’s new role for the department will have him assisting the department during the annual legislative sessions and interim committee meetings. However, he will also be tasked with legislator communication and outreach initiatives in a way that KDFWR has not approached in the past. Specifically, Mark will support all divisions by helping coordinate events involving legislators and other state/city/county officials throughout Kentucky. At such events, Mark will be responsible for fostering increased awareness of the great things our department does for conservation, and for hunting, fishing, trapping and boating in all 120 counties.

KDFWR has in recent years performed some of these tasks with existing staff and only part-time at best, despite the fact that it deserves a full-time commitment. It is also important to realize that, because of our organizational and funding structure, our department is unique in that we have a direct service-to-benefit relationship with more than one million customers, along with governmental and non-governmental partners, and we should want to nurture these relationships as often as possible. Given Mark’s legislative contacts and background, and most importantly his love and appreciation for conservation and outdoors in Kentucky, his coming to KDFWR finally provides us this unique opportunity.



QR CODES

If you’ve seen a strange symbol like the one here on a publication, sign or elsewhere lately but didn’t know what you were looking at, you’re not alone. The symbol, still unfamiliar to most of us, is a QR code – for Quick Response. The specialized bar coding allows smartphone users with a QR-reading app (software application) to quickly locate Internet resources related to the good, service or program of interest.

2011 FISHING FORECAST AND TIPS



Welcome to the 2011 Fishing Forecast for Kentucky's major fisheries. The forecast is based on 2010 fish population surveys, creel surveys, fish stockings, and historical knowledge of the fisheries. This handout is designed to assist anglers in planning their fishing trips and improving their fishing success. Additional fishing information is available from the Department's website at fw.ky.gov or by obtaining copies of the 2011 Sport Fishing and Boating Guide available at most sporting goods stores. The Kentucky Trout Waters brochure is contained in the 2011 Fishing and Boating Guide.

To locate fishing access sites in Kentucky, visit our website and click on "Fishing & Boating", then "Where to Fish", and finally "Find a Place to Fish". You will be able to search for your favorite water bodies and get directions to all major boat launches and access sites.

Opening day of the 2011 fishing season starts March 1 with the new year's license, so take a trip to your local sporting good store, get online at fw.ky.gov, or call 1-877-598-2401 to purchase your 2011 fishing license.

The Fishing Forecast was partially financed through funds provided by your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.



The winter of 2010-2011 was definitely one for the record books. Most areas of the state received significant and frequent snowfall events along with long periods of extreme cold temperatures.

Lucky for us, winter is approaching its end. For those die-hard anglers, as well as the novices out there, spring will be here shortly ushering in warmer temperatures. This will mark the beginning of the 2011 fishing season. The cure for cabin fever is just around the corner.

Annually, the Fisheries Division compiles a forecast of what anglers should experience across the Commonwealth during the 2011 fishing season. **Jeff Ross**, Assistant Director of the Fisheries Division, helps with the development of this publication and considers this an essential piece of important information for anglers across Kentucky. "The Fishing Forecast gives anglers a general idea of what the fishing should be like in lakes, rivers and reservoirs in Kentucky."

Ross explains that the forecast is de-

2011 Fishing Forecast

veloped by analyzing fish sampling data collected during 2010 and then comparing it to long-term datasets collected on individual lakes. "In most of our lakes and reservoirs, our fisheries biologists maintain long-term databases on the abundance and growth rates of various sport fish species. We utilize these databases to help identify and highlight what sport fish species are doing well at each lake."

At the back of the 2011 Fishing Forecast, Ross has developed a "cheat sheet" that helps anglers quickly identify hotspots. "Anglers can utilize this section by simply going to the lake they like to fish and seeing what fish species are anticipated to be excellent during 2011.

For those anglers who enjoy targeting a specific species (i.e. smallmouth bass, musky, or redear sunfish), the cheat sheet allows them to quickly determine which lakes and reservoirs on which to focus their efforts."

Another interesting component to the 2011 Fishing Forecast is the section labeled "New Up and Comers."

"The species and locations listed in this section are those fisheries that have made significant improvements from previous years. These are the lakes or species that anglers should pay particular attention to as many of these fisheries are outstanding," explains Ross.

One particular up and comer is the musky population in the Kentucky River. "The musky fishery has really started to improve dramatically since we started supplementally stocking musky," explains central fisheries district biologist **Jeff Crosby**. "We are presently stocking pools 3-9 with musky on an annual basis. During our sauger sampling trips to the Kentucky River, we regularly see muskies

around 40 inches, with a few fish up to and exceeding 50 inches."

His biggest musky observed to date on the Kentucky River was a 52-incher. Crosby recommends that anglers target musky in the spring around the dams. He suggests utilizing large spinnerbaits, bucktails, AC shiners and oversized jerkbaits.

Another "up and comer" for the 2011 fishing season is the largemouth bass fishery at Taylorsville Lake. "The largemouth bass population at Taylorsville Lake is beginning to look like it did back in the late 1980's and early 1990's," states Crosby. "The 2007 and 2008 year-classes of largemouth bass were strong and we are now starting to see these fish recruit into the fishery."

He explains that the growth rate of largemouth bass at Taylorsville Lake is exceptional with fish reaching the legal size limit (15-inches) by age 4. "The 2007 year-class will be four year olds this spring and many of them will already be exceeding the 15-inch minimum size limit. The 2008 year-class will be in the 12-14 inches size class and should provide good catch rates of slightly sub-legal fish."

Probably most promising is that the 2009 and 2010 year-classes also appear to be quite strong. Crosby anticipates that with good winter survival, the largemouth bass population at Taylorsville Lake should remain good for several years to come.

Anglers can view the 2011 Fishing Forecast by going online to the following web address fw.ky.gov/pdf/2011fishingforecast.pdf. For those without access to the internet, please feel free to contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at 1-800-858-1549 and ask that a copy be mailed to you. On behalf of the Fisheries Division, we wish you good luck during the 2011 fishing season and we hope to see you on the water.

Please remember to purchase your 2011 fishing license prior to March 1, 2011.



Curly pondweed collected from Beaver Lake.

Fisheries planning to remove invasive aquatic plant species at Beaver Lake

species. Some studies have shown that larger, predatory sport fish may be negatively impacted through reduced foraging efficiency on smaller preyfish species. This can sometimes lead to poor condition of sport fish and an overabundance of smaller

preyfish species.

Beaver Lake, a 158-acre state-owned lake in Anderson County is managed principally as a panfish fishery (bluegill and redear). Curly pondweed first became established in the early 2000's and is currently considered the predominant aquatic plant species in the lake.

Prior to becoming established, the lake contained several native species of aquatic plants including naiads, water willow, coontail and common pondweeds.

The establishment of curly pondweed is believed to be related to a shad eradication effort that selectively removed shad from the lake. The chemical used to eradicate the shad also removed several grass carp that were intentionally stocked by the Department to control the abundance of aquatic vegetation. Once the grass carp were removed, the occurrence of curly pondweed increased dramatically.

Complaints from anglers about too much vegetation have increased annually since curly pondweed has become established. Additionally, the amount of curly pondweed at Beaver Lake has resulted in an "out-of-balance" dynamic between bluegill and largemouth bass.

Dense stands of curly pondweed make foraging difficult for largemouth bass to prey effectively upon smaller bluegill. As a result, electrofishing surveys over the past several years have indicated a trend

See "Beaver Lake," page 6

When some people hear the term "Aquatic Nuisance Species" (ANS), they often think of things like Asian Carp (silver and bighead carp), zebra mussels, round goby and snakehead fish. However, ANS goes beyond just fish and mussels to also include various species of plants (both terrestrial and aquatic).

While not native to Kentucky, aquatic nuisance plant species have many of the same impacts to our native species once they become established in our lakes, rivers, and reservoirs.

Examples of aquatic nuisance plants species that occur in Kentucky or have the potential to occur in Kentucky include; (1) Eurasian watermilfoil; (2) hydrilla; (3) purple loosestrife; (4) Brazilian watermilfoil; (5) common reed; (6) water hyacinth; (7) alligator weed; (8) reed canarygrass; and (9) curly pondweed. Once established, these species often outcompete Kentucky's native aquatic plant species and can form dense stands.

These dense stands not only impact the anglers ability to fish, but also have the potential to negatively impact sport fish



Picture of how problematic curly pondweed can become when it becomes too abundant in a lake. *Frank Koshere photo.*

Satellite transmitters highlight movements of young eagles

In May 2010, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) partnered with The Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) to attach satellite transmitters to two nestling bald eagles at Ballard Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Ballard County, Kentucky.

The nestling eagles (one male and one female) originated from two different nests on the WMA. They wear a 70g solar-powered GPS satellite transmitter, attached externally, like a backpack. Solar panels recharge the transmitter's battery. We hope three to five years of tracking data will be recorded for each of these birds. KDFWR has created a website for the public to view up-to-date maps of the eagle's movements and information about the project: fw.ky.gov/baldeagletracking.asp

Kelly, the young female bald eagle,



A transmitter was attached to this young bald eagle last May.
Ray Stainfield photo

lust and has covered a lot of ground in five states (Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Tennessee) since he left his nesting territory in August of 2010.

Like Kelly, Turner also ventured to northern Illinois last fall. In fact, at one point in November, Kelly and Turner were just 3 miles from each other on the Illinois River. However, in early January, Turner returned to Kentucky and later travelled the length of Kentucky Lake into Tennessee. Since then, he's followed the same lake back into Kentucky and explored southern Illinois!

To see detailed maps of the young eagles' recent movements, please visit the news page for our bald eagle tracking project [here](#).

Additional information about bald eagles (nesting, wintering, and identification) is also available via our website [here](#).

dispersed to northern Illinois last fall. She has remained in the area since, continuing to roam a favorite 20-mile stretch of the Illinois River, north of Peoria, and nearby lakes.

Contrastingly, Turner, the young male bald eagle, has quite the case of wander-

“Beaver Lake,” continued

of increasing abundance of small (3 to 4 inch) bluegill and stunting of largemouth bass around 12-14 inches. The abundance of small bluegill makes it difficult for these fish to grow to a larger size; meanwhile, the growth rate of largemouth bass has declined dramatically because they are not able to prey upon bluegill in the abundant vegetation.

In an attempt to eliminate curly pondweed, the Fisheries Division plans to utilize a chemical herbicide (Aquathol Super-K). Last year, experimental treatments of curly pondweed with Aquathol yielded promising results. “Curly pondweed is an aquatic plant species that grows

well in cooler water temperatures,” comments **Jeff Crosby**, central fisheries district biologist. “The plant begins growing in mid/late February and begins to die back once water temperatures reach the middle/upper 70s in June or July.”

“Because this particular plant is a cooler water species, successful control attempts will be focused earlier in the year compared to more traditional herbicides that would be utilized to treat problematic plants. Right now we are exploring the possibility of treating in late March or early April once water temperatures reach 55 F,” said Crosby.

“Our goal is to completely remove or significantly knock back the abundance of this nuisance aquatic species. By doing

so, we hope to help promote the re-establishment of native aquatic plant species, as well as hope to improve the size structure of both the panfish and largemouth bass at Beaver Lake.”

By reducing the abundance of curly pondweed, Crosby believes that should allow largemouth bass to prey effectively upon the abundant smaller bluegill. By reducing their numbers slightly, this should help to increase growth rates of the remaining bluegill and help promote the abundance of more quality size bluegill and redear sunfish for anglers to enjoy.

“Additionally, by making the smaller bluegill more accessible to the bass, this should also help to improve growth rates of largemouth bass in Beaver Lake.”



MISSOURI BOUND



Department biologist Jason Fisher (center) and University of Kentucky research technician Wade Ulrey prepare to attach ear tags, micro chips and blood test elk earlier this month in Bell County that will become the nucleus of Missouri's elk herd. Elk from Utah, Kansas, Oregon, New Mexico, Arizona and North Dakota were the seeds of Kentucky's elk herd more than a decade ago. Missouri is paying all expenses and will also raise 600,000 crappie for Kentucky Lake over the next three years.



“Kentucky Afield” TV gets sponsorship from a company on the rise – Padgett Cranes

By Charlie Baglan

It's common to see the Padgett name reaching into the sky over major construction sites, now it's seen on the growing list of major “Kentucky Afield” TV underwriters. Alongside Clay Tire of Grayson – which just signed for a second year – Padgett is a major contributor to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife in delivering the message of hunting, fishing, boating and conservation. In fact, the outdoors is the top pastime of the Padgett family.

Based in New Albany, Indiana, Padgett, Inc. has been a part of many high-visibility projects: From immense construction projects to telecommunications towers, they're also to credit on the 12-story-high bat leaning against the entrance of the Louisville Slugger Museum, the KFC Yum Center, Papa John's Cardinal Stadium and Horseshoe Casino. And back to the subject of television, Padgett helped producers meet intense schedules on a popular Louisville episode of “Extreme Makeover – Home Edition.” In short, Padgett prefers huge.

“Padgett contacted us because they love the show,” recalls Fish and Wildlife fundraiser **Chad Miles**, who set up the sponsorship. “Padgett supports what we're all about. This is evident when you walk into their building and see all of the individuals wearing camouflage.”

Often, without knowing it, if you communicate through it, go for its entertainment, shopping or business services – the facilities and projects Padgett has helped bring about has built a better life across Kentucky and the Midwest. Learn more at www.Padgett-inc.com



YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT



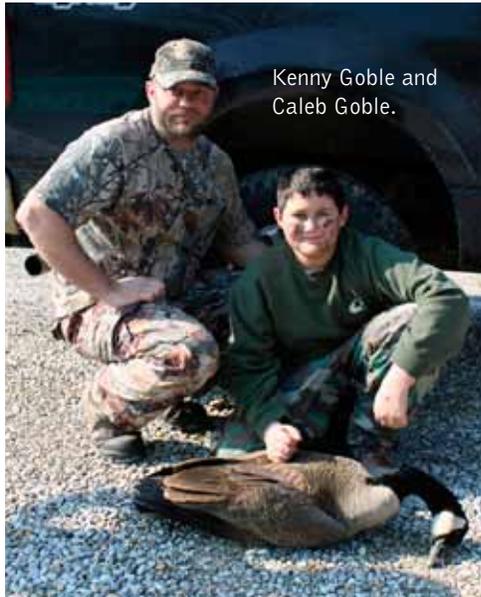
First District Officers Sgt. Garry D. Clark, Sgt. Denny Broyles, Officer Tony Dunker, Officer Scott Barrow and Officer Greg Youree assisted 13 youth waterfowl hunters at the Po Po Hole in Ballard County Saturday, February 5, 2011. Breakfast and lunch was served to hunters and parents. After lunch was served, donated prizes consisting of blind bags, thermos bottles, beanie caps and camo caps were presented to the youth hunters along with Po Po Hole camo hats. The weather was great for duck hunting with wind and snow. The youth hunters took 50 ducks. They had an outstanding time.

Minor Clark Fish Hatchery Mentor/ Mobility-Impaired Waterfowl Hunts

Twenty-nine hunting parties, consisting of 52 youth and 51 mentors, participated in the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery Mentor/Mobility-Impaired Hatchery Waterfowl Hunts this winter.

The young hunters and their mentors harvested four ducks, 34 geese, and lifelong memories over the course of seven weekend hunt days.

Coordinating these hunts is a team effort involving Wildlife, Fisheries and Law Enforcement Division staff. Hatchery staff has been especially helpful in making these hunts the success they have become.



Kenny Goble and Caleb Goble.



Josh Young, Lucy Bacon, Will Bacon, Ruben Bacon and friend.

Mobility-impaired hunters and youth under 16, accompanied by an adult mentor, can apply to participate in these hunts.

Information on how to apply each year is available within the [Kentucky Hunting Guide for Waterfowl](#).

Kentucky AFIELD MAGAZINE

Kentucky Afield, the official publication of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, offers you practical tips to have a better day in the woods or on the water. The bonus calendar issue gives you season dates and provides you monthly tips about fishing and the natural world.

All this for just \$10 a year, or \$18 for two years.



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