



Elk  
roundup  
Page 9

## Fisheries staff complete shad removal efforts at Corinth Lake

The Fisheries Division recently completed a large collaborative effort to remove the abundant population of gizzard shad at Corinth Lake. Corinth Lake is a 96-acre Department-owned lake in Grant County along Interstate 75.

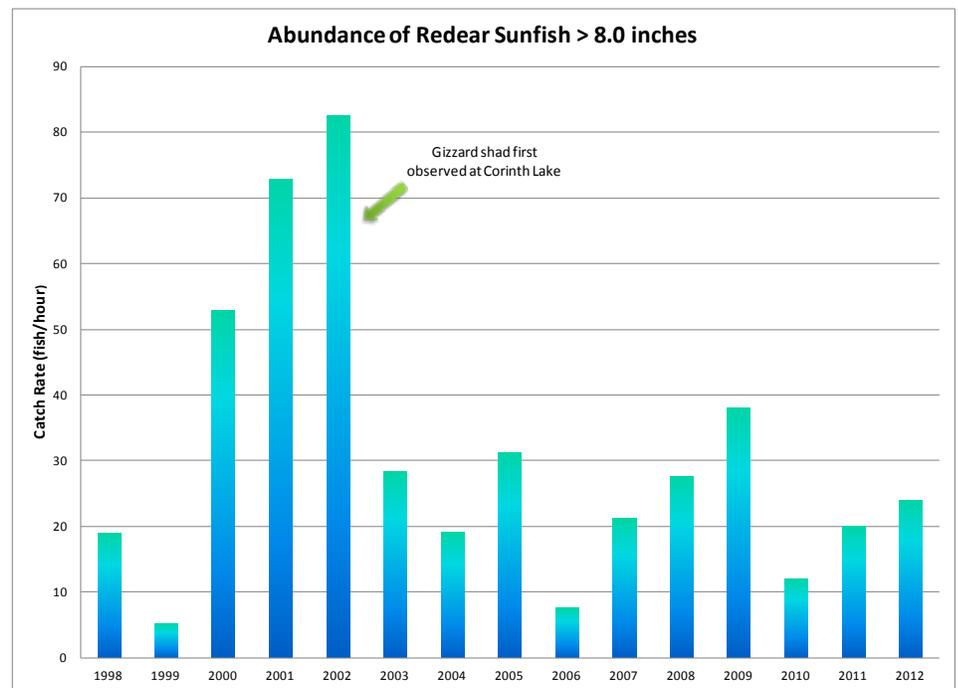
“The fisheries management plan for Corinth Lake is to manage for quality panfish, including bluegill and redear sunfish,” explains Jeff Crosby, Fisheries program coordinator for the central fishery district. “To effectively manage for such a fishery, it is necessary that shad be kept out of the lake. We wanted to utilize our knowledge of bass/bluegill interactions to promote rapid growth of panfish in order for these fish to reach quality size.”

Crosby says those management efforts were highly successful at Corinth Lake. “Around 2000, Corinth Lake developed a fantastic quality panfish fishery, particularly for redear sunfish. Our sampling data showed that the peak of quality redear occurred around 2001-2002. We had the highest catch rate of redear sunfish bigger

See “Corinth,” page 13



Fish and Wildlife Technicians Danny Duvall and Nick Keeton apply rotenone at Corinth Lake in an attempt to remove gizzard shad. *Jeff Crosby photo*



INSIDE:



6 FILO land



7 New FINs lake



8 Barn owls

## WE GET MAIL

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

We received a letter from John W. McCauley, Executive Director of Kentucky Farm Service Agency. He wrote, "On behalf of the Farm Service Agency, I want to take a moment to thank the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife for their tremendous partnership with FSA on the Conservation Reserve Program. The department has been instrumental in the continued success of conservation in Kentucky. Currently, Kentucky residents enjoy the benefits of 304,572.8 acres of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. This enrollment includes 15,866 contracts on which technical assistance was provided through the development of conservation planning, practice implementation and continued assistance to manage the land.

The support provided by KDFW transcends many areas of our conservation program. This past summer and fall our offices received valuable technical input as the entire state was trained on Continuous CRP. **Danny Hughes** was instrumental to the success of that training as a technical agency representative trainer in each location. Kentucky participants receive ongoing technical support as a result of the dedicated efforts of **Farm Bill Staff** that have been strategically located throughout the state. As we move into 2013, anticipation of work to begin management activities on the more than 99,000 acres of land enrolled through the Green River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is daunting. The continued support of KDFW in getting this work planned and completed is important to the program.

Again, thank you for the role that KDFW plays in putting conservation on the ground in Kentucky."

Commissioner Gassett received the

following letter from Mr. Tim Ross. "I am writing in regards to the recent Greenwing Adventure my daughter, Pamela Ross, attended through **Camp Currie**. She has attended Camp Currie for the past three years and was very excited and thankful to be chosen as an alternate to attend this year's hunt. The experience was one she will never forget, she still can't quit talking about it. The staff did an outstanding job with safety and she learned things in a short 36 hour period that she would have otherwise never been introduced to.

Most of the staff she has known from her time at Camp Currie. They do an exceptional job of making the kids feel part of the group and making learning fun. **Nancy Kiernan** does a terrific job through the schools in Marshall County to excite the kids in wanting to attend Camp Currie. She also makes it easier for a parent to send their fourth grader off to camp. She is easy to get hold of and will answer any questions.

Ducks Unlimited was well represented and we appreciated their support of this adventure for the children. There were many wonderful door prizes and the food was delicious. I hope many in the future will be able to experience this same activity.

I think respect was the main thing learned and reinforced. Respect for guns, others, dogs, ducks, and the freedoms we have in this country. Thank you for providing this opportunity for Pamela."

We have received numerous thank you notes from students who participated in the Greenwing Adventure weekend.

Frank Webb wrote, "It was a fun and educational experience for me. We learned many things such as how to clean and cook a duck or goose and how to use a

duck call."

Cindy and Rebecca Haysley wrote, "I had so much fun at the duck hunt! I cannot pick one thing about the weekend that I like the best, the whole experience was amazing! I would like to thank Ducks Unlimited and Mr. Conely for the door prizes and gifts they gave us. I especially want to thank all the volunteers for dedicating their time for the hunt. It is something I definitely won't forget!"

10 year old Hannah Kennedy wrote, "The hunt was so fun, I actually shot a goose that I'm gonna eat. Yum! It let me know I can do anything I set my mind to. I was the youngest person there but they still made me feel welcome. **Amy Eichorn** said she would be coming to my school and show my picture with the goose. I may be a conservation officer when I get older. Thank you!"

Hannah's father, Bill wrote, "I wanted to let you know how much my daughter and I enjoyed the Greenwing hunt. It was a once in a lifetime experience and I cannot express how much it exceeded mine and the other parents expectations. The personnel from the Department of Fish and Wildlife were fantastic. Thanks to your department and Ducks Unlimited."

Regina Widdersheim wrote regarding **Camp Earl Wallace** and the impact it has had on her family. "I and my two brothers attended Camp Wallace many years ago while we were enrolled in Hazel Green Elementary School, in Laurel County. The experience was great for me as I was shy, overweight and had no confidence. I remember that the counselors made me feel at home and supported me and made me feel like a person.

**See "Mail," page 3**

## “Mail,” continued

My son, Adam, has attended Camp Wallace the last two summers. He loves it and looks forward to this coming summer, which will be his last time being eligible to attend. He has stated that he wants to be a counselor at the Camp when he gets old enough to do so.

Adam was born with Roberts Syndrome and Pierre Roban Syndrome, which means he was born with some skeletal issues that resulted in him having to have an amputation of his left foot and be fitted with a prosthetic device. The counselors and instructors at the Camp have made him feel at home, treated him with upmost kindness and as a “normal” child. He loves the shooting and **Betty Lewis**, the instructor, and when he returns from camp he sings and sings her praises and the camp’s praises for days on end. He is also interested in archery and has asked that he receive a bow and arrow set for Christmas. This is all due to the experiences he has had at Camp Earl Wallace.

I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for Camp Earl Wallace and for all of the counselors and instructors that have helped make memories that will never fade and has helped me gain confidence and has opened doors for my son, Adam.”

We received the following email from Chris Todd, who was a visitor at the Louisville Boat, RV, and Sport Show in January. Fish and Wildlife staff working this event at the time was **Zac Campbell, Darvin Chesser, Michael Gray** and **Todd Johnson**. Mr. Todd wrote, “My nephews and I attended the Louisville Boat Show on Wednesday, January 23. I’d like to recognize two people helping out that night at the Kentucky Fish & Wildlife booth. One of my nephews is mentally challenged and struggles with social situations sometimes. Both the officers and the personnel helping run the booth went above and beyond with taking time out for him and my other nephew. Please pass on

my gratitude to these gentlemen from your department for helping us that evening. It did not go unnoticed.”

This email came from Jack Porter with Quail Unlimited and the Bullitt East Archery Team. “The Bullitt East High School NASP archery tournament was a huge success. We had over 770 shooters. **Nicole Nash** did a great job with the department’s booth and the attendees were excited about the booth. We had a 3D shoot for the adults and kids set up in the cafeteria so it was the first time many of the kids had shot 3D deer and turkey targets. We had over 500 shooters try the 3D. The support is much appreciated, just wanted to say thanks.”

The following email came through our webmail. Mr. Mark Stanton from Poncatoula, Louisiana wrote, “I would like to tell you this is the best website I have ever been to. I have hunted many states and this is the most well put together, organized, informative site I have ever been to. Whoever is putting this together/updating is doing a great job. One thing that really impressed me is that the hunting seasons are already in place for 2013-2014. Kentucky has their act together.” Kudos to **Donna Covington**, our webmaster.

We received the following email from Matthew D. Armstrong, London, KY. “The purpose of this letter is to express my great appreciation for the KDFW and all that they do. I feel privileged to be a Kentuckian and to be able to enjoy the outdoors in this beautiful state. In a time when many public lands are being threatened by developments and private interests, the Commonwealth has increased its efforts to provide more public land access for our outdoors people.

As further proof that KDFW is an effective agency is the largest elk herd east of the Mississippi. I have been fortunate enough to have experienced the thrill of elk hunting in Kentucky. That experience is one that will never be forgotten and has

forged a lifelong desire to chase elk in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.

I learned to hunt as a child and continue to chase whitetails as an adult. It should be encouraging for all of Kentucky’s deer hunters that a record number of deer were taken last season. I only hope that others realize and appreciate this statistic.

As Kentuckians, our rights to hunt and fish were forever protected by new legislation in 2012, by a large margin. This too is a credit to a shared culture that we must continue to be proud of and foster in our youth.

So, to the KDFW and its affiliates, thank you.”

We received this email from SFC Harold Coy, with the Kentucky Army National Guard at Camp Stone, Herat.

“Thank you for all the wonderful *Kentucky Afield* magazines, DVDs and calendars. Our soldiers are very grateful for your generosity. Any mail from home brings a smile on their faces. Our soldiers really enjoy reading the magazines and watching the videos. The calendars were also a welcome sight.

Please thank all **the personnel at Kentucky Afield**, and especially you for the kind gesture. We thank you all from the bottom of our heart and God Bless all of you.

We are happy to serve our great nation. It warms our hearts that there are wonderful people like yourselves that support our soldiers.

Thank you again, and I hope that you all had a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.”

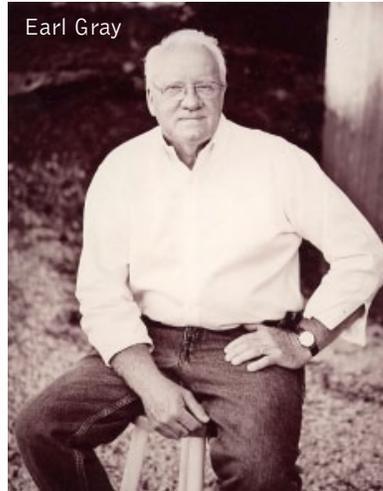
## Retired division directors Charles Bowers Jr., Earl Gray die

Retired Department of Fish and Wildlife division directors **Charles Bowers Jr.** and **Earl Gray** died suddenly last month.

Bowers, who retired in 1981 after a 32-year career, led Fisheries Division as its director for 11 years. He died January 28. He was 89.

Gray, retiring in 2002 after 34 years, headed Law Enforcement Division as its colonel from 1999 until his retirement. He died suddenly January 27. Earl was 71.

Bowers began his department career in 1949 as a fisheries biologist. Between 1957 and 1962, he led dozens of expedi-



Earl Gray



Charles Bowers Jr.

tions to Santee-Cooper, South Carolina where he and others used rod and reel to catch rockfish (stripers). During that time,

which was prior to hatchery rockfish production, they brought back more than 2,800 rockfish and placed them in Cumberland, Herrington and Kentucky lakes.

Bowers became Fisheries Division Director in 1970.

Gray began his department career as a conservation officer in 1968. He was promoted to Ninth District captain in 1988 and then to major in 1998. He came to Frankfort then as the divi-

sion's assistant director. He assumed division command as its director in October just over a year later.

## New hires and promotions

The Fisheries Division would like to welcome **Kristy Nowak** and **Clifford Scott** to the Department's Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program.

Kristy is originally from Hickman County, where she grew up with a deep appreciation of Kentucky's ecosystems. She obtained a B.S. degree from the University of Kentucky where she majored in Natural Resource and Environmental Science with a concentration in Plant and Soil Science.

Kristy previously worked as a conservation educator for the Dept. During her time as a conservation educator she conducted programs on mammals, birds of prey, reptiles, and fish and wildlife management. More recently Kristy was responsible for coordinating the Native Plant Program. She has extensive experience in conservation education, public outreach, and ecosystem management. Kristy's educational background and experience will be a valuable asset to the Department's Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program.

Kristy currently resides in Frankfort and enjoys canoeing, gardening, hiking, hunting, fishing, music, and art. She enjoys spending time in the outdoors with her family. She is very happy that she can continue her career with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Please welcome Kristy to her new role with KDFWR.

Clifford is originally from Fort Thomas, KY. He obtained two Bachelor's Degrees from Northern Kentucky University. He holds one in Fine Arts with a concentration in ceramics and another in Education (K-12).

He moved with his family to central Kentucky in 1997 to teach art at Bridgeport Elementary. He began working for state government in 2002 for the Department of Revenue and began his career with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources in 2006. While with the Dept., Clifford has assisted several Divisions with a variety of programs and grant projects. He has worked extensively

with State Wildlife Grant projects and Wildlife Restoration Grant projects. Clifford's diverse educational background and work experience will be crucial in his new role of tracking and managing stream and wetland restoration projects.

Clifford currently resides on a small farm in Lawrenceburg, where he hopes to build an art studio. He enjoys hunting deer and turkey and spending time outdoors with his family. Clifford is excited that he can continue his career with the Dept. Please welcome Clifford to his new role with KDFWR.

**Regina Penn** has moved from the Human Resource Branch to the Accounting Branch. She has taken her "whiz kid" numbers ability and overall agency knowledge to serve as the agency's Pro Card Administrator, among other duties.

**Dan Wilson** was recently hired into the Information and Education Division as

See "Hires," page 5

## Wounded Warrior Waterfowl Hunt at Blue Grass Army Depot

The Blue Grass Army Depot, Madison County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, Central Kentucky Gun Club and KDFWR hosted 14 Wounded Warriors in January for the 2nd Annual Wounded Warrior Waterfowl Hunt.

The 14 veterans who participated in the weekend events traveled from Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. The weekend started Friday morning at the Miller Welch Central KY WMA where the Central KY Gun Club furnished shotgun shells and clay pigeons during a wet, but enjoyable morning of trap shooting.

Friday evening Ducks Unlimited provided the veterans with a wild game dinner of elk, wild turkey, goose poppers, venison, pheasant and duck. The veterans were presented with hunting gear donated by Browning and Avery Outdoors. Shotgun shells were donated by Hevi-Metal. Zink and Fat Boy



custom duck and goose calls were given to each hunter.

The hunt took place on Saturday morning on the lakes and pond on BGAD.

The total harvest for the day was 45 ducks and seven geese. Ducks Unlimited TV was on hand to film the hunt and weekend's festivities.

### “Hires,” continued

a Conservation Educator and will coordinate hunter education in a forty county area in northern and central Kentucky. Born and raised in Oldham County, Dan holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Recreation and Sport Administration from Western Kentucky University. He spent the last two years working as a seasonal employee in the Aquatic Education Program and is experienced working with youth and adults in the field as well as coordinating the activities of volunteers. Dan is also a member of the Kentucky National Guard attending Officer Candidate School.

**Jamie Alton** has been hired as a conservation educator in Southeast Kentucky. Jamie is from Monticello, in Wayne County. After graduating from Wayne Co.

High School, he went on to college and received a Bachelors of Science degree in Wildlife Management from Eastern Kentucky University. Previous department employment includes working at Camp Earl Wallace as a counselor for two summers and working as an interim aquatic educator for five years. Jamie enjoys being outdoors, especially on the lake fishing.

On January 16, the Information and Education Division welcomed **Claude 'Rod' Wells** as a Carpenter I at Camp Robert C. Webb in Grayson, Kentucky. Claude is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and currently calls Olive Hill his home. He enjoys hunting, fishing, horseback riding and farming. Claude's previous experience with KDFWR has included work as a FW Technician III (2007 to 2011) where he conducted tree surveys and

worked with tree aging, planting and crop tree release. He also assisted with clean-up efforts from ice storm damage in western Kentucky. Last season, Claude worked at Camp Robert C. Webb as an interim carpenter and assisted with construction projects and facility maintenance before and during the camping season. We are pleased to have Claude on board as a permanent employee of the Camp Webb team.

The Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area welcomes **Vickie Howser** as Administrative Specialist 1. She has been working as a 9 month seasonal and as an Adecco employee at OCORA, since 2011. She has been instrumental in the operation of the office and the campground. Vickie is a former Otter Creek Park employee serving 15 years as Office manager. She is an excellent addition to the area and KDFWR.

## FILO acquires 5th property, secures major mitigation project

The Fees-In-Lieu-Of (FILO) stream mitigation program recently acquired 533 acres in Lee and Estill counties near the Kentucky River. This property includes woodlands and pastureland along the waters of Ross Creek and its tributaries as well as one half mile of Kentucky River frontage. The property adjoins the Daniel Boone National Forest along several boundaries.

The property contains approximately 20,000 feet of Ross Creek and its head-water tributaries. Some streams on the property are excellent quality while other reaches are unstable and eroding from lack of trees along riparian zones. The FILO program will improve aquatic and riparian habitat along many of the streams over the next two years. The property will not be opened immediately to allow time for design and construction of the stream habitat improvements.

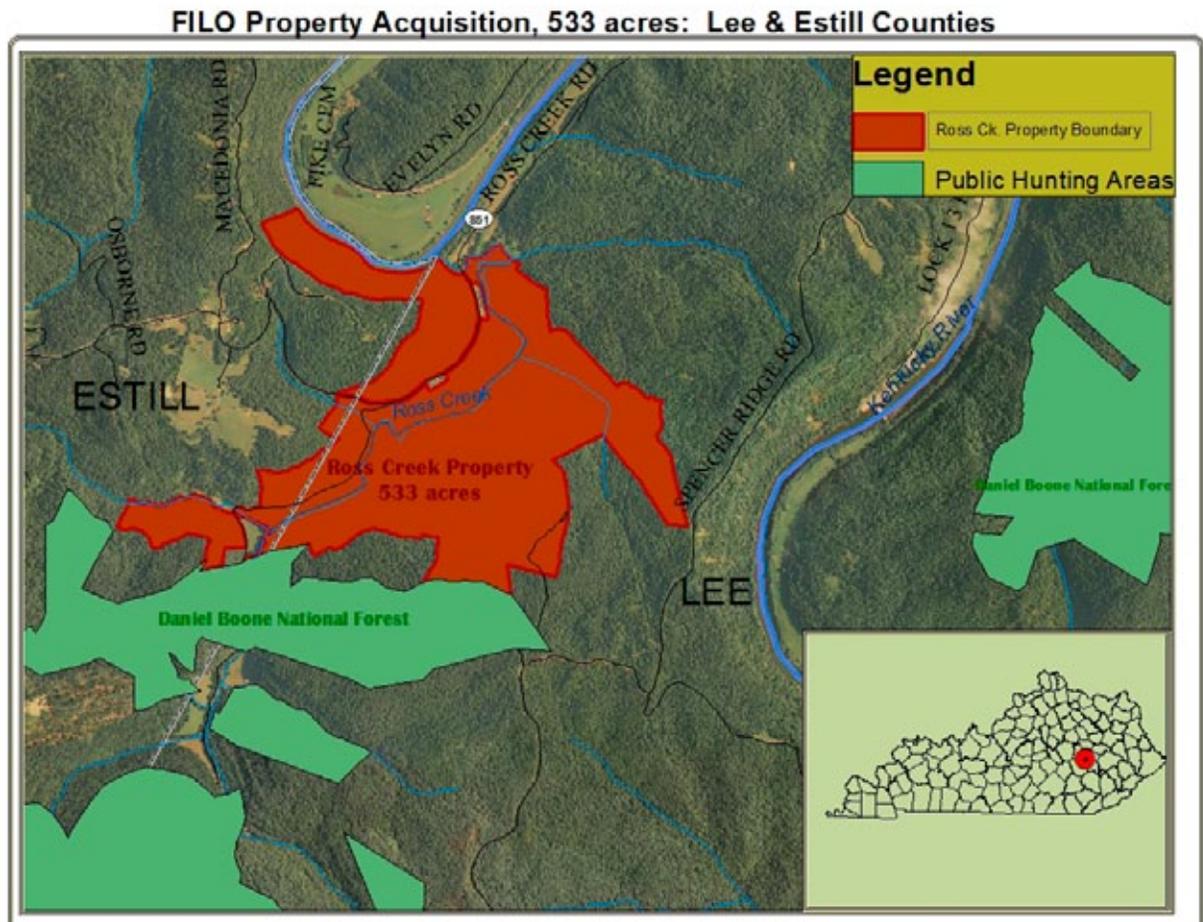
The FILO program is required to restrict activities around mitigation projects to only those compatible uses such as hunting, fishing and other passive wildlife-related activities.

The program typically meets this requirement through conservation easements for projects on private lands or through deed restrictions on properties that are acquired. The Ross Creek project brings the total property acquired by the FILO program to five properties covering over 3,399 acres including the popular Veteran's Memorial WMA in Scott County.

Interestingly, properties acquired by the FILO program can be used to satisfy the non-federal match requirement for projects funded through the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

Acts on or adjacent to the property that may occur in the future. Such partnerships between the FILO program and the Department's Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions helps maximize the use of the agency's federal funds, while at the same time minimizes the use of State Game and Fish Funds.

For questions regarding the Ross Creek project, please contact either Nick Ozburn, Project Manager at (502) 564-5260 or Rob Lewis Program Engineering Coordinator at (502) 564-5277 with the FILO program.



Highlighting the partnerships at Jacobson Park Lake is the recently completed ADA fishing pier constructed by staff with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. Anglers are already putting it to great use. *Joe Howell photo*



## FINs Program welcomes Jacobson Park Lake and partnership with Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

**A**nglers fishing this spring at Lexington's Jacobson Park Lake may notice a couple things: 1) they are catching more fish, and 2) some of the fish they are catching have a small plastic tag sticking out of their back.

The additional fish on the end of their lines is thanks to a partnership between Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Jacobson Park Lake was added to the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) program late in 2012, and will be receiving additional stockings of channel catfish and rainbow trout now that it's enrolled in the program.

The tagged fish are part of an ongoing exploitation study to determine how many of these stocked trout and catfish are caught and harvested. The returned tags will also tell us how quickly after stocking the fish are caught. Anglers who return these tags are eligible for a small reward in exchange for providing valuable information on the fishery.

In addition to the exploitation study, a creel survey is ongoing at the lake to

determine fishing pressure, catch rates, and additional information about the anglers' experiences.

Due to limited angling opportunities in Lexington, fishing pressure at Jacobson Park Lake can be extremely high. To keep pace with fishing pressure and sustain high catch rates, "keeper-size" channel catfish and rainbow trout will be stocked in the lake throughout the year.

Starting last October, trout were stocked into the lake for the first time. A total of 12,000 trout will be stocked annually during the months of October, February and March. Trout will not survive in the lake year-round, however they do provide a seasonal cool water fishery from October through May. Beginning in March, a total of 9,200 channel catfish will be stocked annually during the spring and summer.

Ready your gear, because warmer days are just around the corner, and the bite will be on at Jacobson Park Lake. It's a great

place to introduce a new angler, or maybe get away for an hour or two with family or friends to relax and catch a few fish.

For more information on the FINs program or Jacobson Park Lake please contact Dane Balsman at (502) 564-3400 ext 4480.



Tagged rainbow trout are being stocked in Jacobson Park Lake as part of a research project aimed at determining utilization and the rates at which stocked fish are being caught from urban lakes. *Dane Balsman photo*

## WANTED: Information on Kentucky barn owls



**K**DFWR is conducting a statewide inventory of barn owl nests this spring to expand research on this rare species.

Barn owls remain quite uncommon in Kentucky despite a large amount of suitable habitat. Currently, there are only about 25 documented nesting locations statewide. Nongame bird biologists would like to expand Kentucky's nest inventory in hopes to better understand the reasons for decline in this species.

Barn owls have a whitish face and breast with no ear tufts. They do not "hoot" like some owl species. Instead they "screech" and "hiss". They prefer open habitat such as hayfields and pasture and are usually not found in the woods.

Barn owls can nest year-round in Kentucky, though most of the nesting activity occurs from March-August. Although they often nest in hollow trees, barn owls also regularly nest in some very strange places including silos, grain bins, chimneys, hay lofts, attics and shooting houses.

If you know of a barn owl nest please contact Kate Heyden, KDFWR at (502) 564-3400 x 4475 or [kathryn.heyden@ky.gov](mailto:kathryn.heyden@ky.gov).

For the protection of owls and landowners, exact nesting locations and landowner information for barn owl nests is strictly confidential and will not be released to the public.

KDFWR is also collecting barn owl specimens to test for possible causes of decline. Fresh specimens are preferred, but slightly decomposed specimens are still useful. Even if the cause of death is obvious (e.g. collision with vehicle) the specimen is still useful.

Please notify KDFWR at the contact above if you find a dead barn owl so that it may be used for research. To be clear, it is not illegal to pick up a migratory bird carcass with the intentions of getting to it a federally permitted researcher/agency as soon as possible. However, it is illegal to keep a protected bird carcass for your own personal use.

More info on Kentucky barn owls can be found at [fw.ky.gov/barnowls.asp](http://fw.ky.gov/barnowls.asp).

## Mostly albino red-tailed hawk caught on camera

**A** bright white hawk with no color to its feathers was caught on a trail camera in Perry County, Kentucky this January.

The photo was e-mailed to our nongame bird biologist who confirmed it as a red-tailed hawk due to body shape and other features.

The bird is not a full albino because it has yellow legs and a dark eye. (A completely albino bird would have pink feet and eyes).

Although red-tailed hawks with patches of albino feathers are seen fairly



regularly in Kentucky, a bird with no pigment in any feathers is very rare.



Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife staff partnered with Missouri's Department of Conservation and Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in rounding up 50 Kentucky elk to help them start their own herds, and to move elk onto other Kentucky elk zone WMAs. Protocols call for blood testing and weighing animals before transporting and releasing them.



## ELK ROUNDUP



Above, Will Bowling runs alongside the herd. At left, Joe McDermott hugs one close as Virginia and Missouri veterinarians collect blood. Below, Gabe Jenkins and Dan Crank operate the crush so others can draw blood; UK doctoral candidate John Hast herds a calf with a shield, and Dr. Tina Brunjes records a weight. *John Brunjes photos*





Campers and their guides showing off their ducks after a long morning in the blinds.

## Currie Outdoorsman campers enjoy an exciting Greenwing hunt

**C**amp John Currie hosted its 26th annual youth waterfowl hunt, one of the longest running hunts of its kind in Kentucky.



Campers showing off their prize Canada Goose.

Seventeen youth who had earned their Outdoorsman Patch at conservation camp in 2012 hunted on January 4 and 5.

They traveled to west Kentucky from across the Commonwealth to brave the cold in hopes of taking their first waterfowl. They took 19 ducks of various species and one Canada goose on the Saturday morning hunt from blinds on public and private lands and guided by some of the best waterfowlers in the state.

The campers had a tremendous time despite the frigid weather and 3:45 a.m. rise!

The Ducks Unlimited Kentucky Greenwing Program donated ammo for the hunt, duck calls for each of



Michael Hutcheison shows the new duck hunters the tricks of calling in waterfowl.

the campers, and lots of great raffle prizes for the evening awards ceremony.

The event also featured calling lessons, calling contest, and a how-to lesson on wild game cooking. Staff from several divisions assisted with the event including **Michael Hutcheison** of the Wildlife division, **Eric Chambers**, **Dustin Mullins**, **Thomas Blackwell**, **Garry Clark**, **Tony Dunker** and **Scott McIntosh** from Law Enforcement, and **Nicole Nash** from Public Affairs.

Another big thanks to all the members of the Camp Currie and I&E staff who made the event a success!



## Zachary Johnson gets new home and discovers fishing

**A**quatic Education conservation educator **Marc Johnson** finalized his legal adoption of 12-year-old Zachary Johnson December 21, 2012.

Zachary moved in with Marc as a 10-year-old for temporary emergency shelter (foster care) and never left.

He didn't fish before but now loves to fish and can often be seen down on the pier at HQ during the summer and school holidays.

"There are some days that the last thing I want to do is go fishing but I know

how important these memories will be to him in the future so I make myself," said Marc, who coordinates hundreds of fishing events and outdoor opportunities for youth and others across the state. "Our best fishing experience was a week in Myrtle Beach where he experienced pier and offshore fishing for the first time."

Zachary would rather be outdoors than inside any day of the year and also enjoys playing basketball, football and youth league baseball, says Marc. He's an excellent student and is in the sixth grade

at Lexington Traditional Magnet School.

Zachary is determined to become a police officer and join the Marine Corps so they already are making plans for him to attend Eastern Kentucky University. Last summer he attended Conservation Camp at Camp Wallace and Trooper Island. He loved them both!

The pictures are from an August trip to Camp Currie. "We were using bluegill heads to catch catfish," said Marc. "That day I also hooked an alligator gar on a fish head but failed to land it."

## Youth enjoy Ballard hunt

**S**even young waterfowl hunters enjoyed the day at the Po Po Hole in Ballard County, Saturday, February 2.

Standing in front are Jacob Kent, Neely Shoulta and Laney Shoulta. In back are Jarret Oldham, D.J. Knight, Lindey Tatum and Annie Cooper.



The ducks did not cooperate but they managed to take two fowl. Breakfast was served and prizes, donated by Paducah Shooter's Supply and Dunn's Sporting Goods, were presented. All young hunters and parents enjoyed the day.

A special thanks to owners **Officer Tony Dunker**, KSP Jon Sailor, and Ballard County Sheriff Deputy Ronnie Giles. Also assisting with breakfast and the hunt were **Officer Randy Conway**, **Officer Scott Barrow** and **Sgt. Garry D. Clark**.



## Derby City Fly Fishers help install stocking tube

When George Tipker of the Derby City Fly Fishers heard that the staff at Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area (OCORA) needed help putting in a trout stocking tube, he immediately contacted members of the club.

Then, on February 2, 10 DCFE club members showed up to assist, despite the snow and the cold.

Five hours later the tube was placed and secured. While it isn't quite finished, it made stocking on February 5 much easier on the fish and the stocking crew.

DCFEE has been very active at OCORA both as users and in putting on fly fishing classes and demonstrations. They are a great partner.



**“Corinth,”  
continued**

than eight inches in 2002 (82 fish per hour). Similarly, our catch of redear sunfish exceeding 10 inches peaked in 2002 at 52 fish per hour.”

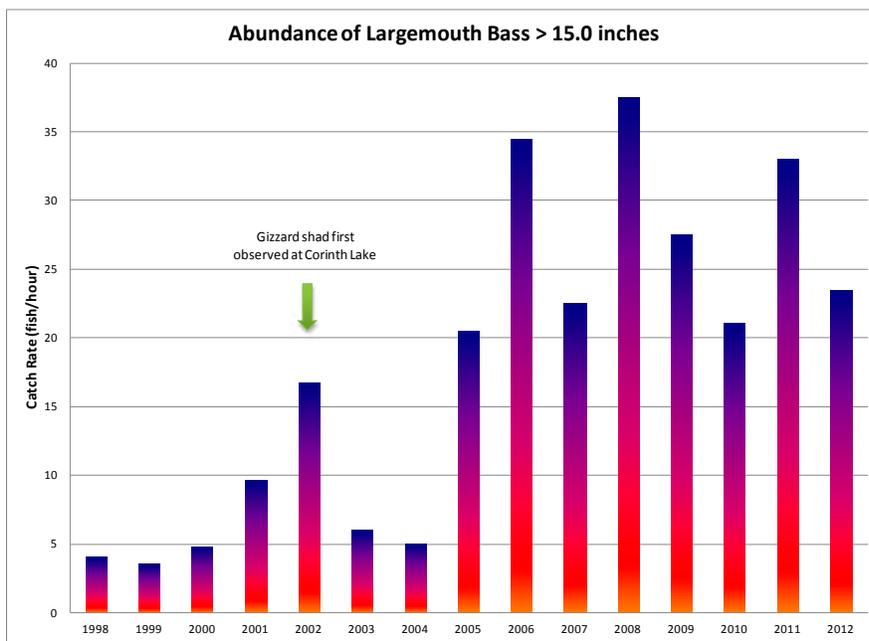
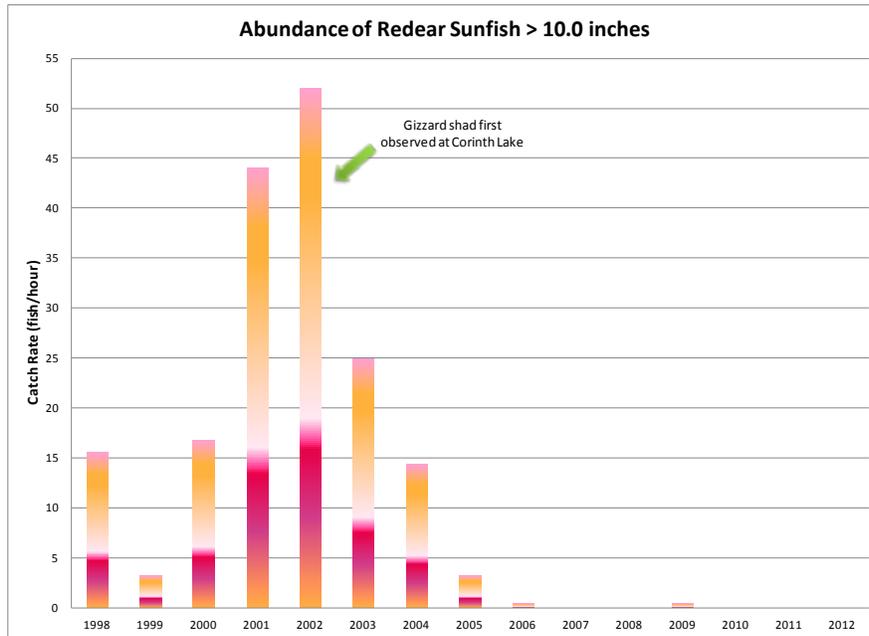
But also as that fishery peaked, fisheries biologists first began to observe the presence of gizzard shad during routine sampling efforts at the lake. “We believe that shad may have been introduced to the lake by bass or catfish anglers around 2000 and it took several years for their numbers to increase to the point where we first observed their presence,” explains Crosby. “Once we began observing shad, we concurrently observed a significant decline in the numbers of quality redear and bluegill sunfish. By 2005, the 10-inch redear sunfish were virtually non-existent and numbers of eight-inch fish dropped to less than a third of what was observed in 2001-2002.”

On the flip side, staff saw a dramatic improvement in the largemouth bass population as a result of bass utilizing gizzard shad as forage. “Our catch of largemouth bass bigger than 15 inches was historically low at Corinth Lake. When managing for quality panfish, largemouth bass populations typically are dominated by smaller, often stunted bass, with few large individuals.

“Once shad became established, our catch of largemouth bass bigger than 15

inches increased dramatically from five fish per hour in 2000 to 38 fish per hour in 2008,” he said.

Crosby believes that once gizzard shad became abundant, the largemouth bass switched from foraging on small panfish to gizzard shad. While this enhanced the growth rate of largemouth bass, it allowed increased numbers of small bluegill to survive, which effectively slowed their growth rates due to increased competition.



“Our first attempt to remove gizzard shad from Corinth Lake occurred in 2006. We utilized light application during winter when shad are already stressed that has been shown to be effective at selectively removing gizzard shad while not dramatically impacting other sport fish species,” explains Crosby.

But he said the light application was a bit too conservative and as a result did not remove all shad. “We continued to observe gizzard shad in the lake and therefore we decided to conduct a second application using a higher concentration this winter.”

Fisheries staff conducted the second application on February 7. The lake was closed to angling January 21 for nearly three weeks and re-opened February 16.

Crosby hopes this second application will result in a more successful removal

of gizzard shad from the lake. “We will continue to monitor the lake for the results of our rotenone application. If we are successful at removing gizzard shad and can keep them out of the lake, we believe that we can return quality panfish back to Corinth Lake.”

For more information about the fishery at Corinth Lake, please contact Jeff Crosby at (502) 564-3400 ext. 4464.