

March 2010

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Black duck
banding at
Sloughs
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Fish & Wildlife Foundation helps Camp Webb get new roof

By **Tim Slone**

The dining hall at Camp Webb is getting a new roof thanks to a donation from the Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Foundation.

After more than 50 years of continuous use the roof of the dining hall was little more than a patchwork of new repairs on top of old repairs. Camp Superintendent **Rick Crider**, along with **Ricky Lewis** and **Tommy Keeton** have been braving cold, snow and rain in order to

put a new roof on the building in time for camping season.

The Foundation donated all the materials and the camp's tireless trio has done the rest.

Constructed in 1958, the dining hall building was originally the old Shell Rock Elementary School. At the time the school was the pride of Carter County since it was the first elementary school in the county to have a multi-purpose room that was also a gymnasium.

When Grayson Lake was impounded

in 1968 the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) purchased the property surrounding the lake. The impoundment submerged the only access road to the school.

Former Fish & Wildlife Commission Member Dr. Robert C. Webb led a campaign to have the former school building turned over to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for use as a conservation camp.

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Department bowlers raise \$896.50 for Big Brothers / Big Sisters

Department bowlers raised \$896.50 for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, Inc. this month in its annual Bowl for Kids Sake event in Frankfort.

Thirty-one employees formed teams and bowled one game each in raising money for the charity. **Chris Grasc** of Wildlife Division turned in the day's high score with a 170. Team "Gut-R-Done," consisting of **Dan Figert, John Akers** and **Chris Garland** had the high average score with 120.

The team of **Tanya Wilson, Amy Glass, Meagan Huston** and **Willie Cook** raised the most money.



Amy Glass, Meagan Huston, Tanya Wilson and Willie Cook raised the most money.



Wildlife Division's Brian Clark rolls one toward the pocket.

New hires / promotions

Congratulations to **Josh Lillpop**, who is the new Wildlife Management Foreman at the Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA in Grant County. In addition to the Lloyd WMA, Josh will be managing the Dr. Norman & Martha Adair WMA in Boone County and the Mullins WMA in Kenton County. Josh's supervisor will be Dave Frederick, the public lands biologist overseeing WMAs in northern Bluegrass Region.

Josh has varied related experience, having worked most recently as a biologist, leading the efforts of a grant-funded

habitat improvement team working in the Bluegrass Region. Josh formerly worked for KDFWR in several positions, as well as for The Nature Conservancy and private business. He has a degree in wildlife from Eastern Kentucky University.

Johnny Bohannon started with the Department of Fish and Wildlife as an interim employee in April 2002 with a background in operation and maintenance of heavy equipment, trucking and farming.

Johnny worked as an interim employee until August of 2003 when he was

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

Mr. Robert W. Otto from Alvaton, KY, writes, "Last fall **Eric Cummins and his crew** solved a pond problem that had been bothering us for years. Our two supposedly infertile grass carp had magically multiplied to eight or 10 and had decimated our lovely water lilies.

I'd tried everything with minimal success and the remaining four were even more skittish. Eric and crew successfully alleviated the problem without harming a single bluegill or bass. I am very grateful for the help. Eric and your Bowling Green office should be commended for putting such a fine public face on the department."

We received this note from Zach Rogers, who participated in a Greenwing event. He wrote, "Thank you for giving me and my dad a once in a lifetime opportunity. I really enjoyed myself. We got to shoot clay pigeons. I didn't hit very many. I didn't think I was going to hit a duck.

Well, the next day came and we got in the blind and I saw a low flying duck. My guide told me to shoot it. I pulled the trigger and down he went. My guide told me to pull out the tail feather and put it on my Greenwing adventure hat. And that's what I did. I am getting it mounted. Thank you for letting me get my first duck."

hired in as a full time GFTL Highway Equipment Operator I. On March 1 he was promoted to the position of Fish and Wildlife Technician I with the Engineering Division. Johnny has been and will continue to be a valuable asset to the Department assisting in the boat ramp construction crew.

Fish attractors and boat ramps coming soon to Google Earth

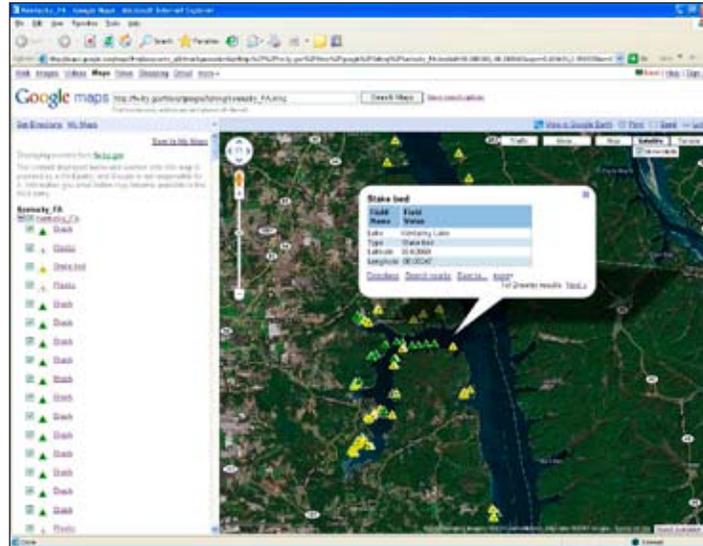
Ask any dedicated angler and they will tell you that when going to a new body of water for the first time, doing your homework prior to the trip is essential to make certain that you put the odds in your favor to catch big fish as well as numbers of fish.

In today's Internet age, doing this homework is easier than ever. Anglers can easily search for discussion pages, fishing reports, local weather and bait shops to gather critical information about fishing techniques, hot lures and seasonal patterns.

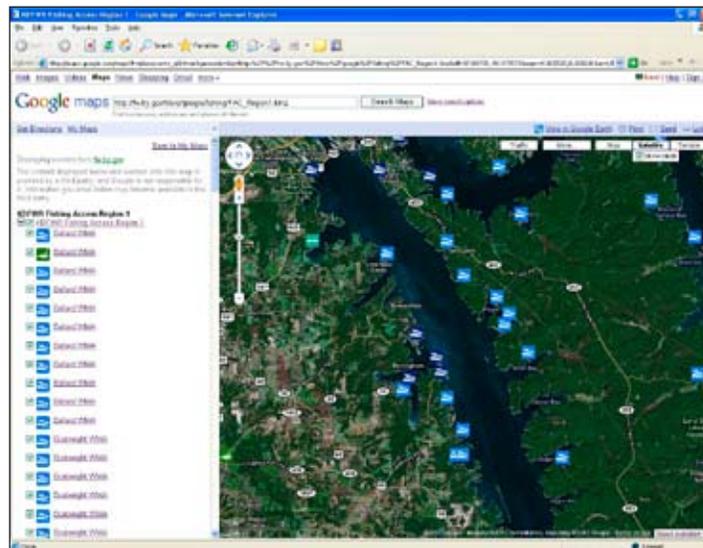
The Fisheries Division continues to provide as much information over the internet to help anglers improve their catch rates. For years, the Fisheries Division has marked fish attractor sites with GPS technology and produced paper maps for anglers to utilize to help increase their catch rates. These maps provided great eye candy for anglers, but their one big drawback was that they were indeed paper maps.

These maps allowed anglers to get in the general area of fish attractors. Unfortunately, they were not accurate enough to allow anglers to pull right up on top of such sites. As a result, anglers still had to do a lot of searching on the water to pinpoint many of these sites before making the first cast.

Recently added to the Department's webpage, anglers can now find [fish attractor sites](#) using Google Earth. By simply clicking on "Fishing and Boating," then



Screen shot image of fish attractor sites in Blood River embayment of Kentucky Lake, using Google Earth.



Screen shot image of boating access sites on the north end of Kentucky Lake, using Google Earth.

"Where to Fish," anglers can select various water bodies of interest.

Once they select the location, there will be a link to see fish attractors using Google Earth. At this point in time, only Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley and Cave

Run Lake have had their fish attractors loaded into Google Earth; however, more lakes will be added in the near future.

Once in Google Earth, anglers will see aerial views of the lake and symbols denoting fish attractor sites. Anglers can click on individual fish attractor sites and information will be provided including the type of fish attractor and the GPS location of the fish attractor. Anglers can input the GPS location into their depth finders and drive right to the exact location of the fish attractor. With today's internet age, we anticipate that this technology will be well received by the public and should definitely help to improve catch rates on the water.

A similar effort is also underway to display [boat ramps and bank fishing areas](#) also using Google Earth. Anglers and boaters will be able to search for boat ramps and bank fishing areas in each of the nine different regions of Kentucky.

Once in Google Earth, anglers and boaters can click on individual sites and gather more information about the site including the type of boat ramp, number of parking spaces, GPS location, directions to the site, and accommodations present at each site.

Look for this to be added onto the Department's webpage over the next several months. Until then, we hope to see you out on the water fishing as a result of some of these efforts.



Ballard DU Green Wing event attracts crowd of youth and adults

More than 70 youth and 100 adults turned out for the Ducks Unlimited Green Wing event February 20 at Ballard WMA.

KDFWR conservation officer **Scott Barrow** presented a gun safety lesson to the group, and later Ballard WMA crew members **Kory Knight, Gerald Burnett, Glen Bowman, Tim Stovall, Wes McFaddin** and **Robert Colvis** demonstrated how to set up and shoot a rocket net, which seemed to please the crowd.

After the net shooting, the group par-

ticipated in a bus tour of the management area, skeet shooting, shotgun shooting at still targets, firing air rifles at targets and archery.

Lunch and drinks were provided by the local banks.

Firearms activities were conducted under control of Capt. **Larry Ashford**, Sgt. **Garry Clark**, and officers **Tony Dunker, Barrow, Greg Youree, Lee Cope** and **Kyle Webb**. Some young people shot a firearm for the first time at this event!



Fisheries Division holds staff meeting at Lake Cumberland

The Fisheries Division gathered at Lake Cumberland State Park February 17-19 for its annual staff meeting. Snow on the ground and high, muddy lake water provided a fitting backdrop to discuss business and anticipated work for the coming year, as well as a discussion of the future direction of the Fisheries Division.

Management, research, and hatchery section along with the transportation and FILO/Environmental sections opened the meeting with updates on current and recently completed work. The quality and variety of work completed was impressive and required almost a day to cover. It proved very important, as many sections discovered new ideas for projects and better ways for sections to work together as a team.

[See "Fisheries," page 6](#)

"Roof," continued

Other groups were interested in obtaining the school building and surrounding property, but Doc Webb visited every school in the area and had the students sign petitions asking that the school be turned over to Fish & Wildlife. Ultimately, Doc Webb was able to persuade the USACOE and Camp Webb opened to Kentucky's children in 1970. The Department has operated the camp ever since.

I attended Camp Webb in 1971 and it is gratifying to see that thanks to our hard working staff the old school building is in better shape now than it was 39 years ago.

Largemouth bass assessments now available on the Department website

Bass anglers will now be able to search Kentucky's top black bass lakes in order to find out which populations are on the increase.

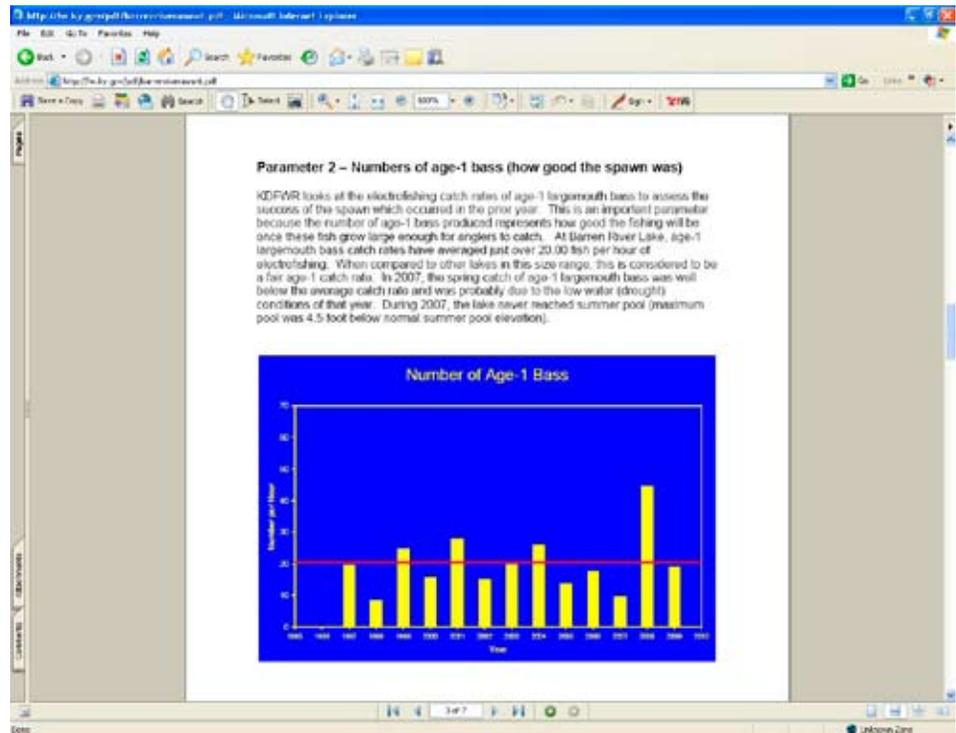
In 2003, the Fisheries Division developed a scoring assessment for largemouth bass populations across the Commonwealth. These scoring assessments are comprised of multi-year, standardized sampling datasets that help to describe the overall health of largemouth bass populations in each lake. These scoring assessments also provide the ability to compare largemouth bass fisheries across lakes.

They help to forecast the future of largemouth bass populations and make predictions on when stocking is needed, as well as when strong year-classes will fully recruit to the fishable population.

The largemouth bass population assessments are comprised of five main parameters including: (1) mean length of age-3 largemouth bass; (2) density of age-1 largemouth bass; (3) density of largemouth bass 12-14.9 inches; (4) density of largemouth bass larger than 15 inches; and (5) density of largemouth bass larger than 20 inches.

The first parameter (mean length of age-3 largemouth bass) provides an index of growth of largemouth bass in each lake. This parameter helps biologist identify reservoirs and lakes where largemouth bass growth is rapid. Rapid growth is often the result of abundant food resources, adequate habitat, and ideal water quality.

The second parameter (density of age-1 largemouth bass) provides an index of how good the spawn was the previous year. Biologists often refer to this as a measure of recruitment. Long term data can help biologists identify the factors and causes of poor spawns and subsequent low recruitment. Often, when



Screen shot image of one parameter of the largemouth bass population assessment for Barren River Lake. This parameter provides an index of the recruitment of young largemouth bass to the population.

biologists identify low recruitment they attempt to improve it by stocking supplemental fingerling fish.

Parameters 3-5 provide a measure of the size structure of the largemouth bass population in each lake. These parameters allow biologists to predict when large numbers of fish will reach harvestable size for anglers. They also help provide information pertaining to mortality rates of largemouth bass populations across the Commonwealth.

Anglers can now view the [results](#) of these assessments for lakes across the Commonwealth by going to the Fisheries Management page under the "Fishing and Boating Link" on the Department's main page.

Also included is a short discussion of the understanding of how the largemouth bass population assessment is developed and works. The data provided in each assessment is updated on an annual basis, as well as a short narrative describing each population parameter.

Recently added lakes for 2010 include Barren River Lake and Green River Lake. This brings the total number of lakes included in the largemouth bass population assessment to 22 lakes.

For more information about the largemouth bass population assessment, please feel free to contact your local district fisheries biologist. You may also contact Chris Hickey at (502) 564-3400 ext. 4467.

Wildlifers meet at Mammoth Cave

The Kentucky Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS), the international association of wildlife professionals, held its annual meeting February 25-26 at Mammoth Cave National Park.

Well over a hundred biologists and land managers representing federal and state agencies, nonprofit conservation organizations, private consulting firms and universities heard timely presentations on a variety of wildlife-related topics, ranging from American Chestnut restoration status to current efforts to provide public education about trapping.

Numerous KDFWR staff members are active in the chapter and attended the meeting. Wildlife's **Eric Williams** spoke on management for quail at Peabody WMA.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Hutchins, Executive Director for TWS in Washington, D.C., who spoke on new developments in the organization in its efforts to help advance the profession and provide better member services. KDFWR biologists must meet TWS certification requirements prior to employment in wildlife biologist classifications.

Currently in Kentucky, ECU and Murray State offer wildlife programs whose graduates meet minimum certification criteria with TWS.



Tom Edwards (second from left) was presented the Lauren E. Schaaf Award by previous recipient Mike Morton. Pictured also are chapter president-elect Keith Stucker (left) and current president Dave Frederick (right). *Brian Clark photos*

Tom Edwards, KDFWR wildlife biologist at the Blue Grass Army Depot, was presented the Schaaf Award, which recognizes Kentuckians for outstanding contributions in the field of wildlife conservation, for his outstanding wildlife conservation and education work in the Bluegrass State.



Jeff Finn from KDFWR Law Enforcement's covert investigations unit made a presentation on the serious problem of illegal trade in wildlife.

Fisheries," continued

Many new research projects were discussed including an evaluation of the new 36-inch muskie size limit regulation on reservoirs and commercial paddlefish data collection.

Several new research projects will evaluate new stockings of crappie in large reservoirs, smallmouth bass restoration in an eastern Kentucky reservoir, re-establishment of native-strain walleye popula-

tions, brook trout and sterile rainbow trout stockings in the Lake Cumberland Tailwater, and restoration of alligator gar populations in western Kentucky.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning a long list of administrative issues and this was followed by a presentation from Wildlife Division staff on several Farm Bill programs.

Long term plans for the Fisheries Division were covered and included the need to promote the Division and Department's

efforts to conserve and manage fish and wildlife populations and habitat throughout Kentucky.

Although the meeting covered a lot of business topics, staff was able to relax one night and challenge each other to competitive games of cards and cornhole. With the amount of turnover in the Fisheries Division, this provided an ideal time for existing staff to introduce themselves to newly hired staff and share some stories about the history of the Division.

Conservation Officers working with youth throughout the year

The Kentucky Conservation Officers Association contributed \$250 for food and prizes at the annual rabbit hunt put on by the Little Shepherd Chapter of the NWTF.

Officers who attended were Capt. **Frank Campbell, Willie Amburgey, Jason Slone, Shane Amburgey, Jason**

Campbell, Homer Pigman and Herbie Adams. Each year this event draws in around 80 kids.

Third District Capt. **Myra Minton** says the KCOA has sponsored the Bullitt County Annual Kids Fishing Derby for the last eight years. This past year, the

event drew more than 150 kids to enjoy the day fishing at Jim Beam Lake. Each child received a fishing pole to take home with them along with a lunch and a goodie bag full of fishing related equipment. This event has grown each year and would not be possible without the support of the KCOA.



Kentucky man sentenced for poisoning hawks and vultures

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report

Freddy P. Jordon of Auburn, Kentucky, received a \$5,000 fine for poisoning migratory birds, specifically red-tailed hawks and vultures, through the use of the pesticide Carbofuran, also known as Furadan.

Jordan pled guilty and was sentenced on February 17, 2010, in U.S. District Court, Bowling Green, Kentucky. He admitted to placing Furadan on bait and distributing it on his property to kill predators.

Jordon was sentenced by U.S. Magistrate Judge E. Robert Goebel for violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

An investigation began in January

2009, when Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Conservation Officer **John Jackson** received a report from hunters of numerous wildlife carcasses found on a Logan County farm. The carcasses recovered during the investigation ranged from red-tailed hawks and vultures, to coyotes and foxes. Officers collected 22 animal carcasses and a container of Furadan from Jordon's farm. Carbofuran, also known by its trade name of Furadan, is a pesticide which is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency in its use and application.

"Furadan is the most widely misused pesticide documented during wildlife poisoning investigations in the United States," said Jim Gale, Special Agent in-Charge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's

Southeast Region. "During the past 10 years, Furadan has been documented in 26 investigations in Kentucky alone."

Jordon admitted that he knowingly placed Furadan on his property in a manner inconsistent with its labeling by lacing turkey carcasses with the pesticide to poison coyotes. The investigation revealed that migratory birds, three red-tailed hawks and three vultures, also were poisoned as a result of Jordon's actions.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randy Ream. The investigation was conducted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigations Division and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Barth and Patrick Johnson complete Falmouth river walk bridge

The new 18-foot wooden bridge built on the one-mile river walk above the South Fork of the Licking River at Falmouth is complete.

Patrick Johnson assisted his father, retired captain **Barth Johnson**, in building this bridge during the Christmas holidays.

Patrick is a recipient of one of the Miss Jo & Donan Jenkins Scholarships and is a freshman at the University of The Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky.

This bridge was built using the funds donated by the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association (KCOA). The people of Pendleton County want to express thanks to KCOA for the contribution to



the community. This trail is used by many groups for their science class, aquatic education class and scout groups, etc.

One of the local businessmen even produced a calendar based on pictures he took of the trails during the year.



BLACK DUCK JOINT VENTURE

They've banded 1,962 waterfowl at Sloughs WMA while participating in the Black Duck Joint Venture (blackduckjv.org) that includes the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways, state and federal agencies and conservation organizations. It seeks post-hunting season black duck survival data. Wildlife personnel Larry Severs and Carrie Blake lifted mallards from a pen. Thousands of blues and snows take flight as one. *John Brunjes photos*



Join the March for Babies



By Donna Covington, Team Captain

KDFWR is participating again this year in the March for Babies to help give every baby a healthy start. Every year, more than half a million babies are born too soon. Together, we can do something about this.

We have a lofty goal: \$1,000. But I know we can pull this off. We need as many walkers on our team as possible. Can we count you in? Signing up and raising money for the March of Dimes is easy

online. Visit www.marchforbabies.org/team/kdfwr and click "Join this team" to get started or if you don't want to participate but would still like to donate click on "Donate to this team."

Once you've joined, you will have your own page on the March of Dimes site that you can customize with goals, pictures, etc. Online fundraising makes getting donations easier than ever before! I will also supply walkers with paper forms for those who wish to donate by cash or check.

Our event takes place on Friday, April 16 in Frankfort at the Capitol Building at Noon. It is a very short walk from the Capitol Building to the flower beds in front of the Capitol Annex and back up to the Capitol. Lunch is usually provided at the State Walk so come on your lunch

hour and walk for a good cause! There is also a community walk on Sunday, April 18 in Frankfort at Lakeview Park at 2:30 p.m. if that is a better option for you. The community walk on Sunday is approximately a one-mile route.

I plan on participating in both events. For you HealthMiles members, this is another opportunity to get those steps in! I know we'll have a great time! But first, there's work to be done. Let's show everyone how much KDFWR cares about babies!

I'm your team captain, so please contact me with any questions at 564-3400, Ext. 4410. If you would like to help coordinate this event in one of our field offices by being a co-captain, please let me know.

Thanks for your support!

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation seeks sponsor help for 200 campers

The members of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Education Foundation have set a goal for 2010 to assist 200 campers in attending KDFWR Conservation Camps.

Scholarships are available now using funds that were generated by the Foundation's 2009 Bull Elk tag fundraiser.

The Foundation is seeking additional funding through a new method using the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation's new website www.kentuckywildlife.com.

By simply clicking the link "sponsor a camper" on the left side of the homepage, potential sponsors can read letters from campers that are in need of a scholarship.

The new link allows potential sponsors to connect to a child by reading about that child's desire to attend camp. Many



campers write about how they want to learn to fish, hunt or swim.

All children that have letters posted on the site have been verified by their school counselor or teacher as a child in financial need. As children are sponsored

their letters will automatically be removed from the site and a donation letter will be sent to the sponsor.

All donations, made to sponsor campers are tax deductible.