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More
Madness
Page 4

“Carp Madness”

From Ron Brooks, Director Fisheries Division

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, volunteers and commercial fishermen came together to make the first commercial fishing tournament a great success.

Fishermen removed 82,953 pounds of Asian carp (Silverfin and Bighead) from Kentucky and Barkley lakes March 12-13 in our “Carp Madness” tournament. These invasive fish that first escaped into the Mississippi River several years ago have gained a foothold in our lakes. This tournament is a first effort toward establishing a force strong enough to manage their numbers.

The winner caught and weighed in 28,669 pounds, and second place harvested 22,005 pounds. Third place harvested 7,788 pounds, but he was a teacher and could compete only one day.

The sportfish bycatch was very low and mortality essentially nonexistent. That demonstrated that commercial fishermen can harvest large quantities of Asian carp from the reservoirs without killing or netting a large number of sportfish.



Lee McClellan photo

Tournament media coverage locally and statewide was exceptional, and it extended nationally as well, including reports in Seattle, Florida, Maine and Canada. Feedback has been positive.

We received many compliments about our staff and the volunteers. Volunteers came from Maine, Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee and Kentucky. Department staff from Fisheries, Law Enforcement, Information and Education and Administrative Services divisions filled primary tournament roles. Engineering and Wildlife divisions provided heavy equipment services. Public affairs staff and others provided pre-tournament promotion. Camp Currie provided overnight accommodations for tourna-

ment staff, volunteers and even some out-of-area fishermen.

Fisheries assistant directors **Jeff Ross** and **Gerry Buynak** kept the tournament moving. Ross, using multiple phones, coordinated volunteers, observers and tournament competitors on both lakes. Buynak managed the weigh-in and kept running totals of fishermen’s catches. **Amy Glass**, **Melissa Trent** and **Rachel Shipley** coordinated registration.

Kudos go to the Department of Parks and Kentucky Dam Village Park Manager Scott Ratzlaff for use of their facilities, grounds and marina boat ramp. Chef

See “Carp,” page 13

INSIDE:



5 Gar netted



8 Ky. Arrow Darters



10 Fur School

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

We received the following letter from Ike and Ronnie Whitaker from Hyden, KY. Mr. Whitaker wrote, "I and my son had the opportunity of bowhunting on the Veterans Memorial Wildlife Management Area in Scott County. I wish to express my thanks for the great hunting and hospitality we received. This WMA will fill a big need for all bowhunters, especially those from the eastern end of the state. While there we were treated with the utmost respect from all personnel. Mr. **Sandy Wilson** went beyond the call of duty and helped point out the boundary areas, gave us up-to-date maps, and

so many helpful hints pertaining to the area. Again, thanks for purchasing such a wonderful place for Sportsmen of the Commonwealth."

The following came from Willie Foster, Principal of the Bullitt East High School regarding Conservation Officer **Thomas Blackwell**. "Mr. Blackwell, we would like to express our gratitude for your participation at the Operation Preparation Event held at Bullitt East High School on March 5. The opportunity for our students to meet with you was important to us and a valued experience for our sophomore students.

College and Career Readiness has always been a goal for Bullitt East Staff and recently with the implementation of regulations through Senate Bill 1; all students must reach certain benchmarks to be considered career or college ready by graduating class 2015. Your professional interaction with the students was beneficial in helping them make decisions about their transition either into the workforce or on to continuing education opportunities.

We hope your experience was enjoyable and an opportunity for you to promote/expose your agency. Thank you for coming to Bullitt East High School!"

Barry Richmond retires

Barry Richmond, Fish and Wildlife Game Management Foreman at Sloughs WMA, retired at the end of February, 2013.

Barry was involved with many wildlife development and habitat projects across the state in his more than 25-year career. While at Sloughs, Barry built, rehabbed or re-built more than 13 miles of low head shallow water control levees; these projects seasonally impounded more than 750 acres of water for waterfowl habitat.

Barry's development travels included projects within the Green River Region at Yellowbank, Peabody, Barren River, H&H, and Big Rivers WMAs. He also did extensive dozer work at other locations including Headquarters, Taylorsville Lake, Obion Creek, Long Pond at LBL, Green River Lake, Duck Island and West KY WMA for the Wildlife Division.

He also worked on Lake Mauzy, Sulfur Springs, Morton's Lake and Marion



County Lake for the Fisheries Division.

Barry assisted in the capture, aging, sexing and banding of some 36,500 waterfowl while at Sloughs, and several thousand resident Canada geese within the region. Barry also assisted with deer capture and relocation in the state, Canada Goose relocation from Chicago, numerous prescribed burns, and training exercises all across the state.

Barry was always an employee you could count on to be the first one on the project, the most productive while he was

there and you always knew it was done completely when he left.

Mike Morton described him as "a self guided missile" on a project. You always knew he wanted a good set of plans, a few grade stakes marked with the top elevations, 100 gallons of diesel fuel, (about noon) and to be left alone to do the work most of the time. Watching him on a dozer was an experience as it always seemed to be in constant motion, and moving

dirt. He was accused of having levels in his eyes because several witnesses said he would not get off of the machine for hours at a time and his rough cuts for elevations were always within just a few inches of final grades.

While Barry's position may be refilled, it will be unlikely that his efforts, productivity and accomplishments can be replaced. He will be sorely missed by all in the Department.

We wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement!

Sgt. Kuhn selected state NWTF Conservation Officer of the Year

The Kentucky State National Wild Turkey Federation chapter has selected **Sgt. David Kuhn** as its 2012 Kentucky state NWTF Conservation Officer of the year.

Kuhn was nominated by the Heartland NWTF chapter.

He was selected from the pool of applicants by the state chapter to represent Kentucky for the national NWTF Officer of the Year selection in February.

President Ken Dozer of the Kentucky state chapter said Kuhn was chosen because of his dedication to Kentucky's natural resources, the sportsmen and women who utilize those resources, and to future generations. Dozer also said



Sgt. David Kuhn and his wife Sara after receiving his award at the state banquet.

that Kuhn's devotion to being a conservation officer focusing on wildlife law enforcement was a big factor in their decision.

Kuhn received a plaque from the Kentucky State NWTF chapter at their annual awards banquet on January 13. At that time the state chapter also announced that it would be purchasing a brick paver for the Kentucky Conservation Officer's Association's Fallen Officer Memorial in honor of each Kentucky NWTF officer of the year from 2012 forward.

Congratulations to Kuhn for being selected for this prestigious award.

New Hires

Brent McCarty was recently promoted to the Conservation Educator IV position and has assumed supervisory responsibility for Salato's Conservation Education Program, including CE staff, exhibits, events and volunteers. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from Eastern Kentucky University, experience in both field and veterinary work, and in the training and handling of birds of prey.

Under Brent, Salato's Bird of Prey programming has become more professional and effective than ever before, and his background and experience has contributed greatly to the development of new temporary and permanent exhibits and signage at Salato. He is an avid dove hunter and a true asset to this agency.

Tiffany Ogunsanya and **Geoff Roberts** joined the Salato staff as Conservation Educators on March 1. Tiffany Ogunsanya

holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Western Kentucky University (2005) and a Master of Science in Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences from Kentucky State University (2010).

Both during and after her college career she gained experience in field and lab work, as well as public outreach and instruction through jobs with Mammoth Cave National Park, Genus Associates, Int'l, the KSU Aquaculture Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Kentucky Division of Mine Permits.

She first joined the KDFWR as an interim in the Native Plant Program in 2004, then rejoined us as a Conservation Interpreter (docent) from 2011 until her hire. As an interpreter at Salato she became proficient at educating children and adults in Wildlife Conservation and assisted the operation of numerous special events such as the Salato Sampler and National Hunting and Fishing Day. In 2012 she earned a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation Scholarship to train as a Certified Interpretive Guide

through the National Association for Interpretation.

Geoff Roberts began his college career with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Transylvania University (2007), but after serving as an intern at Salato and a counselor at Camp Currie, he determined that he wanted a career with KDFWR. He returned to school and earned a Master of Science in Recreation and Park Administration at EKU, graduating in 2011.

During his summers he returned to Camp Currie, where Bill Fannin says he kept everyone "in stitches" with his wry sense of humor. In 2011 he joined Rough River Dam State Resort Park as a Parks Program Service Leader, where he developed and conducted interpretive programs and activities, planned special events, and managed Park facilities and seasonal employees.

Geoff is an avid bass fisherman and particularly enjoys tournament fishing. We are very proud to have Tiffany and Geoff join the Salato Staff.



CARP MADNESS

"Carp Madness" on Kentucky and Barkley lakes, attracted commercial fishermen from Kentucky, Illinois and Tennessee. They pursued Asian carp and netted more than 41 tons of the invasive carp species in two days. At right, Don Bunnell demonstrated filleting the fish. Below, Gerry Buynak weighed another ton of one's catch.





Above: KDFWR Ichthyologist Stephanie Brandt displays the 54 inch alligator gar. **Left:** KDFWR Ichthyologists Matt Thomas and Stephanie Brandt gather measures from the alligator gar captured during the recent Carp Madness tournament.

Alligator Gar collected during Carp Madness tournament

This year marks the fifth year of Fisheries Division's efforts to help restore the alligator gar back into its native range in western Kentucky.

Since 2009, four year-classes have been successfully reared at both Pfeiffer and Minor Clark Fish Hatcheries, resulting in a total of 19,538 alligator gar being stocked in select systems in western Kentucky.

During the recent Carp Madness tournament held at Kentucky/Barkley Lakes on March 12-13, one commercial team, while targeting Asian Carp, collected an alligator gar while fishing on Lake Barkley.

The fish measured roughly 54 inches in length and weighed an impressive 34 pounds. Closer examination revealed that the fish was indeed one of the Department's stocked fish (as determined by the presence of a coded microwire tag placed near the tail of the fish).

We cannot conclusively identify which year-class the fish was from, but we can say that at its oldest the fish was only four years old. Truly impressive growth, to say the least.

Alligator gar are not being stocked in either Kentucky Lake or Lake Barkley, so it appears that this fish may have entered the lake in a much similar fashion as the

Asian Carp (i.e. having traveled upstream in either the lower Tennessee or Cumberland Rivers and actually locking through the dam below either lake).

For more information about the De-

partment's efforts to restore alligator gar in western Kentucky, please contact either Matt Thomas (Department Ichthyologist) or Stephanie Brandt (Assistant Ichthyologist) at (502) 564-7109 ext. 4463.



CAREER DAY

First District conservation officers Sgt. Garry D. Clark and Tony Dunker talk to a group of Graves County fifth and sixth grade students at Wingo Elementary School's Career Day. Sarah Saylor is the Principal.

CUB COUNT

Biologists keeping up with Kentucky's growing black bear population spend parts of February and March checking dens for new cubs. Wildlife technician Tristan Curry, biologist Jason Plaxico and University of Kentucky doctoral candidate Sean Murphy pause with a pair of cubs found on Pine Mountain in Harlan County early this month. Wildlife Program Coordinator Steve Dobey locates a den under a downed tree and later holds a male cub close.



League of Kentucky Sportsmen makes donation towards Carp Madness tournament

At the recent annual legislative dinner hosted by the Department, the President of the League of Kentucky Sportsmen (LKS), Dr. Mark Nethery, surprised the Department with a check for \$5,000 that will go towards the implementation of the first ever Carp Madness Tournament at Kentucky and Barkley Lakes.

While presenting the check, Dr. Nethery stated, with a grin, that the LKS

has given the Department enough grief concerning the Asian carp issue, and that this was an opportunity for them to step up as well. Without this type of sponsorship and private donation, this tournament would not be possible. It was appropriate that the LKS, representing Kentucky sportsmen and women, provided the first and very significant donation for this effort.

The Department wants to thank the LKS for their support in our efforts to remove Asian carp from Kentucky waters. Their donation is very appreciated, as is their mission to work with the Department on behalf of Kentucky's sportsmen and women. We also want to give special thanks to President Nethery. Only recently was he made aware of the tournament, and his swift action on this issue was impressive.

LKS donations benefit grouse, woodcock and Carp Madness

By Art Lander Jr.

The League of Kentucky Sportsmen (LKS) and the Kentucky Grouse Hunters partnered to make a substantial donation to the department to improve wildlife habitat in eastern Kentucky.

The gifts of cash and equipment with a value of about \$15,000 were announced at the annual Legislative Wild Game Dinner at Salato Wildlife Education Center on Feb. 21.

"We pooled our resources for the benefit of grouse and woodcock habitat in eastern Kentucky," said Mark Nethery, LKS president.

Wildlife biologist Scott Freidhof was present to accept a \$4,000 check and the equipment, which included three Stihl chainsaws, a Kubota RTV 400 utility 4-wheeler, and a haul trailer.

"We plan to use the money to buy alder seedlings for a woodcock habitat improve-

ment project along a stream on Paintsville Lake WMA, in Morgan County," said Freidhof. "We collected the seed and had the seedlings grown specifically for this use."

The utility 4-wheeler, which has a 16-horsepower gasoline engine and full-time 4WD, will be used to transport seedlings and equipment into the field.

"Woodcock migrate through Kentucky and nest here," said Freidhof. "The alders will create daytime feeding cover with some overhead protection while woodcock probe the moist ground looking for earthworms."

He said the chainsaws will be used to fell trees, to re-start young forest growth, which both woodcock and grouse require.

LKS is a statewide sportsmen's organization founded in 1935. Kentucky Grouse Hunters is a group of bird hunters, former members of a local chapter of Quail Unlimited (QU). QU went out of business in January, 2013.

Both groups received Commission permits for Kentucky's 2013 elk season. A stipulation of receiving the permits is that they are used for fundraising, with 100 percent of the auction proceeds used to finance habitat projects performed in partnership with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife biologists.

Additionally, Nethery gave Ron Brooks, the department's director of Fisheries, a \$5,000 check to help cover expenses for the upcoming Carp Madness, an Asian carp commercial fishing tournament, March 12-13, on Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley.

The goal of the tournament is help control the exotic fish which threaten native gamefish populations in the two reservoirs.

"The sportsmen of Kentucky have long recognized the problem of invasive species, and we think this is a step forward in controlling these carp and other nuisance species," said Nethery.

Quail Unlimited makes valuable donation to KDFWR

By Steven Dobby

KDFWR extends a sincere thank you to the Salt River Chapter of Quail Unlimited for a recent donation to the KDFWR Black Bear Program.

This month, Ricky Pearson with the Salt River Chapter presented Wildlife Division personnel with a Canon EOS Rebel DSLR camera with accessories, and a Leupold rangefinder to be used for multiple species research projects and to enhance educational efforts.

Specifically, these items will be used for management and research activities with black bears and elk in eastern Kentucky. Likewise, use of the new camera will significantly enhance opportunities to



Ricky Pearson of the Salt River Chapter of Quail Unlimited presents wildlife biologist Jayson Plaxico with a generous donation to the KDFWR.

document activities so that they may be shared with the department staff, media, and the general public. Mr. Pearson

presented the donations while participating on a recent visit to a black bear den in Harlan County.

Kentucky Arrow Darter restoration: progress update

By Stephanie Brandt,
Assistant Ichthyologist

The Kentucky Arrow Darter, *Etheostoma spilotum*, has a limited distribution in the upper Kentucky River drainage, where it inhabits headwater (mostly first- and second-order) streams. Based on its recent decline, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established this species as a candidate for Federal listing under the Endangered Species Act.

In 2008, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) partnered with Conservation Fisheries, Inc. (CFI) to develop successful spawning protocols and produce offspring needed to re-establish extirpated populations within the Kentucky Arrow Darter's historic range.

During 2012, captive-spawned young-of-year Kentucky Arrow Darters were released into Long Fork, a tributary of Hector Branch in the Red Bird River drainage in Clay County located within the Daniel Boone National Forest. All individuals were marked with a high-visibility elastomer (VIE) tag prior to their release. Mark-recapture surveys were initiated in 2013 and will be conducted on a seasonal basis to monitor survival and movements.

A total of 829 VIE-tagged young-of-year fish were released into Long Fork in August and October, 2012. On January 29, 2013 surveys were conducted using a seine, visual observation, and dip nets by KDFWR and CFI. We captured 47 (5.7%) of the tagged fish. Most were found in pools (about 8-24 inches deep)



A Kentucky Arrow Darter being held in captivity at the headquarters office of Conservation Fisheries, Inc. Photo courtesy CFI



Mark-recapture efforts by KDFWR and CFI staff. Photo courtesy CFI



Example reach of Long Fork, a tributary of Hector Branch within the native range of the Kentucky Arrow Darter. Photo courtesy Stephanie Brandt

See "Darter," page 9



Habitat improvement at Hickman County's Obion Creek WMA

We are in the process of commercially harvesting approximately 90 acres of loblolly pines at the Wallace Tract of Obion Creek WMA in Hickman County.

These loblolly pines were planted by Westvaco Corporation back in the mid 1970s, prior to KDFWR purchasing the property. They were planted for the purpose of pulpwood production for the paper making process.

Not only are loblolly pines not native to this part of Kentucky, they provide

little to no quality habitat for bottomland hardwood wetland-dependant wildlife species.

Our management objective is to remove these planted loblolly pines through commercial harvest, and replace them with native bottomland hardwood species, through supplemental planting of seedlings (200 seedlings/acre) and natural regeneration of existing hardwoods.

These seedlings include species such as swamp white oak, swamp chestnut oak,

overcup oak, willow oak, nuttall oak, cherrybark oak, and shellbark hickory.

It will take many years for these trees to become mast bearing. In the meantime, these areas will provide excellent nesting habitat for wild turkey, bedding areas and browse for white-tailed deer, and escape cover for small game such as swamp rabbits.

In the long term, these areas will once again return to a native, bottomland hardwood forest.

“Darter,” continued

with mixed-sized rock substrate with exposed areas of bedrock and often with some marginal cover (e.g., undercut or tree roots).

These individuals appeared to be in good condition and some growth was evident. We observed an abundance of aquatic insect larvae actively swimming over the substrate, suggesting that food resources are plentiful in the stream. Interestingly, our capture rates increased as we progressed farther upstream. This

pattern is consistent with pre-spawning movements of adults observed in other Red Bird River tributaries.

No individuals were observed in the lowermost reach of Long Fork or its confluence with Hector Branch. Our catch rate began with 2-3 individuals per pool below the mid-point of the release section, increasing to 4-6 per pool above the mid-point. Most individuals were still too small to spawn this spring; however, some of the larger females appeared to be developing ova (becoming gravid) and males had developed red color on the body and fins

typical of breeding condition.

Although these results are preliminary, they are encouraging. Captive propagation and field monitoring will continue in 2013 and 2014.

Funding for this project is being provided by the State Wildlife Grants Federal program. CFI is providing the required 50% match for this project. For more information on the Department's efforts to help restore Kentucky Arrow Darter populations, please contact Matt Thomas or Stephanie Brandt at (502)564-3400 ext. 4547.



KDFWR staff along with representatives from Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin Trappers Association and United Trappers of Kentucky display several species of harvested furbearers at Kentucky Fur School. The bobcats shown are from Wisconsin and much larger than Kentucky bobcats. Fisher and a wolverine pelt are also pictured.

Kentucky Fur School

Department Conservation Officers and Wildlife Biologists recently experienced their first Fur School in Greensburg, Kentucky during early March.

The four-day school was modeled after Wisconsin DNR's Fur School.

Wisconsin furbearer biologist John Olson, DNR law enforcement officer John Welke, and Wisconsin Trappers Association's John Irwin were excited to travel to Kentucky to expand the Fur School for the first time outside their state.

The Fur School was developed to educate officers and biologists in areas about safe and responsible trapping, utilization of furbearers, fur handling, and identification of furbearer sign and damage.

This training enhances the ability of biologists to provide technical guidance to landowners who experience problems with furbearers, and better equips officers in furbearer trapping enforcement.

During the first day of Fur School, students spent time in the classroom learning the characteristics and habits of furbearer species native to Kentucky. **Dr. Aaron Hecht**, department wildlife veterinarian, talked about furbearer diseases and awareness and demonstrated a necropsy on a beaver.

Students then were introduced to

several types of traps and practiced setting them under supervision. The much anticipated trap setting in the field began on the second day, and students learned techniques for identifying sign of furbearers and how to set traps for coyote, bobcat, beaver and muskrat.

The remainder of Fur School was devoted to fur handling and the group practiced pelt preparation on several furbearers, some of which were brought from Wisconsin. These pelts will be

tanned and used in KDFWR educational programs.

Special thanks go to **Conservation Officer Jeremy McQueary, Lieutenant Brett Zalla, Captain Todd Rogers, Laura Patton, Chris Mason and Brian Gray** for organizing the workshop as well as the Green County Cooperative Extension for use of their facilities and Stacy White and Leon Smith of the United Trappers of Kentucky for assistance with trapping and fur handling demonstrations.



Workshop participants identify an ideal spot for a beaver set. A beaver was caught here the following day.



SHAKER VILLAGE BURN

Each March, the Department and Shaker Village staff burn portions of Shaker Village's extensive grasslands. Fire retards succession and helps maintain grasslands. Shaker Village has converted large portions of what was once fescue grassland into more wildlife friendly native vegetation. Without these efforts, they eventually would convert to brush lands and woodlands.

During the burn, staff witnessed hundreds of rabbits that will continue to benefit from this habitat work. If you get a chance this spring, you really need to go see Shaker Village. It is a nature lover's oasis. *John Brunjes photos*



Wisconsin burn crew brings experience, equipment

After coordinating with the Fox Valley Technical College, a wildland fire training college in Wisconsin, we were able to host a six-person crew to assist with some private land burning this season in the Purchase Region.

The crew included one of the college instructors (Rick Buser), a squad boss student and four first-year students. They came to get a West Kentucky prescribed fire experience.

They brought equipment with them, including a Ford F-350 crew cab, 4x4, set up for their fire engine. They also let us test out a short range ignition gun.

The college usually assists DNR in Wisconsin with prescribed burns, but do not get to burn until May after the snow melts, so they were eager to come down and assist.

During the week of their stay we completed two good burn days with approximately 300 acres blacked out. One day was a "No Go" so we reviewed the previous day's burns and completed a presentation on the history of burning for KDFWR. The rest of the week was travel days for them.

We hope this cooperative will grow in the future to include public lands and increase from one week assistance to several weeks during the year.



BALLARD WMA

Right: The Ballard WMA staff have been active in trapping and banding ducks lately. They have banded approximately 460 ducks that included Mallards, Black Ducks, Mallard/Black hybrids and Pintails.

Above: Moments from the youth waterfowl hunt at Ballard WMA included Alysa Dawson and Kodey Ort. It was Alysa's first duck hunting trip and not many people can say their first duck was a Redhead. She was hunting with her Grandpa Louis Downey.

Steven Swift, with his dad, Davis Swift, was also successful at the Ballard WMA youth hunt. *Tony Black photos*



Jenkins Scholarship applications due before May 1

Applications are being accepted now for your dependent child or children to apply for the Donan and Georgia "Jo" Jenkins Scholarship.

Donan Jenkins, retired 2nd District Law Enforcement Captain for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, saved for years to build his nest egg. Jenkins, now 79, donated \$400,000 toward college scholarships.

Jenkins worked 39 years for the department before his retirement in 1997. He and his wife, Georgia "Jo" Jenkins, never had any children themselves.

Since government work isn't the high-

est paid job around, Jenkins amassed his fortune by cultivating 12 acres of ginseng on a western Kentucky farm when prices for the plant root were going for \$126 a pound.

He traded ginseng for 37 years before the prices fell.

Jenkins earned enough money selling cultivated ginseng to establish college scholarships for the children of members of the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association, the children of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife employees and seniors at Crittenden and Union County high schools.

The annual scholarships are perpetu-

ally funded and managed by high schools in Crittenden and Union County, members of the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife employees.

A completed application is due before Wednesday, May 1, 2013, for fall enrollment. A total of \$3,000 is available for up to three (3) applicants. Contact Zachary Campbell in Law Enforcement Division for more information.

Recipients will be selected in time for an announcement to be made during high school graduation commencement activities.



Helping with the Ballard GreenWing Event were, kneeling, Tim Stovall and Gerald Burnett. Standing are Luke Carter, officers Randy Conway, Scott Barrow, Tony Dunker, Kory Knight and Robert Colvis, and Sgt. Garry Clark. **Above right:** Officer Randy Conway and Gerald Burnett assist a young man with the shotgun.

Ballard GreenWing day attracts 50 youth

About 50 youth participated in a Ballard GreenWing Event Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Ballard Wildlife Management Area.

The event featured a rocket net demonstration, and shotgun, archery and BB gun shooting. Everyone stayed for lunch and all had a good time.



Officer Dunker leads the gun safety talk.

“Carp,” continued

Philippe Parola of Louisiana lent his skills and Asian carp experience and worked with the park's kitchen staff to produce some of his recipes for media and others.

Of course, we want to give big thanks for the sponsors who helped make this tournament possible. The League of Kentucky Sportsmen was the first organization

to offer funding, and did so on very short notice! Cabelas also donated funds to this event.

Schafers' Fisheries (Illinois), Silver Fin, Inc. (Ledbetter, Kentucky), and Protein Products (Sunflower, Mississippi) provided outlets for all of the fish harvested to be used for food and fish meal. Dry Ice Trucking (Paducah) provided a truck to haul fish to Mississippi. Fishing guide and

tournament promoter Darrell Van Vector donated his RV for us to use as an office, and FLW donated the leader board and media screen, a very nice addition to this event.

Again, I want to thank each and all for helping to make possible this very successful tournament. A project of this enormity is something that no one person can accomplish.