

April 2010

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Woodcock banding
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Musky production at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery (a step by step process)



Minor Clark Fish Hatchery Manager Rod Middleton injects an adult musky to help aid in the maturation process of eggs from a female musky prior to being spawned.

Spawning from A to Z

Each spring adult musky are collected in February and March from the Licking River in preparation of spawning in early April. All collected adult musky are brought back to Minor Clark Fish Hatchery and placed in hatchery ponds until they are ready to spawn.

On April 5 and 6, adult musky were collected from the hatchery ponds and oxbow lake and injected with ground carp pituitary to aid in ovulation. These fish are then sexed and separated into one acre ponds. The females are put into ponds at six to eight per acre while the males are kept at around twenty per acre.

This year, a total of 40 females and 36 males were injected for spawning purposes. Females are then checked daily to monitor for those fish that are fully mature and ready for spawning. The females are checked by collecting musky from the one acre ponds in the order in which they were injected.

If the female is not ready, she is moved to an empty one acre pond and if she is "flowing" (eggs coming from her), she is taken to the hatchery building to be spawned. Males are then collected from the male ponds and taken to the

Musky are native to Kentucky (often referred to as the Musky Capital of the South), however, the Commonwealth's three most famous musky reservoirs (Cave Run Lake, Green River Lake, and Buckhorn Lake) must be stocked annually due to the lack of natural reproduction in each of these reservoirs.

All musky stocked in Kentucky are spawned, hatched, and reared at the Minor

Clark Fish Hatchery. Besides walleye, musky are one of the first fishes that is spawned each year at the hatchery. This process is very in depth and requires significant manpower and expertise.

If you have ever been curious about how Minor Clark Fish Hatchery produces these musky, below is a short synopsis of this intensive process by hatchery manager Rod Middleton.

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4 Bonney awarded



5 Camp facelifts



8 New frog habitat

“Musky,” continued

hatchery building.

Prior to spawning, all musky are anesthetized to aid with ease handling and minimize stress (both on the fish and staff). Subsequently, two employees hold the female and spawn her into a pan while four other employees hold and collect milt from the males.

Musky eggs are fertilized during and after egg collection throughout the spawning process. Once the eggs are mixed with the milt, they are stirred for two to three minutes to ensure that all of the eggs are fertilized.

Diatom filter powder is used to strip away the adhesive coating on the outside of the eggs so that they do not stick together in hatching jars. This powder is added after the eggs are rinsed, post fertilization, and allowed to sit in the solution for one minute. After one minute, the eggs are rinsed and allowed to water harden for 3 hours. The eggs are then placed into McDonald Hatching Jars to incubate.

Within 11-12 days, the eggs will begin hatching in the McDonald Hatching Jars. At this point, staff will pan hatch the eggs and place them into trays in musky fry tanks. Pan hatching consists of measuring the eggs and placing them into pans.

The eggs are then taken into a heated room and allowed to sit for up to an hour. Over this time, the water will increase in temperature 2-3 degrees and the eggs will begin hatching. The pans are then rinsed many times to remove the egg cases and to complete the hatching process.

After the eggs are pan hatched, the fry are placed into fry trays. Within a few days, the fry will slowly swim out of trays into the provided matting material in the tanks. After 10-12 days, the fry will swim up to the surface and are ready to be stocked into ponds outside.

This year's egg collection took place on April 7 and 8. Twenty-eight females were spawned and a total of 1.4 million eggs were collected. These musky should

be ready to be stocked into ponds in late April or early May, depending upon water temperature.

The musky will reach nine inches by the end of July and thirteen inches by the end of September, at which time they will be stocked into Kentucky's musky lakes and streams. This year the thirteen inch musky that are stocked into our three musky reservoirs (Cave Run Lake, Green River Lake, and Buckhorn Lake) will be fin clipped to evaluate the new 36-inch size limit.

The next time you find yourself on

Cave Run Lake with a musky following your presentation back to the boat, think of all the hard work and effort that has gone into producing this fish. Also, please remember to thank the staff at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, as well as the staff at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, for all the hard work and effort they do each year to make certain that the stocking needs of the Commonwealth are met.

Annually, these two fish hatcheries combine to produce and stock in excess of 4 million fingerling and larger size sport fish throughout Kentucky.

PEABODY WMA HOSTS COMMONWEALTH CLEANUP DAY



The staff of Peabody WMA hosted the 3rd Commonwealth Cleanup Day on the River Queen Unit (Muhlenberg County) in conjunction with the KY Division of Waste Management. Approximately 16,900 lbs of trash were hauled to the Muhlenberg County landfill and 29 tires were taken to the Muhlenberg County Road Department for recycling collection. Personnel from the KY Divisions of Waste Management and Water along with Peabody WMA staff participated in the cleanup.

New hires / promotions

Susie Paul has joined Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and will serve as Administrative Specialist for the Public Affairs division. Susie worked previously for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and spent many years in the medical field as a Receptionist/Assistant.

In her new role she will help manage the Public Affairs office and the division's expanding role in the promotion of healthy outdoor activities including, fishing, hunting, trapping and boating. Susie is a Frankfort native who enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband Jay and daughter Mackinzie. Susie enjoys spending time with family and friends on the water at Lake Cumberland.

Walt Redmon was recently promoted to Branch Manager. He started with the Department of Fish and Wildlife as a Carpenter in the Woodshop in September of 1984. He was promoted to a Design

Technician and transferred to the Engineering Division in 1985.

Since then Walt has held many different positions such as Construction Superintendent, Maintenance Section Supervisor, Engineering Technical Associate and was recently promoted to the title of Administrative Branch Manager in the Engineering Division.

Walt has a background in operation and maintenance of heavy equipment and carpentry and has built several homes. While in the Engineering Division Walt has designed and constructed many projects, including boat ramps, courtesy docks, fishing piers, shooting ranges, levees, wetlands, etc. Walt has been and will continue to be a valuable asset to the Department and to our Division. Congratulations, Walt!

On March 16, 10 conservation officer recruits began their training to become Kentucky Conservation Officers. To

become a Kentucky Conservation Officer these recruits must successfully complete the 12-week Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Academy, successfully complete the 18-week Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Police Training Academy and successfully complete the 12-week Field Training Officer (FTO) program.

The recruits and their assigned Districts/counties are: **Joshua Avery**, District 9, Clinton County; **Steven Fields**, District 4, Marion County; **Kalen Gibson**, District 2, Muhlenburg County; **Jesse Haddix**, District 5, Grant County; **Bryan Hill**, District 2, Logan County; **Jason Ice**, District 3, Bullitt County; **Jason Paris**, District 1, Lyon County; **Christopher Riggsby**, District 8, Rowan County; **Robert Spears**, District 7, Pike County; and **Christopher Stewart**, District 2, Butler County.

Suit graduates DOCJT supervision course

Kentucky Conservation Officer Sergeant Andrew Suit graduated from the Academy of Police Supervision (APS) course at the Department of Criminal Justice Training on April 2.

Suit was among 20 law enforcement officers from 19 agencies across the Commonwealth who were recognized at the graduation ceremony.

APS, also called the sergeant's academy, is a three-week, 120-hour training program targeted for newly promoted sergeants or officers who are on their agency's promotion list to become sergeants.



While in APS, students participate in classes focusing on the role of a supervisor, as well as leadership, resolving conflict, managing diversity, monitoring officer performance, professional image, legal issues for supervisors, ethics, interpersonal communication, effective written communication, making decisions, solving problems, managing critical incidents, public speaking, emotional survival, budgeting, media relations and others.

Suit's graduating class is the 35th to complete APS since the program began in 2003.

Steve Bonney receives Ducks Unlimited "Jim Monyahan" Award

This spring **Steve Bonney** was awarded Kentucky Ducks Unlimited "Jim Monyahan Award" at its annual state convention in March.

Steve Bonney has worked in the Northeast region, first as a regional wildlife biologist and then as the regional coordinator since the late 1980's.

He has seen the gradual and steady growth of an important waterfowl resource during his tenure. In the mid 1980's, Kentucky's resident Canada goose program was in its infancy.

The U.S. Forest Service and KDFWR recognized the value of this resource and worked to provide a viable population within the Cave Run Lake region. Steve was deeply involved with this effort providing nest structures, banding and conducting surveys all working toward the day when a hunting season could be established for this resource.

In 1993, Steve saw his efforts bear fruit when the region had its first Canada goose season in at least 10 years. Today, the region around Cave Run Lake supports a viable breeding population of Canada geese which at times produces hunting opportunities second to none within the state.

Early in Steve's career, he recognized the tremendous benefits of shallow water wetlands to wildlife and their ecological importance to the surrounding community in a region where shallow water was a premium.

Steve has participated in more than a dozen wetland projects on KDFWR managed lands. In addition, Steve has provided input on numerous additional projects on other public and private lands within the region.

Through Steve's involvement he has raised public awareness and support for



this important habitat resource. Many of the shallow wetlands created by these activities are used extensively by migrating/wintering waterfowl with many open for waterfowl hunting.

Finally, Steve was instrumental in the development and oversight of the highly popular mentor/mobility impaired hunt held annually at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery. This hunt provides a chance for young and mobility-impaired hunters to experience the joy of waterfowl hunting.

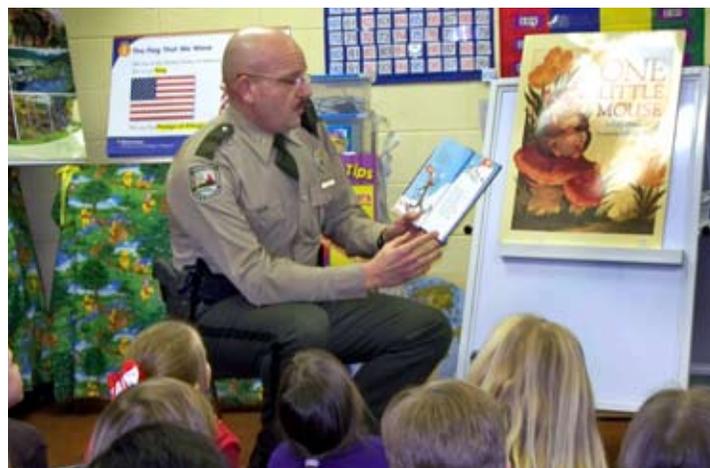
Steve worked extensively with fish hatchery staff to develop a viable hunt

scenario that would have little impact on hatchery operations. Steve and his staff provided insight for construction of waterfowl blinds, determine the best locations for blind placement, encouraged flooding of pools adjacent to blinds to enhance hunter success and collect mentor information from hunters drawn for the area.

These hunts would not have been possible without Steve's tremendous commitment to hunting and the region's waterfowl resource.

Please take a moment to congratulate Steve as a recipient of this prestigious award.

OFFICERS IN THE CLASSROOM



Conservation Officer Carlas Tufono read Dr. Seuss to Ashland Independent Schools students recently after the school invited Department officers to spend the day with students.

Fish and Wildlife Foundation funds Camp Currie and Camp Wallace face lifts

By Tim Slone

Major renovations funded by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation have been underway since last fall at Camp Currie and Camp Wallace.

The nature study buildings at these two camps were renovated from top to bottom.

Jeff Akers and **Rockie Frost**, along with **Calvin Roberts**, **Montie Frost** and **Johnny Cooper** spent the cold winter months at camp working on the old buildings.

Changes to the buildings include new roofs, new siding inside and out, new electrical wiring and new seats. The most welcome change for camp staff is the addition of air conditioning for those blistering hot July days.

These changes were made possible by a \$50,000 donation in materials from the



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Forty years ago a F&W construction crew composed of Don Hayes, Richard Carter, and Herman Sutherland built the nature studies structure at Camp Currie. The original nature center at Currie was built in 1970 and was a pole-barn type structure that was boxed in. The same design was then used to construct the nature building at Camp Wallace.

Former Camp Superintendent Clayton Hudson remembers that as soon as

the concrete slab was poured and the crew left for Frankfort a major thunderstorm drenched the newly poured concrete. Hudson had to spend hours repairing the damage caused by the storm.

The center at Camp Currie was named for former Division Director Jimmy Gilpin. Thanks to the hard work of our camp staff and funding from the Foundation, campers from Kentucky will be able to use these nature centers for decades to come.





TIMBERDOODLES

A common Kentucky spring sound is the song of the American woodcock. Woodcock migrate through the state enroute to their northern breeding grounds. Their "peent" call and display "twitter" can be heard statewide on almost any warm evening from mid-February to early April. Some stop and nest here. This spring marks the second season of research by the Department and Eastern Kentucky University on the stopover ecology and nesting ecology of American woodcock in Kentucky. The EKU students and Department staff have spent evenings locating and capturing and banding woodcock. They attach tiny radio transmitters to females which allow them to be tracked to nesting sites. *John Brunjes photos*



Time	Band #	Wing Chord	Bill Length	Weight	Age	M/F/U	Moist Soil	
20:14	1598	142	73	210	ADH	F	Y	H1
21:15						AM		H2
21:21						F		H3
	1390		74	225	ADH	F	N	13

FILO program set to restore Hatchery Creek at the Lake Cumberland tailwater

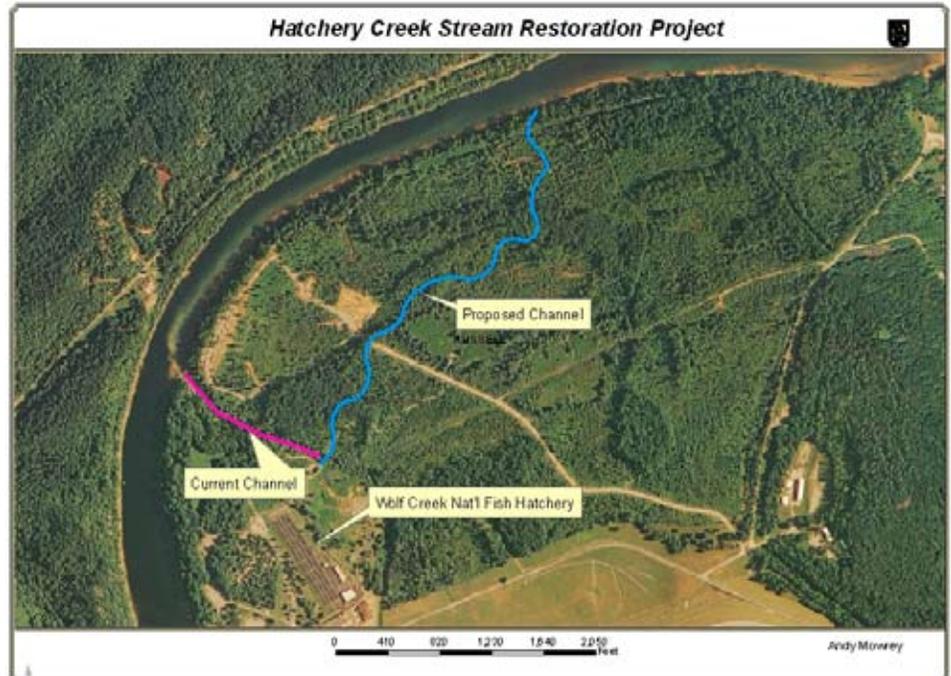
The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program (FILO) recently initiated the stream restoration project involving approximately 6,500 feet of stream channel in Russell County.

In March 2010, funding was approved for the proposed Hatchery Creek project which will relocate and extend the existing creek channel. Currently the channel, which begins at the outflow from the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, travels approximately 2,000 feet before entering into the Cumberland River.

One of the primary reasons this site was selected was due to the extreme degradation to the channels banks. Currently the entire reach below the culvert, which drops several feet at the outlet, is severely incised with bare banks. These banks are sloughing off and depositing large amounts of sediment into the channel which finds its way into the Cumberland River.

Since the Cumberland River is listed as a Coldwater Aquatic Habitat by the Kentucky Division of Water, this made the project an ideal fit for the program. One of the primary goals of this project is to re-establish a channel which has a more "natural" function. Items to be addressed include proper meander, pool/riffle complexes, connection to the floodplain, and a healthy riparian zone. Since the project is in the early design phase, staff are presently reviewing various items including functional design, biological considerations, as well as regulatory items.

The upper 380-foot section of the existing channel is a public use fishing



Preliminary conceptual design of the location of the new hatchery creek in relation to the existing channel at the Lake Cumberland Tailwater.

area which receives significant use by trout anglers. Annually, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosts the "Catch a Rainbow" fishing derby sponsored by the Friends of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery having a turnout of 1,675 kids at last year's event which is in its 23rd year. Another consideration of the project is to add an estimated 200 additional feet for future fishing derbies.

The Hatchery Creek stream restoration project is another example of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource's ongoing efforts to protect and restore Kentucky's valuable aquatic resources.

For more information about the Hatchery Creek project or the FILO program, please feel free to contact Andy Mowrey at 502-564-5262.

ANGLIN MAKES A HUGE FINS CATCH

Mike Anglin of Frankfort spent April 1 fishing in Upper Sportsman's Lake on the Department of Fish and Wildlife grounds and caught this 25-pound blue catfish. The lake is part of the department's Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINS) Program. Just after the photo, he released the big fish back into the lake.



West Kentucky WMA project benefits users and wildlife

West Kentucky WMA staff recently completed a project to benefit area users, as well as non-game wildlife on the WMA.

Public Lands Biologist **Tim Kreher** and Wildlife Management Foreman **Jodie Swain** have worked with herpetologist **John MacGregor** for several years documenting the presence of Northern Crawfish Frogs (*Rana areolata*) on the WKWMA.

Northern Crawfish Frogs spend most of their time underground in crayfish burrows and travel to breeding ponds during heavy spring rains.

These frogs depend on shallow wetlands with emergent vegetation for their breeding cycle, and thrive in wetlands that periodically dry. When breeding ponds hold water year-round, predatory fish populations become established and pose a threat to the successful growth and metamorphosis of crawfish frog tadpoles.

The Lincoln Trail and Central Kentucky Retriever Clubs each host retriever events annually at the WKWMA, and expressed a desire to cooperate with KDFWR on mutually beneficial projects on the area, so sites were investigated where a seasonal pond could be constructed that would benefit retriever enthusiasts as well as provide crawfish frog habitat.

A site was selected where erosion had created a gully at the edge of an open field on the WMA, making an area that was hazardous to dogs and handlers, but could not be managed or improved with KDFWR equipment located on the WMA.

John Shely of the McCracken County NRCS office assisted Tim and Jodie with preliminary surveying, and determined that the soil and watershed at the site made a seasonal pond physically feasible.

The retriever clubs rented a John Deere 700J bulldozer for WKWMA staff to use to smooth the erosion gully and



Juvenile Northern Crawfish Frog emerging from a burrow.
John MacGregor photo



build a levee for the pond this spring. Construction took approximately three days from start to finish, including the time KDFWR staff spent fertilizing, seeding, and mulching the new levee.

A rainfall event two days after completion of the levee filled the pond approximately half full, demonstrating that the surveying of the watershed and drainage had been accurate. Within four days, frogs, great blue herons and resident

Canada geese were already present at the new pond.

Future plans include the purchase and installation of a water control, allowing a late summer dewatering of the pond to allow vegetation growth and to eliminate fish populations from the site. The pond will contain water in the spring and summer each year, making it available for retriever training and competitions on the WKWMA.



PRESCRIBED FIRE

Prescribed fire is an important tool for wildlife managers. Fire retards succession and helps maintain the prairie like grasslands important to so many species. The Department burns thousands of grassland acres each year on public and private lands. At top, biologist Ben Robinson walks the fire line. Left, Chris Mason uses a drip torch to lay down a line. *John Brunjes photos*



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New boat courtesy dock at Dewey Lake

The Engineering Division recently completed the construction of a new boat courtesy dock at Dewey Lake in east Kentucky. This new dock is located at the Jenny Wiley State Park Campground Ramp off of Highway 302.

For some time, anglers have expressed an interest in a courtesy dock at this site because this ramp is one of the few boat ramps at Dewey Lake that remains useable at low water (winter) elevations.

In partnership with the Jenny Wiley State Park, the Engineering Division completed this courtesy dock a few weeks ago and it already is being utilized by many anglers. This project again highlights the many projects that the Engineering Division constructs to help provide and improve boating access across the Commonwealth.

Upcoming projects include the construction of two boat ramps into the lower Salt River below Taylorsville Lake. One boat ramp will be constructed near the tailwater of Taylorsville Lake, while the other boat ramp will be constructed near the city of Taylorsville.



The new boat courtesy dock at the Jenny Wiley State Park Campground Ramp at Dewey Lake.
John Zeigler photo

Both of these projects should be completed during the upcoming months. Additional boat ramp projects scheduled for construction during the upcoming fiscal year include Sledd Creek boat ramp and courtesy dock at Kentucky Lake in Mar-

shall County, two small boat ramps (Hacker Branch and upper Wolf Creek) along the South Fork of the Kentucky River in Owsley County, Town Creek boat ramp along the Ohio River in Breckinridge County, and several boat ramp project designs.

Zumba class raises cash for March of Dimes

Thanks to all who came out to the Zumba class. Everyone had a blast! We raised \$90 from that alone! Check out the picture of Zumba-goers (I think some people were hiding in the back).

Extra good job to the men who came out. You all are troopers (thanks Brian for recruiting!). Thanks to our Zumba instructor, Susan Arnold for donating her time and awesome moves!

Thanks to **Donna Covington** and **Brenda Ward-Hill** for helping to pull all of this together, and to everyone who brought items to the bake sale!

Thanks to EVERYONE who donated money to the March of Dimes even if you didn't exercise, bake or eat!



Department completes civil rights review

By Ryan Oster

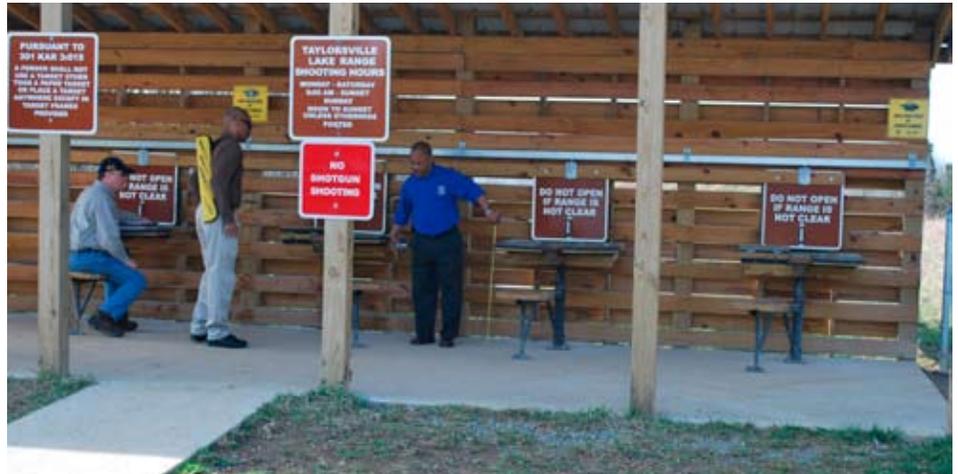
The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources recently completed a civil rights review on March 23-24, 2010. This review is coordinated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Department's acceptance and use of Federal Assistance funding from the Wildlife Restoration Act, Sport Fish Restoration Act, State Wildlife Grants Program, and several other federal funding sources.

The civil rights review consisted of a compliance review and a site visit to several federally funded projects throughout the Commonwealth. The review was conducted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services' Office of Diversity and Civil Rights and will be part of a routine review of all State Fish and Wildlife Agencies throughout the U.S.

Sites visited during the review included the Salato Wildlife Center, Headquarters Lake handicapped fishing pier and parking areas, General Butler State Park Lake handicapped fishing pier, Taylorsville Lake shooting range, Taylorsville Lake handicapped bank fishing area (Possum Ridge), and Cedar Creek Lake handicapped bank fishing area.

While the final report is still being developed, I am pleased to announce that no major findings were observed as part of this routine review. As with most programs, several areas of improvements were noted and these areas will ultimately be incorporated into the design of new projects, as well as existing projects as funding and staff time are made available to make improvements.

Special thanks to all those Department employees who helped gather requested information prior to this review. Thanks also to **Tanya Wilson** for reviewing and compiling this information together in a report format for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.



Todd Rainwater, Kary Allen and Greg McGinty (from left to right) of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service take several measures during the site visit evaluation of the Taylorsville Lake shooting range.

Right: Todd Rainwater (USFWS) discusses the maximum allowable slope for ramps and walkways with Ryan Oster (Fisheries Division) and Tim Layson (Engineering Division) at the Taylorsville Lake handicapped bank fishing area at Possum Ridge.



Special thanks to **David McChesney, Brian Clark, Tim Slone, Laurie Davison, Walt Redmon, Tim Layson, Keith Parker, Hank Patton, Darin Moore** and Colonel **Robert Milligan** for their participation in entrance meeting and at project sites.

KEHP conducting audit

The Kentucky Employees Health Plan (KEHP) is conducting a Dependent Eligibility Audit. Employees with dependents enrolled in KEHP will or have received correspondence in the mail regarding this dependent eligibility verification program. Please review this correspondence carefully as **action is required to keep your eligible dependent on your plan.**

If you have misplaced or not received

correspondence by May 15, 2010, please contact Chapman Kelly, Inc. (administrator of this audit) at (877) 223-8478 to obtain a copy. **Unfortunately, KDFWR cannot provide you with copies of this correspondence.**

There are strict deadlines for this two part audit, so please review the email sent from Dawn Welch to all employees on 4/12/10. Reminders will be sent out periodically as well.

Conservation officers spend weekend with “Courageous Kids”

In March, Second District conservation officers spent a weekend at the Center for Courageous Kids in Scottsville, Kentucky.

The Center for Courageous Kids (CCK) is a unique medical camping facility where children battling the most serious illnesses and disabilities can attend camp free of charge.

This camp gives these children the opportunity to go to camp with other children who

face similar battles and to realize they are not alone. The campers participate in arts and crafts, horseback riding, cooking, open gym, swimming, rock wall climbing, fishing, boating, archery and much more.

It also has a full medical staff on duty around the clock. The KDFWR's Law Enforcement, Fisheries and Education Divisions were instrumental in providing guidance, fish stocking and fishing equip-



Above: Recruit Eric Chambers and Officer John Jackson help a child play horseback catch. **Right:** Officer Dustin Mullins gives a big high-five after a great shot.



ment for the camp's three-acre lake.

The officers were each assigned a family for the weekend and also assumed responsibilities in the horse barn, wood shop and other areas of camp. While with their “families” the officers helped them navigate around camp and camp life. The officers also assisted with the daily routine of working with special needs children with the hopes of giving these much

deserving parents a break if only for a few minutes at a time.

“I offered this idea to the guys in the district as a team building venture with the added bonus of helping the kids at camp,” said Sergeant Brett Zalla. “After seeing the positive attitudes and courage that these children display, I believe they helped us much more than we helped them.”

Angel competes in NCAA Swim and Dive National Championships



Meredith Angel, daughter of Second District Commission Member Dr. James R. Angel and his wife Sherri Angel, competed in the 2010 NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving National Championship during the week of March 17 through March 20 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This meet was the fourth national championship swim meet in which Angel has competed during her college career. In previous years, Angel swam individual and relay events and earned an All-American Award for the 200-yard Medley Relay in 2009.

This year Angel earned her first individual All-American Award for the 50-yard freestyle where her time of 23.9 earned her 12th place.

Angel also competed in the 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke, where she finished 40th and 34th, respectively.

Angel is a senior chemistry major at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. She is in the top 10 percent of her class and a member of the prestigious academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa. She holds seven Centre College swimming records and six conference records.