KENTUCKY FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSIONER'S NEWSLETTER

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White-nose syndrome confirmed in Kentucky bat

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have detected the presence of white-nose syndrome in a bat residing in Trigg County, located in southwest Kentucky.

Department biologists submitted a suspect little brown bat taken from a cave April 1, in Trigg County to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) in Athens, Ga., which confirmed the disease.

White-nose syndrome was first detected in New York state in 2006. It has since killed more than one million cave-dwelling bats in eastern North America. Mortality rates of bats have reached almost 100 percent in multi-year infected caves. The confirmation of the syndrome in Kentucky brings the number of states confirmed infected to 16 - mostly in the eastern U.S. Three Canadian provinces are confirmed infected as well. White-nose syndrome does not infect people.

"This is likely the most significant disease threat to wildlife Kentucky has ever seen," said Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner, Dr. Jonathan Gassett. "It would be professionally irresponsible to take no action to stop or slow this disease. Bats are an important part of our natural environment, acting as pollinators and consuming mosquitoes and other insect pests across the landscape. We plan to aggressively manage this threat as it occurs in Kentucky in order to protect and conserve our bat populations."

Three little brown bats in Trigg County cave infected with white-nose syndrome.
Terry Derting, Ph.D.(Murray State University) photo

Kentucky was the first state to develop a response plan to address WNS both before and after its arrival in the state. Anticipating the arrival of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in Kentucky, biologists took exhaustive measures to limit its spread.

They embarked on an aggressive search, checking almost 100 hibernacula throughout Kentucky during the winter. They discovered the infected Trigg County cave as they were rechecking locations in the proximity of a known infected Tennessee site.

Six species, about 2,000 bats, use the privately-owned Trigg County cave, including the endangered Indiana bat. It is a maternity site for endangered gray bats.

They checked surrounding caves within a 16-mile radius and found no additional infected sites. They took measures to limit the spread of WNS beyond the infected site, including removing and euthanizing 60 highly suspect little brown

See "White-nose," page 5

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

We received the following email from Mr. Harry Pelle. "Guys, I just wanted to drop you a line and thank you for the Department's help with my Native Grasses program. We needed to burn off our fields again this year and it has been very wet. I know you guys have been buried with requests for help and due to the wet weather, running behind. Monday morning we were going to burn fields, but the ground had snow on it. My Wildlife Biologist, **Chris Mason**, wouldn't take no for an answer. He and his team came out about 11:00 am after the snow had melted off… and we started to burn fields. This team of dedicated guys would not stop until the job was done. They hung in there and we burned fields up into the night. I know some of these boys probably didn't get back to their homes until midnight (and when they left, they were talking about tomorrow's burn). Service above and beyond the call of duty. The Department and the Sportsmen of Kentucky are lucky to have such dedicated men… Not to mention the good done for the Wildlife we all care so deeply about. Thanks again. You should be proud of these guys. I know I am." Additional members of the GRWMA crew are B**rian Gray, Jim Grundy, Pat Pierce, Jesse Walters** and **Corey Davis.** GREAT JOB, GUYS!

A note on Facebook: Mike Ball wrote, "I would like to say thank you to *Kentucky Afield* magazine and to **Dave Baker** for his help with my issues."

This letter came from John McCauley, State Executive Director, USDA, Kentucky Farm Service Agency. It was addressed to **Dan Figert, the Farm Bill Staff** and **Private Land Biologists**. He said, "Allow me to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for your continued support of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in Kentucky. The partnership that we share is an asset to Kentucky land owners and operators and is instrumental to the success of CRP in this state. Your willingness to obligate funds for the promotion of CRP Signup 41 is just one example of that valued partnership.

As our agencies work together with producers in Kentucky to make conservation a priority, we look forward to our continued partnership with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The following email came to Captain Richard Skaggs from Rodney Ramey. Mr. Ramey wrote, "Myself and two boys were fishing Cedar Creek last Thursday, April 7th and helped two gentlemen after their boat capsized. Luckily we were close to them when it happened. We got the guys to safety and **Officer Greg Hill** came to the scene (I had already called 911 and got a call back that the officer was in route). I can't say enough about this young man. He was informative, helpful, hard working, and most of all courteous. Officer Greg Hill is a perfect example of what an officer should be. I was thoroughly impressed with his demeanor and work ethic. You have an outstanding young man working in the field working for you. I hope to run into him someday under different circumstances. If either of you talk to him thank him again for me."

FIRST BIRD

Hearty congratulations welcomed Nancy McIver, executive assistant to the commissioner, when she arrived at the office a few minutes late Monday morning. She was busy harvesting her first ever wild turkey. Deputy Commissioner Hank Patton helped her in calling the bird.

The case for hunting sandhill cranes

By John Brunjes, Ph.D.
Migratory Bird Biologist

Opinion pieces opposing a proposal before the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to allow for a limited harvest of sandhill cranes have appeared in several newspapers and on the Internet in recent months. Here are the facts about the proposal.

The Eastern Population of sandhill cranes migrates through and winters in portions of Kentucky. Sandhill cranes are the most abundant crane species on the planet, with more than 700,000 spending part of their year in North America. The Eastern Population is the world's second largest sandhill crane population, numbering between 60,000 and 100,000 birds.

This population continues to grow and has become increasingly visible in Kentucky in recent years. Peak counts in Kentucky now approach 20,000 cranes in the Barren River Lake area.

Sandhill cranes are classified as a game species by Congress under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. They are hunted in 13 other states, three Canadian provinces and Mexico. The midcontinent population of sandhill cranes, which occurs in the central United States, Canada and Mexico, has been hunted for 50 years. Two other populations of sandhill cranes are also hunted in the U.S. All of these hunted populations continue to increase.

Hunters prize the opportunity to pursue sandhill cranes for the excellent table fare and the challenging hunt they provide. They are hunted in fields over decoys very similar to the way hunters pursue Canada geese.

This increasingly visible population of sandhill cranes prompted sportsmen and sportswomen in the eastern United States and Kentucky to request a crane hunting opportunity here.

A management plan must first be in place and approved by the Flyway Councils (cooperative management bodies consisting of state, federal, provincial and university biologists) where that species occurs before a population of migratory bird may be hunted. A management plan is a comprehensive document that examines all aspects of the life history of a population. The Management Plan for the Eastern Population of Sandhill Cranes was developed with the input and review of more than 50 professional wildlife biologists in the U.S. and Canada.

These biologists, with decades of successful experience managing migratory birds, come from state and provincial wildlife agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, universities and other conservation organizations. This plan took more than 10 years of careful work to develop and takes a conservative approach toward the harvest of this species. Above all else, the management plan ensures that hunting will not have a negative effect on the population.

Beyond hunting, a management plan directs wildlife professionals to needed areas of research and management. The Eastern Population crane management plan, which would allow for a limited hunting opportunity in the eastern United States and Canada, was approved by the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils in July 2010.

Once the management plan was in place, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife personnel began the careful process of considering if a season would be appropriate in the Commonwealth. Countless hours were spent studying all aspects of hunting cranes in Kentucky. Biologists dedicate their lives to wildlife conservation and will not support a plan they believe might pose a threat to the cranes or any other wildlife species.

The plan that would allow hunting of sandhill cranes in Kentucky has been carefully crafted to: 1) have no impact on the eastern population of sandhill cranes as a whole or in Kentucky; 2) have as small an impact on nature watching as possible; 3) protect the experimental eastern population of whooping cranes; and 4) provide hunting opportunity for those who are passionate about hunting cranes.

See "Cranes," page 4

"Cranes," continued

This proposed season is structured to minimize impact to bird and nature watchers as well. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife considers bird and nature watchers important members of the conservation community. Department employees have kept the Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS) and other birding groups informed of the status of the management plan's development.

Bird watching and hunting are not mutually exclusive. Sandhill cranes are hunted in many of the states where people also go to see them. Kentucky hunters and bird watchers already pursue such migratory bird species as ducks, geese and mourning doves with little or no impact to each other's groups.

The proposed sandhill crane plan will provide hunting opportunity for those who are passionate about hunting migratory birds and still provide for the needs of nature viewing public.

Some people simply object to hunting. Others enjoy hunting and consider it an integral and important part of our heritage. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife understands both viewpoints. As an agency of professional biologists, we have carefully considered if hunting a sandhill crane is somehow different than hunting a mourning dove, a wood duck or a wild turkey. We believe there is no difference.

The biology is indisputable. The Eastern Population of sandhill cranes can sustain limited hunting. Cranes have been hunted in the United States for 50 years, and flock numbers in all of the hunted populations are at all-time highs. The interest in the species generated by the hunters pursuing these birds has been instrumental in the successful management of this species.

Hunters have paid the bills for many decades to build the Eastern Population of sandhill cranes to its current record numbers. Hunters now are requesting the opportunity to pursue a limited number of these birds. The hunters have a valid point. And the biology supports them.

ANDERSON YOUTH TURKEY HUNT

Sixth District Conservation officers Phillip Crane and Jason Wells first youth turkey hunt effort this month was a notable success. The officers joined with the Anderson County Sportsman's Club in hosting 12 youth. The officers provided guides for everyone and farmlands on which to hunt. The day was a tremendous success with six youth shooting turkeys. All heard gobbling and saw strutting gobblers. This hunt was definitely a hit with the people of Anderson County and will become the first of many. Crane and Wells send their sincere thanks and appreciation to the landowners, guides and sponsors for helping making this youth hunt happen.

New hires

Katie Koontz began April 1 in the Public Affairs Division as a Conservation Education Program Leader 1. Katie will serve as the coordinator for Explore Bowhunting, a new program designed to expose youths aged 11-17 and potentially others to outdoor skills and bowhunting.

This is a grant-funded, time-limited position made possible through a partnership with the Archery Trade Association. KDFWR will initially pilot-test Explore Bowhunting in selected venues, then make it available statewide.

Katie will also be working with communities and groups around the state to establish public ranges and other archery opportunities, as well as helping us to develop a hunter mentoring program.

Katie is a native of Virginia, where she obtained a Wildlife Science degree from Virginia Tech. She started hunting with her dad at age 4, and has a variety of outdoor recreation and wildlife-related experiences. Katie enjoys all kinds of fishing, shooting, and hunting – especially target archery and bowhunting. Welcome to the Fish and Wildlife family, Katie!

On April 1, the Information and Education Division welcomed two new Conservation Education Program Leaders.

Anthony Trimboli of Franklin, Kentucky is a Murray State University graduate who has extensive experience as a naturalist and environmental educator. During his work as a field technician and research assistant he has developed a strong background in the identification of native wildlife, with a particular interest in invertebrates.

He has experience handling and caring for captive animals, including venomous snakes and raptors. In addition to natural history interpretation and the instruction of outdoor skills, Anthony is also a trapper and accomplished wildlife artist. Anthony will visit schools in Edmonson, Hart, Green, Taylor, Adair, Metcalfe,

See "Hires," page 8

click for slideshow

BURNING FOR WILDLIFE

Text and photos by Brian Clark

Fish & Wildlife staff conducted prescribed burns at Taylorsville Lake WMA in March to improve native grassland habitat conditions for wildlife and to help control exotic, invasive plants.

"White-nose," continued

bats and tri-colored bats, as they were not expected to survive.

They will use the collected bats to provide critical information to researchers. Under the direction of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's veterinarian, Dr. Aaron Hecht, staff from SCWDS collected samples from the bats.

"A better understanding of the disease process will enhance our ability to respond to outbreaks," said Hecht.

"We have had a long-term partnership to address white-nose syndrome in Kentucky since it was first discovered in New York state," said Mike Armstrong, USFWS Regional WNS Coordinator. "Now that it is confirmed here, we will continue to support the state in their research and management to limit the spread as much as we can."

WNS is known to be transmitted primarily from bat to bat, but fungal spores may be inadvertently carried to caves by humans on clothing and caving gear. Both state and federal agencies took pro-active measures to limit potential human movement of the disease. These measures included increased education on decontamination procedures, surveillance, monitoring and cave closures on private, state and federal lands. All measures were included in the "Kentucky WNS Response Plan" developed in 2009.

Spores of *Geomyces destructans*, the fungus associated with WNS, are known to reside in the environment. In their attempt to reduce the possibility of other bats coming in direct contact with the fungal spores and becoming infected, biologists strategically affixed physical barriers in the cave to prevent bats from roosting in areas known to harbor infected individuals. These barriers will not alter the climate or restrict passageways used by bats.

Pest-control services provided by insect-eating bats in the United States likely save the U.S. agricultural industry at least $3 billion a year, and yet insectivorous bats are among the most overlooked economically important, non-domesticated animals in North America, according to an analysis published in this week's *Science* magazine Policy Forum. (Source: USGS)

For more information about white-nose syndrome, visit these websites:

- *www.fw.ky.gov*
- *www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome*
- *www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq/sets/72157626485081164*
- *www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2743*

Efforts underway to restore smallmouth bass in Paintsville Lake

Ryan Kausing, F&W technician, holds two healthy smallmouth bass that will be used as broodfish to help restore smallmouth bass to Paintsville Lake. Following three years of stocking, these broodfish will be returned to Dale Hollow Lake. *Lee McClellan photo*

Anglers in eastern Kentucky may soon be able to, once again, experience smallmouth bass fishing at Paintsville Lake.

Paintsville Lake is a 1,139 acre reservoir located in Morgan and Johnson counties. Constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1984, the lake is approximately 18 miles long and has roughly 57 miles of shoreline.

"Smallmouth bass were initially present in the lake," explains Chris Hickey (Black Bass Research Biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources). Changes in the way in which water was released from the lake are believed to be the reason why the population declined.

"Smallmouth bass are a more cooler-water species compared to largemouth bass," Hickey explains. "During summer, smallmouth bass must have access to cooler water that is rich in dissolved oxygen. The changes in the way water was released from the lake reduced the amount of cool water available to smallmouth bass particularly during the critical summer period at Paintsville Lake. Without cool, oxygenated water, the smallmouth bass population declined dramatically."

As a cooperative effort between the Army Corps of Engineers and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Paintsville Lake tailwater release schedule has recently been modified.

"This change in the way water is released from the lake should result in more cool water with oxygen being present in the lake, especially during the summer months," said Hickey. "Once we realized that habitat returned, we immediately thought about restoring the smallmouth bass back to Paintsville Lake."

Hickey will be the lead researcher on the Department's efforts to restore the species back to Paintsville Lake. "Since the smallmouth bass have been so severely impacted at Paintsville Lake, we will need to initiate a supplemental stocking program over the next couple of years to jump-start the population," explains Hickey.

"At present, we plan to stock smallmouth bass into Paintsville Lake over the next three years and monitor these fish to assess their survival, abundance, and the overall health. In studies like this, the Department typically stocks fish for a period of 3-4 years and then monitors the population for the presence of natural reproduction for several more years. If our stocking efforts are successful, we should begin to observe natural reproduction by year four of this research project," said Hickey.

To restore smallmouth bass in Paintsville Lake, the Department chose to utilize smallmouth bass broodfish from Dale Hollow Lake. "Most die-hard smallmouth bass anglers are aware that there are many different strains of smallmouth bass in Kentucky, with some of these being stream versus river strains," states Hickey.

"Smallmouth bass at Dale Hollow Lake have adapted extremely well to a reservoir environment and it is this strain that we believe has the best opportunity for success at Paintsville Lake." Hickey further explains, "Perhaps some anglers may not be fully aware, but the smallmouth bass population that was developed successfully at Laurel River Lake was a result of the Department stocking smallmouth bass fingerlings produced with broodfish from Dale Hollow Lake.

See "Smallmouth," page 9

Department holds public meeting to discuss active fish management at Beaver Lake

Fisheries Division held a public meeting on March 16, 2011, to discuss management of Beaver Lake, a Department-owned lake in Anderson County. The lake was built in 1963 and opened to the public in 1964. It is roughly 158 acres and is managed principally as a panfish fishery.

Ron Brooks, Director of the Fisheries Division, discusses sport fish management options at Beaver Lake to interested anglers during the recent public meeting in Anderson County.

Jeff Crosby, Central District Program Coordinator, says Beaver Lake currently has an overabundance of small, stunted largemouth bass. As a result of this overabundance, there are not enough food resources for adequate growth of largemouth bass.

In an effort to help reduce the number of stunted largemouth bass, the Department plans to remove a percentage of the small bass and relocate them to Guist Creek Lake and Boltz Lake.

"These two lakes could handle a few more largemouth bass," says Crosby. "Despite the fact that the fish that we will be relocating are considered stunted, they should begin to grow at a more natural pace once they are stocked into a lake that contains adequate forage for growth."

This form of active management should result in a more optimal density of intermediate size largemouth bass in Beaver Lake in terms of the food resources available to them. The goal is for the remaining bass to sustain growth rates typical in other small impoundments in Kentucky.

More passive management efforts revolve around changing regulations that, in this case, would require a year to be implemented and perhaps several more years (if ever) before enough small bass would be harvested by anglers to make a difference to the population.

The advantages of this type of active management are: (1) the bass population should respond almost immediately and (2) the biologist has complete control over the number of bass that remain within the various length groups where stunted bass predominate.

Ron Brooks, Director of the Fisheries Division said that the point of the meeting was to openly discuss with the public our potential implementation of active management practices in Beaver Lake. It was also to ensure that the public was aware and, for the most part, on board with what we are planning.

"We believe that this will be a win/win situation for all three lakes involved and it's a great use of our natural resources," he said. "We are trying very hard to be transparent about what our efforts are and what our activities mean to the angling public. In this case, if nobody knew what we were doing, some folks would get the wrong impression of our motives."

The Fisheries Division is also attempting to reduce the presence of curly-leaf pondweed at Beaver Lake. The pondweed is a non-native, invasive plant species that has become a problem. It can grow into dense stands of vegetation that inhibit recreational fishing, as well as boating.

Additionally, if too abundant, the pondweed can negatively impact the foraging efficiency of largemouth bass on bluegill and other sunfish species. The department's efforts to reduce the invasive pondweed should result in better establishment of native aquatic vegetation including coontail, naiad, and various pondweed. Native vegetation species typically do not become too abundant which is actually beneficial to sport fisheries.

The efforts and results of this management action will be open to the public upon their request. The department will also post results in our annual reports for the public to read. Ultimately, the goal is to adjust the size structure of largemouth bass population in Beaver Lake so that many more individuals grow larger than the 15-inch size limit.

Additionally, anglers fishing Boltz Lake and Guist Creek Lake may also expect to see an increase in catch rates as a result of the relocated largemouth bass.

For more information on the Department's efforts to actively manage Beaver Lake, please feel free to contact either the Central Fisheries District Program Coordinator, Jeff Crosby or Ron Brooks, Fisheries Division Director (502-564-3400).

Habitat Team and Northeast Region engage partners for habitat restoration

On Saturday March 12 the Habitat Team, Northeast Region biologists, the Office of Surface Mining, and the Appalachian Regional Reforestation initiative (ARRI) partnered with 70 volunteers to plant 7,600 native trees on Yatesville Lake Wildlife Management Area.

Volunteer participation included the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry, Morehead State University, Appalachian State University, The Sierra Club and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Knoxville, Tennessee.

One year ago, this reclaimed mine site contained dense stands of stunted trees due to the highly compacted nature of the soil. To improve the quality of this habitat for wildlife, the SWG-funded Habitat Team used chainsaws and dozer equipment to remove low-quality trees from the site and contracted a heavy machinery operator to "rip" the site in preparation for planting of high-quality wildlife trees.

The Habitat Team coordinated the purchase and delivery of trees to implement a planting plan designed by Scott Freidhof. The reforestation plan included fast-growing shrub and small tree species that will produce hard or soft mast, including dwarf chinkapin oak, American hazelnut, Allegheny chinkapin, Washington hawthorn, red-osier dogwood, roughleaf dogwood, black chokeberry, chokecherry and serviceberry. Some space within the site has been saved for spring plantings of blueberry and bear oak.

Left: April Haight, instructor for Morehead State University, plants a tree with her six year old son, Nodin.

Below: Jacob Stewart and Scott Freidhof explain the goals and objectives of the field day to volunteers.
Rick Mauro photos

The Habitat Team has nearly completed tasks assigned to them in the Northeast Region and is currently in the planning stages for moving to the Southeast Region this fall.

"Hires," continued

Cumberland, Monroe and Barren County and will work at Camp John Currie during the summer camping season.

Andrew Whittle is a University of Kentucky graduate with a bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Conservation Management and a master's degree in Forestry.

In addition to his experience as a field technician studying bears in eastern Kentucky, Andrew also has worked as a research assistant, camp counselor, and naturalist. Most recently he worked at McConnell Springs Park in Lexington where he did field work and invasive species removal at the park, as well as planned and led the educational programs for park visitors.

Andrew will visit schools in the northern Kentucky area, including Kenton, Boone, Gallatin, Carroll, Trimble, Henry, and Owen counties. During the summer he will work at Camp Robert Webb.

"Smallmouth," continued

The results speak for themselves. Dale Hollow smallmouth bass appear to do very well in a reservoir environment; and as such, we believe that our best chances to successfully restore smallmouth bass at Paintsville Lake lie with producing and stocking fingerlings from the Dale Hollow Lake strain."

The Department recently collected roughly 100 smallmouth bass broodfish from Dale Hollow Lake and transported the fish back to its Minor Clark Fish Hatchery. These smallmouth bass will be used to produce offspring that will be stocked into Paintsville Lake over the next three years.

Fisheries Director Ron Brooks said, "The Department routinely takes small numbers of adult fish from wild, healthy populations to use as broodfish in our fish hatcheries. In the case of this particular project, Dale Hollow Lake has a very healthy smallmouth bass population. These fish reproduce naturally and have excellent growth rates. This makes Dale Hollow Lake a perfect candidate for obtaining broodfish to produce young smallmouth bass at our hatcheries."

Brooks further explains that the reason why the Department must routinely collect broodfish from the wild is "because it is often not cost effective to hold onto larger broodfish at the hatchery. Additionally, some broodfish do not adapt well to living in small hatchery ponds versus in the wild. Also, getting broodfish from the wild assures that we are not compromising the genetic diversity needed to promote healthy fish populations."

"The smallmouth bass for this restoration effort are not the only species of fish that the Department collects from the wild to use as broodfish. Annually, we collect walleye, sauger, crappie, and musky to use as spawning stock at our hatcheries.

The Department's efforts to restore alligator gar and lake sturgeon are the result of other state fish and wildlife agencies collecting adult fish from the wild in order to obtain adequate numbers of eggs for rearing. Without their efforts to collect broodfish for egg production, we would not be able to rear alligator gar, lake sturgeon, and several other sport fish species that are stocked annually throughout the Commonwealth."

Brooks goes on to mention, "Once we are finished with the three years of stocking smallmouth bass, all the broodfish that were collected from Dale Hollow Lake will be returned to the lake. Additionally, should our hatcheries produce surplus numbers of smallmouth bass fingerlings, the surplus fish will be stocked at Dale Hollow Lake."

When asked if anglers would even notice a decline in fishing as a result of the few smallmouth bass taken from Dale Hollow, Brooks states, "I do not believe they will. Dale Hollow has a healthy population that can sustain the loss of a few fish without reducing fishing quality.

The interesting thing about fish in a healthy population is that when a nice one moves (or is removed) from a place with good habitat, another nice fish tends to take its place in that habitat within a very short time. Big fish take the best habitats, one way or another."

For more information about the Department's efforts to restore smallmouth bass back to Paintsville Lake, please feel free to contact either Chris Hickey (502-564-3400 ext. 4467) or Ron Brooks (502-564-3400 ext. 4466).

Governor's Ambassador Awards

The Personnel Cabinet is currently accepting nominations for this year's Governor's Ambassador Awards.

The deadline for submitting a nomination is August 31, 2011. The overall winner in each category will be announced at the ceremony. Recipients of the Governor's Ambassador Award will receive special recognition by having an engraved, personalized brick placed outside the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History.

All nominees will be invited to attend the ceremony.

The Kentucky Governor's Ambassador Award highlights stories of employees who have significantly and positively impacted the lives of their co-workers, customers, and community at large in the areas of customer service, courage, leadership, professional achievement, teamwork or community service and volunteerism.

For more information and nomination forms go to the Personnel Cabinet's homepage at *personnel.ky.gov* or call (502) 564-5954.

2011 National Farm Machinery Show

The National Farm Machinery Show, held annually in Louisville, is America's largest indoor farm show. More than 300,000 visitors attend this event every year.

KDFWR's Wildlife Division takes advantage by setting up an informative booth. With more than 95 percent of the state's land in private ownership, this booth is a great way to establish relationships with a segment of the population that we rely heavily on for management of the states wildlife resources.

Production farmers are our target audience, but the booth attracts visitors from all walks of life including hobby farmers, recreational landowners, high school FFA chapters and nature enthusiasts.

During the four-day event, Wildlife Division staff addressed hundreds of questions about habitat management on Kentucky's private lands. This year we targeted landowners who own or manage properties exceeding 100 acres in size.

As a result, we met with 100 landowners who own or manage nearly 35,000 acres!

In exchange for information about their property and wildlife interests, booth visitors were entered into a drawing for a $250 Visa gift card, compliments of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Naomi Wilson photo

KDFWR's Small Game Program will follow-up with booth visitors who participated in the drawing by mailing them information about habitat management on their property. Private lands wildlife biologists will also provide free technical guidance visits to all interested landowners.

Special thanks go out to all KDFWR staff who volunteered to work the booth along with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Lawson, Nason graduate DOCJT Academy of Police Supervision

Conservation Officer Sergeants Ray Lawson and James Nason joined law enforcement officers from 17 agencies across Kentucky at a graduation ceremony April 1 for completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision (APS).

Lawson is assigned to Bell County in the 9th District and Nason works Christian County in the 1st District.

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.

The graduating class is the 40th to complete APS since the program began in 2003.

APS is a stepping stone to the Department of Criminal Justice Training's Kentucky Leadership Institute, which consists of a series of three progressive leadership courses aimed at developing and shaping future and current leaders in law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth.

The Department of Criminal Justice Training is a state agency located on Eastern Kentucky University's campus. The agency is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and was the first accredited public safety-training program in the nation.