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LG&E, KDFWR launch Kentucky's first peregrine falcon web camera



Louisville Gas and Electric Company and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources unveiled the state's first peregrine falcon web camera, located at LG&E's Mill Creek Generating Station in a falcon nest box 300 feet above the ground.

Two falcons, known as a nesting pair, are currently occupying the nest box, installed on a power stack at Mill Creek about seven years ago. The female falcon has laid five eggs in late February. They hatched during the first week of April.

Power plant stacks remind the fal-

cons of natural nesting locations, such as mountain cliffs and ledges. Pigeon populations at power plants provide ample food supply.

Watch the web cam live from any computer with Internet access at www.lge-ku.com/falcon

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A note from the Commissioner

Now that the 2013 General Assembly is behind us, I wanted to provide a quick summary of the department's legislative accomplishments. It was a busy 30 day session; however, thanks to support from our department employees and constituents, KDFWR helped achieve passage of the following bills:

- House Bill 60 (Steele, Santoro, Rudy and York) amended KRS 150.360 to **allow coyotes to be taken at night with or without use of light as provided in administrative regulation** promulgated by KDFWR. *This administrative regulation, which includes a specific season for using light, appropriate protections for landowner permission, and hunter safety provisions, was approved by the Commission in March and has been filed with the Legislative Research Commission for final review and adoption.*
- House Bill 150 (Denham) amended KRS 150.175 to separate the senior/disabled combination license into two different licenses; **create a new senior lifetime combination hunting and fishing license**; and allow the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to **offer multi-year licenses or permits for certain existing annual licenses or permits.**
- House Bill 261 (Stone, Bell, Dossett, Greer, King, Quarles and Short), **requires the Department to promulgate administrative regulations allowing any person or entity to sell or purchase mounted wildlife specimens**, except as prohibited under federal law; and **require the department to record transactions for mounted wildlife specimens for white-tailed deer, elk, bears, turkeys, and bobcats.** House Bill 261 also **established significant civil penalties** (restitution values) for illegally taken white-tailed deer, elk, bears, turkeys and bobcats and provided for the revocation of hunting licenses and privileges for persons until these penalties are paid.
- Senate Bill 32 (Buford) provides the unique ability for Kentucky non-profit charitable, religious or educational institutions to sell donated wildlife mounts within the same regulatory authority as authorized by House Bill 261.

Finally, Senate Resolutions 153, 154 and 155 were passed unanimously to officially confirm our most recent appointment (**Jimmy Bevins**) and re-appointments (**Steve Glenn** and **Terry Teitloff**) to Kentucky's Fish and Wildlife Commission.

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

We recently received a packet of letters written by Ms. Stacey Small's 4th grade students from East View Elementary School regarding their experience with Conservation Education Program Leader **Bill Fannin**. Bill obviously made a big impression with his stories about Billy Bob and Jimmy Bob! The following are some of the excerpts from all the letters (note the spelling in some of the comments). "Thank you for showing how camp is like and the thing that you show like fishing, hunting, and swimming and thank you for telling about bear like do not feed it. Thank you for coming to our school and teaching us all kinds of animals that are posine and not posine. I liked the solymanders, I cold not blive that solymanders bite people. Thank you for coming and teaching us about gun safty." One child asked if Bill could bring his "two friends" with him next time. Perhaps they are Bill's "imaginary" friends. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, BILL. THE KIDS LOVE YOU!**

We received the following letter from Karl D. Clinard, DMD from Somerset. Dr. Clinard wrote, "I'm writing you concerning a recent contact I had with a fish and wildlife employee in Union County on Saturday, March 16.

I spent the day at Higginson Henry Wildlife Management Area on a post-archery season scouting trip. As I was reading news releases and studying an area map at the headquarters building, a KDFWR truck drove up; a smiling gentleman stepped out and introduced himself as **Curt Divine**, the WMA manager.

See "Mail," page 3

CABELAS GRAND OPENING

JB Hall and his son Casey Hall from Union Kentucky wait in line to talk to Kentucky Afield Television host Tim Farmer during the grand opening last week of Cabelas in Louisville.



“Mail,” continued

Not only was he polite and professional, but he also proceeded to invite me into the headquarters building to view a large map of the area and answer questions I had for the next 40 minutes. All of this on his “day off.”

Dr. Gassett, I simply wanted you to know that exemplary individuals like Mr. Divine make the Department of Fish and Wildlife what it is, a crown jewel of the Commonwealth.”

The following email came to Commissioner Gassett and Director Karen Waldrop from Roger LaPointe. He wrote, “Shortly after purchasing a farm I contacted **Kevin Raymond**, the private lands biologist for my area and he agreed to meet me out there. The day we selected turned out to be a cold, windy, snowy day but that did not stop Kevin or his enthusiasm for his work. He met me out there right on time and after our introductions we walked the entire farm. Kevin listened to what my intentions were for the place, had plenty of suggestions and proved to be extremely knowledgeable. He said he would take a plat of our place and diagram the suggestions for me to use as a long term planning source. Well, I got the plat in the mail within one week and he not only had a well drawn out plan from all the items we had discussed, but literature on how to best accomplish my goals. Plus seed companies where I could purchase. I can't believe how quick the turnaround time was and how much detail he had put into the plan. I feel I now have something I can use to make my place better not only for me but for my grandchildren and the wildlife as well.

I just wanted to say how much I appreciated Kevin and his work, and the department for having this type of resource available. Please let Kevin's supervisor know what a great job he did for me.”

This note was received via email

from Christie Parcell, who is a Regional Coordinator for NASP. She wrote, “I just wanted to take a moment to send some well-deserved recognition to some KDFWR guys. My Region 5 tournament was held this past weekend at Lebanon Middle School. As you well know, the host school is responsible for providing enough lane officials for the entire tournament. Unfortunately, this did not happen. However, **Sgt. David Kuhn** showed up with **Officers B.J. McCoy, Steve Nelson, and Chris Stewart**. I cannot express my appreciation sincerely enough. Not only did they fulfill the workforce I needed, they represented NASP in a professional manner while interacting with the students in positive ways and enforcing safety guidelines. Anyone who has worked as a lane official knows that it is a very long, physically strenuous day and they were a pleasure to work with the entire day.

Could you please make sure this note gets to their direct supervisor? I am very grateful to these guys who volunteered out of the goodness of their hearts and were happy to oblige. On behalf of NASP Region 5, I want to thank them for their service. The day would have been near impossible without them.”

This note came from Daniel H. Jones, CEO of 21st Century Parks. He wrote to **Stephanie Brandt** and **Matt Thomas** who are in our Environmental Section. “Thank you for the wonderful introduction to Seine netting, and for the quick course on the small fish species of Beckley Creek. There is nothing better than being in the field with two naturalists who really know their subject! Kentucky is lucky to have such talented folks on the team!”

The following note came to us along with a camp application. Taylor Adams' mother wrote, “This is Taylor's third year attending Camp Earl Wallace. She brought one girl with her the first year, three girls last year, and four this year. She has loved every part of her Camp Earl

Wallace experience, except the shower house: LOL- My husband, his brother, and many of their friends were at Camp Earl Wallace 30 years ago and continue to talk about their time there to this day. We now have a three year old and hope and pray that Camp Earl Wallace will still be around for her to experience. You all obviously do a wonderful job with these children! Thank you for all your hard work and for giving my child some unforgettable memories along with the conservation education!”

New Hires / Promotions

Effective April 1, **Chip Quarles** has taken on the role of Information Systems Manager in the IT branch. Chip has been with the department for over 12 years and has been instrumental in the development of many of the systems currently in use. Chip's development skills coupled with his knowledge of the department's business model will be a great asset as he takes on the lead role and moves us forward in the use of technology.

We are pleased to welcome **Tanya Wilson** to the Human Resource Branch as our newest Human Resource Specialist! Tanya came to KDFWR in 2007, gaining agency knowledge while working in the Information Center for several years prior to transferring to the Wildlife Division. Among her many other duties, Tanya has been a knowledgeable liaison between Wildlife field employees and the HR Branch in all things personnel and payroll. She'll also continue to serve as the agency point person for blood drives. Currently a student at Midway College with a Human Resources degree as her goal, Tanya's transition to human resources is the next logical step in her career at KDFWR and we're glad!

Salato Wildlife Education Center acquires a new bobcat

By Laurie Davison

The first week of February, Salato Animal Care staff members **Jeff Bardroff** and **Bart Riddle** made the long drive to Terrell, Texas to pick up a new male bobcat for exhibit. Not unlike an expectant mother, I called and texted them repeatedly during their trip to learn their progress and when they thought they might arrive.

Finally I heard from Jeff that they had arrived safely, met the new cat, and had taken a tour of the Wildlife Center at Crosstimbers Ranch, a rehab facility devoted primarily to the rescue of bobcats. They planned to load him and hit the road back to Kentucky at 6:00 the next morning. We would need to wait two more days to see the cat.

Meanwhile, back at Salato, **Johnny Widener**, **Tony Smith**, **Brad Burge**, and the **Shop crew** busily prepared the exhibit to hold a fully clawed cat (Blue and Scarlett were declawed).

The crew removed trees and limbs too near the fence, installed extra hot wire, updated signage, and plugged any gaps large enough to let a young cat escape. They removed stumps and rocks that looked too much like a launch pad and wrapped trees with metal flashing to discourage climbing. **Adrienne Yancy** created a faux bark overlay for the flashing to make it appear natural. They scrubbed the lockdown area and rigged it for a four-week quarantine. Last, Tony hauled a large hollow log from the HabiTrek Trail to serve as an on-exhibit shelter.

Since the death of Blue on May 4 we had only a female bob on exhibit. We wanted a replacement, and we wanted him to be impressive. The Crosstimbers Ranch came highly recommended.

Valeri Marler, owner of the facility, recommended a young male that was part of a litter they received in February, 2011, and he had an interesting story.



Dave Baker photo

Seems an adult female bobcat had taken up residence in the crawlspace of a local church, and if any animal is less wanted in a crawlspace than a raccoon or a 'possum, a bobcat is probably it!

The church called a nuisance control company that trapped and relocated the cat. Three days later, her kittens wandered out in search of food. They were turned in to the Crosstimbers Ranch.

One male in the litter was successfully rehabilitated and released into the wild. A female had permanent weakness in the rear legs and was not eligible for release, and, despite their best efforts to rehab him, our boy decided early that he preferred the

company of people and three squares a day. As an "imprint," he was held for adoption by an acceptable facility.

Like named storms, the Crosstimbers Ranch names new cats in alphabetical order using a baby names book. Volunteers at the Center chose "Xylan," which either means "Out of the Forest" in Greek – or a gummy polysaccharide found in the cell walls of plants – depending on where you look. He was described as affectionate, though on his own terms, and likely to respond well to our resident female, Scarlett's, personality and the attention of visitors to Salato.

We wanted a cat that would be easily handled to help reduce the stress of routine wormings, inoculations, and vet visits. This also decreases the likelihood of stress behaviors such as pacing, compulsive grooming, or bloody attacks on the Animal Care staff, who interact with him daily.

Transporting Xylan required a retrofitted crate, a truck with a camper top (you don't want a bobcat loose in a van with you if it breaks out), gloves, and a large measure of caution during feeding and cleaning. We were told to expect him to be angry, disoriented, and generally unpleasant for up to two weeks after arrival, and we expected no less.

When they arrived at Salato on Friday, Jeff and Bart carefully removed the growling, hissing crate, put it inside the lockdown pen, and opened the door. Within 15 minutes, our vicious cat calmed down and began to explore. In another five he was letting Jeff tentatively pet him.

Before I left for the day, I received a text from Jeff with a photo of Bart and Xylan bumping heads (that's cat speak for "I like you"), and the next morning I received a video of Jeff petting a purring, kneading, pushover. Seems some serious bonding happened on that drive from Texas.

Your lifejacket's got your back – got first, again

Your lifejacket's got your back is one idea that's held water for two consecutive years, winning first place in radio media at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit.

Held in San Antonio, TX in March, this is the premier event for safety, training, public awareness and education for recreational boating. It's attended by safe boating programs nationwide and worldwide. And, as expected, the best of the best media efforts are also present. It's a proud day for winners because they truly do set a course for others to follow.

"Getting the word to boaters in Kentucky is best done when they're on the water or on their way to the ramp. Hence,



radio," says writer/producer **Charlie Baglan** with the Division of Information and Education. To benefit Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement, he has worked with some of the best swimmers on the planet, including a Navy SEAL and an Olympic gold medalist, to build a stand-out series. The latest addition features a Coast Guard helicopter rescue swimmer reminding boaters that in time of crisis, help is closer than they

think if they're wearing a USCG-approved lifejacket.

"The fact that this isn't the first is what amazes me," notes **Scott Moore** who heads the broadcast branch. It's an honor to be able to gauge your work against others in your profession on such a large scale. That feeling is contagious. "This is a thrill," grins **Zac Campbell**, Boating Education

Coordinator unpacking from the conference. "We just competed against the best in the world and came out on top! Our state is extremely well-respected in the boating community."

Following this trend, other states have sought experts to deliver the message that even the good swimmers need lifejackets. To hear these award-winning advertisements, go to this link:

fw.ky.gov/boatingsafety.asp



Tips, investigation lead to apprehension of early turkey hunters

An investigation that started last fall led to the apprehension of a pair of convicted felons hunting turkeys in Lyon County April 8.

Jonathan Perdue, 28, and Dustin Cooper, 34, both of Lyon County, were lodged in the Caldwell County jail and are facing charges of taking wildlife illegally and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Last fall, officers received tips that a felon was hunting deer out of season. The officers established surveillance and the investigation paid off when officers **Josh**

Hudson and **Daniel Richardson** caught two people hunting early.

They staked out a Lyon County farm and heard four shots from a shotgun in the area. When the hunters exited the farm in their vehicle, the officers initiated a stop.

Both the driver and operator were wearing full camo and had three loaded long guns in the cab of their pickup truck along with drugs, drug paraphernalia, numerous calls, decoys, and miscellaneous turkey hunting equipment.

The two consented to a search and the

officers found pictures of recently killed hen turkeys out of season and text messages describing illegally hunting out of season on their smart phones.

The officers seized two 12 gauge shotguns, a .17 caliber rifle, cameras, cell phones, decoys, calls, and other turkey hunting equipment as evidence.

Perdue also faces possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia 2nd offense and operating a vehicle on a suspended license charges. Cooper also had outstanding warrants from another county. More charges are pending.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officers earn Water Safety Award

By Mark Rankin
Nashville District Public Affairs



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District representatives recently presented Officers from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources with the Great Lakes and Ohio Division 2012 Water Safety Award.

Capt. Allen Stansbury, a project officer at Wolf Creek and Lake Cumberland made the presentation and told the group that the award is given to them for their outstanding efforts towards promoting water safety on Lake Cumberland. The ceremony was held on Wednesday, March 13 at Conley Bottom Resort.

"You played a critical role in Lake Cumberland's zero water fatalities in 2012, and the Nashville District is grateful for our collaboration with our rangers," said Stansbury.

District Commander **Capt. Tim Catron** accepted the award for the group and thanked everyone for their support, commitment, contributions and determination to provide public boating safety on Lake Cumberland.

"We appreciate this award very much and look to continue our relationship with the Corps," said Catron.

Catron and his staff are the driving force behind one of the largest and most successful Water Safety campaigns in Kentucky. He said officers often spend months planning and deciding options and ways of making boating safer around Lake Cumberland.

"The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officers are a major reason for our success and

safe boating record last year," said Marshall Jennings, a park ranger at the Lake Cumberland Resource Office.

Jennings said park rangers here and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officers work well together and collaborate before and throughout the recreation season to formulate and carry out a strategic plan to promote public safety while on and around the water.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife **Officer Jerrod Alley** said he enjoys working closely with Corps rangers all the time and the collaboration makes it safer for the public in the case of an incident.

"Whether working on civic programs to help educate the public, handing out safety brochures, patrolling, or conducting boat inspections, we are out here supporting each other for the mission of promoting boating safety," said Alley.

Throughout 2012, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife officers assigned to Lake Cumberland played a vital role in public and recreational water safety.

Officers made 98 boating under the influence arrests, logged over 3,500 boating enforcement hours and inspected 5,666 vessels.

In addition to Lake Cumberland being a vacation destination for more than 300,000 people during each of the three summer holidays, it hosted several major public boating events that included:

- The Lake Cumberland Annual Raft-up event that collaborates with the Lake

Cumberland Association

- The lake hosts two to three Poker runs each summer that Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officers are closely involved with. These events attract large numbers of both participants and spectators.
- The officers also actively participated in a national effort called "Operation Dry Water" which is devoted to reducing boating under the influence and general alcohol use while boating on the water.

Lake Cumberland, the largest man-made impoundment east of the Mississippi, hosts approximately four million visitors each year, with much of these visits taking place during the summer boating season. Corps Park Rangers and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officers spend countless hours promoting and enforcing water and boating safety on a 50,000 acre lake encompassed by 1,200 miles of shoreline impoundment.

"I just want you to know how important you are to us," said Lake Cumberland Resource Manager Brett Call. "Our rangers often speak about you with the highest respect and we appreciate your service to them and our Lake Cumberland community."

KDFWR officers that received the award included: **Capt. Tim Catron, Lt. Stuart Bryant, Sgt. Wayne Glover, Officer Wayne Wilson, Officer Bryan Dolan, Sgt. Tom Land, Officer Chris King, Officer Jerrod Alley, Officer Travis Neal, Officer Jason Estes, Officer Chris Meadows, Officer Rich Waite, Sgt. Ray Lawson and Sgt. Jason Bolton.**

Fisheries, Wildlife divisions begin development of new access to Levisa Fork

Eastern Fisheries District staff, in collaboration with Northeast Wildlife District wildlife management foreman **Herbie Adams** and fish and wildlife technician **Tyler Ratliff** have begun work on the development of a new primitive boat, canoe, and kayak access on the Levisa Fork, upstream of Fishtrap Lake.

While work has just begun, Wildlife staff have completed brush and vegetation removal at the site.

In the near future, staff from the Fishtrap Lake Army Corps of Engineers office will provide rock and gravel, in addition to equipment, in order to develop a circle drive and grade the existing area to accommodate suitable parking and access to the Levisa Fork.

This new access site is located on the existing Army Corps area between



Vegetation removal at the site of a new small boat, canoe, and kayak access to the Levisa Fork just upstream of Fishtrap Lake. *KDFWR photo*

Mouthcard and Feds Creek, Kentucky. Once completed, it is anticipated that the new access area will be opened at all times to the public. The development of this site is ideally located to further assist the Fisheries Division in its attempts to

restore native strain walleye to sections of the upper Levisa Fork, where access is extremely limited.

The Fisheries Division appreciates all the efforts of the Wildlife Division staff and the Fishtrap Lake Army Corps of Engineers.



FULTON COUNTY BOAT RAMP DEDICATED

Lt. Chad Parker and Officer Greg Youree, third and fourth from left, joined Fulton County Judge-Executive David Gallager, Fulton County commissioners and approximately 40 friends and family of Dennis "Hulio" Hulin during a boat ramp dedication ceremony at the former Jamison No. 8 Boat Ramp in western Fulton County along the Mississippi River. In spite of the freezing temps and wind, friends and family were on hand to pay tribute to the late outdoorsman, businessman, and former Fulton County Commissioner.

Rough River Lake fish habitat effort

Personnel from KDFWR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently partnered together on fisheries habitat enhancement efforts at Rough River Lake in Breckinridge County.

Twenty-three people representing Fisheries, Environmental, FILO, Wildlife, Law Enforcement, and Rough River Lake COE gathered to help on Thursday, March 7.

After an all out assault on Thursday, NWFD returned two additional days to construct and place attractors at Laurel Branch campground and both the Cave Creek and North Fork fishing piers.

All told, 405 Christmas trees, 122 pallet attractors, 23 hardwood brush piles and three wire reels were deployed. Areas selected for habitat were flats, ledges and main lake points basically void of natural structure and ranged from about eight to 20 feet below summer pool. GPS coordinates have been taken at the sites and will soon be available to the public through the KDFWR website.

Special thanks go out to the Peabody and Yellowbank WMA crews and the USACOE for their help and use of their equipment. Habitat materials used included wooden pallets, recycled Christmas trees, wooden wire reels and hardwood trees.

Pallets were donated and delivered to the lake by River Valley Animal Foods in Robards, Kentucky. Wire reels were donated by Kenergy Corp in Owensboro and Owensboro Municipal Utilities. Concrete block and 2x4s were purchased at a discounted price from Lee Brick and Block and Lowes, respectively.

The Rough River Lake habitat effort was a great partnership among department divisions and between the KDFWR, USACOE, and local businesses. It is just another example of KDFWR's ongoing efforts to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide increased satisfaction for Kentucky sportsmen. For more information, contact Jeremy Shiflet of the NWFD at (270) 273-3117.



A flat at Rough River Lake early in the day as fish attractor sites are being constructed. *Rob Rold photos*



Image of the same flat at Rough River Lake following the completion of fish attractor sites.



Close-up image of fish attractor sites constructed out of recycled Christmas trees and wood pallets.

Wildlife, Law Enforcement divisions assist Fisheries with trout stockings

On Wednesday, March 27, Eighth District conservation officers **Sgt. Buddy Grayson, Barry McCoy, Dean Kennard,** and **Carlas Tufono** joined Wildlife Division employees **Gene Middleton, Brandon Atkins** and **Leslie Carter** in assisting the Northeast Fishery District stock brown trout into Big Caney and Laurel Creeks in Elliott County.

These streams are part of the Department's statewide trout stocking program and are also part of a select few that receive brown trout stockings, in addition to rainbow trout. Both Big Caney and Laurel Creek have been part of the Department's trout stocking program for over 25 years as a result of their suitable cold-water temperatures and ideal habitat for trout.

This collaborative effort is essential for the successful stocking of brown trout at these two locations. Both are rather remote locations and require the use of ATVs to quickly reach stocking sites.

Once the brown trout are removed from the stocking trucks, they are placed in bags with a total of 15 fish per bag. The bags are then filled with oxygen, sealed, and then must be quickly transported to various remote stocking sites. Stocking fish at multiple locations ensures the highest survival of all brown trout throughout both Big Caney and Laurel Creek.

This represents another example of the interdivisional collaboration at the Department. Without such assistance, this work would not be possible. The Fisheries Division thanks all staff that assisted with this effort.

For more information on the trout fishing opportunities at Big Caney and Laurel Creek, please contact Fred Howes or Tom Timmerman (Northeast Fisheries District) at (606) 783-8650.



Conservation Officer Leslie Carter carries two buckets, each containing bags of brown trout to be stocked at multiple locations throughout the stream. *KDFWR photos*



Wildlife Division employee Gene Middleton carefully releases brown trout at one of several stocking sites.