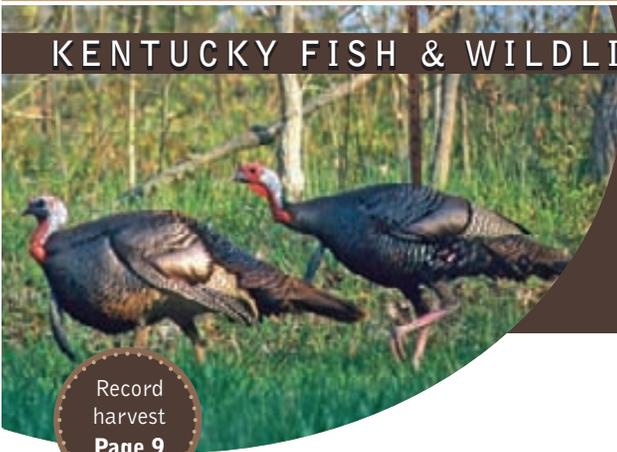


May 2010

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Record
harvest
Page 9

Winchester couple wins Salato Wildlife Education Center's backyard makeover contest

Steve and Anita Collins of Winchester won the Salato Wildlife Education Center's \$10,000 Backyard Makeover raffle during a drawing held April 21.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation sponsored the contest, with proceeds to benefit the Salato Wildlife Education Center in Frankfort. The Nature Conservancy, H2O Design, Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, Lowes Home Improvement, Bluegrass PRIDE, the Frankfort/Franklin County Tourist

Commission, Wild Ones and the Sierra Club joined in providing additional sponsorships.

Collins and his wife are long-time visitors to the Salato Center, which the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources operates for educational purposes.

As the winners, the Collins family will receive \$10,000 worth of improvements to their backyard. Anita Collins has already expressed an interest in a pond.

The makeover of the Collins' yard will focus on landscaping with native plants, trees and wildflowers. Their package also may include non-native plants that provide habitat and are not invasive. Aside from attracting birds, butterflies and wildlife, the makeover project will provide an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of gardening with native plants



- and remembering the needs that animals have for food, water, shelter and space.

Keep watching "Kentucky Afield" television on KET for a segment on the transformation of the couple's yard.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that works with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to support the efforts of the Salato Center. The Foundation also acquires land and wetlands for wildlife habitat, and supports conservation education programs for Kentucky youth. To learn more about the Foundation, visit their Web site at www.kentuckywildlife.com.

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trapping



Jackson, Zalla help crippled hot air balloon to safety

"This is one that doesn't happen everyday," said conservation officer **John Jackson**.

Jackson and **Sgt. Brett Zalla** were in the right place and at the right time Mother's Day Sunday on Barren River Lake near the Allen/Barren County line when Jackson received a call from a friend who told him that several people floating in a hot air balloon were running

low on fuel and dropping into the lake.

The two officers were in plain clothes and checking people fishing for hybrids around flooded boat ramps when the call came in. They responded by boat to find balloon owner and pilot Kathy Lee of Glasgow and passengers Melinda Brown of Cave City and James Peaks of Bowling Green barely keeping the balloon aloft, at times touching the water as they attempted to stretch their fuel out until they could reach land.

The balloon ride was a Mother's Day gift for Brown and a birthday gift for Peaks.

Jackson and Zalla were able to off-load Brown onto their boat and pass life jackets to Peaks and Lee. They then used the wind to help get the crippled balloon and its passengers to shallow water and land near the dam.



Flood forces evacuations; neighbors come together

From news reports

Recent torrential rains combined with the already saturated ground left the water nowhere to go but up. As with any emergency situation, Lyon Countians turned out in droves to help one another, sandbagging around Ronda Kirby's home in Suwanee and other locations in the county.

About 100 people gathered Monday evening after Kirby contacted the judge/executive's office to see where she could get sandbags. Sandbags were retrieved from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Forty tons of sand were delivered by the dump truck load, and word spread like wildfire that help was needed.

And the help arrived.

Wave after wave of emergency

personnel, church youth groups, and passers-by stopped to help this relative newcomer to the community.

"I can't tell you what it means to me to have these people working to try to help me," Kirby said in an interview with *The Paducah Sun*. "It puts a lump in my throat to know I live in a community that is blessed to have neighbors and friends that would help."

In addition to the help on Monday night, workers arrived bright and early Tuesday morning to help.

Crews of volunteers pitched in around the county, checking on neighbors, sandbagging, and helping one another get through the crisis.



Daniel Richardson leads a crew of Fish and Wildlife workers who joined in the effort

Photo by Levi Holsapple

805 lucky hunters drawn for Kentucky's 2010-11 elk hunt

Almost 45,500 people applied for the 125 bull tags, 75 spike bulls, 600 cow and five youth hunting opportunities allotted by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission in Kentucky's 10th elk hunt later this year. Eight hundred and five are happy elk lottery winners today.

Nearly 16,700 applicants were from out of state, even though only 81 tags total could be issued to non-residents. The youngest of the five youths drawn for the special youth-only hunt at Paul Van Booven WMA is 11, the oldest 15 and one of them is from out of state (Tennessee). The oldest hunter drawn is 80, the youngest is eight.

People from 18 other states were drawn, the most being from Ohio (16); followed by Tennessee (14), West Virginia (9), Indiana (9), Virginia (5), North Carolina (5), Alabama (4), Michigan (3), two each from Georgia, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Wisconsin, and one each from Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, and New Jersey.

Spike tags are brand new this year. Many folks who understand the idea behind the Quality Deer Management Association philosophy of letting young bucks walk are wondering about the logic behind these tags. **Dr. Tina Brunjes** has written an article slated for this fall's issue of *Kentucky Afield* magazine that explores this topic, but the short answer is "compensatory mortality".

That basically means that regardless of whether there is a hunting season or not,



some animals will die each winter. Some spikes will not survive until next year, or another five years, to eventually become a big bull.

We can harvest some spikes without altering the total number of spikes who do make it to old age. Harvesting some spikes increases the number of hunters who will get to hunt elk, without harming the overall potential of the herd to produce older bulls, just as the harvest of some button bucks each fall does not reduce the overall number of bucks who eventually make it to three or four years of age.

Western states have been issuing spike tags for years, so there's a wealth of information out there for those interested in further exploration of this topic.



Department Staff Complete National Conservation Leadership Institute

Congratulations to **Myra Minton** (Law Enforcement Division), **Chris Garland** (Wildlife Division), and **Ryan Oster** (Fisheries Division) who were nominated and accepted into the National Conservation Leadership Institute.

They recently completed the intensive "training course" as members of Cohort 4 of this amazing program. Previous Department employees who have also partaken in this program include **Dr. Jonathan Gassett**, **Hank Patton**, and **Dr. Karen Waldrop**.

Enrollment in this program requires a dramatic commitment of time and resources towards completion of the course. The purpose of NCLI is to help "equip future high potential" leaders with the tools and trade to help build the conservation legacy for the next generation.

Please congratulate these individuals for their completion of this outstanding experience.



Picture of a transient boat dock facility at KenLake Marina on Kentucky Lake. The City of Paducah project will join this facility as the Commonwealth's only two Tier II facilities.
Photo by Ryan Oster

Department and City of Paducah Receive Tier II Boating Infrastructure Grant Award

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' recently received notification that a project proposal submitted by the City of Paducah was approved for Tier II funding through the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG-P). This is the second Tier II funded project that the Department has received since its inception into the program.

The BIG program was enacted by the Sport Fishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998. This program provides federal funding to States to aid in the construction, renovation, and maintenance of transient boat dock facilities. Transient vessels are defined as those non-trailerable boats that are 26 feet or greater in length. Facilities that are eligible for funding must be located upon navigable waterways (in Kentucky, this includes the Mississippi

and Ohio Rivers, Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, and Lake Cumberland). These facilities are to accommodate only transient vessels that may dock up to a maximum of 10 days (no permanent dockage of transient vessels are allowed under this federal program).

Funding through the BIG program is awarded based upon two levels or tiers. Tier I funding is non-competitive and provides \$100,000 in federal funds to States annually for the development of these facilities.

Tier II funding is nationally competitive and allows for project proposals to exceed \$100,000 in federal funds. Tier II project proposals can be for any amount of funding necessary in the project proposal. Tier I project proposals must document a minimum of 25% match from the marina.

Tier II project proposals generally provide a minimum of 50% match from the marina, however, during the recent economic downturn, many marinas are finding it difficult to provide 50% match for the total project cost.

Funding for the City of Paducah's Tier II transient boat dock facility will be provided to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. This money will be passed through to the City of Paducah as reimbursement of project expenses.

Copies of eligible project expenses will be submitted to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for reimbursement. The City of Paducah plans to construct a 400-foot transient boat dock facility with 26 boat slips and a fuel dock along the Ohio River near downtown Paducah. Total project cost has been estimated at \$1,230,000.

The City of Paducah may be reimbursed a total of \$910,000 and will have to provide \$320,000 as match towards the project. Construction of this transient boat dock facility is anticipated to bring dramatic tourism revenue into the City of Paducah. KenLake Marina currently offers the Commonwealth's only other Tier II facility constructed under the BIG program.

Since the inception of the BIG program in Kentucky, the Department has provided \$2,070,838 in federal funds to public and private marinas for the construction and development of transient boating facilities. This funding has constructed 18 facilities (three are still pending completion). For more information on the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, please feel free to contact Ryan Oster, Program Coordinator, at (502) 564-3400 ext. 4461.



FINS

Fisheries Division personnel were busy stocking Upper Sportsman's Lake last week. There are currently 29 community ponds or lakes in the Fishing in Neighborhoods Program (FiNS) that are on a regular stocking schedule.

Danville stroke victim receives visit from TV outdoorsman

By Susie Laun

slaun@amnews.com

May 6, 2010

Reprinted from the Advocate-Messenger

In February, Danville resident Mance Jackson had a stroke that left him unable to do several outdoor activities he previously enjoyed, including fishing.

"I didn't know how to do it," he said. "And I wanted to learn how to do it."

On Wednesday, Jackson got a surprise visit from **Tim Farmer**, host of "Kentucky Afield" on KET, who gave him some tips and advice on ways to fish.

Farmer is an outdoorsman who lost the use of his right arm in a motorcycle accident in 1984. Since then, he has learned to adapt to his disability and to continue to fish and hunt.

Jackson's stroke also affected use of his right arm, so Farmer encouraged him to get outdoors and figure out how to continue his old hobbies.

"You're going to have to get out and go fishin' and see what works," Farmer said.



Jackson told Farmer he plans to go as soon as he can.

When he was able to fish, Jackson liked to get outdoors early and stay all day. Farmer said he would like to join Jackson one evening to fish and help him get used to fishing in a new way.

Calling in a favor

One of Jackson's occupational therapists at McDowell Wellness Center, Tammie Jo Moore, organized Farmer's visit.

She said the wellness center worked with Farmer for a Christmas program last winter and Farmer told them if they ever needed anything to give him a call.

Moore said she and Jackson's other therapists wanted to surprise him with a visit from Farmer because it would help motivate him.

Occupational therapist April Jasper

hopes to eventually bring Jackson back to his prior level of function and hopes Farmer's visit will help him achieve that goal.

Jackson is more than a fisherman; he also hunts, primarily rabbits, and wants to get outdoors again as soon as he can walk a little better. His fiancé, Anita Bryant, said the stroke has affected his balance.

It wasn't until after his stroke that Jackson became aware of Farmer but said Farmer's show and experience have helped him. He was happy about getting to meet Farmer.

Farmer said it's important to remember that even though things happen, life still goes on.

"There's nothing better than just getting out and trying it," Farmer said.

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Edwards recognized by BGAD for service

Tom Edwards was presented with a Commander's Award by Col. Joseph Tirone, commander of the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) in Madison County.

Tom was recognized for outstanding service to the military and its publics, including his volunteer work at BGAD during several hunts last fall when the

KDFWR was working with BGAD to develop a grant-funded biologist position to be based on the munitions facility.

Tom also volunteered to help with wildlife surveys and other partnership activities involving EKU and KDFWR, supporting BGAD's land management and wildlife programs. Congratulations, Tom!



Feral pigs in trap
Chad Soard photo



Even though recently flooded, this trap-site is still receiving extensive use.

Feral pig trapping, sampling underway

The Department continues to document the presence and expansion of feral pigs in the Commonwealth. Increased feral pig monitoring shows that they are now more widespread than earlier range monitoring efforts indicated.

In 2008, feral pigs were confirmed in 16-counties; as of April this year that number has increased to 32-counties with confirmed presence, and another 21-counties with suspected presence.

While this apparent growth can be attributed to natural geographic range expansion, illegal translocations and releases, and to our increased monitoring, the underlying concern is the same...the hogs are here, and this invasive species poses a significant threat to our native ecosystems.

Their rooting behavior damages agricultural crops, yards/gardens, and wildlife food plots, and can be obvious. But there are additional concerns with expanding feral pig populations that aren't quite as visible.

Native species such as deer and turkey can be easily outcompeted for available

resources, and feral pigs are highly mobile carriers of a host of diseases that pose potential livestock and human health concerns.

To get a better grasp on the disease threat, recent trapping activities have been conducted for the purpose of collecting blood samples to test feral pigs for pseudorabies and swine brucellosis. The trapping activities began last year with the placement of two feral pig traps in Christian county on a site that continues to show signs of feral pig use. The collected blood samples are being analyzed in cooperation



Feral pig trail in
Muhlenberg County

with USDA Veterinary Services.

More recently, in April of this year, KDFWR biologist **Thomas Young** and USDA APHIS wildlife disease biologist J.D. Freye met with five local landowners in Hopkins, Christian, and Muhlenberg counties to evaluate their properties for potential trap sites. Upon investigation, feral pig activity was noted on all five properties, with two locations showing recent and extensive use.

One of the heavily used properties is a Christian county site that is now baited and monitored daily to evaluate the efficiency of a trap site. The other property is in Muhlenberg County, straddling the Pond River, and has produced at least 12 hunter-harvested pigs in recent months.

A trap at this site remains open and baited. Even though it was recently flooded, the trap site is already showing signs of heavy use, and we expect it to produce when set in upcoming weeks.

KDFWR and APHIS biologists are interested in obtaining approximately 15 blood samples from these counties to test for diseases of concern. APHIS and KDFWR are concerned with the continued expansion of feral pigs and want to educate local landowners on removal efforts and the detrimental long-term effects hogs can have on the landscape.

McLean County youth brave rainy weather to hunt turkeys

By Tracy Bell
KDFWR 207

Youth and adults braved strong winds and pouring rain for food, fellowship, and a chance to bag a big gobbler.

Hunters, parents, guides, and volunteers gathered at the Department of Fish

& Wildlife office at 5 a.m. for breakfast before heading out to the field. Morning weather conditions were tough but later gave way to sunshine.

Logan Vaught had success early by harvesting a nice jake with help from his dad, Kevin Vaught. The rest of the group gathered back together for hamburgers, hotdogs, and a chance to dry out for a while.

Some of the hunters took advantage of the lunch break to shoot their shotguns and gain some confidence. With full stomachs and lots of sunshine, most of the hunters headed back out to field in the early afternoon.

I would like to thank the landowners



Tracy Bell photo

that allowed us the opportunity to hunt on their properties. This event could not have taken place without their generosity.

I also want to thank the Kentucky Conservation Officer's Association for providing the food for this event, the McLean County Strutters NWTF Chapter for sponsoring the advertisements and providing guides and places to hunt, the McLean County Archery Club for providing guides and places to hunt, Tim Abney for providing his grill, and Michael Kinney and Jeremy Shiflet for serving as cooks.



Sherry Abney photo

Kentucky Questing comes to the Salato Wildlife Education Center

Questing is a new program designed to get all Kentuckians outdoors. A growing body of research indicates that everyone is healthier if they spend time outdoors every day. Quests are essentially outdoor scavenger hunts – they also teach kids about the wonders of nature around them.

Visitors can now enjoy a questing adventure at the Salato Wildlife Education Center in Frankfort. Salato's Quest, "Take a Walk on the Wild Side," is part of a larger, statewide effort that brings together federal and state agencies, state parks, historical sites, extension agents, tourism groups and other organizations to sponsor new quests at different locations across the

state. The new program is free and requires no equipment.

The Salato Center Quest takes visitors on a tour of the animal exhibits and provides fascinating wildlife tidbits along the way.

You can download Salato's Quest online at fw.ky.gov. For more information about quests across the state, go online to kentuckyquesting.ky.gov, or visit EE-inKentucky.org on the Internet for more information about environmental education.

The Salato Center has a variety of native animals for the public to see, including a black bear, an eagle, bobcats, elk, deer, bison, snakes and fish. The center has nu-

merous indoor exhibits and miles of hiking trails open to the public. Fishing is available at two lakes. While some programs may require a registration fee, general admission to the Salato Center is free.

For more information, call 1-800-858-1549, ext. 4445. Learn more about upcoming events at the Salato Center on the Internet at fw.ky.gov. The Salato Center, operated by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, is located at the department's headquarters on U.S. 60 in Frankfort, 1.5 miles west of U.S. 127.

Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The center is closed Sundays, Mondays and state holidays.

39th Annual Federal Aid Coordinator's Meeting in Jackson, Mississippi

The 39th Federal Aid Coordinator's meeting was recently held in Jackson, Mississippi. This annual meeting rotates among the various member states that are part of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Region 4 (Southeastern U.S.).

This meeting is attended by programmatic and fiscal individuals who are involved with the various Federal Assistance programs that are coordinated by the USFWS. Such programs include the Wildlife Restoration Program, Sport Fish Restoration Program, State Wildlife Grants, Clean Vessel Act, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, Aquatic Education, Hunter Education, and Endangered Species.

Melissa Trent (Administrative Services) and **Ryan Oster** (Fisheries) attended this meeting. Healthy discussions concerning program income, rules and regulations, audits, land acquisition, and budgets/funding highlighted this year's meeting.

This meeting provides an opportunity for all states in Region 4 to gather to-



Melissa Trent and fellow Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks employee display a female alligator collected by Melissa at Ross Barnett Reservoir. This alligator measured out at 8 feet, 6 inches and was estimated to weigh roughly 140-150 lbs.

gether to discuss ideas and topics relevant to state fish and wildlife agencies. States can highlight the various programs being utilized in their states in order to help share ideas and innovative techniques.

Melissa Trent ended up winning the grand door prize of the meeting. Her door prize was a guided trip to assist with the collection and tagging of alligator in the nearby reservoir of Ross Barnett. The tagging of these alligators is to help determine movements and habitat requirements of these resident alligators.

Relocation efforts of a few problem alligators has indicated that such efforts may not be the best management strategy as many of these alligators return to their "problem" areas in a short period of time.

Please congratulate Melissa Trent on a superb effort of collecting this 8 foot, 6 inch female alligator. You can ask Melissa how she knows that this is a female!!!



O'Connell is new Information systems manager

Effective April 16, **Patrick O'Connell**, was named the Information Systems Manager for our IT area. Patrick brings many years of IT experience into his new job duties as well as a passion for the mission of the department.

Please welcome Patrick into his new position.

Backyard Makeover drawing becomes first live podcast

The Earth Day drawing for the Backyard Makeover also served as the Department's first-ever live podcast!

Scott Moore (Bama), **Chip Quarles**, and the "Kentucky Afield" TV crew, **Nathan Sangster** and **Brian Volland**, managed to set up the link and test it in time to air the broadcast live to all participants in the contest. If you missed the opportunity to watch the drawing, this podcast may now be found on YouTube. Here's the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-ME5Id1NHk>

Thanks to all the employees and volunteers who showed up for the drawing and sat in the cold drizzle to help make the event great viewing for our public!





2010 marks consecutive record spring turkey harvests

By Steven Dobey

When the 2008 summer brood survey documented the highest poult per hen ratio since 2000, and recorded the most poults ever seen in the 25-year history of the survey - we knew the 2010 spring turkey season would be special.

This year, hunters reaped those rewards by harvesting 36,093 birds and setting a record harvest for the second consecutive

spring season (Figure 1 and Table 1). More impressive, however, is that the new record is a 24.4 percent increase from the 29,007 birds reported in 2009.

Hunters this year actually surpassed the 2009 record on day 14 of Kentucky's 23-day spring season. In addition, harvest projections indicated that statewide telecheck numbers would have exceeded 40,000 birds if not for the tremendous rains and flooding that occurred the first week of May.

This year's youth-only harvest of 1,830 birds was up 8.3 percent from the previous year's season. This spring, 72.6 percent (n = 20,524) of successful hunters checked only one bird.

While the 2010 season was exceptional, one thing to keep in mind will be this summer's reproductive output and the effects of recent flooding events. Particularly

in western Kentucky, reproduction could be depressed if a significant proportion of birds initiated nesting efforts before the statewide flooding events occurred.

Collectively, however, it appears that flooding occurred early enough in the breeding cycle that re-nesting efforts should buffer against significant negative impacts. Congratulations to everyone who took advantage of this year's phenomenal spring season- and even more so to anyone that encouraged someone to go turkey hunting for the first time. After this year, I'd say they will certainly be back for more.

Conservation officer Jeff Jewell checked these successful 12-year-old Edmonson County hunters on youth weekend. Dillion Hazelwood is at left. And check out Chase Turley's smoke phase gobbler!

Photo by U.S. Park Ranger David Alexander

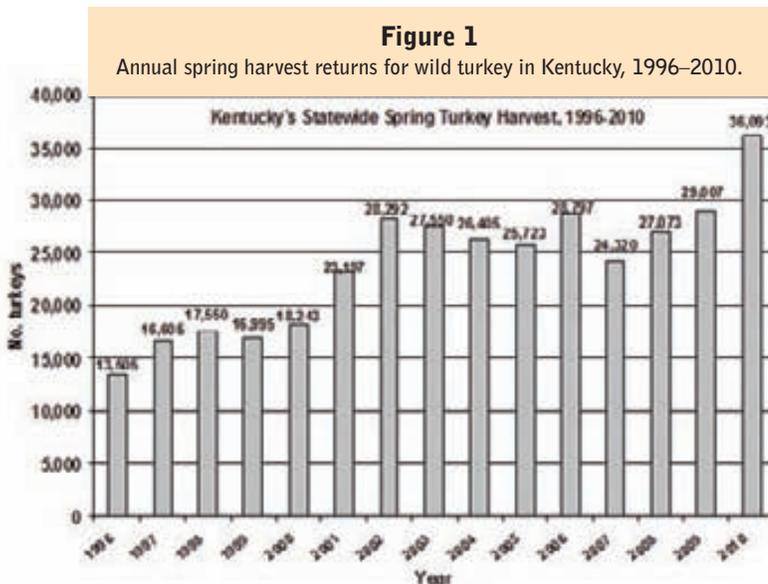


Table 1
Spring turkey harvest returns by Commission District, 2010.

	Female	Male	TOTAL	% change from 2009
1	23	3,736	3,759	+15.8
2	44	5,814	5,858	+22.9
3	27	2,144	2,171	+26.0
4	52	6,214	6,266	+23.0
5	34	3,870	3,904	+16.5
6	33	3,883	3,916	+25.7
7	15	3,115	3,130	+42.3
8	31	3,477	3,508	+24.9
9	29	3,553	3,582	+32.6

Wazoo Sports begins airing Kentucky Afield Television

“Kentucky Afield” TV has secured Wazoo Sports Network as an affiliate. Wazoo will begin airing “Kentucky Afield” in the next couple of weeks (free of charge) as part of its outdoor programming.

Wazoo Sports, Inc. is a Regional Sports Network that delivers original Kentucky sports programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including live broadcasts of high school, NCAA, NAIA and youth sports on television and over the Internet.

Wazoo Sports has aired over 325 live games online since December 2007 and has broadcast 37 games on television including NBC, ABC and FOX affiliates during the 2008-2009 basketball season.

The growing network has partnered with almost two dozen Kentucky Cable companies in Kentucky including the Lexington and Louisville markets. In addition, they air on digital channels WLEX and WHAS TV.

Where can
I watch
“Kentucky Afield”
TV?

KET 1, Saturdays at 8:30 PM
– Sundays at 4:00 PM

KET 2, Tuesdays at 5:30 PM

KET Digital WED 5 pm
THURS 7 pm FRI 1 am FRI 12:30 pm
SUN 6AM and SUNDAY 5PM

WYMT (Hazard CBS) Thursdays
at 7 PM

CWKYT (Lexington Market)
Monday-Friday at 11:30 PM

WNPT 2 (Nashville Public TV)
Saturdays at 11:30 AM

WKRP (Nashville commercial
station) Saturday & Sunday at
5 AM

HPTV (Chambers Co. Alabama
Cable station) four times daily

MCTV 22 (Bell County, KY Cable
Station) Thursdays 10 PM

Cable Channel 2, Prestonsburg, KY
Thursdays 8:30 AM & 8:30 PM

Massillon Cable - Massillon, OH,
five times weekly

Clear Picture – Wooster, OH, five
times weekly

TW Cable – Ashland, KY 12 times
per week

www.myoutdoortv.com
streaming video on demand

www.wkyt.com/wymtnews
Live streaming on WYMT Thurs.
at 7PM

Kentucky AFIELD



Department Acquires New Boat Ramp on Kentucky River Pool 13

The Kentucky River, a tributary to the Ohio River, is one of the longest (roughly 529 miles) river systems located within the interior region of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The river, along with its many tributaries, drains a significant portion of the central region of the state.

Beginning in southeast Kentucky, the river flows northwest through the coal-mining region of eastern Kentucky and the Cumberland Mountains prior to passing through the Bluegrass Region in the north central part of the state. It empties into the Ohio River near Carrollton (northern Kentucky). Its watershed is approximately 7,000 mi².

Those familiar with the Kentucky River understand that the river has been dramatically altered and is now comprised of many pools that are segmented by a series of locks and dams. Today, the river is no longer open to commercial navigation above lock and dam #4 (locks #5-14 are no longer operational). Despite this, these lock and dams continue to provide ideal boating and fishing opportunities throughout the central portion of the Commonwealth.

Unfortunately, access along the Kentucky River is still limited in many pools. Through efforts of the Department, adequate public access has been developed in pool 3 (Steele Branch boat ramp), pool 4 (Benson Creek boat ramp), pool 5 (Fint Boat Ramp), and several other pools.

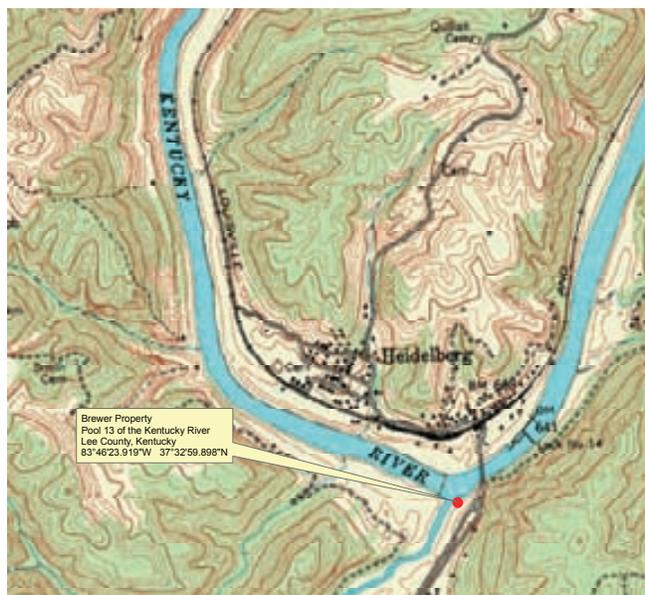
We are pleased to announce that the Department has recently

purchased a tract of land roughly one mile downstream of lock and dam #14 (pool 13) and will ultimately be developing this site as another public access site for boaters and anglers. At present, no other public access sites are currently available in pool 13 of the Kentucky River.

This new boating access site is located just south of the town of Heidelberg. We anticipate that this boat ramp will be well received in the area and open up significant fishing opportunities to sauger, *Morone* spp., and catfish.

For the past several years, the Fisheries Division has coordinated a large stocking effort of sauger, white bass, and hybrid striped bass throughout the pools of the Kentucky River. As these fish continue to recruit into the fishery, anglers should notice increases in their catch of these quality species.

Location of the recently acquired tract of land below lock and dam #14 on the Kentucky River. This tract will be developed into a boat ramp and parking area in the near future.



WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office April 2010

This letter came from Mr. Jerry B. Walker of Louisville. "My hobby is to field trial beagle hounds. In the past couple of months I have had the experience of training some of my pups at your Taylorsville WMA. I would like to make a few comments about your WMA foreman, **Bill Mitchell**. I do not personally know this man and have only met him three times.

Two of the times I talked to him he has given me information on the areas where the highest population of rabbits is in your facility which has been very helpful to me. The third time I met Mr. Mitchell he had found one of my pups that had been lost while chasing a deer (shame on my pup). Mr. Mitchell took my pup to his office and cared for him until I could get there to pick him up.

My experience with fish and wildlife people is very limited but Mr. Mitchell has impressed me very much. This letter is just to tell you how much I appreciate him and what he has done to help me."

This letter comes from Mary K. Miller in Wilmore. She writes, "On the weekend of March 12 and 13 approximately 42 of us gathered at Camp Webb in preparation for a reforestation project in Morgan County Sponsored by the Office of Surface Mining and the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative.

In planning for the event, **Laura Burford** was extremely helpful in giving us information to plan for our stay at the camp, and when we arrived, **Ricky and Robin Crider** were warm and helpful hosts. They made sure we had everything we needed. We were very pleased with the sleeping accommodations, and the

...continued on Page 12

kitchen and dining areas made the feeding of our group easy and pleasant.

We were able to get a good night's sleep on Friday night, and the place was a welcome sight after we planted 8,000 trees on Saturday." She thanked all involved for making their stay such a pleasant one.

The Commissioner's Office received a phone call from Mr. Ron Durham from Georgetown. He wanted to compliment **KDFWR** on our **stocking program**. He said the lake at the Georgetown Park had just been stocked and he has seen more kids fishing recently than he has in the last few years. He also commented that he used to travel to Virginia and West Virginia to hunt deer and now we have plenty to hunt here in Kentucky. He said the Department was doing a great job.

These comments come from the owner of Aces Guns and Sporting Goods in Hancock County. He wanted to compliment KDFWR on our booth display at the NRA Convention. He said it was the best booth at the convention.

He also complimented Conservation **Officer Jeff Whittinghill**. He said Jeff is their county officer and he is a good PR man and very well respected in the county. He also stated he had put on shows at his store and KDFWR always did a good job of participating and providing brochures and was always willing to answer questions.



BIG FAMILY

New additions to the grounds at Headquarters seem to be everywhere, including this 12-member family.

These comments come from Geoff Barrett in Burgin. He stated he enjoyed the Kentucky Afield magazine and stated KDFWR does a very good job. **He commends all KDFWR staff.**

John M. Sparks, Jr. of Frankfort writes, "This letter is to acknowledge the effort and assistance provided by two of your employees. As a full time trapper each fall and winter, I trap vast stretches of the Kentucky River.

Many times the boat ramps built and maintained by KDFWR on the river become dangerous or unusable due to mud from high water and/or snow and ice. As a result I would contact your Director of Engineering, **Keith Parker**, to advise him of the conditions of a particular ramp. In turn, **Walt Redmon and his construction crew** would clean the ramp on a timely basis pursuant to that request.

I want you to know that the response of these two employees and their assistance is greatly appreciated and is to be commended. Keep up the good work!"

May 2010

This letter came from Mr. Jerry L. Harris from Paducah. Mr. Harris writes, "I normally do not write letters of this nature, however, I have observed **Sgt. Garry Clark** on the local television station (WPSD -Paducah) on several occasions and have been very impressed. His knowledge about issues along with his excellent articulation and T.V. demeanor gives your department a very positive image. He is obviously a valued asset to our community and to your department. Thanking you and your department for the professionalism in doing your job."

This from Eric A. Shrader, Hardinsburg, KY. "This is to thank you for the exemplary services and help by **Conservation Officer Jason Ping** in Breckinridge

County. Recently, I contacted Officer Ping for assistance in completing applications for pond stocking. Officer Ping was on-site expeditiously and within a couple of hours of my call.

We were very impressed with his professional demeanor and customer care and service oriented assistance. His technical and administrative expertise was in the exceptional range and we feel fortunate to have him working here in Breckinridge County.

Officer Ping is a real credit to your organization and an excellent representative for KDFWR. Please convey our sincere thanks to Officer Ping for his stellar and timely assistance."

This from Issac Ogle. Dear Mr. (Tom) Edwards- Thank you for the photo from Lee's youth turkey hunt at BGAD. It was a very exciting hunt for us both. (Lee Ogle took a 25-pound gobbler that had an 11-inch beard).

We would be honored for you to use this photo to help promote hunting and outdoor activities for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and the Bluegrass Army Depot. We are grateful for the opportunities



that the BGAD has for youth and adult hunters and hope to help preserve those opportunities for future hunters.

Lee was also drawn for the youth deer hunt this past season and was fortunate enough to harvest a nice mature doe for her first deer hunt.

I grant you permission to use this photo of her success to promote hunting and we look forward to future success in the field.

Sincerely,
Isaac M. Ogle