

May 2011

—VOL. 6 NO. 5—



Historic flooding
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OTTER CREEK OPEN AGAIN

Gov. Beshear joined KDFWR Commissioner Jon Gassett and others in opening the new recreation area. First Lady Jane Beshear also helped, meeting with mountain bikers, horseback riders, the Louisville Hiking Club and Meade County High School archery team members.



INSIDE:



4 Funding received



6 Scouts and FINs



7 Lake Malone enhanced

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

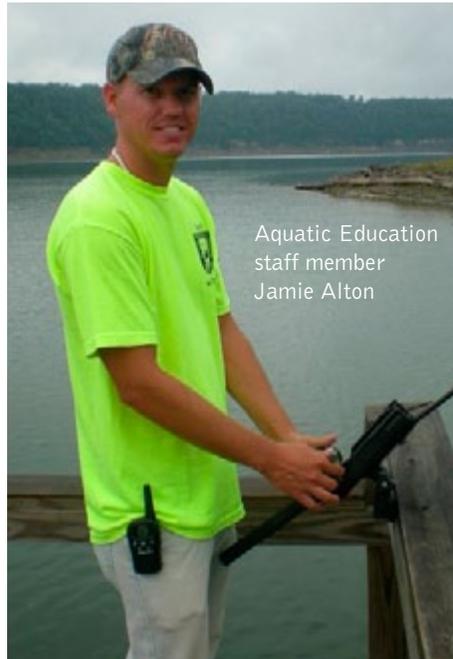
Regional Coordinator Derek Beard received the following note from Mr. Jerry L. Miller in Lexington. "I am writing to compliment you on the outstanding performance of your colleague, Mr. **Clay Smitson**. Recently, he has been advising me, and other landowners in the area, on what grasses to plant on our farms in order to create a better environment for wildlife. He has been of enormous help and is extremely courteous, professional, and knowledgeable as well as always remembering to communicate at a level people can understand, be that landowners, such as myself and my friends, or a graduate student from ECU who spoke to him because she is interested in a career in the same field. He is a great testament to your leadership and skill in attracting a quality workforce and also a great ambassador for Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife. Congratulations on having such excellent team members."

This email came from Mr. Boone Logan, Executive Officer with the South Palisades District, Bluegrass Council, Boy Scouts of America. He writes, "The Palisades District held a Cub Campout April 15-17 in Garrard County.

The KDFWR sent a young fellow there with a truck load of fishing poles and a whole bunch of enthusiasm for fishing. The boys loved him and had a great time even though the fish refused to do their part and bite a hook.

The KDFWR guy also responded instantly when a Bear Cub Scout fell off the dock into the lake. He was in waist deep water in a split second and fished a little wet Scout out of the lake. I would like to send him a thank you for his efforts and Pack 516 would like to send a thank you for rescuing their Scout."

After some investigating, the Department staff responsible for this rescue



Aquatic Education
staff member
Jamie Alton

was **Jamie Alton** in Aquatic Education. Thanks, Jamie, for going above and beyond the job description. Aquatic Education stocked the lake prior to the event as part

of a 75/25 cost share arrangement, and Fisheries Division netted off a cove of the lake to help contain the fish.

This letter came from Bill Schroeder in Paducah. He writes, "Yesterday (May 3) the water was about 12" deep in the Yancy Place Lodge. Hopefully, it will crest tomorrow. Last week we moved all the furniture out of the building to higher ground.

The reason I am writing this letter is to heap praise upon **Robert Colvis and Kory Knight and several other employees at the Ballard Waterfowl Area**. After they had finished with all that they could do to secure the furniture and equipment on the Ballard Waterfowl Area, they worked tirelessly to assist their neighbors. With their help we moved everything out of the lodge including 39 interior doors. I couldn't have done it without their help.

With all the negatives that go with this operation, I just wanted to inform you with a positive."

SPRING AT HEADQUARTERS



Rainy weather has had little impact in some areas at Headquarters. We have many new faces.



click for slideshow

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL HELP VICTIMS AS FLOODS COVER STATE

Fish & Wildlife employees in western Kentucky scrambled to prepare as the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers rose to historic levels this month.

New Hires

Zak Danks recently rejoined the Farm Bill program staff as the NRCS Liaison for Eastern Kentucky (NRCS Area 3).

Zak has worked with KDFWR in Western Kentucky for the past 3.5 years, first serving as a Farm Bill Biologist from 2007-2009, then as a Private Lands Biologist from 2009-2011. He is a native of Logan County, earned a B.S. in Natural Resource Conservation and Management from UK in 2004, and earned a M.S. in

Wildlife Biology and Management from SUNY-ESF in Syracuse, New York in 2007.

Zak now lives in Lexington with his wife Elizabeth and their daughter Lucy.

You can reach Zak at (859) 224-7315 (office) or (270) 875-3587 (cell), or at the NRCS State Office located at 771 Corporate Drive in Lexington.

Please join us in welcoming Zak to his new position.

John Roberts joined the agency on April 15 as a Programmer/Analyst in the Information Technology branch of Administrative Services. He will be responsi-

ble for maintaining and creating computer applications.

John is a native of Kentucky, growing up in Oldham and Henry counties. He graduated from Eastern Kentucky University and is currently completing his master's degree in Computer Science at Kentucky State University.

Prior to starting with KDFWR he conducted research on autonomous unmanned vehicles and supercomputing as a graduate assistant with Kentucky State University.

John lives in Frankfort with his wife Shannon and their son Thomas.

Kentucky receives FY2011 Clean Vessel Act funding

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources recently received notification that it will receive \$168,856 in federal FY2011 Clean Vessel Act (CVA) program funds.

Five projects were approved for funding that include the following: (1) upgrading of an existing marine sewage pumpout system at Burnside Marina, Lake Cumberland; (2) upgrading of an existing marine sewage pumpout system at Kentucky Dam Marina, Kentucky Lake; (3) construction of a floating restroom facility at Lee's Ford Marina, Lake Cumberland; (4) upgrading of an existing marine sewage pumpout facility at Lee's Ford Marina, Lake Cumberland; and (5) annual maintenance of marine sewage pumpout facilities in Kentucky.

The Clean Vessel Act program was established in 1992 to help reduce pollution from boat sewage discharges. Any marina, both public and private, is eligible to partake in this program.

Eligible activities include educational/

informational programs to educate or inform recreational boaters about the environmental pollution problems resulting from sewage discharges from vessels and to inform them of the location of pumpout and dump stations.

Additional eligible activities include the construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout and dump stations, including floating restrooms (not connected to land or structures connected to the land) used solely by boaters.

Eligible activities also include any activity necessary to hold and transport sewage to sewage treatment plants, such as holding tanks, piping, haulage costs and any activity necessary to get sewage treatment plants to accept sewage, such as installing bleed-in facilities.

Ineligible activities include those activities that do not provide public benefits, law enforcement activities, construction

of upland restroom facilities, and the construction, renovation and maintenance of on-site sewage treatment plants, such as package treatment plants and septic systems.

Since inception of the CVA program in 1992, more than \$160 million has been authorized and provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to help reduce and eliminate marine sewage discharge into the surface waters of the U.S.

In Kentucky, the KDFWR has funded 57 projects (four are still pending completion) throughout the state. KDFWR has provided over \$980,400 in federal funding to help construct and maintain such facilities.

For more information about the Clean Vessel Act program, please feel free to contact Ryan Oster at (502) 564-3400 ext. 4461.



Picture of a recently installed marine sewage pumpout facility at Royalty's Fishing Camp and Marina, Herrington Lake. This facility was constructed through the Clean Vessel Act program that administered by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. *Ryan Oster photo*



HIGH WATER IS NO DETERRENT

Heavy rain and high water have definitely caused many people to not get out and fish in Kentucky during the past few weeks. However, Mr. David Morrow proved that you can still catch big fish and have a great day when the Kentucky River is high, muddy and swift. Mr. Morrow caught this blue catfish in pool 3 of the Kentucky River on May 11, 2011, on a hook and line. The fish measured 44 inches long and weighed 49 lbs, 10 oz. Mr. Morrow believes that this is his largest catfish to date.

Doug Henley photo

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Federal Assistance Coordinators Meeting attended

Melissa Trent (Administrative Services), David McChesney (Wildlife Division), and Ryan Oster (Fisheries Division) recently attended the 40th annual meeting of the Region 4 United States Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Assistance branch in Wilmington, North Carolina.

This annual meeting is attended by both federal and state programmatic and fiscal personnel who manage various programs authorized under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Act programs.

This meeting was especially important as the USFWS rapidly approaches a closeout of its existing iFAIMS system and converts to a new financial accounting system (FBMS). Much of the meeting revolved around the transition to this new accounting system and the impacts it would have on states who partake in Federal Aid.

Additional discussions were also had on the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, revisions to 50 CFR 80, diversions, audits and grant compliance.

Several breakout sessions allowed for more specific programmatic discussions relating to aquatic education, hunter education, Wildlife Restoration activities, Sport Fish Restoration activities, endangered species, boating access and the State Wildlife Grants program.

The break-out sessions also provided unique opportunities for in-depth discussions concerning grant match processes, federal and state compliance, and continuing education on new protocols and



Ryan Oster, David McChesney and Melissa Trent recently attended the 40th Annual Southeast Federal Assistance Coordinator's meeting in Wilmington, N.C.

processes.

This annual meeting provides an ideal setting for Department staff to discuss and highlight the diverse activities we implement in Kentucky using federal assistance funding in the various programs that are administered.

Without question, the Department is at the forefront in terms of implementation of both Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration activities.

Dinner aboard the USS *North Carolina* battleship that resides in Wilmington was part of the meeting. Additionally, Melissa, David and Ryan also got a chance to take a short tour of the U.S. Coast Guard *Diligence* that happened to be stationed near the hotel.



KENTUCKY'S HUNTING, FISHING SITES FEATURED ON WEBSITE

Kentucky's Hunting and Fishing Sites is the featured on-line mapping application for the Kentucky Geography Network. Use this link to view featured content: kygeonet.ky.gov/

This site has an interactive map interface that allows users to view where WMAs and boat ramps are located as well as information about those sites.

Boy Scouts help Fisheries Division improve FINs lake habitat

Fisheries Division staff participated in a community improvement project on April 28 involving the Boy Scouts, Kohl's, and Scott County Parks and Recreation in Georgetown.

David Baker, Jeremiah Smith and Dane Balsman from the Fisheries Division, along with 20 Scouts and several personnel from Kohl's braved a wet cool evening to assemble and deploy fish habitat at two Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) lakes in Georgetown.

The project was part of a conservation minded community improvement project sponsored by Kohl's. Boy Scouts Troop 215 and Cub Scout Troup 167 received a \$1,500 grant from Kohl's for participating in the project.

"The project was an excellent opportunity to use the time and talents of the boy scouts to improve fish habitat and teach the kids about fish biology," said



Dane Balsman, urban fisheries biologist. The fish attractors add structure to the lakes that are devoid of woody debris and vegetation.

The Boy Scouts assisted in cutting and assembling PVC fish attractors.

Fish and Wildlife Technician David Baker helps members of a Boy Scout group construct PVC fish attractors. *Lori Baker photos*

"The great thing about the PVC structures is that anglers are less likely to get hung up, and they last a really long time," says Balsman.

These lakes get a lot of fishing pressure and require periodic stocking of keeper size fish to keep pace with the angling pressure. Lusby and Scott County Lake were

closed to public fishing just a couple of years ago. "Through a cooperative agreement with Scott County Fiscal Court in 2010 we were able to open these lakes to the public and add fishing access," said Balsman. "We've had very positive feedback from anglers on adding these lakes to the FINs program."

The Scouts also helped spread mulch at a playground near the lake, paint a walkway and pick up trash. "It was impressive to see how much work the group could accomplish in just a few hours," said David Baker, fisheries technician.

After deploying the fish habitat in Lusby and Scott County Lake the fisheries staff fired up the electrofishing boat and did a short fish sampling demonstration. The fisheries staff explained the fish sampling procedure and conducted a brief fish identification lesson.

David Baker explains why habitat is important to maintaining healthy and abundance sport fish populations in lakes, ponds and reservoirs.





Muhlenberg County High School students, their teacher Scott Cronin and Vice Principal Les Broady pose with wood duck and bluebird boxes constructed to place around Lake Malone. *Scott Cronin photos*

Greenville students assist with fish and wildlife habitat

Students from Scott Cronin's Fish and Wildlife classes at Muhlenberg County High School in Greenville, Kentucky worked with Law Enforcement and Fisheries Division staff on February 25 to enhance fish and wildlife habitat at Lake Malone.

In conjunction with their lessons, students built wood duck and bluebird boxes and fish attractors to place around the lake.

The students donned life jackets and hopped aboard Fisheries Division boats to deploy five bluebird boxes, 27 wood duck boxes and 25 fish attractors. They braved chilly weather and a lake rising four feet overnight to safely deploy all structures.

After work was complete, students and KDFWR staff met at the Lake Malone Store for a specially prepared lunch.

"I have had more positive response from the students after this trip than any other class trip I have taken as a teacher," said Cronin.

KDFWR conservation officers helping included Officers **Scott McIntosh**, **B.J. McCoy**, **Eric Chambers**, **Bryan Hill**,



MCHS seniors Hillary Hobgood and Jordan Hooper pose with a wood pallet fish attractor before sinking it along with 24 others in 8-12 feet of water near Sherwood Point.

Chris Stewart and **Sergeant Marcus Bowling**.

Northwestern Fisheries District

personnel **Jeremy Shiflet**, **Tim Abney** and **Michael Kinney** helped students deploy their fish attractors.

First spring golf scramble called a big success

By Don Bunnell

Here's a quick rundown on the first annual Spring KDFWR Golf Scramble.

We had eight teams scheduled and after a little bit of juggling due to cancellations and additions, we ended up with 31 players.

The day started out a little rocky with a drizzle about 15 minutes after the start, but the sky quickly cleared and it turned into a beautiful day for golf.

All in all, not too bad for Friday the 13th.

All the teams played well, but the 3-man team from law enforcement "Respect the Authority" (Patrick Younts, Damon Foster and Jared Northern) won it all with a staggering nine-under-par.

We had a tie for second place between

"Hauling is our Motto" (Gary Lyons, Steve Hilton, Jeff Croxton and Jason Fitzgerald) and "Da Champs" (Rod Middleton, Pete Besant, David Hale and Allen Trusty). Both teams graciously agreed to share the prize rather than use a tie-breaker.

Gary Lyons and Tony Prichard won closest to the pin on the Par 3's.

Everyone had a good time and everyone came in at or below par.

Hopefully, we can make this an annual event along with the fall scramble so some of these guys will play golf more than once a year.

Right: Larry Estes strokes a putt during the KDFWR spring golf scramble May 13, as Shane Carrier and Tim Slone look on.



Successful youth spring turkey hunters



Brenda Stenger photos

By Curt Divine
Manager, Higginson-Henry WMA

The next generation of hunters is up and coming.

On May 30, my three and four year old put the tag team on their first turkey. Cailey, 3, called it in and Coy, 4, spotted and shot it. The only assistance from me (other than being a pack mule for the blind, decoys, gun and assorted snacks) was helping to steady the forearm of the shotgun. The stock and trigger were all controlled by Coy.

While the turkey was still flopping, Cailey informed both of us that it was her turn to shoot a turkey now! I never expected to kill a turkey, we were just learning about hunting, gun safety and enjoying the outdoors. I don't know if they will forget this experience, but I know that

I never will! I believe their secret to success was their rubber boots.

The turkey was a jake with a 4" beard and weighed 13 pounds.

