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KDFWR's Center for Mollusk Conservation and partners receive \$1 million competitive grant

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced the recipients of \$5 million in competitive funding for conservation projects that benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Nationally, six states were awarded grant funding via a highly competitive process.

KDFWR's Center for Mollusk Conservation (CMC) in partnership with the Kentucky Waterways Alliance, the Columbus Zoo, Mammoth Cave National Park, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and Ohio State University received nearly \$1 million dollars to support a regional effort to increase mussel populations through captive propagation techniques over the next three years.

The target of this project will be to captively propagate, grow out, and restore to appropriate waterways 35 mussel species of conservation need, including eight federally threatened or endangered species.



Additional goals include: working with Mammoth Cave National Park to continue development of a Green River mussel facility, and restoring endangered fanshell mussels to West Virginia and Ohio.

With this new funding, and with

long-term construction and renovation efforts at the CMC nearing completion, the Wildlife Diversity Program and the CMC team are excited to be in a position to accomplish large scale mussel conservation goals.

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CONSERVATION OFFICER GRADUATES PROMOTED

The most recent class of Conservation Officer graduates officially moved up to Officer 1 rank. They are, from left, Joshua Avery, Jason Ice, Kalen Gibson, Chris Rigsby, Christopher Stewart, Bryan Hill, and Robert Spears. Hill received the Class Valedictorian award from Lt. Richard Adkins, Major Paul Teague and Commissioner Jon Gasset.



Broyles, Mehlbauer graduate Academy for Police Supervision

Sergeants **Denny Broyles** and **Rick Mehlbauer** were among law enforcement officers from 18 agencies across the commonwealth recognized at a graduation ceremony May 20, for completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision.

Broyles is assigned to Hickman County in the First District and Mehlbauer works Breckinridge County in the Third 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 41st 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.

Kentucky Afield TV nominated for 5 Emmys

Nominations were announced recently for the 47th annual Ohio Valley Emmy Awards and Kentucky Afield once again found itself included.

The show was nominated for five Emmys for work completed in 2010.

The nominations recognized **Tim Farmer** as Host of the program, **Scott Moore** and Tim Farmer for their story about black bear dens in Kentucky, **Brian Volland** for his work as a Program Photographer and Scott Moore for his work as a Program Photographer.

Kentucky Afield TV has been nomi-



Left to right: Scott Moore, Tim Farmer and Brian Volland.

nated for more than a dozen Emmys since 2005 and has received five statues from those nominations.

Emmy winners will be announced on July 30 at the Seelbach Hilton in Louisville, Kentucky.

First Explore Bowhunting instructors trained



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife has partnered with the Archery Trade Association to offer a new program designed to get more people in touch with their wild side.

Explore Bowhunting's 22-lesson curriculum provides hands-on lessons on a variety of outdoor skills, ranging from wildlife identification and tracking to archery equipment and basic shooting

techniques, while addressing national science education standards.

The program can be taught in almost any setting, whether after-school, youth or civic group, parks and rec program, or church group. Although it is designed primarily for 11-17 year olds, Explore Bowhunting can be readily adapted to any age group or skill level.

At the first Explore Bowhunting instructor training workshop held May 21, representatives from a variety of organizations gathered at the Salato Wildlife Center to become instructors.

Jennifer Mazur, curriculum specialist with ATA, led the instruction with the help of **Katie Koontz**, KDFWR's coordinator for Explore Bowhunting. Here, Jennifer shows how participants can learn to "read" an arrow shot through a simulated deer body cavity, constructed with zipper bags (filled with various food items) fastened to the inside of a cardboard carpet-roll tube.

Fisheries staff assists with 2nd annual Emma B. Ward Elementary Outdoors Day



Third graders from Emma B. Ward elementary school in Anderson County enjoyed fishing as part of the 2nd annual Outdoors Day at the Anderson County Community Park Lake. *Erica Toles photos*



By Ryan Oster

May 24th marked the second annual Emma B. Ward “Outdoors Day” held at the Anderson County Community Park.

Emma B. Ward is one of three elementary schools in Anderson County. As part of this event, several Fisheries Division staff conducted a children’s fishing event at the Anderson County Community Park Lake.

This fishing event was one of several events aimed at promoting outdoor recreational activities and having fun in the outdoors.

Staff from the Fisheries Division pro-

vided fishing poles, tackle and bait in order to teach the children about fishing. Prior to fishing, each group of children received a short instruction about identifying Kentucky’s most common fish (i.e. bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass and rainbow trout).

Following the instruction, each Fisheries employee was paired up with two or three children and they spent approximately 40 minutes fishing around the lake. Most all children caught at least one fish, with several children reporting catching 12 fish during the 40 minute period.

In total, approximately 112 children (3rd graders) attended the fishing event. When asked about their favorite part of the day, the overwhelming response was the fishing portion of the Outdoor Day. It brought many smiles to Fisheries staff faces to see that fishing can still outrank bas-

ketball, soccer and kickball.

A special thank you needs to go out to **Steve Marple** and the **entire staff at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery** for providing channel catfish and bluegill sunfish for the event. Thank you also to the **staff of the Folks of Elkhorn Fish Transportation Section** for coordinating the stocking of the Anderson County Community Park Lake prior to the event.

Thanks also to the **FINs (Fishing in Neighborhoods) program** for providing additional channel catfish prior to the event. This event would not have been possible without the assistance of many Fisheries Division employees including **Erica Toles, Dane Balsman, Jeremiah Smith, Stephanie Brandt, Chris Hickey, Ryan Kausing, David Baker, Dave Dreves, Cory Woosley, Joseph Zimmerman and Dan Stoelb.**

Your lifejacket's got your back. And the backing of the best swimmers on the planet

By Charlie Baglan

Many boaters don't bother with lifejackets – saying they're good swimmers and don't need the things. Meanwhile, we've met a few swimmers who feel otherwise: an Olympic Gold Medalist, a Navy SEAL, an Aviation Rescue Swimmer, a champion junior swimmer and her head coach. They are all superheroes, they all love boating, and they all wear lifejackets.

Each appears in a series of 30-second radio ads aimed at recreational boaters this summer season. Their input has led to one of the more impressive collections of expert endorsements for public safety ever.

Gold Medalist Rachel Komisarz, from the 2004 summer Olympic Games in Athens, is not only an accomplished swimmer, she loves to water ski and is a Kentucky resident. She was the first to lend her voice to this initiative.

Lt. Cmdr. Michael Naus is a Navy SEAL and a one-time resident of Lexington. Naus returns to Kentucky routinely to mentor special warfare and air rescue candidates. In a related field is Petty Officer Luigi Caprio. This Aviation Search and Rescue Swimmer has aided catastrophe victims around the world. SEAL and SAR training is regarded as the most physically demanding aquatic training on planet Earth.

In Louisville, Lakeside Seahawk swim coach Mike DeBoor has led many world championship teams including Komisarz. In his spare time, he's on the lake and on his Jet Ski.

If good swimmers don't need lifejackets, then why would the world's best swimmers wear them? With water comes risk. Nobody is a good swimmer when they're hurt, dazed, choking, unconscious, exhausted and the shore is out of reach. It's

better to play it safe than to play the odds. These individuals eagerly stepped up to give back to the sport and discipline that has become their lives.

Thanks, in part, to Kentucky's urging, the National Safe Boating Council adopted a parallel theme using Olympic great Mark Spitz to counter notions of over-confident swimmers. Campaign originators Lt. Mike Fields and Charlie Baglan say that it's wonderful to see a unified effort and it's a feather in the Division of Law Enforcement's cap that Kentucky started that ball rolling.

Your lifejacket's got your back. Too often boaters disregard lifejackets because they can't ever see themselves in a tough situation. Then, when they need it – it's too late.

To hear the :30 public service announcements and interviews with each of these world class swimmers, visit the Safe Boating page on our website.



SCOUTS ENJOY A DAY OF FISHING

Kentucky Afield Television host Tim Farmer broke away from his annual Tim Farmer Archery Classic to spend a few minutes talking with boy scouts from Lawrenceburg Troop 37 and cub scouts of Lexington Pack 279 about overcoming obstacles and challenges. Scouts later went on to catch dozens of fish, then learned to filet them before settling in for a fish fry on the pond bank. At right, Pack 279 leader and Kentucky Afield Television Executive Producer Scott "Bama" Moore helped his sons, Hayden, 8, Hudson, 4, and nephew Conner, 7, carry their gear to the pond.

Cave Run Kids Fishing Derby sets new record for attendance

By Fred Howes, Program Coordinator
(Northeastern Fishery District)

The annual Cave Run Kid's Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 4, set a new participation record at the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Minor Clark Fish Hatchery located in Morehead.

This free event has been held at the fish hatchery for the last five years since moving from the Cave Run Lake tailwater area.

After an increased effort in publicity, a record 503 children (ages 1-15) attended the event this year, surpassing the old record of 241 set in 2010. The total number of children, along with their parents who attended this event pushed the total number to around 800 people representing 23 different counties.

Anglers came from as far away as Hopkins, Edmonson and Kenton coun-

Two happy anglers proudly display their catch during the fishing derby.



Participants set a new record for attendance at the Cave Run Kids' Fishing Derby held at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery. *Fred Howes photos*

ties. Fortunately, the planning committee prepared plenty of food to feed up to 800, so folks did not go away hungry.

Interestingly, to some, hotdogs, chips and soft drinks might not be considered breakfast material, but both children and parents alike began eating the donated food by 8:00 AM.

Registration and fishing began at 6:30 AM, however several families started showing up around 5:20 AM. Many parents commented on how early their chil-

dren awoke in anticipation of the derby.

The main attractions at the fishing derby were the two (1- acre) ponds which were stocked especially for this event with catchable-size rainbow trout, channel catfish and largemouth bass. The catfish ranged in weight from 0.5 to 5 pounds and the largemouth bass ranged in size from 12 to 19 inches.

Fishing rods and reels were on hand to loan out to children who might not own one, as well as a supply of various baits.

Other attractions/activities for children included: (1) a casting competition where children competed amongst three different age groups; (2) a casting accuracy competition for a chance to win a trophy for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place within their age group; (3) a fish identification display/game;

**See "Derby,"
next page**



Chad Nickell (North-eastern Fishery District Fish and Wildlife Technician) prepares to help land a fish caught by a resident of Morehead Life Care Center.

SAMPLER SUCCESS

The first Salato Sampler attracted at least 425 people and generated about \$30,000 in revenue for the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Last year, the Foundation contributed about \$180,000 toward a new Salato Wildlife Center exhibit, and improvements at conservation camps, including a new swim dock at Camp Wallace, new fishing dock and amphitheater at Camp Currie, and boat dock improvements at Camp Webb. The Foundation currently has a two-story bath house for Camp Webb in the design phase and should begin construction later this summer. *Obie Williams photos*



“Derby,” continued

(4) a knot tying demonstration; (5) an assortment of furs displayed by the Kentucky Trappers Association; (6) a fish fillet station; and (7) various drawings for donated prizes.

Goody bags which were stuffed with miscellaneous donated items, as well as T-shirts provided by Stokley’s Marine, were prepared for all children as this ensures every child goes home with something.

A new addition for the 2011 event was the fish fillet station where members of the 8th District League of Kentucky Sportsmen volunteered to clean the fish caught by the children in an effort to assist those parents who might not be familiar with filleting a fish.

The success of this event can be at-

tributed to a well orchestrated example of teamwork by the following entities: Bass Pro Shops, Caudill Signs, Coca-Cola, 8th District League of Kentucky Sportsmen Federation, Farmers Volunteer Fire Department, Frito-Lay, Girl Scouts Kentucky Wilderness Road Council, Heiner’s Bakery, Jennings Septic, Kentucky Bank, Kentucky Conservation Officers Association, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (8th District Law Enforcement Officers, Fish Transportation Section, Division of Information and Education, Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Northeastern Fishery District, and the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery), Kentucky Trappers Association, Major Brand’s, Morehead Rowan County Ambulance Service, Stokley’s Marine, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Forest

Service, and Wal-Mart.

The Cave Run Kid’s Fishing Derby is and has always been a wonderful event for all families and illustrates just how much can be accomplished when businesses, governmental agencies, sportsmen clubs, and individuals collaboratively work together.

On the Monday morning following the Cave Run Kid’s Fishing Derby, staff from the Northeastern Fishery District and Minor Clark Fish Hatchery invited residents from the Morehead Life Care Center, which is a home for physically challenged individuals, to fish the ponds before they were drained.

Many of these residents anticipate this invitation all year long, and they celebrate each catch with a huge smile. Ten residents participated this year and all caught rainbow trout and a few largemouth bass.

FREE FISHING WEEKEND AT KDFWR HEADQUARTERS



Fisheries Division Assistant Director Jeff Ross brought his family to Upper Sportsman's Lake at Headquarters for the annual Fishing Derbies June 3-4. The Headquarters events are more than 50 years old and signal the beginning of National Fishing and Boating Week. The lakes were stocked for the events with 600 catfish up to 15 pounds in size, along with a handful of striped bass. Ross helped 2-year-old Jack land a catfish moments before mom Rachel, with Nate, 1, looking on snapped photos of the occasion. KDFWR staff members Marc Johnson and Zac Campbell registered participants, provided bait and fishing assistance, and awarded prizes to the kids.





EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT HELPS BARN OWLS

Another boy scout has chosen wildlife conservation for his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. James Burns, of Lawrenceburg Troop 37, led a team of scouts in the construction and installation of barn owl nest boxes in Anderson and Shelby counties. James sought guidance from KDFWR Avian Biologist Kate Heyden in planning and completing his project. Top right, James (center) looks on as one of his team assembles a nest box. Above, a single dark hole in the barn wall is the nest box entrance and should catch the attention of an owl seeking refuge.

